



CITY OF GREENFIELD

OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW

Four-Year Summary with
Future Implications
2018-2021

April, 2022

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Introduction

The City of Greenfield Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) team was established in 2018 and has continued to come together over the past four years to review fatal opioid overdoses in our community. This work is possible, in part, by grant funding made available by the Department of Justice and the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS).

The Greenfield OFR team was created to address increasing fatal opioid overdoses amid the opioid epidemic. As we continue to move forward in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, this team recognizes the need to continue supporting individuals and organizations in our community through promotion of prevention, harm reduction measures, and system-level changes. Data for this report was gathered from the Greenfield Fire Department and Wisconsin Death Records. Please note that opioid related fatality data was not available for 2018, but was available for 2019-2021.

During 2020, there were a total of 70 suspected opioid related overdoses in Greenfield. In the most recent year, 2021, there were a total of 103 suspected opioid related overdoses. The amount of suspected overdoses in 2021 were approximately 1.5x greater than the previous year, which is a point of great concern. Additionally, we see similar trends at the state and national level that show opioid-related overdoses and fatalities are increasing in communities nationally.

This summary will further support the Greenfield OFR team and community partners in addressing the opioid epidemic amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. We recognize that our work as an OFR includes individuals who have lost their lives to a substance use disorder. *We honor them through this work and strive to make changes in our community and beyond.*

Executive Summary

Total Suspected Opioid Related Overdoses

2018	2019	2020	2021
73	72	70	103

At 103 suspected overdoses, 2021 has the greatest amount over the past 4 years, with approximately 1.5x greater incidents than 2020.

Greenfield is Diversifying

In the past 4 years, more diverse racial/ethnic groups of people are suspected of opioid overdoses and more diverse areas of Greenfield are seeing suspected opioid overdoses.

Demographics for Suspected Opioid Overdoses

Suspected Overdoses	2018	2019	2020	2021
Ages 20-39	63%	58%	54%	49%
Ages 40-59	19%	29%	33%	30%

Historically, suspected opioid related overdoses occurred most frequently among those aged 20-39, and more commonly among men, although in the more recent years (2020-2021) older age groups are experiencing more suspected opioid overdoses.

Opioid Related Fatalities

2019	2020	2021
12	16	14

At 16 opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents, 2020 had the greatest amount of opioid related deaths over the past 3 years.

Gender Demographics for Fatal Opioid Overdoses

Gender	2019	2020	2021
Female	3	4	0
Male	9	12	14

Opioid related fatalities occur most frequently among those aged 30-49, and far more common among men than women

