

Opioid Response Coordination:

Responding to a deadly epidemic

*Organizational Development Standing Committee
September 3, 2024*



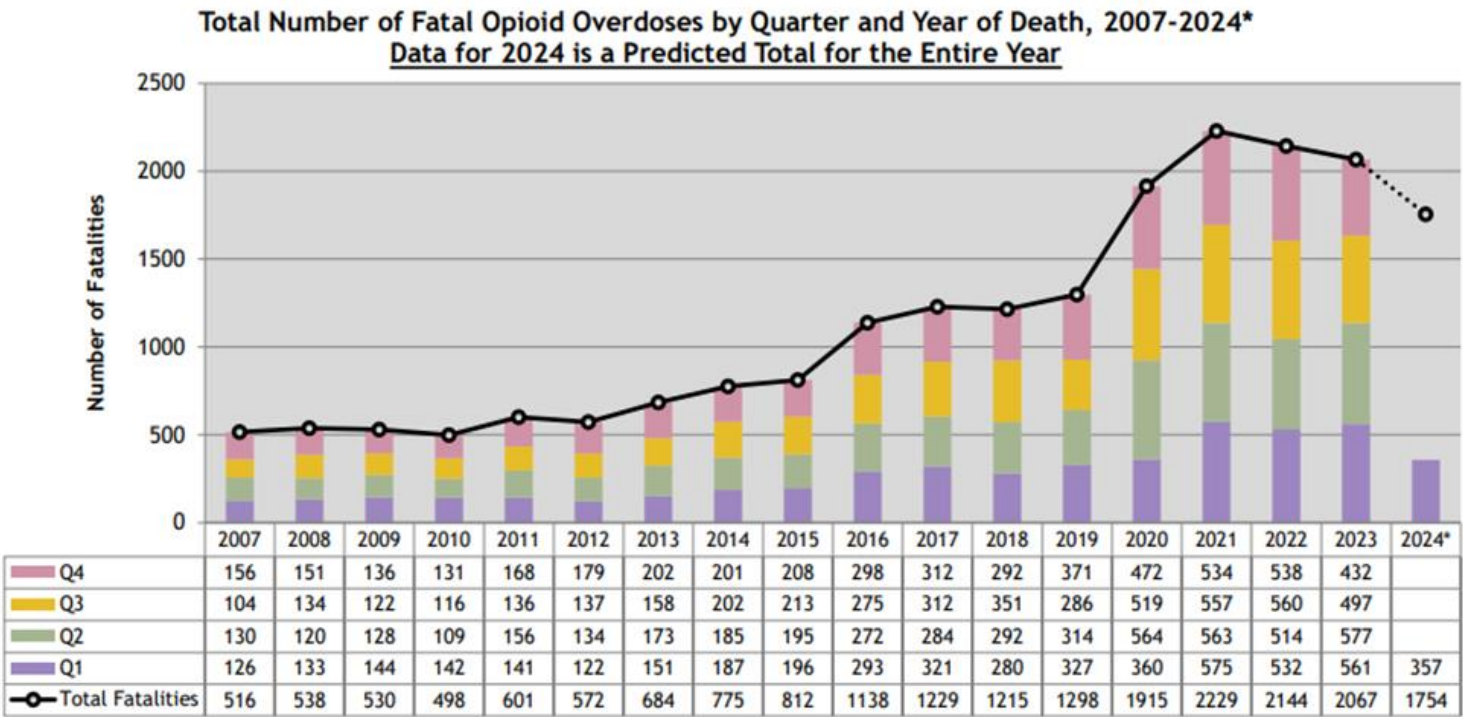
**CITY OF
RICHMOND**

Outlook | 2023

United States: 109,527
Virginia: 2,535
City of Richmond: 297

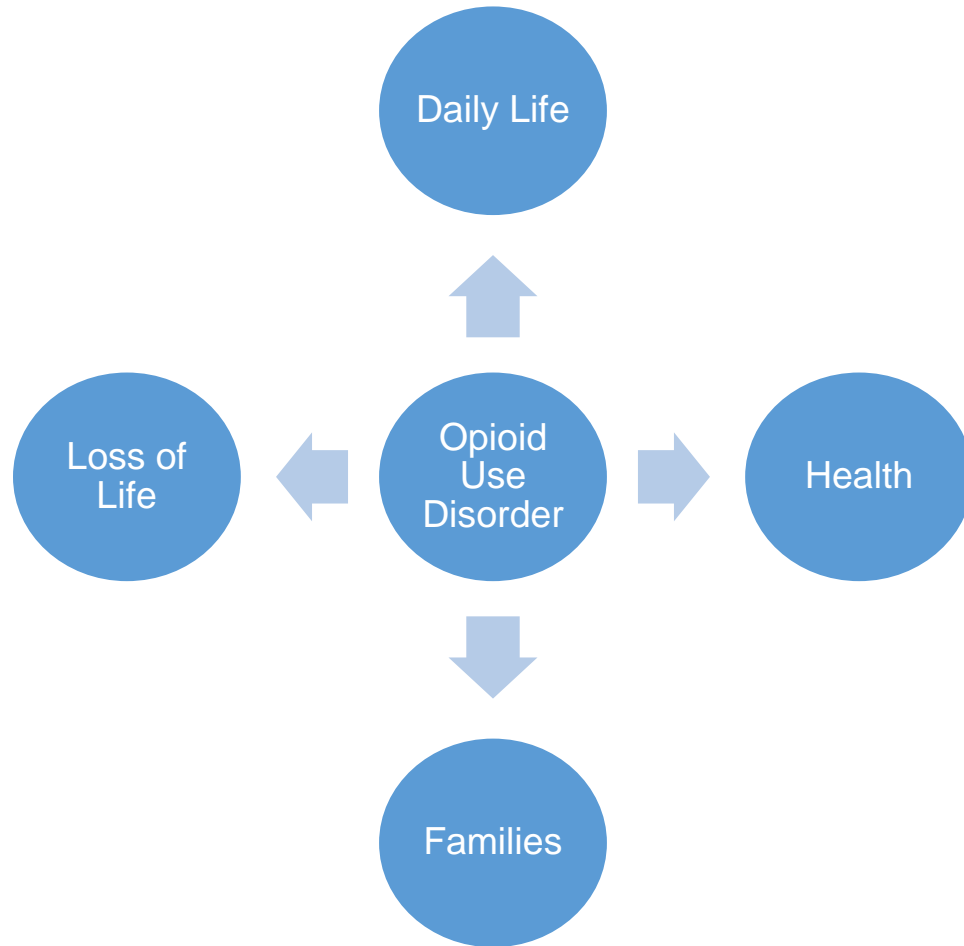
Opioids, especially fentanyl, have been the driving force behind the latest increases in fatal overdoses.

In February, 2022, the City of Richmond declared opioid overdoses a public health crisis.



Source: Virginia Department of Health: Fatal drug overdose quarterly report, first quarter 2024 (July 2024)

