

NEW ORLEANS DEPARTMENT
OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Annual Opioid Report

2025



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Introduction

Despite a decline in overdose deaths in 2025, overdose continues to devastate New Orleans.

The Centers for Disease Control anticipates a 17% decline in overdose deaths across the nation between November of 2024 and October of 2025. New Orleans also saw a decrease in overdose deaths, although at a lower rate, with overdose deaths declining from 293 in 2024 to 282 in 2025, a 4% reduction.

While the downward trend in overdose deaths is a welcome one, drug overdose deaths remain high. This past year marked the launch of several key initiatives made possible by NOHHS's years-long commitment to building compassionate, evidence-based practices to reduce harm and improve health outcomes for people who use drugs in New Orleans.

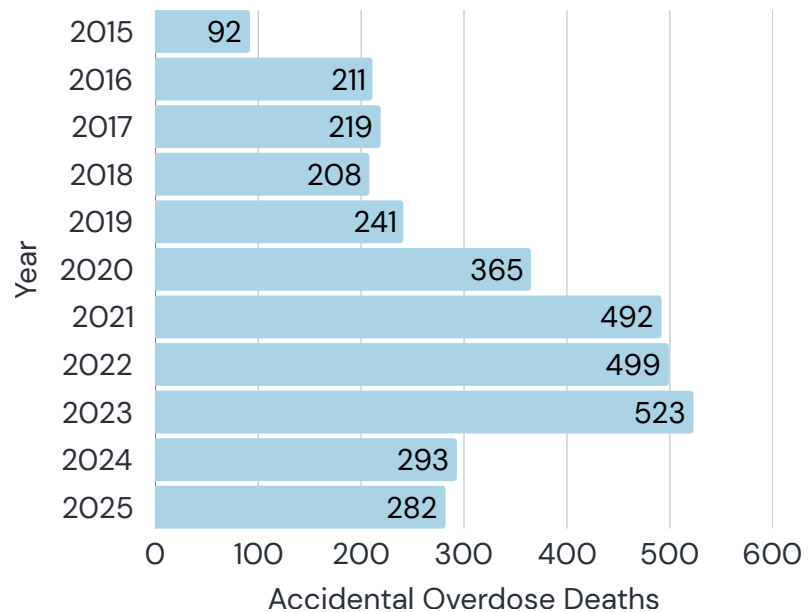
This report will provide an overview of the city-wide overdose prevention work undertaken by the New Orleans Department of Health and Human Services (NOHHS) and our many dedicated community partners in 2025. We launched the Overdose Fatality Review, selected partners to implement the Harm Reduction Mobile Unit, and expanded overdose response training and Narcan distribution efforts across Orleans Parish. As the city moves into the fourth year of receiving Opioid Settlement Funds, this report will also serve as a public record of the city's use of settlement funds to meet NOHHS's mission of "building a healthier, more equitable city through innovative public health initiatives and community-centered approaches."



2025 Overdose Fatalities

282

people in Orleans Parish died due to an accidental drug overdose in 2025. This continues the downward trend from 2024 but still remains much higher than pre-pandemic fatalities.



Of the 2025 fatalities, the Orleans Parish Coroner's Office reported that

69%

172 (69.3%) tested positive for fentanyl (including analogs).
2024 comparison: 71%.

