



Welcome!

Overdose Response Strategic Plan Community Listening Session



Brandon M. Scott
Mayor



MAYOR'S OFFICE OF
**OVERDOSE
RESPONSE**





AGENDA

- Opening Remarks
- Overview of Needs Assessment
- Overview of Strategic Plan
- Breakout Groups

Why We Are Here



Our Words Matter

We Use People First Language:

A person is a person first, and a behavior is something that can change — terms like “drug addict” or “user” imply someone is “something” instead of *someone* (1)

Stigmatizing Language	Non – Stigmatizing Language
Substance Abuse	Substance Use Substance Use Disorder
Addict Junkie User Dirty	Person In Active Use Person Who Uses Drugs Person With Substance Use Disorder
Clean	In Recovery Substance Free Not actively using drugs



BACKGROUND

Baltimore City has reached more than **\$402.5 million** in settlements

- 21 organizations named in settlements to receive **\$87 million**.
- There is still one case pending



MAYOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER

August 29, 2024, Mayor Scott issued an Executive Order to guide the use of these opioid restitution funds.

- Established new Mayor's Office of Overdose Response
- Established an Opioid Restitution Advisory Board
- Called for development of an **Overdose Response Strategic Plan** informed by citywide **Needs Assessment**
- Developed frameworks for community engagement and transparency and accountability

OUR APPROACH



Baltimore City Overdose Response Needs Assessment



OVERVIEW

Executive Order Guidelines

- Inform the strategic plan
- Every two years
- Five pillars

Workgroup

- Baltimore City Health Department
- Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Overdose Response
- Behavioral Health Systems of Baltimore

Questions

- What are Baltimore City residents' **experiences** with substance use and the opioid overdose crisis in the City?
- What **recommendations** do people who live and work in Baltimore City have to address the opioid overdose crisis in an equitable way?
- How to best continue **engagement** around substance use and the opioid overdose crisis in a way that is fair, transparent, and well-managed across Baltimore City?



PILLARS

Social Determinants of Health helping people and communities thrive

Prevention helping people avoid drug use before it starts or before it becomes a substance use disorder

Harm reduction keeping people safe if they are still using drugs

Treatment helping people who want to stop using drugs

Recovery supporting people to stay healthy and in recovery



METHODS

Quantitative

statistics, numbers, and trends

- 15 public and private data sources

Qualitative

stories, experiences, and recommendations

- 71 community members with lived experience from 4 community-based organizations
- 39 clinical and community service providers
- 16 City agency representatives from 14 agencies
- 217 community members via the online form

PRODUCTS



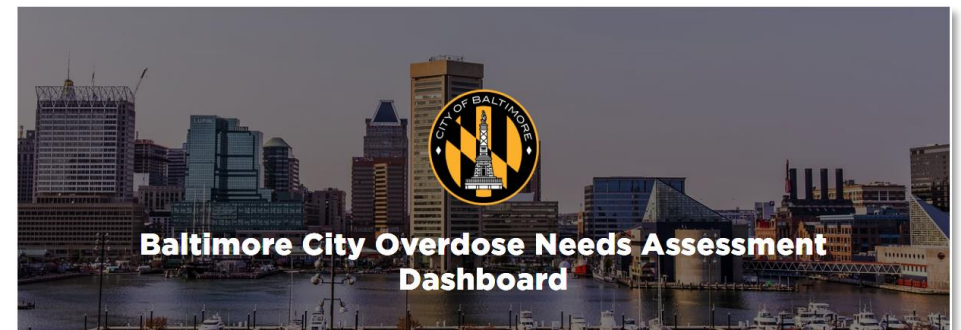
Baltimore City Overdose Response Needs Assessment

May 2025



Brandon M. Scott, Mayor
Mary Beth Haller, Interim Commissioner of Health
1001 E. Fayette Street • Baltimore, MD 21202

Document



- Home
- Summary
- Introduction
- Overview of Overdose Crisis
- Social Determinants of Health
- Prevention
- Harm Reduction
- Treatment
- Recovery
- Resources
- Methods & Limitations

Welcome

This Baltimore City Overdose Needs Assessment Dashboard provides a comprehensive overview of the overdose crisis, combining data on social determinants of health (SDOH), public wellness and safety, prevention efforts, treatment access, harm reduction, recovery, and resources to guide focused interventions and promote equitable health outcomes across Baltimore City.

In addition to this interactive dashboard, Baltimore City Health Department crafted a written needs assessment with support from the Baltimore City Mayor's Office of Overdose Response and Behavioral Health System Baltimore. The document examines the data displayed here as well as qualitative data gathered from in-depth focus group interviews.

