Substance Use in Pueblo County

Key findings

- The overdose death rate in 2021 in Pueblo County was 46.1 per 100,000.
- Most overdose deaths, over 31% in 2021, occurred among individuals aged 30-39 (Graph A).
- Males made up a higher percentage, 71% in 2021, of fatal overdose deaths (Graph A).
- Almost half of all fatal drug overdoses, 56% in 2021, involved more than one substance (polydrug use).
- Fentanyl’s presence in the drug supply continues to increase. In 2021, 19% of drug overdoses involved fentanyl.
- From 2020 to 2021, 701 lives were saved in Pueblo County with the use of Naloxone/Narcan. (Graph B).
- In 2021, an average of 41 lives were saved each month with Naloxone/Narcan.

A. Overdose Deaths By Age and Gender

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group</th>
<th>Male</th>
<th>Female</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>≤ 19 YEARS</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-29 YEARS</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>3.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-39 YEARS</td>
<td>20.5%</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-49 YEARS</td>
<td>12.8%</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-59 YEARS</td>
<td>11.5%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69 YEARS</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70+ YEARS</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Data Source: Pueblo County Coroner    Timeframe: 2021

B. Number of Lives Saved Each Month With Naloxone

- May 2020: 27 lives saved
- June 2020: 19 lives saved
- July 2020: 19 lives saved
- August 2020: 28 lives saved
- September 2020: 34 lives saved
- October 2020: 34 lives saved
- November 2020: 48 lives saved
- December 2020: 24 lives saved
- January 2021: 22 lives saved
- February 2021: 30 lives saved
- March 2021: 30 lives saved
- April 2021: 34 lives saved
- May 2021: 44 lives saved
- June 2021: 58 lives saved
- July 2021: 86 lives saved
- August 2021: 105 lives saved
- September 2021: 58 lives saved
- October 2021: 49 lives saved
- November 2021: 42 lives saved
- December 2021: 43 lives saved
- January 2022: 34 lives saved
- February 2022: 30 lives saved
- March 2022: 22 lives saved
- April 2022: 19 lives saved
- May 2022: 30 lives saved
- June 2022: 39 lives saved

Data Source: Pueblo Harm Reduction Agencies    Timeframe: May 2020 - June 2022

Someone died in Pueblo County of a drug overdose every week in 2021. These deaths are preventable.
Definitions

Polydrug use:
The use of more than one drug or type of drug at the same time or one after another.  

Overdose death rate:
The number of overdose deaths occurring among the population during a given year per 100,000.

Naloxone:
Medication that treats opioid overdoses rapidly in an emergency situation. When Naloxone was first approved to reverse opioid overdoses, its brand name was Narcan®. There are now many other formulations and brand names for Naloxone, but many people continue to call all of these products "Narcan." 

Authors
Anne Hill, Olivia Leyva, and Sophia Montoya

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References
2) NIDA. https://nida.nih.gov/publications/drugfacts/naloxone

For more information or additional questions, email data@pueblocounty.us