65%

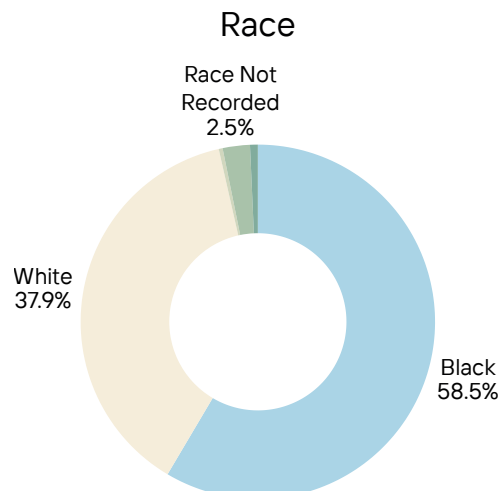
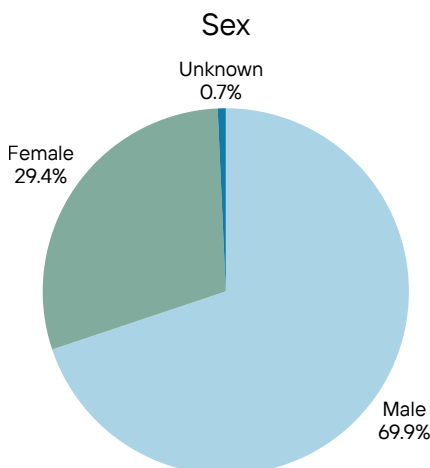
162 (65.3%) tested positive for cocaine
2024 comparison: 65%

42%

104 (41.9%) tested positive for both fentanyl (incl. 4-ANPP/analogs) and cocaine.
2024 comparison: 48%.

29%

71 (28.6%) tested positive for amphetamine / methamphetamine.
2024 comparison: 28%.



Of the decedents, 165 were Black, 107 were white, 1 was Asian, 2 were Hispanic, and 7 did not have their race recorded. 197 were male, 83 were female, and two decedents did not have their gender recorded. Deaths among women rose from 22% in 2024 to 29% in 2025. Black men were most impacted by overdose deaths representing 45% of all of those who died from an accidental overdose in 2025.

2025 Overdose Response

In 2025, New Orleans EMS and assisting Acadian units responded to

1,341

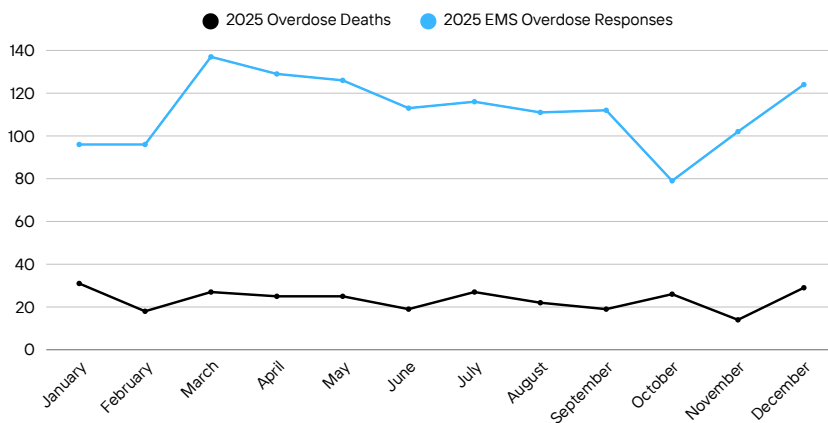
OVERDOSE CALLS

across almost every neighborhood in New Orleans

2025 NOEMS Naloxone Administrations Heat Map

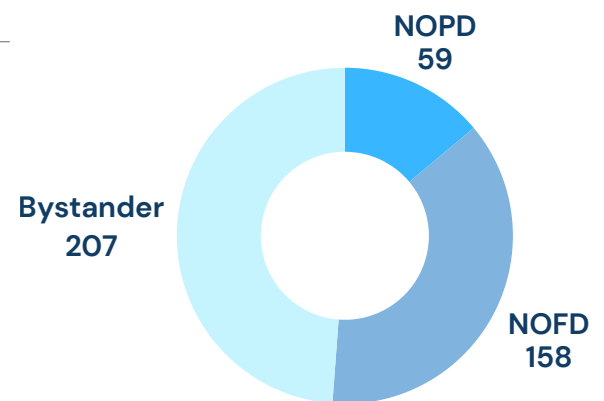


Source: New Orleans EMS



Source: New Orleans Coroner's Office, New Orleans EMS

For 424 calls, naloxone had been administered by bystanders or other first responders by the time NOEMS arrived on the scene.



