



STATE OF MICHIGAN

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
LANSING

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

ELIZABETH HERTEL
DIRECTOR

Michigan Opioids Task Force Meeting

September 20, 2023 | 11:00 am – 12:30 pm

S. Grand Building, 333 S. Grand Avenue, Lansing, MI 48933 - Conference Room L

Members Present: Steve Alsum, Dr. Natasha Bagdasarian, Elizabeth Browne, Bradley Casemore, Helen Klingert, Darlene Owens, Samuel Price, Kristie Schmiede, Amanda Scott, Marti Kay Sherry, Kimberly Shewmaker, Greg Toutant, Kim Trent, Matthew Walker, Sue Winter

Members Absent: Col. Joe Gasper, Karin Gyger, Elizabeth Hertel, Heather Hosey, Evilia Jankowski, Robert Near Andrew Smith

CME Staff Present: Katie Abraham, Robin Gregory, Maricruz Moya, Jared Welehodsky

Guests: Ash Daniels, Quintin Sproull, Tommy Stallworth, Cornelius Williams

I. Call to Order & Welcome

- Chair Bagdasarian calls the meeting to order at 11:05 a.m. and asks Jared Welehodsky to take roll call. Jared confirms quorum is present.
- Chair Bagdasarian welcomes all attendees and explains we are here to address all opioid related matters in Michigan and gives a brief history of the Opioids Task Force. Chair Bagdasarian discusses the role of the Racial Equity Workgroup (REWG) within the Task Force and that we will hear more about their recommendations at our next meeting. Chair Bagdasarian invites members of the REWG to participate in introductions and discussion. Chair Bagdasarian informs the group that the new Task Force will help create stronger engagement between the Task Force, MDHHS, and the REWG.

II. Icebreaker Questions & Discussion

- **Q:** Chair Bagdasarian asks the group “Who are we in establishing trust and what brought you to substance use/healthcare work? Chair opens this question for discussion.
 - Members & guests share about their educational, personal, and professional experiences with SUD on a voluntary basis.

- Key themes that emerged: Highlighting the voices of those with lived/living experience with SUD and prioritizing historically marginalized populations.
- **Q:** Chair Bagdasarian thanks everyone for sharing and asks a follow up question: “what do you hope to see being a member of the Task Force or how do you envision success?”
 - Members voluntarily answer the question. Further dialogue and discussions took place around some common key themes that emerged including:
 - Addressing social determinants of health
 - Racial and ethnic disparities & negative impacts from the “war on drugs”
 - Workforce shortages, barriers, and advancement opportunities
 - Incorporating evidence-based research and data
 - Addressing stigma
 - Increasing community resources
 - Chair Bagdasarian thanks everyone and introduces Jared Welehodsky for MDHHS Opioids Policy Team updates.

III. Updates & Task Force Role

- Jared Welehodsky: Presents on MDHHS Opioids Policy Team’s work during the last year (slides attached).
 - Key topics: addressing disparities in overdose deaths between Black and white Michiganders, communication with REWG, and progress with harm reduction initiatives.
 - Jared confirms the role of the Task Force is to help form and shape the state’s opioids strategy and help to inform spending decisions for opioid settlement funds from bankruptcy cases. Jared turns to Matt Walker from the Attorney General’s Office as some bankruptcy cases are still pending.
 - Matt Walker: Anticipates Perdue case will be heard by the Supreme court early next year. Confirms MI has not yet received its second bankruptcy case payment.
 - Jared Welehodsky: Explains the state’s current opioid framework and how it focuses on vulnerable populations.

- **Q:** A member asked to clarify the current framework.
 - Jared Welehodsky explains that vulnerable populations are highly prioritized and states that the Task Force will have opportunities to provide feedback in future meetings.
- Jared Welehodsky: Presents on the breakdown of opioid settlement funding and shares that roughly 12 communities have not signed up for the Walgreens settlement.
 - Matt Walker (AG representative) explains how payments from this settlement work.
 - Task Force members discussed the dissemination of settlement funds and why some local communities have not signed up despite continuous engagement efforts from the AG's Office.
- Jared Welehodsky: Informs the group that MDHHS has started spending settlement funds to focus on the systemic gaps that have been identified so far.
- Jared recognizes that the meeting time has ended and turns back to Chair Bagdasarian.

IV. Administrative Duties

- Chair Bagdasarian: Administrative details will be sent via email and will be discussed during the next meeting.

V. Stakeholder and Public Comment

- Chair Bagdasarian asks if there were any comments from the public. No comments were made.

