



# Monthly Members Meeting

June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022



Welcome!

# Agenda

Welcome & Introductions

Criminalization of Homelessness – Kirsten Anderson, Southern Poverty Law Center

Journey to Becoming Trauma-Informed and Low-Barrier

Homeless Death Rates in Central Florida 2019-2022 – Grace Li, University of Central Florida College of Medicine and Pia Valvassori, PhD, Health Care Center for the Homeless

Hurricane Preparedness – Chris Fowler, Homeless Services Network of Central Florida

Announcements

Kirsten  
Anderson,  
Southern  
Poverty Law  
Center

Criminalization of  
Homelessness

Jon DeCarmine,  
GRACE

Journey to Becoming  
Trauma-Informed and Low-  
Barrier

Pia Valvassori,  
PhD,  
Health Care  
Center for the  
Homeless

## Homeless Death Rates in Central Florida 2019-2022



# Homeless Deaths Rates in Central Florida 2019-2022

Grace Li, Dr. Pia Valvassori

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- Introduction
- Definition and classifications
- Yearly analysis by:
  - Gender
  - Ethnicity
  - Age at death
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- Summary
- Recommendations



# Introduction

- Study of homeless deaths in Central Florida examining the following variables: age at death, manner of death, location of death, zip codes with highest death rate, substances contributing to accidental deaths

## Objectives:

- Illuminate trends in homeless death over 3 years by analyzing data from Medical Examiner office
- Utilize this data to inform stake holders in an effort to appropriate funds for targeted services including those related to harm reduction which are proven to prevent death, injury, disease and overdose
- Identify service gaps
- Inform policy discussions, programs and practices in the community

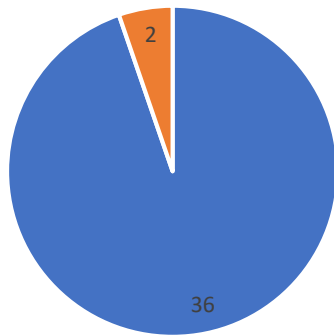
# Definition and classifications

- Homelessness: Living in a shelter temporarily or living in space not designed for conventional dwelling (CDC)
- Decedents without address identified as homeless