First responders are just one piece of the overdose response ecosystem. People who use drugs and their loved ones respond to overdoses every day without engaging emergency services. The Louisiana Department of Health's Overdose Prevention and Response Hub reported that their Orleans Parish partner organizations distributed 17,138 boxes of Narcan (34,276 doses!) in 2026 and reported back **2,617** instances of overdose reversal from community members using those supplies.

2,617



COMMUNITY OVERDOSE REVERSALS

NOHHS Narcan Distribution & Bystander Response Trainings



The NOHHS Behavioral Health team continued working towards community preparedness for overdose response in 2025 through naloxone distribution and the Bystander Response training suite: STOP THE BLEED®, Overdose Response, and Hands-Only CPR. Trainings were provided for groups including Xavier University, Bastion Community of Resilience, and the New Orleans Job Corps Center. Service industry-specific Bystander Response trainings were facilitated for staff and service workers at Holy Ground, Barely Legal, Bar Brine, Siberia and others.

2025 also launched a new training partnership between NOHHS and the STOP THE BLEED® program at University Medical Center. This new partnership allows the NOHHS staff to bring the nationally-recognized STOP THE BLEED® curriculum and UMC's passionate medical volunteers to our larger community during the STOP THE BLEED® portion of our Bystander Response training.

For more information about finding naloxone in New Orleans and requesting Bystander Response training, refer to **Appendix A**.

New Orleans Overdose Fatality Review

On January 7, 2025, Mayor LaToya Cantrell signed an executive order formally establishing an overdose fatality review (OFR) in New Orleans, and in April of 2025, NOHHS hired an OFR Coordinator, **Anh Thu Hoang**, to fully oversee this initiative. The OFR is:

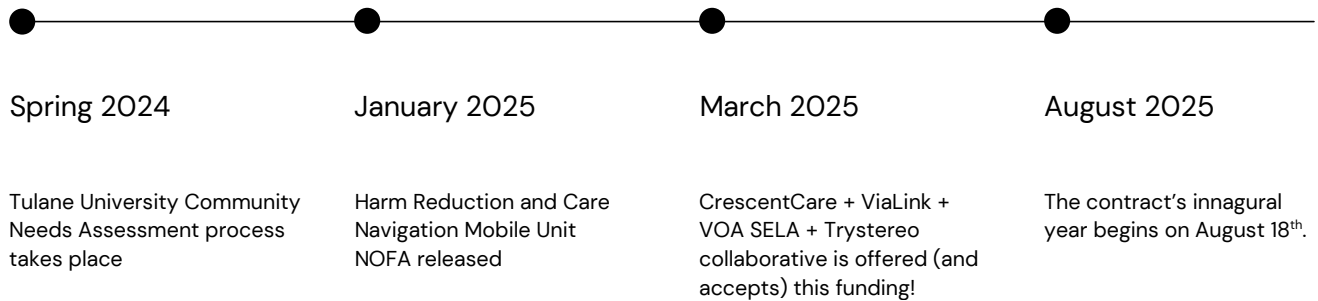
- A multidisciplinary team that discusses, in a focused and nonjudgmental way, the circumstances leading up to unintentional overdose deaths
- A tool to prevent drug overdose by strengthening systematic responses and analyzing data to identify trends and recommend program or policy change

The New Orleans OFR partners (listed below) conducted three OFR meetings in 2025 to review five overdose fatality cases from 2024. The NOOFR will be sharing more of their progress and recommendations in 2026.