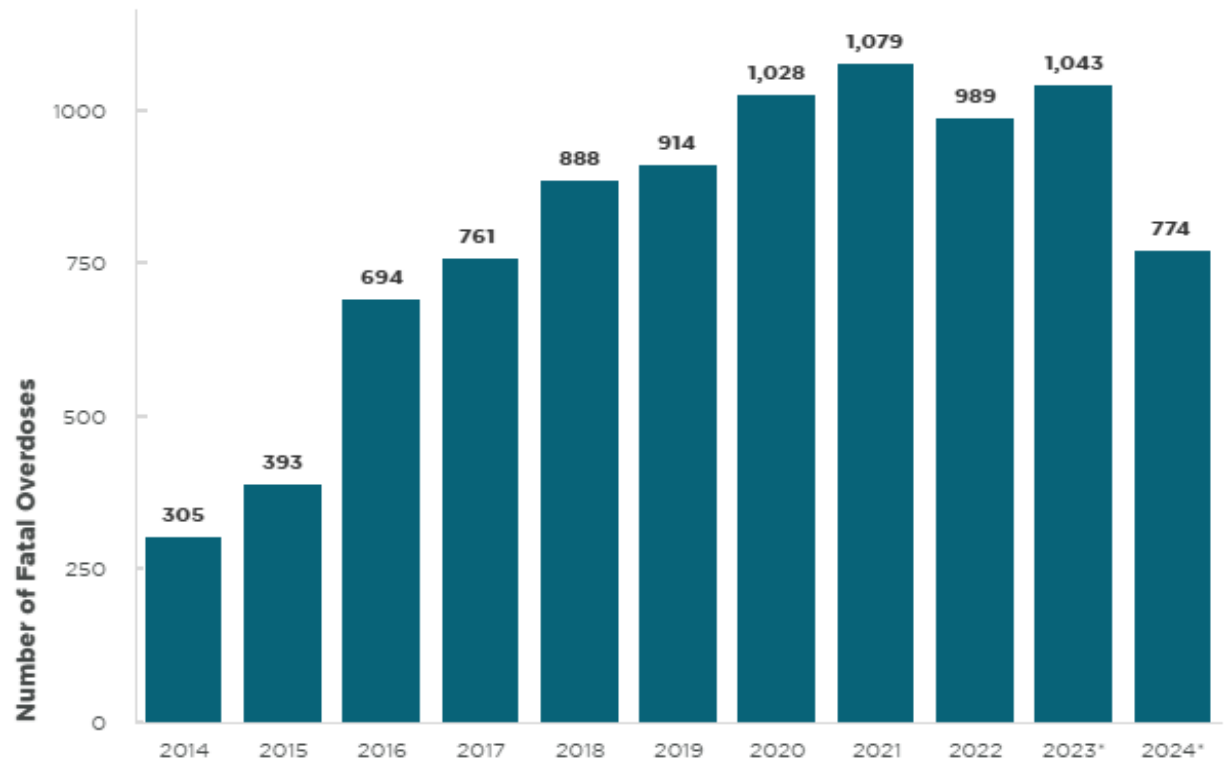
Dashboard

CITY OVERVIEW

Key Takeaway 1:

Overdose deaths appear to be declining in Baltimore City, but rates remain extremely high, and the City still leads all metro areas nationally in overdose mortality.

Number of Fatal Overdoses by Year, Baltimore City, 2014-2024*



Source: Maryland Department of Health Overdose Dashboard, <https://health.maryland.gov/dataoffice/Pages/mdh-dashboards.aspx>. Fatal overdose includes accidental or undetermined drug and alcohol-related intoxication deaths that occurred in Baltimore City.