Age Demographics for Fatal Opioid Overdoses

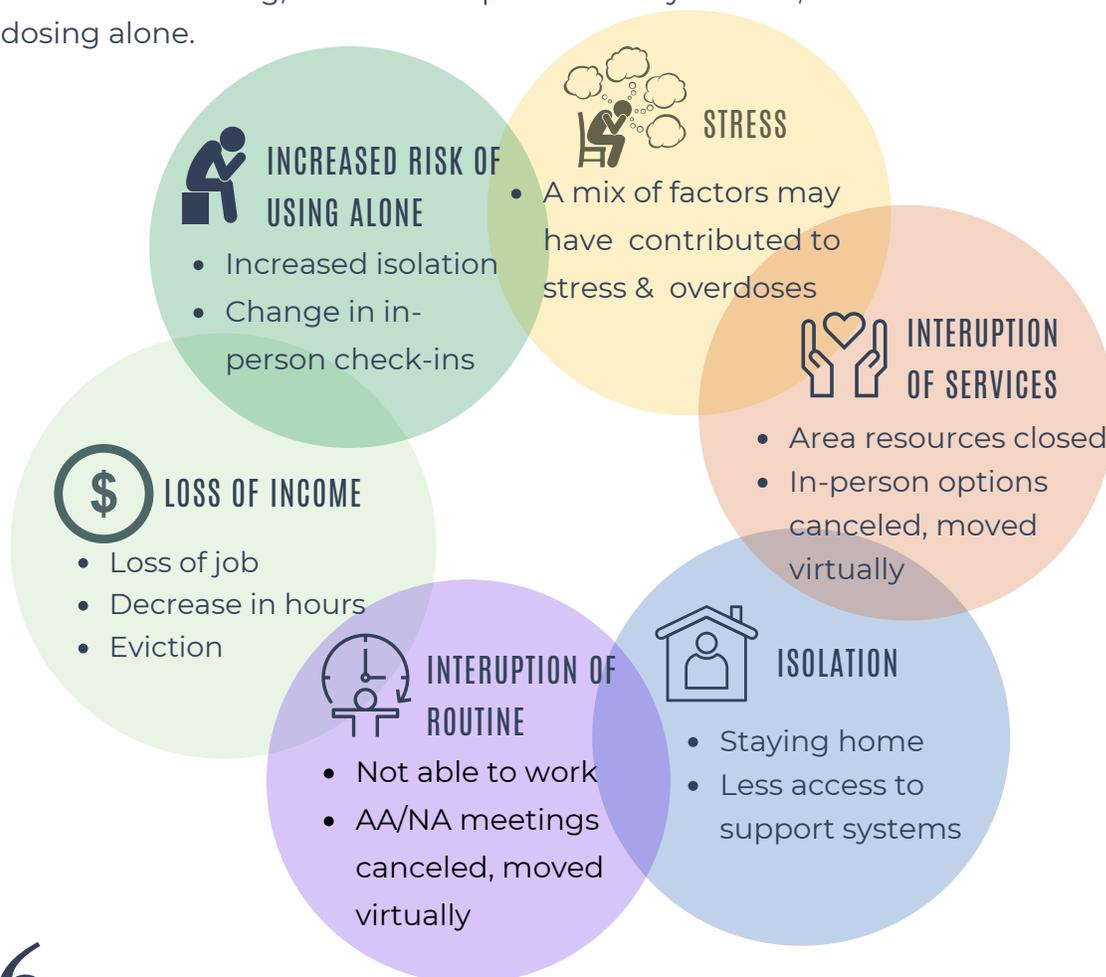
Age Groups	2019	2020	2021
20-29	25%	13%	21%
30-39	25%	25%	29%
40-49	17%	25%	29%

Opioid related fatalities occur primarily among those aged 30-49. Similarly to suspected opioid related overdoses, opioid related fatalities have trended toward older age groups in most recent years. Opioid related fatalities by racial and/or ethnic groups show little variation, with most fatal overdoses occurring among White, non-Hispanic individuals.

Further data detailing suspected and confirmed opioid related fatalities can be found in the appendix of this report.

Impact of COVID-19

As previously reported by DHS, drug misuse and fatal overdose are a mix of many factors and we are unsure why overdoses increased during the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic. While there are several possible factors that could have impacted opioid use among Greenfield residents, we anticipate the following factors being possible contributors: stress, isolation due to travel restrictions and stay at home orders, loss of income from losing a job or changes in hours, an interruption to services like counseling, an overall impacts on daily routine, and an increased risk of overdosing alone.



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Substance misuse can be fought through socializing, communicating, and building healthy relationships, as several of these aspects are important to the recovery process. The pandemic deeply impacted these behaviors and affected those in recovery and those currently battling a substance use disorder.

Joseph Jonas, CPS, Peer Support Specialist

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Local Recommendations

Together, the City of Greenfield OFR team aims to ensure that recommendations made during local OFR's are actionable and addresses needs at not only the community level, but also supporting broader, system-level changes.



INCREASE EDUCATION



INCREASE COMMUNITY
PARTNERSHIPS



DECREASE STIGMA

In Practice

Completed:

- Conduct outreach and Naloxone training to high-risk establishments
- Explore opportunities to include Community Medical Services (CMS) Peer Specialists when completing follow-up on opioid-related referrals
- Explore partnership with Milwaukee OFR team and Department of Corrections (DOC) to support residents recently released from detention
- Expand Naloxone access through launch of health department program
- Evaluate safegreenfield.com with community partners

In Process:

- Encourage people to visit Greenfield's virtual substance misuse and mental health guide, safegreenfield.com
- Pilot of Peer Specialist program at Greenfield Fire Rescue
- Increase education around gabapentin and substance misuse
- Increase access to fentanyl test strips

Future Activities:

- Invite healthcare providers to engage in a virtual conversation to learn more about Naloxone-related topics
- Create harm reduction bags for anyone in need

Successes Through Early 2022*



- Launch of the health department's Naloxone (Narcan) training program
- Providing information and resources through the city's SAFE Greenfield website
- Participation at community events and highlighting resources and support for Greenfield residents and surrounding communities