Manner of death: natural, accidental, undetermined, suicide or homicide

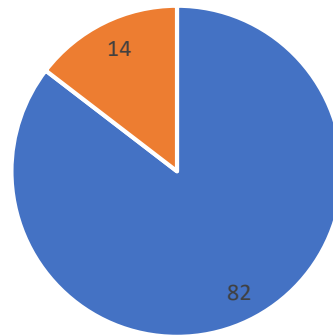
# Gender

2019



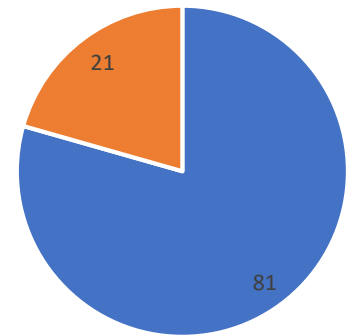
■ male ■ female

2020



■ male ■ female

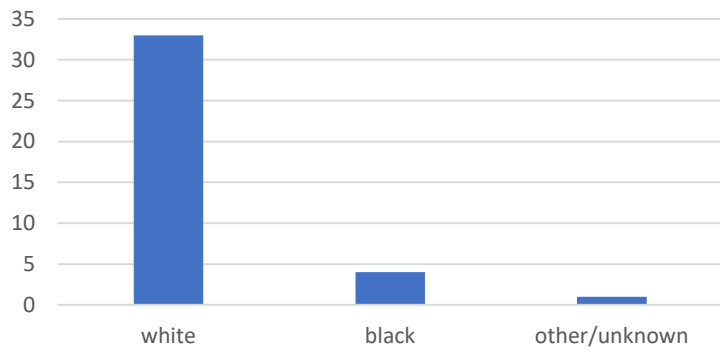
2021



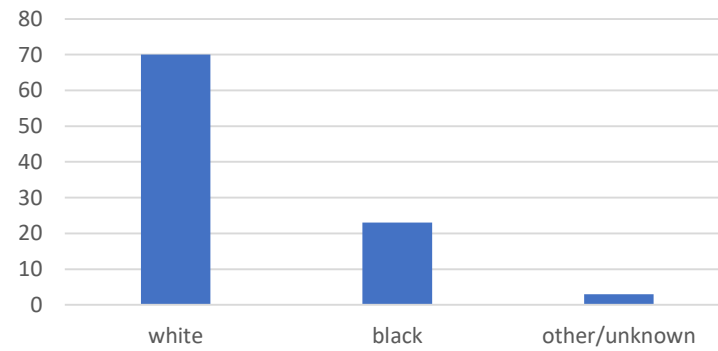
■ male ■ female

# Ethnicity

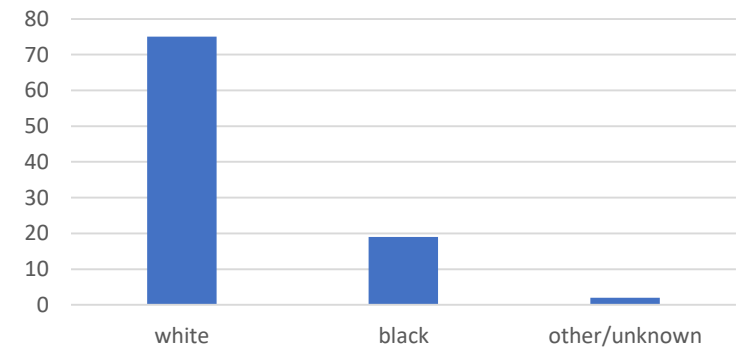
2019



2020

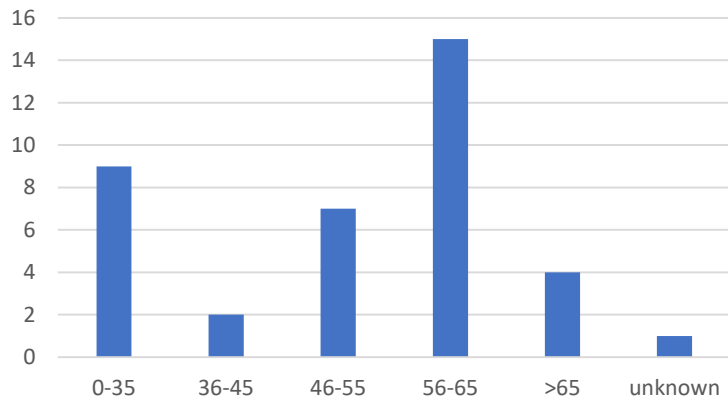


2021

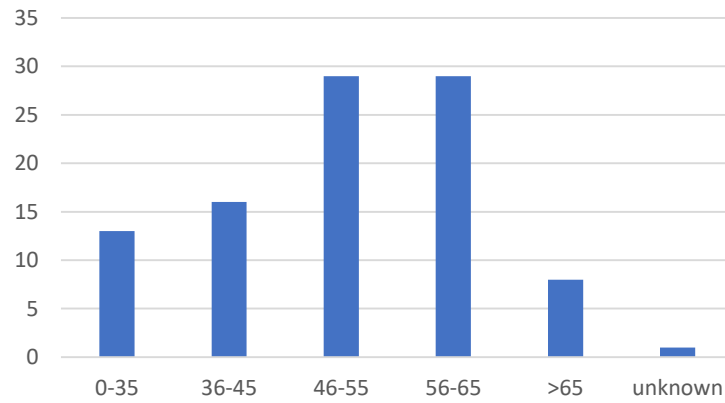


# Age at death

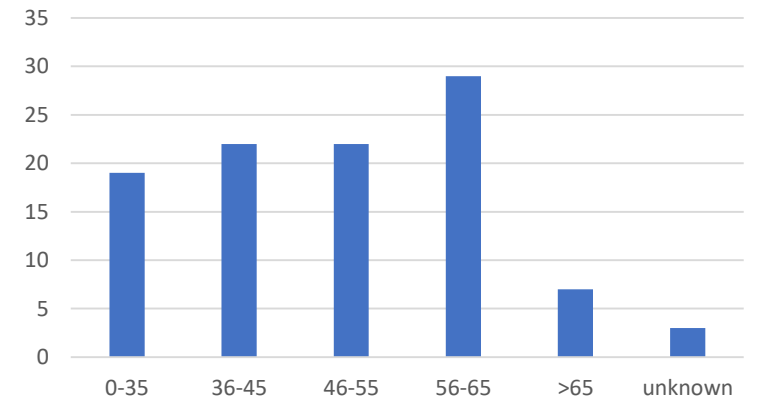
2019



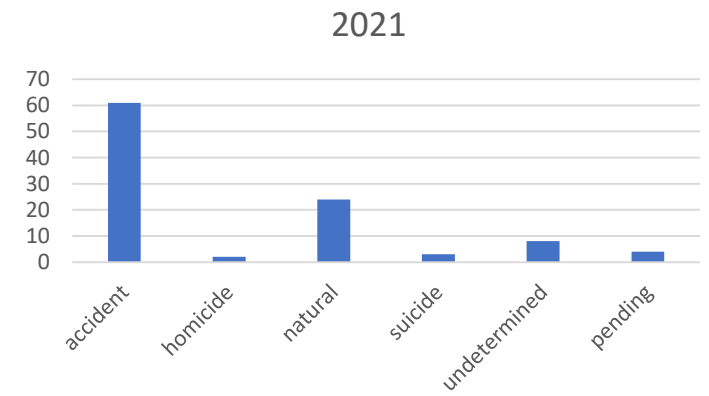
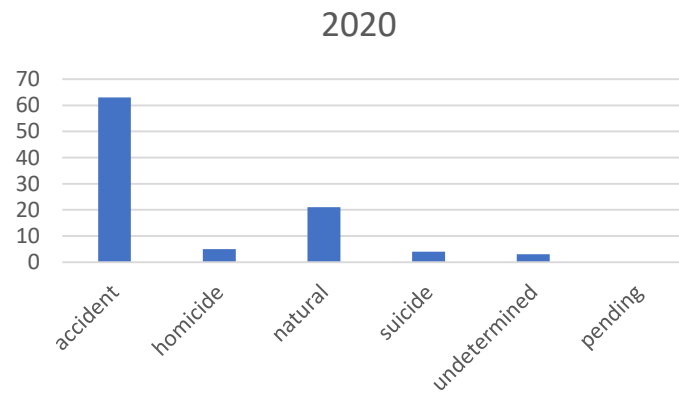