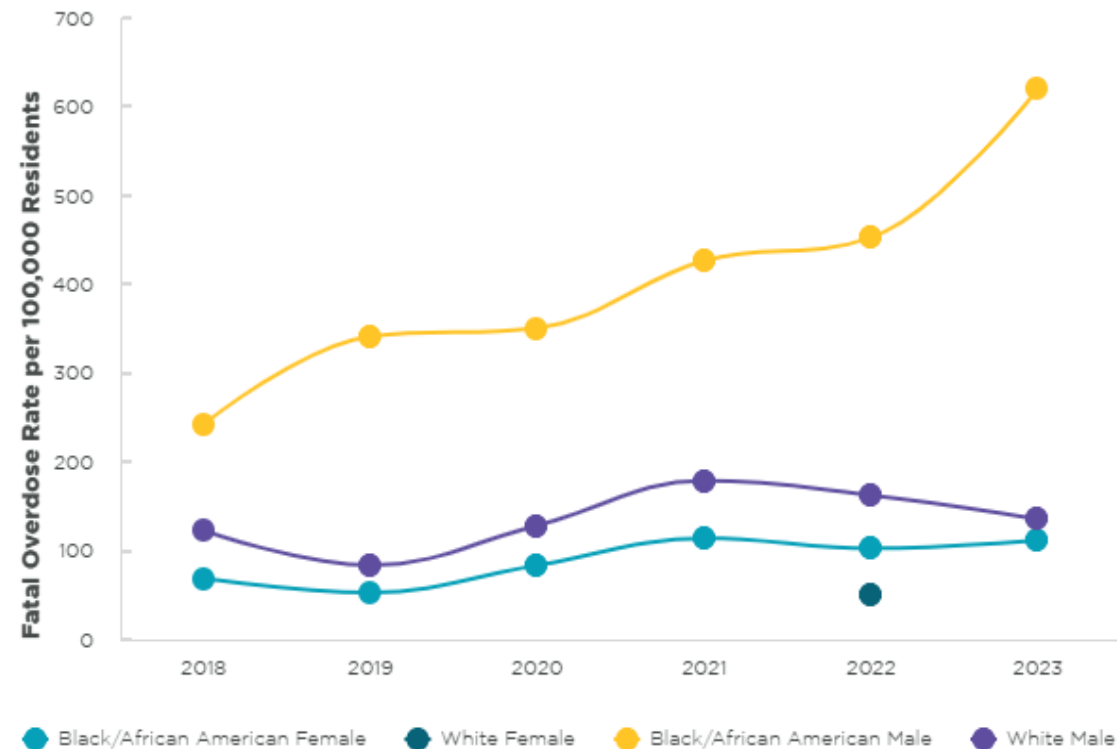
*Data are preliminary and subject to change.

CITY OVERVIEW (CONTINUED)

Key Takeaway 2:

In Baltimore City, Black male residents who are 60 and older are at the greatest risk of overdose death.

Fatal Overdose Rate per 100,000 Among Residents 60 and Older by Race, Sex, and Year, Baltimore City, 2018-2023



Source: CDC WONDER (See Data Details at bottom of page for Query Criteria)

Link: <https://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html>

Rates for all other race and ethnicity categories but Black or African American and White are suppressed by CDC because they meet criteria for confidentiality constraints to protect personal privacy.



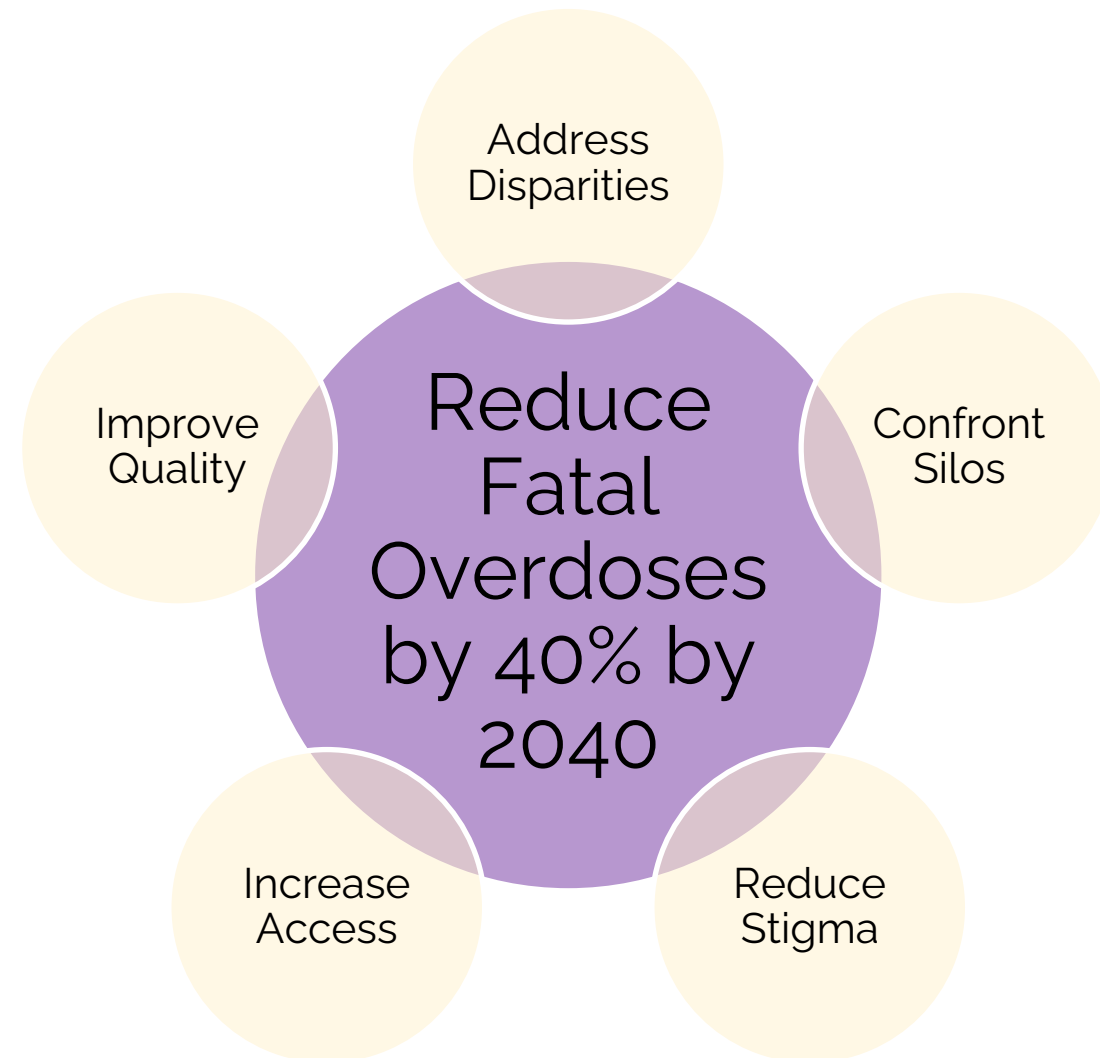
RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Address the worsening **inequities** in the City's overdose crisis.
2. Dismantle silos and improve **connections** throughout the systems of care.
3. Confront systems of **stigma** to reduce barriers to care.
4. Increase **access** to low-barrier services for substance use disorder across all neighborhoods.
5. Improve the **quality** of substance use services across the City.