- Partnering with a Community Medical Services Peer Specialist to assist Greenfield Fire Department in opioid-related referrals
- Training of high-risk business staff to carry and administer Naloxone (Narcan)
- Conducting two Drug Take Back Events with City of Greenfield and Clement Manor
- Partnering with Oxford House and jurisdictions in our county to ensure sustainable education, training, and access to Narcan for individuals in recovery
- 2022 evaluation of safegreenfield.com found **over 80%** of partners surveyed agreed or strongly agreed that the information was relevant to family members and supports of someone with a substance use disorder (SUD), as well as individuals with an SUD



- Launch of www.safegreenfield.com, the City's virtual mental health and substance misuse resource guide
- 2020 Fall Wellness Webinar aimed at providing information on whole body wellness
- Participation in community events through educational outreach and Naloxone (Narcan) training
- Increasing the ability to train the general community on Naloxone through health department and other city programs

*The first two years of our OFR were used to establish our team and community partnerships

Reflections

2020-2021 has been a difficult time and has challenged local public health to be innovative in its everyday functions. However, with these challenges brought opportunities to expand our reach in areas of Naloxone (Narcan) training, community partnership, and programming.

Greenfield's OFR team, alongside city and county community partners, had many successes. This year we began working with a Peer Specialist from Community Medical Services to assist in opioid-related referrals with our fire department. Based on what we have seen, the pilot program revealed the need for formal integration and evaluation measures. We also continued to work on our SAFE Greenfield initiatives to raise awareness about opioid overdoses, resources in our community, and to decrease the stigma surrounding mental health and substance misuse.

As we continue to move forward in such unprecedented times, efforts are continually being made to reduce harm and death in our community from opioid overdoses. As we move further into 2022, the City of Greenfield OFR team continues to strive to increase community partnerships and education and decrease stigma. We want to highlight that there are many resources in our community. Please visit www.safegreenfield.com, call (414) 329-5275, or email safegreenfield@greenfieldwi.us to learn more.

Treatment is available and recovery is possible.



Greenfield's OFR team recognizes the significance of the pandemic over the past 18 months have had on individuals and families in Wisconsin. Trends in the City of Greenfield mirror those at the state and national level. Wisconsin DHS Opioid Team data reflected an increase in fatal opioid overdose incidents since the beginning of the pandemic and that this increase was higher than what was previously thought. Additionally, suspected opioid overdose incidents that were in a decline in the early days of the pandemic seem to be increasing once again. We continue to monitor the situation and provide harm reduction and educational outreach throughout the city.

Darren Rausch, MS, CPH, Greenfield
of Greenfield Health Officer



Call to Action

As a community, we can all come together to ask questions, grow in our knowledge, and support individuals experiencing mental health and substance use disorders. Below are ways you can get involved.



Get Trained to Carry Naloxone

The Greenfield Health Department is available Monday through Friday from 8am-5pm and welcomes walk-ins for **FREE** Narcan training and **FREE** Naloxone (Narcan). **Save a life. Carry Narcan.**



Learn the Signs of an Opioid Overdose

Do you know what the signs of an opioid overdose are? An opioid overdose could happen to anyone at anytime. **Know the signs. Save a life.**



Get Involved in Community Events

There are many ways to get involved! There are several times throughout the year that raise awareness about mental health and substance misuse.



Visit safegreenfield.com

SAFE Greenfield is a local substance misuse, mental health, and wellness resource guide for the City of Greenfield and the surrounding communities.

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It is good to be open and talking about it. You can be an active supporter by learning more about addiction, mental health, and substance use disorders, and be a part of events that support or raise awareness about these topics.

Joseph Jonas, CPS, Peer Support Specialist

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Thank You

This report and all of our successes would not be possible without the continued support and work of OFR teams around the country, our local OFR team, and our community partners who make many of our recommendations a reality.

Despite the many challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic has brought to every aspect of our work, we all continued to adapt and innovate new ways to support one another and our community members in and around the City of Greenfield.

We would first like to extend a thank you to Ocean County Overdose Review Program and the Winnebago County OFR team for sharing their annual reports as an outline for other OFR teams. Thank you for sharing all that you have learned with others across the state of Wisconsin and across the country to further support the advancement of teams such as ours.