Human Impact



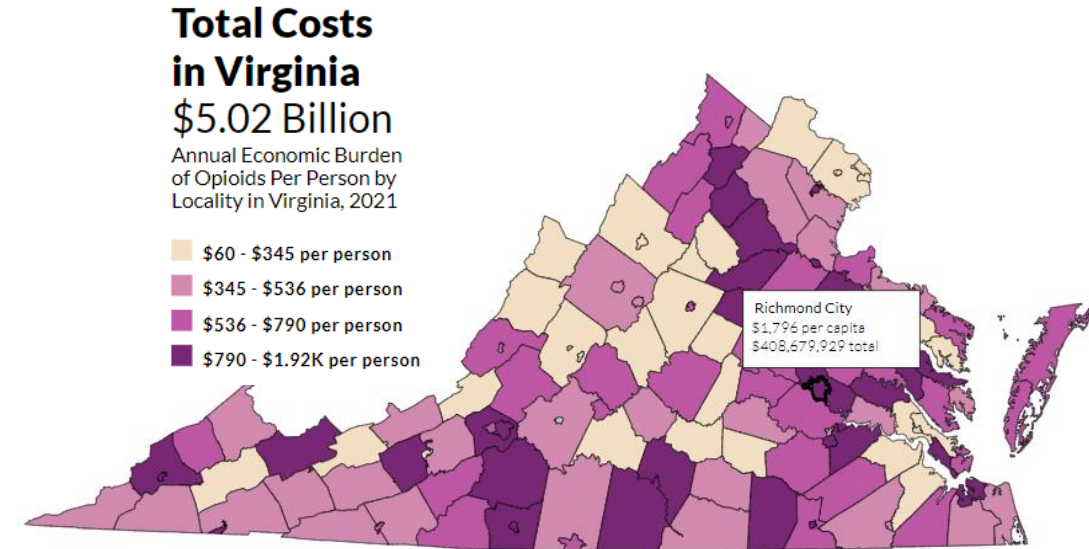
Addiction is a chronic, relapsing disorder characterized by compulsive drug seeking, continued use despite harmful consequences, and long-lasting changes in the brain. It is a complex brain disorder and the most severe form of a full spectrum of substance use disorders. Opioid use disorder is a substance use disorder that has the following impacts:

- **Health Consequences**
 - Physical health
 - Co-occurring mental health disorders
- **Impact on Daily Life**
 - Social isolation, loss of social support resulting from stigma
- **Impact on Families**
 - Family dynamics and financial strain
- **Loss of Life**
 - Overdose deaths
- **Community Impact**
 - Healthcare system, public safety, and economic costs

Fiscal Impact

- In FY21, the opioid epidemic cost the Virginia economy approximately \$5.02B
- While the average cost per Virginian was \$580 per person, the average cost per Richmond resident was \$1,796 due to the magnitude of this issue in the city.

Source: Virginia Commonwealth University: "The opioid epidemic cost Virginians \$5B in 2021, new data shows (January 17, 2024)



Research shows that every \$1 spent on substance use disorder treatment saves \$4 in healthcare costs and \$7 in law enforcement and other justice-related costs.

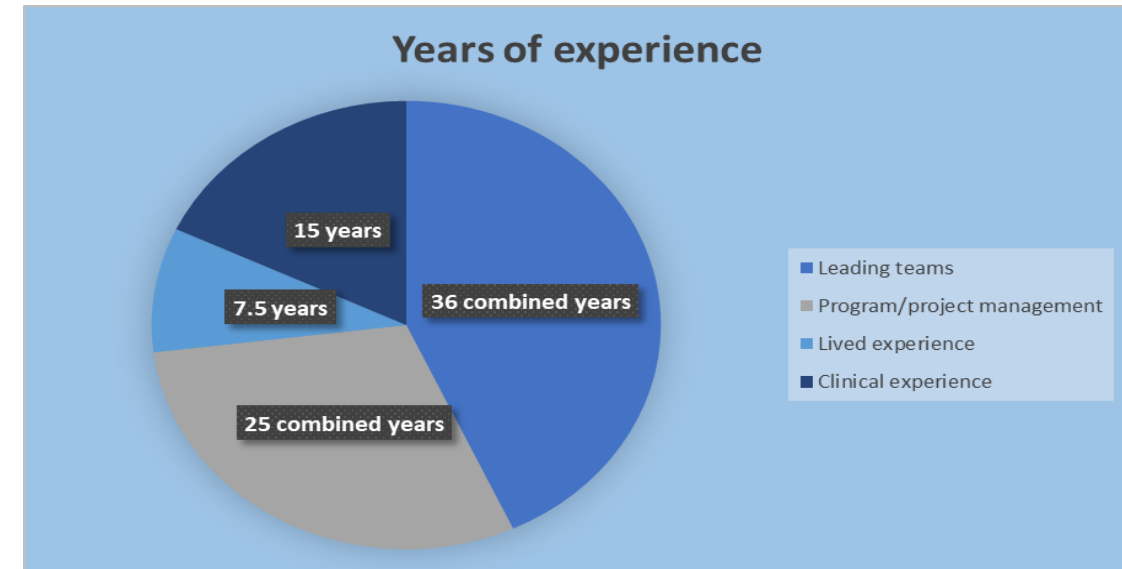
City of Richmond's Response



Opioid Response Coordination Team

April 2024, the City of Richmond hired a Policy Advisor for Opioid Response Coordination and in May, 2024, dedicated a second Policy Advisor to Community Outreach and Engagement. Both positions are funded through the Opioid Abatement Authority.