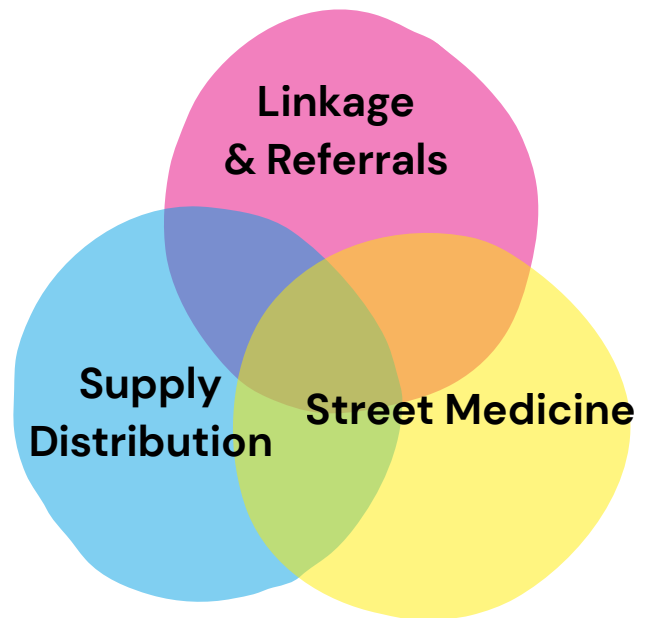
The mission of the NOOFR team is to reduce overdose deaths through gaining a better understanding of factors that lead to drug-related fatalities, and increasing comprehensive community engagement, harm reduction, access to treatment, and wrap-around services.

NOOFR Partners: Court Intervention Services – Orleans Parish, CrescentCare, Department of Children and Family Services – Orleans Region, Dr. George Singletay, Louisiana Department of Corrections, Louisiana Office of Public Health Region 1, Louisiana Public Health Institute, Metropolitan Human Services District, New Orleans Emergency Medical Services, New Orleans Office of Health and Human Services, Odyssey House Louisiana, Orleans Parish District Attorney’s Office, Orleans Parish Probation and Parole, Orleans Parish Sheriff’s Office, University Medical Center of New Orleans (LCMC), Wexford Health

Substance Use Mobile Resource Clinic



Following the guidance of the Opioid Settlement Fund Strategic Plan laid out by Tulane University, NOHHS released the notice of funding for the Harm Reduction Mobile Unit in January 2025. In March, NOHHS chose a collaborative of four organizations (CrescentCare, ViaLink, Volunteers of America Southeast Louisiana, and Trystereo) to bring the vision of a low-barrier, mobile resource clinic for people who use drugs to the streets of New Orleans. The \$2.5 million three-year contract went live in August and training and onboarding took place throughout the fall and winter. The renamed Substance Use Mobile Resource Clinic (SUMRC) began providing services in April 2026. Mobile units are considered best practices in substance use disorder treatment and have been shown to reduce drug use while expanding community access and retention in treatment.



Orleans Parish Opioid Settlement Funds

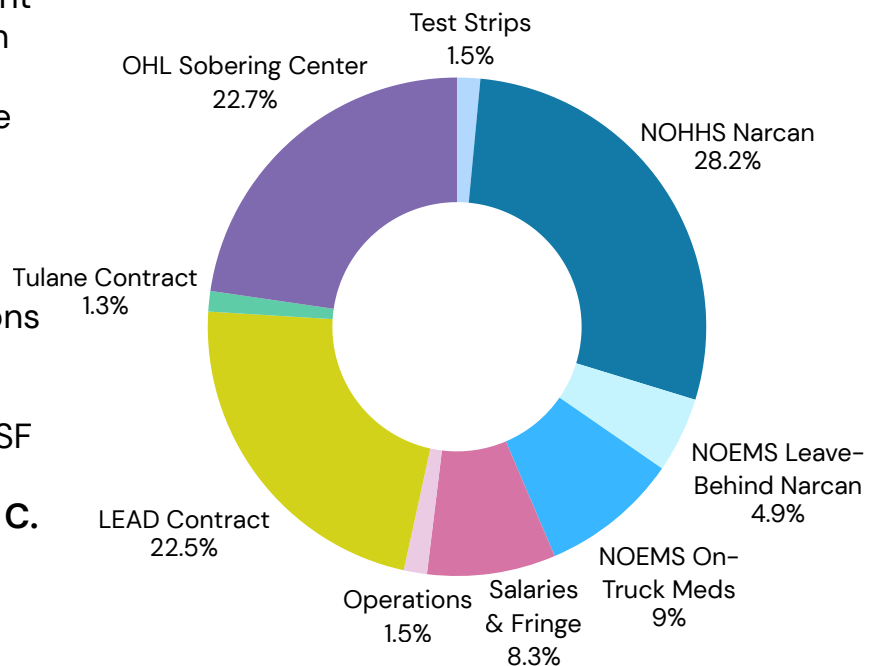
As of December 31st, 2025, Orleans Parish has received **\$7,614,575.84** in Opioid Settlement Funds (OSF).