VI. Next Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 1, 2023

- Chair Bagdasarian announces the next meeting date for Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

VII. Adjournment

- Chair Bagdasarian: motion to adjourn.
- Darlene Owens and Sue Winter second the motion.
- Chair Bagdasarian adjourns the meeting at 12:36 p.m. with unanimous support.

Michigan's 2023 opioid updates and Task Force's role

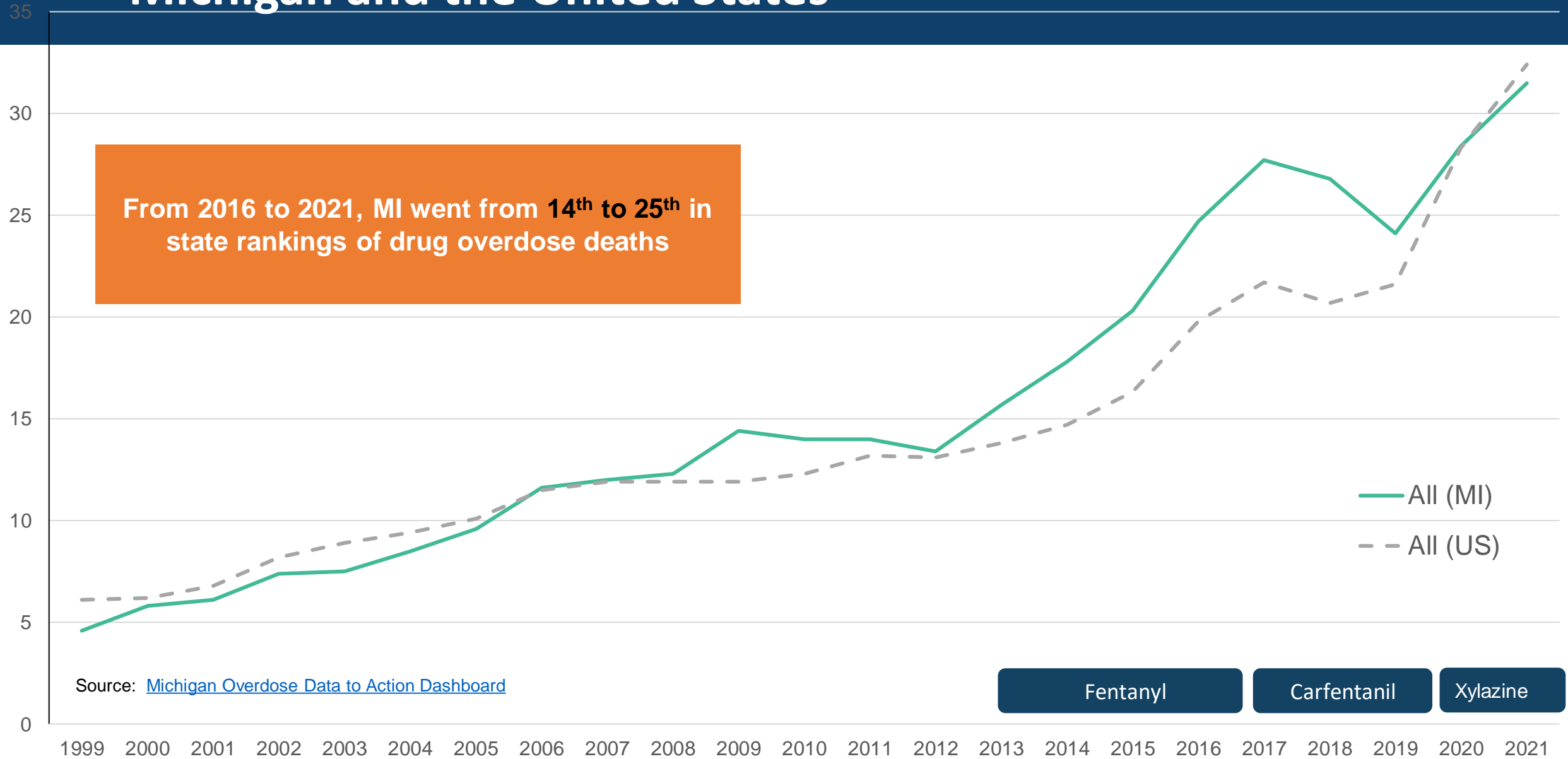
Jared Welehodsky

State Assistant Administrator

Michigan Department of Health and Human Services



Age-Adjusted Death Rate, All Drug Overdoses, Michigan and the United States



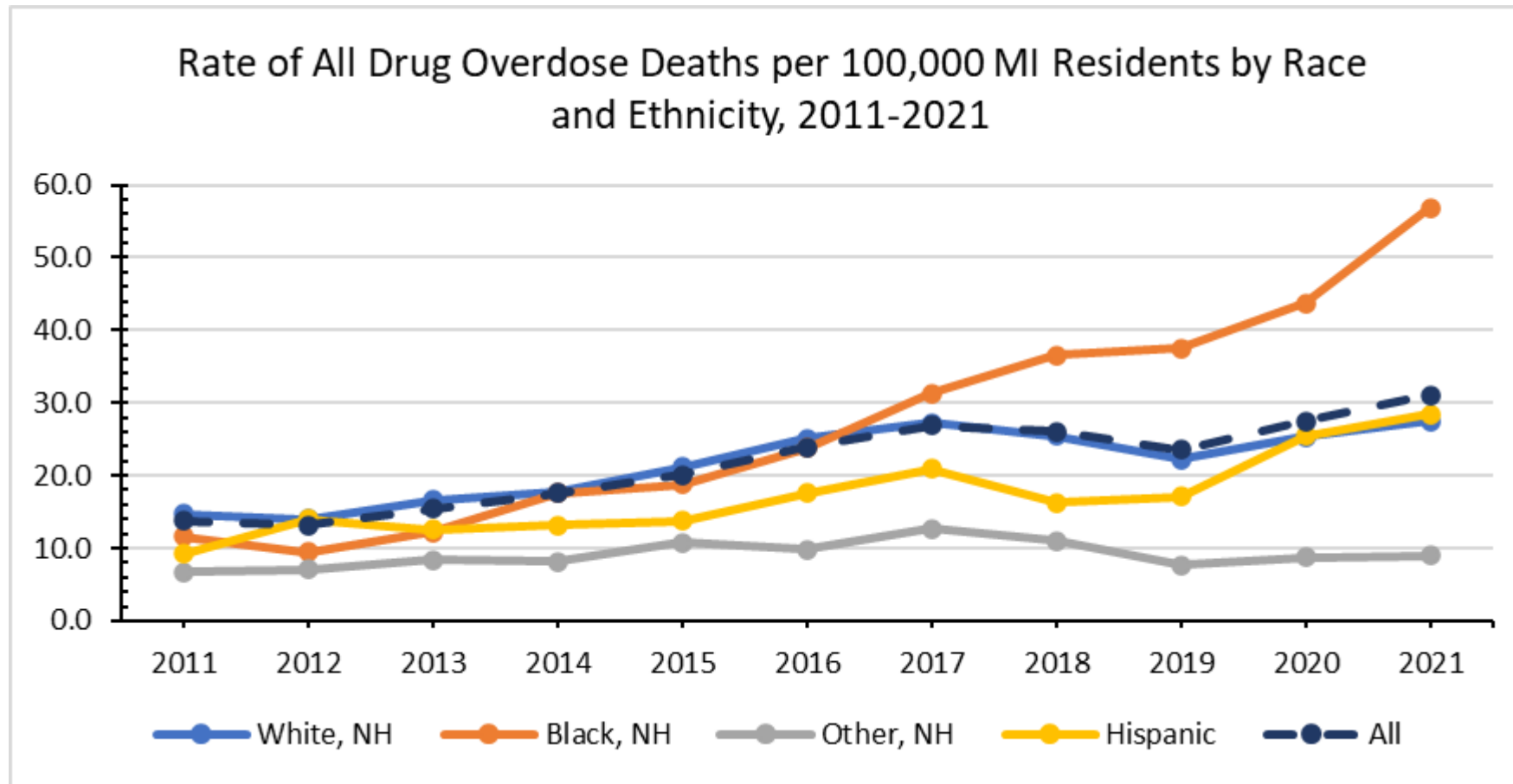
Source: [Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard](#)