- The **Opioid Response Coordinator** provides leadership, planning, management, and coordination of the City's response to the opioid epidemic and serves as the City's primary liaison to relevant stakeholders and the Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority
- **Community Outreach and Engagement** establishes and maintains relationships with local service providers, community organizations, and stakeholders which support individuals with opioid use disorder throughout the continuum of care.



Goal

The purpose of the City of Richmond's Opioid Response Coordination Team is to reduce opioid overdose deaths and to improve the quality of life of individuals impacted by opioid use disorder.



Richmond Opioid Task Force

The Richmond Opioid Task Force (ROTF) is a multidisciplinary, multiagency stakeholder team that meets monthly to identify needs and address the opioid epidemic in the City of Richmond. The goals of the task force are to align substance use disorder services and funding across agencies that improve outcomes, collaborate across agencies to deepen relationships and share best practices, and share data and evidence-based practices to reduce overdose deaths and improve the lives of those with opioid use disorder in the City of Richmond.



Subcommittees

Diversion: focus on individuals with OUD and SUD who are involved in the justice system including probation and parole, pretrial probation, specialty courts and at risk of incarceration.

Harm reduction: increasing the availability of evidence-based programs and interventions that lower rates of adverse outcomes from substance use in our communities.

Prevention: advancing and coordinating projects to increase knowledge and decrease substance use linked to dangerous or adverse outcomes in our communities.

Treatment: improving access to the diverse range of recovery-advancing services and the linkages and networks between them.

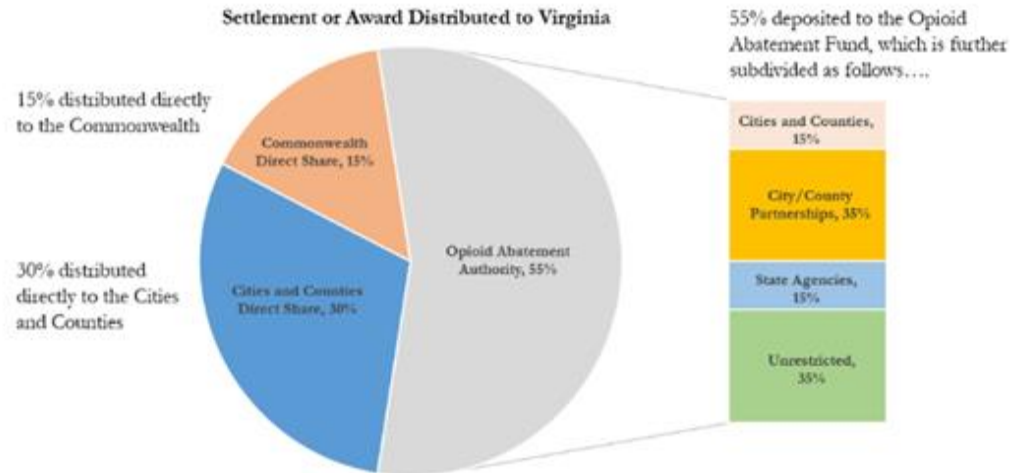


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National Opioid Settlements

Multiple national settlements where opioid manufacturers and distributors have agreed to pay funds to state and local governments to help remediate and abate the opioid crisis. In Virginia, each locality, including the City of Richmond, signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Office of the Attorney General which established an allocation plan for opioid settlements in the Commonwealth.