Between the first deposit in 2023 and the end of 2025, the City of New Orleans spent roughly **\$665,500** of settlement funds on contracts, naloxone, and staffing/operating expenses. The largest expense was naloxone, with \$280,027 spent on Narcan that NOHHS makes available to the community, leave-behind Narcan distributed by NOEMS, and on-truck naloxone administered by NOEMS. NOHHS funded three contracts: the Tulane University OSF Needs Assessment (\$8,831) paid in 2024, and the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion program (\$150,000) and Odyssey House of Louisiana's Sobering Center (\$151,047) in 2025. The remainder of utilized funds were spent on salaries and fringe, sharps containers, fentanyl test strips, and other operating costs.

Due to the citywide budget crisis identified in 2025, NOHHS leadership made the decision to allocate OSF to cover the significant gaps in funding for essential health contracts touching the lives of people who use drugs. In 2026, the City of New Orleans will be using **\$3,486,847** of OSF to support the provision of essential health services, while **\$503,594** is budgeted to support city operations and supplies.

For a more detailed look at how OSF funds will be allocated in 2026, please refer to **Appendices B and C**.

2023–2025 OSF Spending Total Amount: **\$665,500**



NOHHS 2026 Goals

1

Substance Use Mobile Resource Clinic (SUMRC)

2026 will be the first year in which the SUMRC will be providing services throughout the community. There will be much to learn about how and where to deliver these services to meet the needs of people using drugs. NOHHS is excited to support the four SUMRC provider partners in refining and growing their work throughout Orleans Parish.

2

Education and Outreach Work

NOHHS staff will continue to expand the reach of our Bystander Response trainings and naloxone saturation plans. New in 2026, the team will be piloting a Narcan Ambassador initiative where NOHHS staff will build capacity for community members to distribute Narcan and connect with their friends, neighbors and loved ones about overdose prevention, overdose response and destigmatizing drug use. NOHHS will also be planning a vigil in August for survivors of overdose loss to honor the lives lost.

3

Opioid Settlement Funds

Opioid Settlement Funds will be playing a very different role in the NOHHS funding landscape in 2026, with significant OSF being used to sustain a number of essential programs serving people who use drugs. The Behavioral Health team will use this as an opportunity to better understand the needs of people who use drugs presenting to these programs so that NOHHS can better support colleagues and contract partners in providing holistic, trauma-informed and stigma-free services to those clients.

4

Overdose Fatality Review (OFR)

The New Orleans OFR will continue to conduct deep dive case reviews into drug overdose deaths but in 2026 will also begin to unpack aggregate level data to better understand risk factors and develop recommendations that may have the largest impact on reducing overdose deaths.

Appendix A: Naloxone

Naloxone saturation is an essential part of reducing overdose deaths and a cornerstone of NOHHS's overdose prevention programming.

What Is Naloxone?

Naloxone (also known as Narcan®) is a medication called an “opioid antagonist” used to counter the effects of opioid overdose. Naloxone negates the effect of the opioids and the body begins automatic functions like breathing again.

Accessing Naloxone in New Orleans

Pharmacies

Anyone can purchase and carry any form of naloxone without a prescription, and Narcan is now available over-the-counter. Those with Louisiana Medicaid can access two boxes of nasal naloxone at no cost every 30 days.