The City of Greenfield OFR would also like to thank our local community partnerships and the many departments and organizations that make up our local OFR team. Without everyone's continued leadership, collaboration, and commitment to reducing harm and death from opioid overdoses, much of our successes would not be possible. Please see page 12-13 for more information regarding our OFR team and community partnerships.

"Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." - Helen Keller



City of Greenfield OFR Team

The work conducted by the City of Greenfield OFR team is a team effort and when we come together, we are able to extend our efforts beyond the creation of recommendations and turn them into evidence-based programs, lasting community partnerships, system-level changes, and strong professional bonds.

Our team consists of many City of Greenfield departments and other organizations within our area. We would like to thank each department and organization for their commitment to our OFR team and for their continued work in reducing harm and death from opioid overdoses in our community.

Department of Corrections

Mary Anne Richards

Department of Health Services

Lisa Bullard-Cawthorne

Department of Justice

Starr Moss

Greenfield Fire Rescue

Maggie Sutton

Daniel Weber

Greenfield Health Department

Lindsay Fuss

Abby Gorecki

Megan Noggle

Greenfield Police

Christopher DeGlopper

Medical College of Wisconsin

Amy Parry

Angela Montgomery

Milwaukee County District Attorney's office

Patrick Franken

Medical Examiner's office

Sara Schreiber

Community Partners

Local partnerships are at the core of our local recommendations and our ability to accomplish them. Together, we are able to make changes to local policy and advocate for system-level changes, create programs, and reach community members in need where they are at. Without our community partnerships, much of this would not be possible.



COLD SPRING
CHURCH AND COMMUNITY CENTER



We recognize that these efforts extend beyond the City of Greenfield and wish to thank all organizations for their efforts and continued support of prevention and harm reduction measures and system-level change in our communities.

Appendix A

This information displays the suspected opioid overdose data in Greenfield, WI between January 2018 and December 2021. Suspected opioid overdose data was collected from the Greenfield Fire Department and consists of EMS response incidents. Suspected overdoses are grouped below by year, age group, gender, ethnic/racial group, and zip code.

Table 1. Total number of suspected opioid overdoses in Greenfield, WI each month, between 2018 and 2021

Total Suspected Opioid Overdoses by Month				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
January	3	5	5	2
February	3	3	13	5
March	5	8	8	9
April	8	6	7	14
May	7	4	4	12
June	10	3	7	16
July	3	10	7	9
August	9	9	3	6
September	4	6	3	5
October	6	5	4	6
November	5	5	3	8
December	10	8	7	11
Total	73	72	71	103

Figure 1. Trends in suspected opioid overdoses in Greenfield, WI throughout the year, for 2018-2021

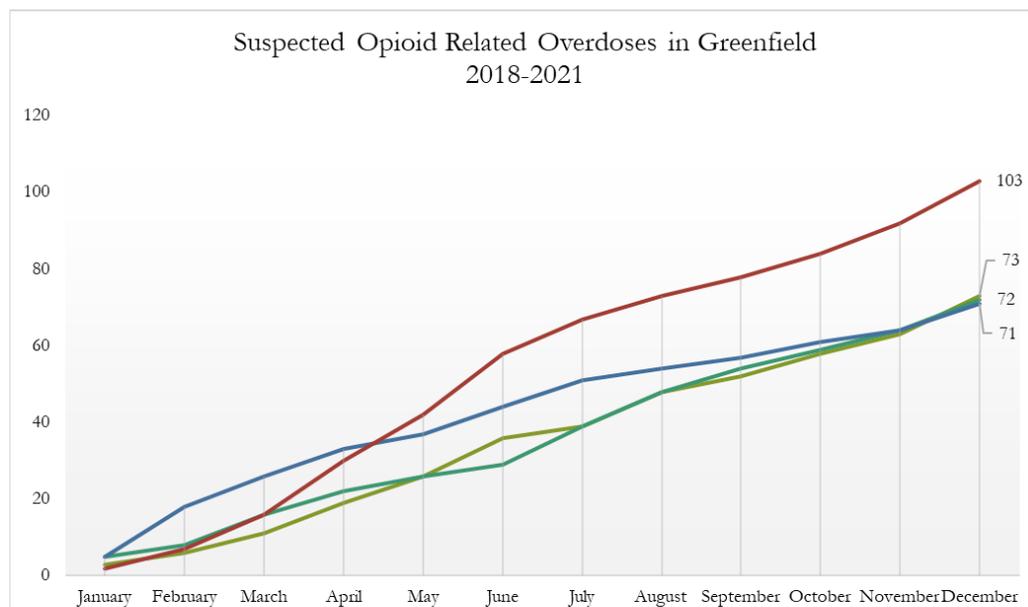


Table 2. Displays total suspected opioid overdoses by age group each year between 2018 and 2021