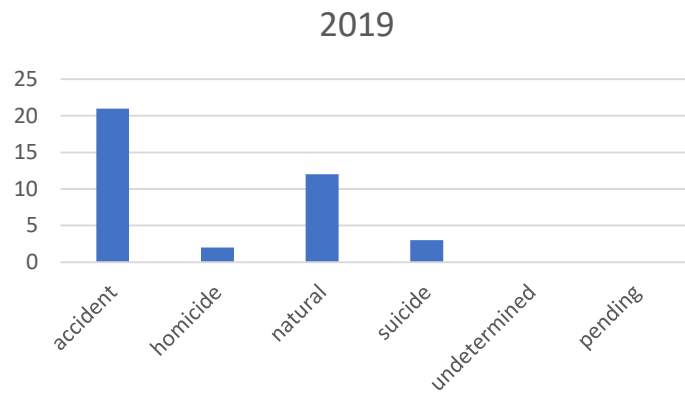
2020



2021



# Manner of death

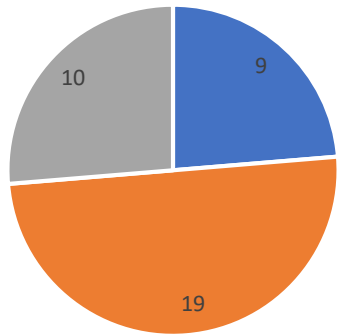


# Death Location Classification

- The location of death were classified based on below criteria:
  - Unsheltered included: camps, ponds, train tracks, field, parking lot, trail, yard, wooded area, restaurant
  - Sheltered included: public buildings, shed, mobile home, vehicle, bus stop, shelter, hospice facility
  - Hospitals

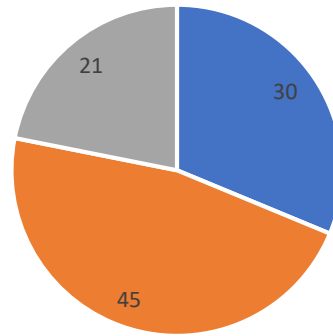
# Location of death

2019



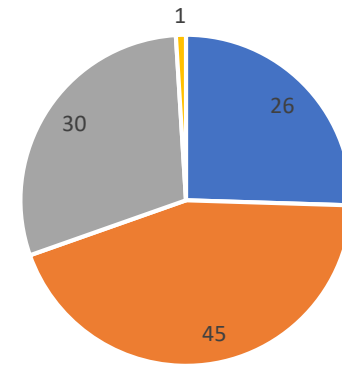
■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■ Hospital