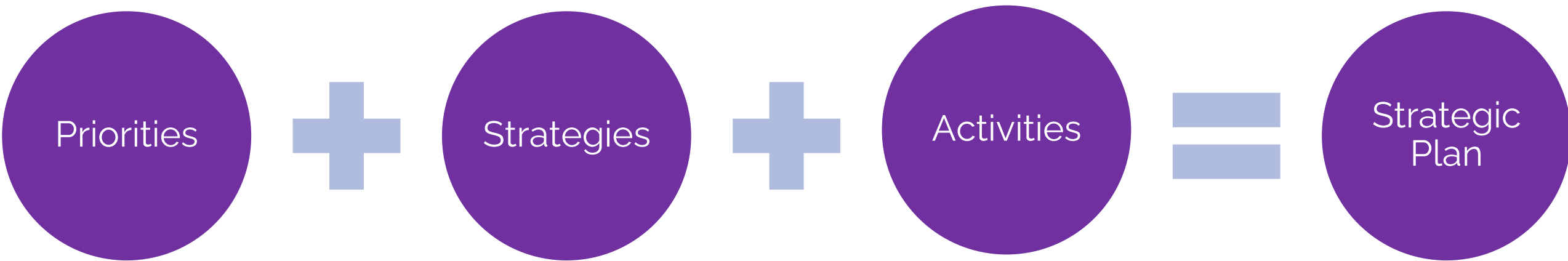
Overdose Response Strategic Plan



OUR GOAL



STRATEGIC PLAN



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STRATEGIC PLAN PRIORITY AREAS

1. Address the **disparities** in the City's overdose crisis.
2. Dismantle silos and improve **connections** throughout the systems of care.
3. Confront systems, policies, and practices that perpetuate **stigma** to reduce barriers to care.
4. Increase **access** to low-barrier services for substance use disorder across all neighborhoods.
5. Improve the **quality** of substance use services across the City.

Breakout Groups



BREAKOUT GROUPS

Computer Lab: Priority #1 - Address the **Disparities** in the City's Overdose Crisis

Fellowship Hall: Priority #2 - Dismantle Silos and Improve **Connections** Throughout Systems of Care

Fellowship Hall: Priority #3- Confront Systems, Policies, and Practices That Perpetuate **Stigma** to Reduce Barriers to Care

Sanctuary: Priority #4- Increase **Access** to Low-Barrier Services for Substance Use Disorders Across All Neighborhoods, Focusing on Those Most Impacted

Balcony: Priority #5- Improve the **Quality** of Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Services



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

City-wide Overdose Response Strategic Plan Public Feedback Form



Wednesday, July 23

- 5:30 PM-8:00 PM
- Pimlico Elementary and Middle School, 4849 Pimlico Rd, Baltimore, MD 21215

Thursday, July 31

- 5:30 PM-8:00 PM
- Henderson Hopkins Elementary and Middle School, 2100 Ashland Ave, Baltimore, MD 21205

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Overdose Response Listening
Session Feedback Form



City-wide Overdose Response
Strategic Plan Public Feedback
Form