Total Suspected Opioid Overdoses by Age Group				
Age Group	2018	2019	2020	2021
0-9	1	0	1	0
10-19	4	3	3	13
20-29	20	21	22	24
30-39	26	21	16	26
40-49	11	9	14	8
50-59	3	12	9	23
60-69	4	4	5	4
70-79	2	0	0	1
80+	2	2	0	4
Total	73	72	70	103

Figure 2. Displays the proportions of suspected opioid overdoses by age group for each year between 2018-2021

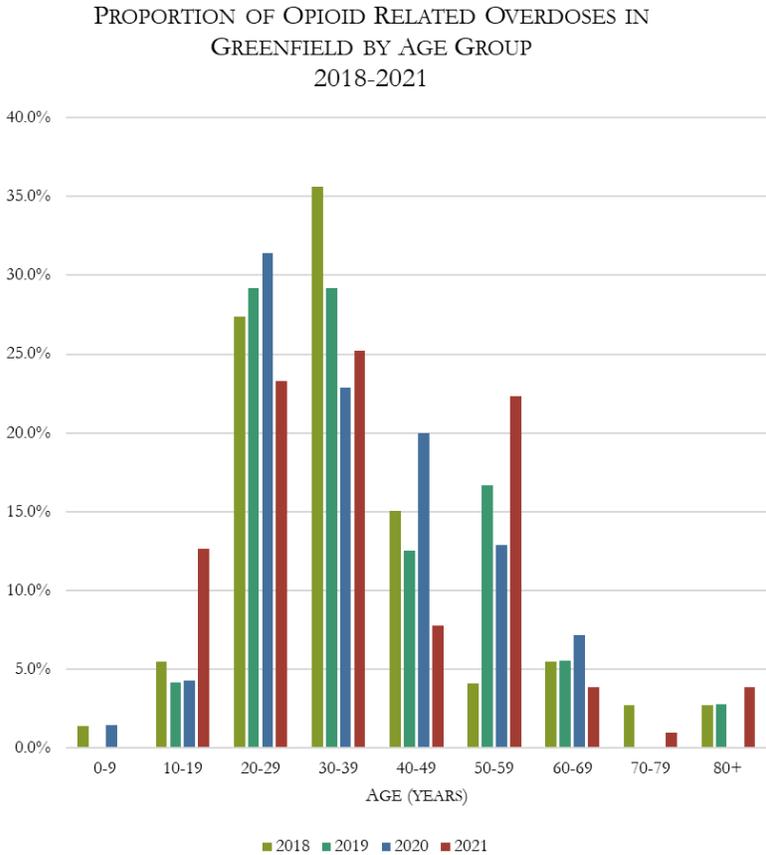


Figure 3. Displays the proportions of suspected opioid overdoses by racial group each year, between 2018 and 2021

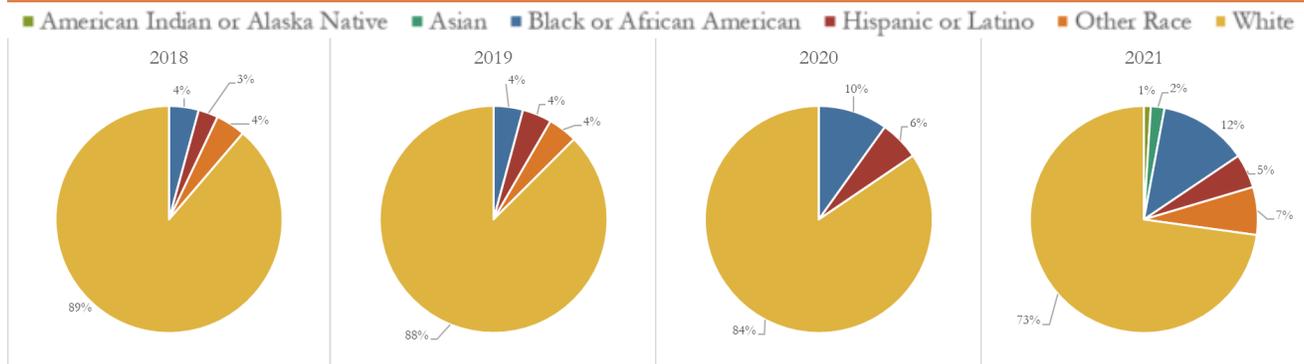


Table 3. Displays the total number of suspected opioid overdoses by racial group and gender, each year between 2018 and 2021