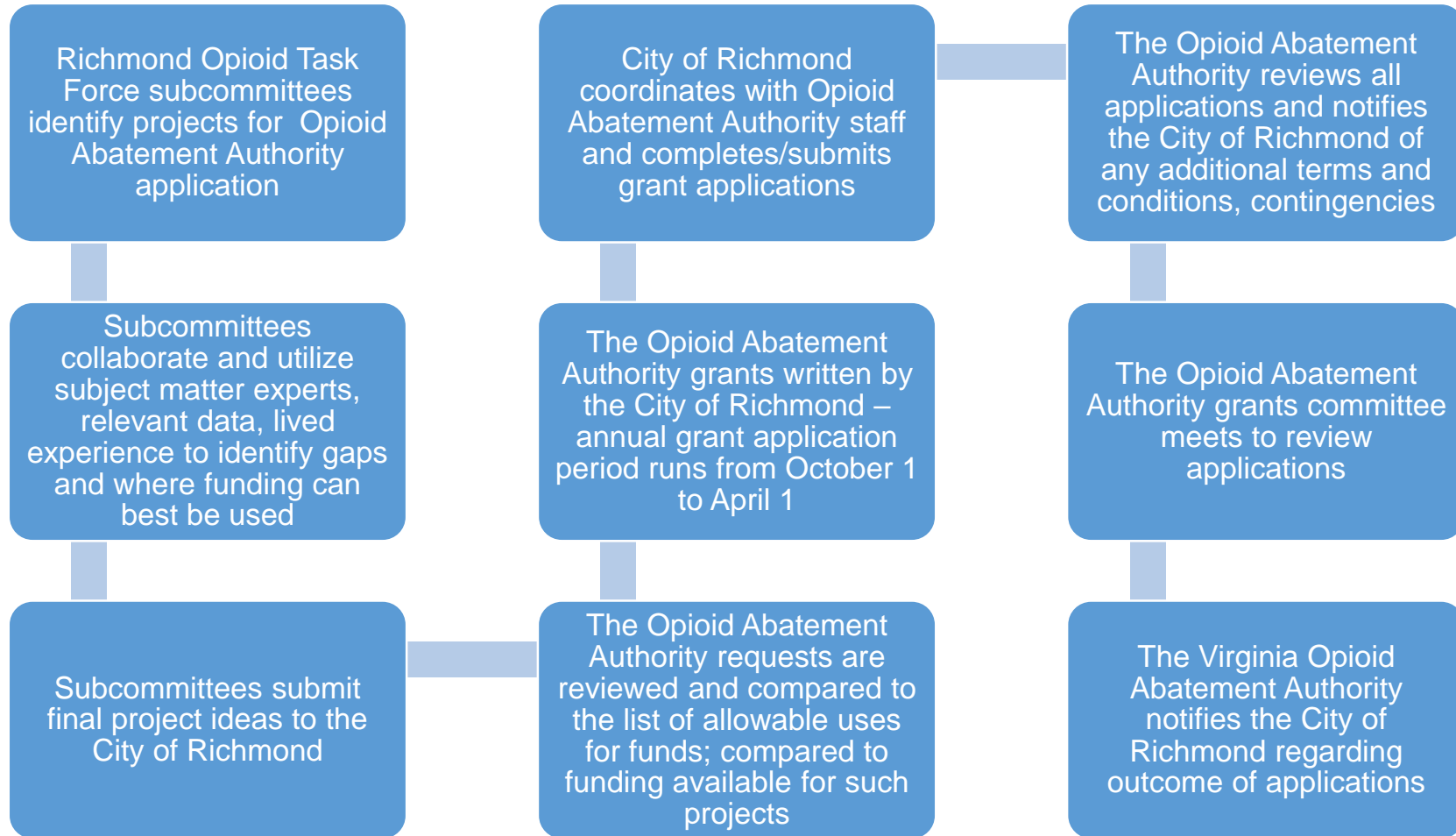


Direct Distribution: Distributed directly from opioid manufacturers and distributors from the settlement administrator without flowing through the Opioid Abatement Authority; based on a formula related to the harm per capita within the city; certain allowable uses that are specified in the settlement agreement.

Individual/Cooperative Distribution: The City of Richmond is eligible to receive a specific amount of funding in accordance with the statewide Memorandum of Understanding; must agree to certain terms and conditions and must apply to the Opioid Abatement Authority for approval of the use of those funds; can partner with regional localities (cooperative projects).