Fentanyl

Carfentanil

Xylazine

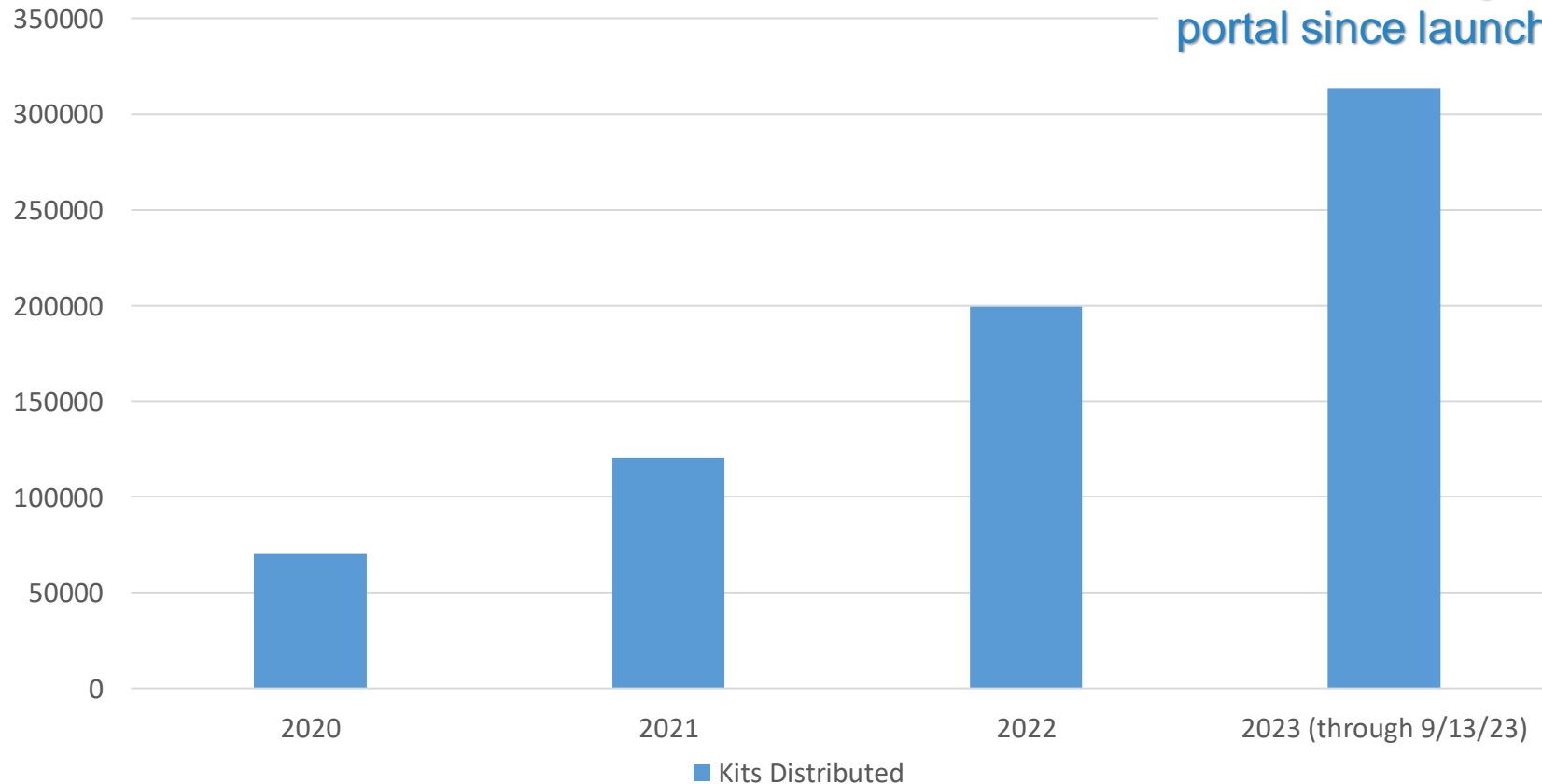
Overdose Deaths: racial disparities have increased



Source: [Michigan Overdose Data to Action Dashboard](#)