Total Suspected Opioid Overdoses by Gender & Racial/Ethnic Group				
	2018	2019	2020	2021
Female	22	25	23	43
Male	51	47	48	59
Other	0	0	0	1
American Indian or Alaska Native	0	0	0	1
Asian	0	0	0	2
Black or African American	3	3	7	13
Hispanic or Latino	2	3	4	5
Other Race	3	3	0	7
White	63	63	60	75
Total	71	72	71	103

Figure 4. Displays the total number of suspected opioid overdoses by sex in Greenfield between 2018 and 2021

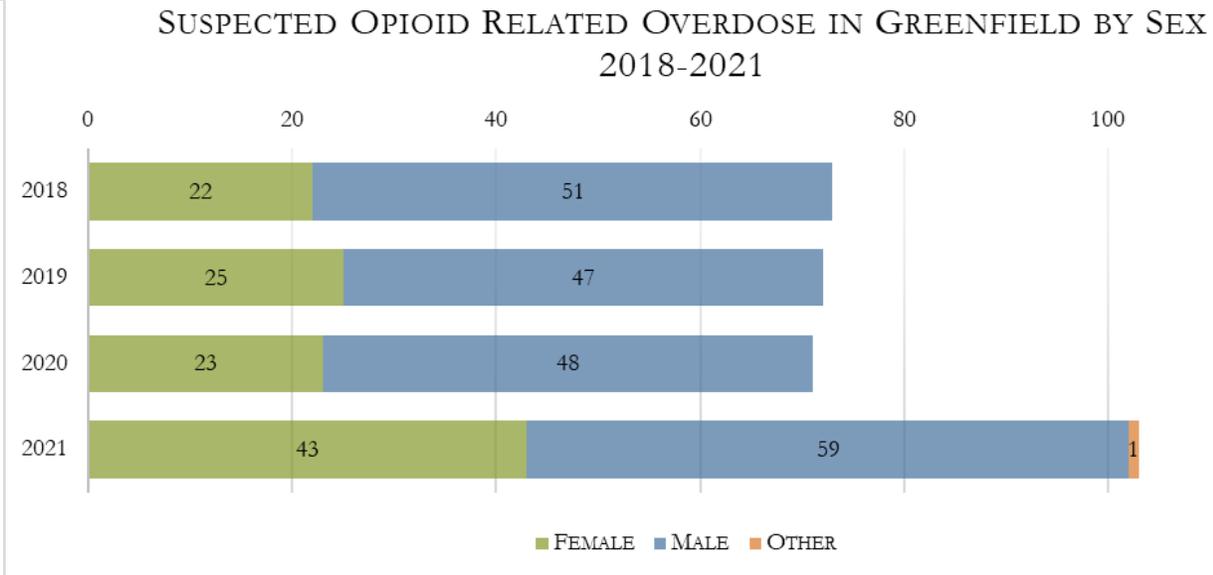
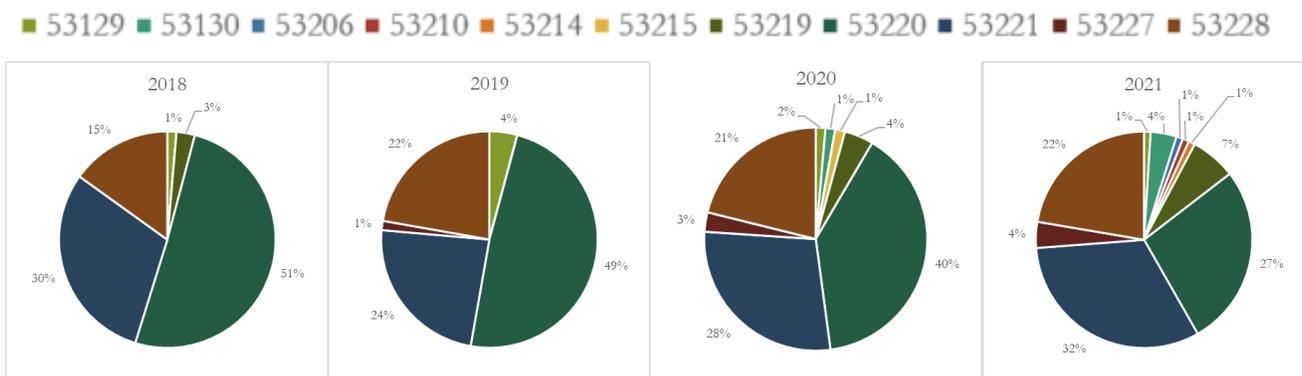