2020



■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■ Hospital

2021

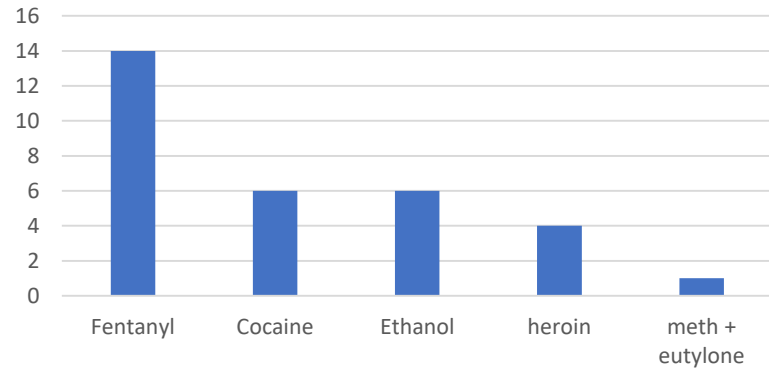


■ Sheltered ■ Unsheltered ■ Hospital ■ unknown

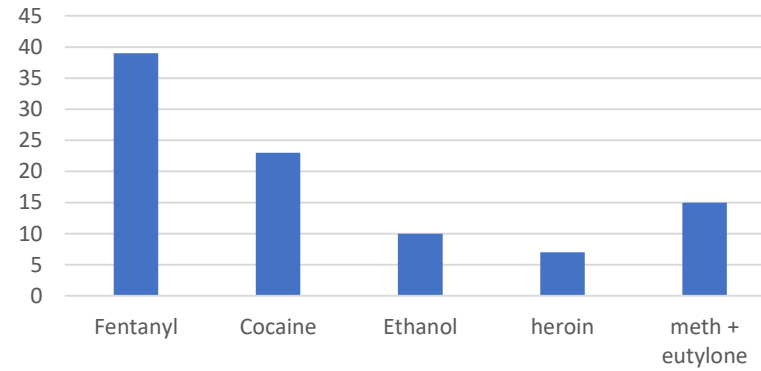


# Drug use

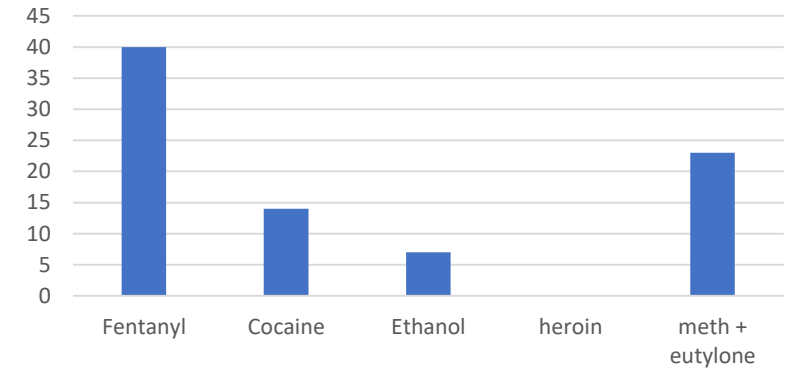
2019



2020



2021



# Totals

- Total number of deaths:237
- July 2019-December 2019      38 deaths
- January 2020-December 2020 96 deaths
- January 2021-October 2021    114 deaths

# Top 3 zip codes of deaths

- 2019
  - 34741: 4
  - 32817: 4
  - 32703: 3
- 2020
  - 32806: 15
  - 32805: 8
  - 32822: 7
- 2021
  - 32806: 14
  - 32805: 7
  - 32822: 6

# Recommendations

- 1. Enhance low barrier access to substance use services in high use zip codes
- 2. Implore strategies such as medically assisted treatment and harm reduction techniques which are a pathway to prevention, treatment and recovery services
- 3. Increase the distribution of Narcan to outreach teams, case managers and other personnel coming into contact with high risk individuals
- Develop homeless mortality work-group

# Recommendations

- 4. Incorporate more preventive care strategies in centers caring for persons experiencing homelessness to decrease the burden of preventable diseases including infectious disease associated with substance use
- 5. Target outreach efforts to those unsheltered and assist with efforts to engage in behavioral health treatment using an interdisciplinary team approach
- 6. Provide low barrier supportive housing options for those most vulnerable
- 7. Collaborate with stakeholders on standardizing data collection tools to enhance accuracy of reporting

Chris Fowler,  
Homeless  
Services  
Network of  
Central Florida

Hurricane Preparedness



Announcements!



Need PPE?

Let HSN meet your PPE needs!

- Reusable and Disposable Masks
- Hand Sanitizer
- Gloves
- Need any? Let us know!

Contact

[Christopher.Fowler@hsncfl.org](mailto:Christopher.Fowler@hsncfl.org) to  
arrange a pickup



# Next Meeting

Tuesday, July 26th, 2022

9 to 10:30 am

Location: Online