Key Program Impacts: Overdose Prevention

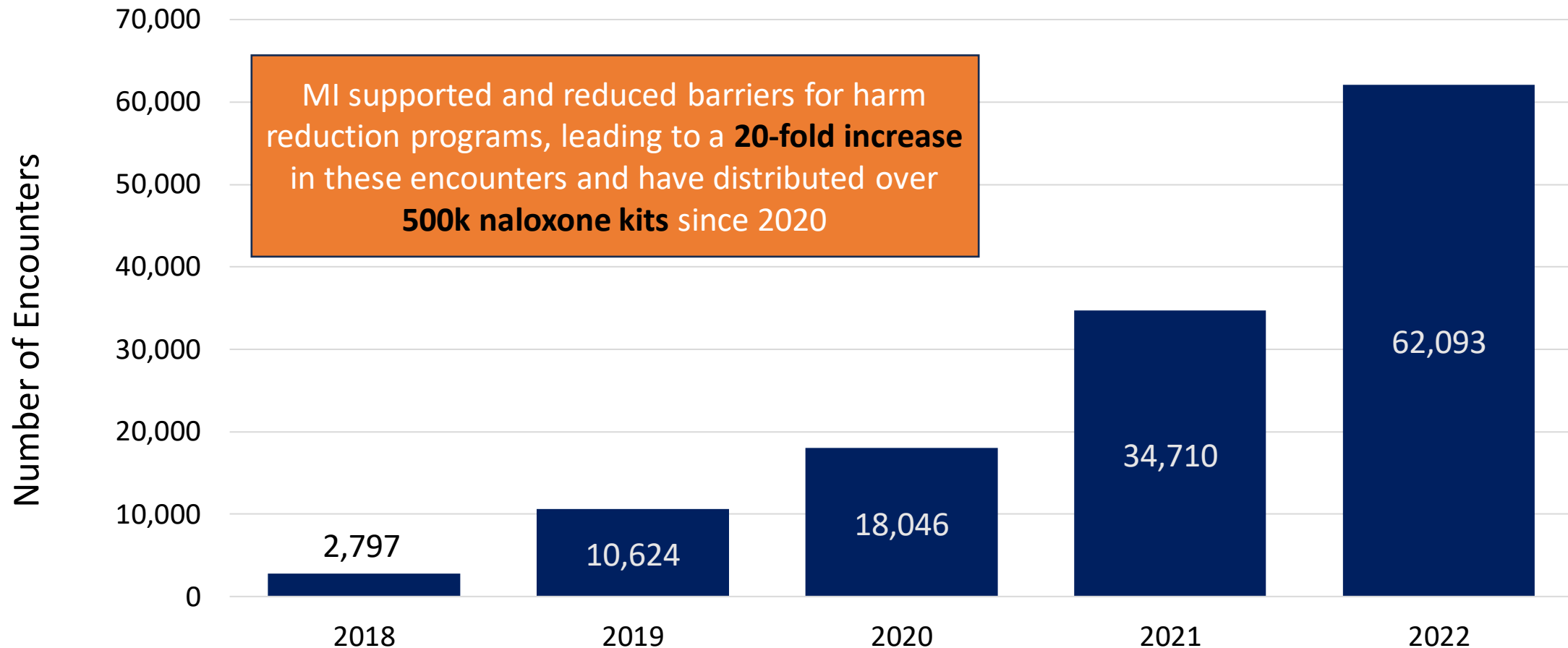
Narcan Direct
Naloxone Kits Distributed by Year



Over **700K** doses of naloxone distributed in the community resulting in at least **6,637** reversals through Narcan Direct portal since launch in 2020.

Harm Reduction Impacts

Syringe Service Program Encounters, 2018 - 2022



Racial Equity Workgroup Overview



In 2022, Vital Strategies, a global health nonprofit, committed funding for a Racial Equity Consultant to establish the **Racial Equity Workgroup** and drive the work of the Equity pillar forward.

The workgroup is made up of 15 appointed members from around MI that have passion, experience, and expertise related to racial equity in the response to overdose and health in BIPOC communities.

The Racial Equity Workgroup's Charge is to:

- Commit to ongoing learning from BIPOC with lived experience, disaggregated data, racial justice advocates related to health equity for people who use drugs and individuals in recovery from substance use disorder.
- Develop a strategic action plan to guide the Michigan Opioids Task Force in transforming systems to be more racially equitable
- Act as an accountability partner to Michigan Opioids Task Force by supporting racially equitable actions and challenging racially inequitable actions