Figure 5. Displays the proportion of suspected opioid overdoses each year by zip code in Greenfield, WI, between 2018-2021



Appendix B

The following information displays the opioid related fatalities among Greenfield, WI, residents between January 2019 and December 2021. Opioid related overdoses are grouped below by year, age group, gender, ethnic/racial group, and zip code.

Figure 6. Displays the trend in opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents each year between 2019 and 2021

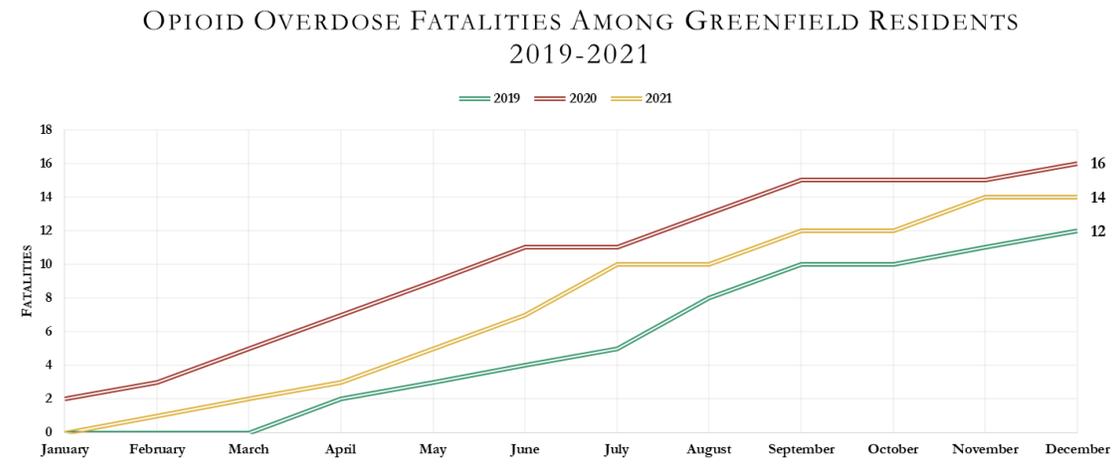


Figure 7. Displays the proportion of opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents, for each age group, between 2019 and 2021