SSPs and Community Groups

Syringe service programs (SSPs) and other local community based organizations may have naloxone to distribute. Go to louisianahealthhub.org/oprh/ for a list of free Narcan distribution sites supported by the Louisiana Department of Health.

Fire Stations

Station #1: 2920 Magazine St.

Station #29: 317 Decatur St.

Station #36: 5401 Read Blvd.

Station #40: 2500 General DeGaulle

City of New Orleans

Anyone in New Orleans can receive naloxone at no cost from the Behavioral Health team, whose office is located in City Hall, by attending or booking one of the Bystander Response trainings, or by emailing Avery Temple at avery.temple@nola.gov.

How to Book A Bystander Response Training

The City of New Orleans offers free Bystander Response Trainings, including Overdose Response which focuses on naloxone administration, to any business or group. To book an Overdose Response training, please visit the NOLA Ready website at ready.nola.gov/stay-connected/training/request/ or email our *Community Outreach and Education Coordinator*, Avery Temple, at avery.temple@nola.gov.

Appendix B: Contracts

Of the **\$3,486,847** allocated to NOHHS contracts in 2026, \$862,000 is for the Substance Use Mobile Resource Clinic (page 8) and the remainder is for programs significantly impacted by federal funding cuts and general fund shortages. Each of these programs provides essential care to people who use drugs in New Orleans, and funding allocations are determined based on the scope and potential impact to that target group.

Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT)

Healing Minds NOLA | \$75,000

This program provides intensive intervention to help stabilize individuals with severe behavioral health and substance use needs while reducing harm, repeated hospitalizations and arrest.

INSTEAD

Ubuntu Village | \$70,000

A program where individuals whose arrests stem from unmet behavioral health needs are diverted to case management and necessary interventions.

Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD)

Traveler's Aid Society | \$994,994

LEAD serves individuals with recurrent and frequent low-level law enforcement interactions who have severe mental health and substance use disorders, to provide intensive case management and services to address the root cause of behavior.

Low Barrier Shelter

Odyssey House Louisiana | \$600,000

The Low Barrier Shelter offers immediate, no-cost shelter and basic amenities for individuals experiencing homelessness, a significant number of whom have SUD. Odyssey House is also a major provider of SUD treatment and harm reduction services.

Mobile Crisis Intervention Unit (MCIU)

Resources for Human Development | \$450,000

MCIU provides 24/7, non-law enforcement response through 911 for non-violent behavioral health emergencies, a significant number of whom have a history of or active SUD.

Seeds of NOLA Trauma Recovery Center

LCMC | \$264,317

This program provides trauma-informed counseling and mental healthcare for victims of trauma in New Orleans, a significant percentage of whom have documented history or active SUD.

UMCNO Violence Intervention Program

LCMC | \$170,536

This program provides immediate intervention, case management and wraparound supports for victims of gun violence, a significant percentage of whom have documented history or active SUD.

Appendix C: Staffing & Operations

Meet the NOHHS Behavioral Health team members who lead our work in overdose prevention, response, and the use of OSF.



Anh Thu Hoang – Overdose Fatality Review Coordinator
anh.hoang@nola.gov

Thu is the New Orleans OFR Coordinator and leads the implementation and administration of the OFR committee. She engages the multidisciplinary team in identifying commonalities and trends in overdose deaths, making recommendations based on OFR findings and developing action steps to improve policies and programs to prevent overdose deaths in New Orleans.



Avery Temple – Community Education and Outreach Coordinator
avery.temple@nola.gov

Avery facilitates NOHHS's free Bystander Response trainings for businesses and community groups. They also coordinate syringe disposal, Narcan distribution, and public education events about overdose prevention and drug use across New Orleans.



Foster Noone – Opioid Special Projects Coordinator
foster.noone@nola.gov

Foster oversees the Substance Use Mobile Resource Clinic contract and the City's use of settlement funds. They manage the Bystander Response and naloxone saturation programs and support overdose prevention and drug user health work across NOHHS.

2026 Opioid Settlement Fund Allocation for NOHHS Operations

Total Amount: **\$503,594**