Gold Standard Incentive: For each fiscal year that a participating city or county agrees to use and report their Direct Distribution funds according to the same standards they are required to use and report their Opioid Abatement Authority Distribution funds (i.e., the Gold Standard), the Opioid Abatement Board agrees to increase that locality's Opioid Abatement Authority distribution by 25% above the base amount for that same fiscal year.

Project Selection



Projects | Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority

Project Recover – Cooperative project between City of Richmond and the Counties of Chesterfield, Hanover, and Henrico

- Five-year project that funds five Peer Recovery Specialists to support those with substance use disorders who require treatment by emergency medical services or come into contact with law enforcement
- Opioid Abatement Authority approved an extension of this project for FY25

Needs Assessment and Gap Analysis for Pregnant and Parenting Persons with Substance Use Disorders in Central Virginia

- Identify the current needs of the identified population in the region
- Conduct a gap analysis of current services and supports available to meet the identified needs
- Results of the needs assessment and gap analysis will inform future regional proposals to the Opioid Abatement Authority
- September 15, 2024 – Draft of report due to all contributing localities

FY24

Projects | Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority

Individual

Harm Reduction Vending Machines

- 3 in key locations to provide harm reduction supplies to at risk individuals

Youth Prevention Campaign

- Invest in a youth-focused opioid use prevention campaign
- Develop targeted message for ages 13-24 regarding deadly risks associated with counterfeit pills/fentanyl

Peer Recovery Specialists

- Increase the number of PRS operating in the City of Richmond
- Increase effectiveness and capacity of City of Richmond's harm reduction, treatment, and recovery efforts

Cooperative

Resource Mapping Website

Phase 1: Hire project manager with OAA funds who will lead a review and planning process with Henrico County, City of Richmond, Richmond Henrico Health District, key stakeholders and subject matter experts

Phase 2: Develop website and information for use by the general public

FY25

Ordinances for all FY25 OAA projects will be introduced during the September 9, 2024 City Council meeting.



Technical Assistance | Subject Matter Expertise

Localities and State Agencies

- Charlottesville
- Chesterfield
- Halifax
- Manassas Park
- Norfolk
- Virginia Beach
- Wise
- Virginia

Department of
Health



Special Projects and Presentations

- Virginia Opioid Abatement Authority: Abatement Academy in Hampton, VA
- Co-leading Virginia Association of Community Abatement Coordinators (VACAC)
- [Opioid Response Coordination](#) tab under Human Services website
- Strategic 3-year Opioid Response Plan



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Increasing Awareness and Education



International Overdose Awareness Day

- Event on August 29 at Former Bon Secours Training Center



National Recovery Month

- Every September
- Multi-locality Regional Recovery event on September 30 in Henrico



Inclusive Recovery Cities

- Resolution for introduction on September 9, 2024



Red Ribbon Month

- The largest prevention, education campaign against substance use disorder in the United States
- Support Richmond Public Schools and Richmond Behavioral Health Authority for Red Ribbon Month events: October 23-31, 2024



**INCLUSIVE
RECOVERY CITIES**



**Inclusive
Cities.**



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Looking Ahead: Data Analysis and Future Initiatives

- Cooperative partnerships with City departments and Richmond Henrico Health District to obtain and analyze data related to overdoses and overdose-related emergency department visits.
- Opioid Response Coordinator is the ODMAP admin user for Human Services.
- As of August 19, 2023, there were 179 fatal and 283 nonfatal overdoses in the City.
- As of August 19, 2024, there were 63 fatal and 94 nonfatal overdoses in the City, a 65% decrease in fatal overdoses and 67% decrease in nonfatal overdoses in 12 months*

(*Disclaimer: these numbers are not final and fatal overdoses are pending toxicology reports. It can take up to six months to reconcile this information.)



- REVIVE training for City staff and overdose reversal kits in City Hall
- Future funding requests/opportunities
- Ongoing partnerships with Central Virginia Localities

Questions

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