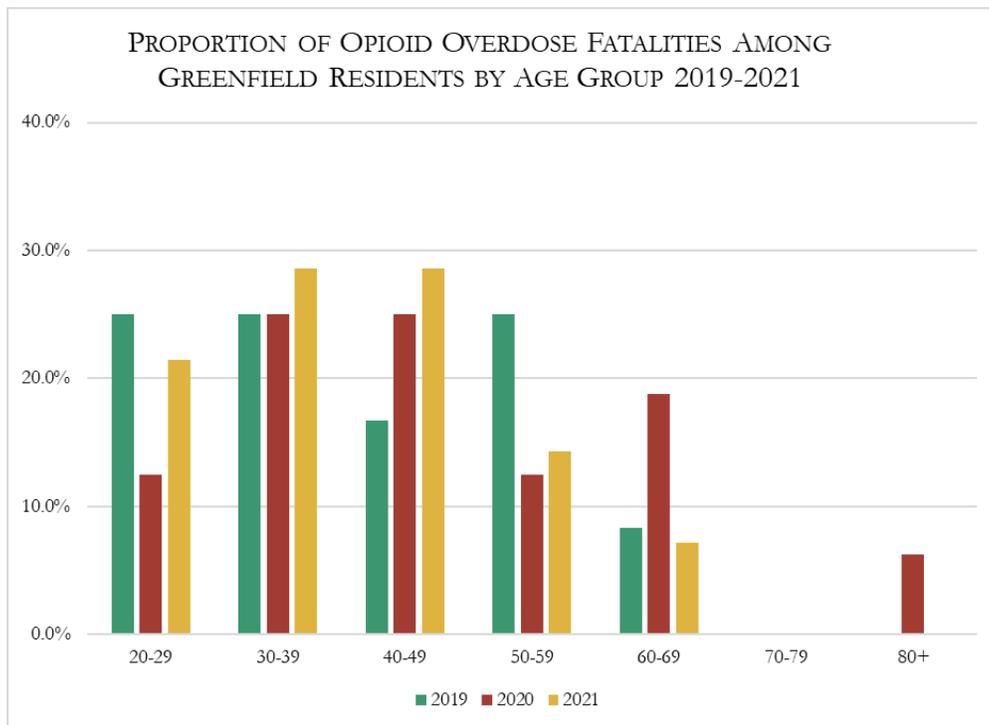


Figure 8. Displays the amount of opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents, by sex, between 2019 and 2021

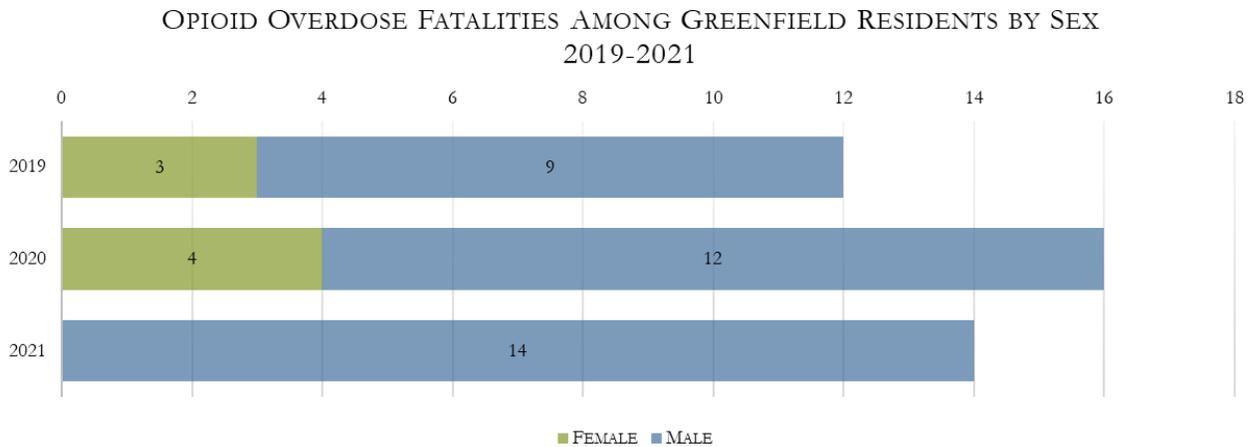


Table 4. Displays the total amount of opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents, each month, between 2019-2021

Month of Death	2019	2020	2021
January	-	2	-
February	-	1	1
March	-	2	1
April	2	2	1
May	1	2	2
June	1	2	2
July	1	-	3
August	3	2	-
September	2	2	2
October	-	-	-
November	1	-	2
December	1	1	-
Total	12	16	14

Table 5. Displays the total amount of opioid related fatalities among Greenfield residents, by age group, between 2019-2021

Age Group	2019	2020	2021
0-9	-	-	-
10-19	-	-	-
20-29	3	2	3
30-39	3	4	4
40-49	2	4	4
50-59	3	2	2
60-69	1	3	1
70-79	-	-	-
80+	-	1	-
Total	12	16	14

Acknowledgements

This report was developed in collaboration with:

Lindsay Fuss, MPH, Public Health Specialist with Greenfield Health Department and Facilitator of Greenfield OFR

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Darren Rausch, MS, CPH, Health Officer with Greenfield Health Department

Joseph Jonas, CPS. Peer Support Specialist with Community Medical Services

Abby Gorecki, MPH, Public Health Strategist with Greenfield Health Department

Maria Mundt, Student Intern with Greenfield Health Department

We thank you for your continued support in our efforts to decrease death and harm from opioid overdoses in our community.

Contact

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A City of Greenfield Health Collaborative