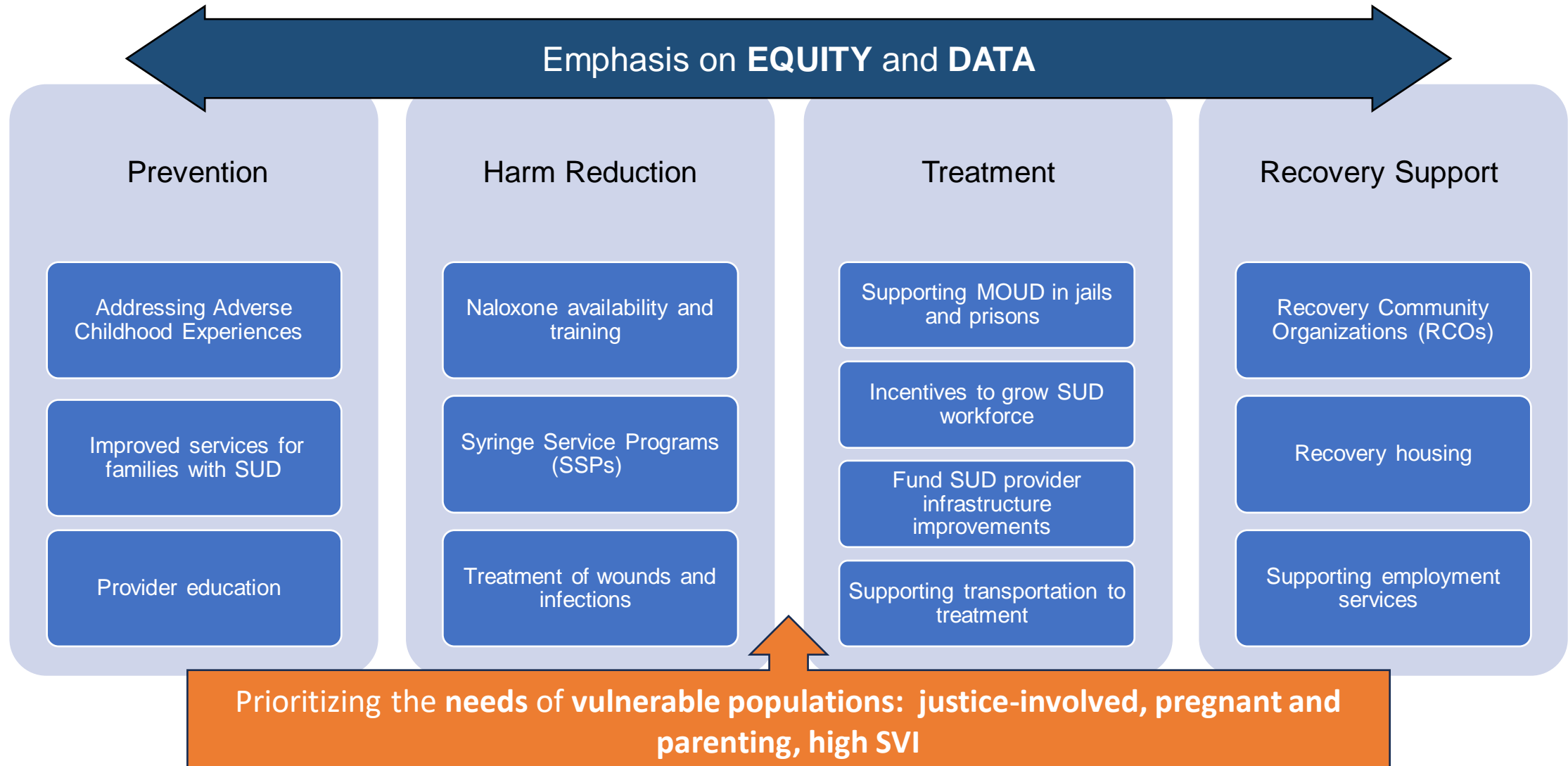
The Racial Equity Workgroup will provide the MI Opioids Task Force with recommendations for action in 2023.

Evolving Opioids Task Force: Executive Order 2022-12

While much progress had been made under the Opioids Task Force initiated through EO 2019-18, much more remains to be done. It was determined that the Task Force be updated to optimize its work and to allow it to efficiently receive and distribute resources. Therefore, Governor Whitmer issued Executive Order 2022-12 to adjust the membership of the [Michigan Opioids Task Force](#). Appointments were made in June 2023.

Updated Michigan Opioids Task Force Overview	
Oversight	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Identify root causes of opioid epidemic and implement response actions to help Michiganders struggling with opioid addiction access the recovery services they need❖ Raise public awareness about the opioid epidemic and the resources available to those impacted by it
Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Chaired by MDHHS Chief Medical Executive❖ State Representatives❖ Representatives from Local Governments (1 rep from each PIHP region)❖ Representative from Michigan Supreme Court
Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Required to hold at least 4 public meetings each year❖ Must promote public participation, including from the former Opioid Task Force Stakeholders Advisory Group
Reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ Required to report regularly to the Governor❖ Issue annual reports on the Task Force's website
Staff Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❖ MDHHS assists Task Force in performance of duties and provides personnel to staff the Task Force❖ Budgeting, procurement, and related management functions of the Task Force must be performed under the direction and supervision of the director of MDHHS

Opioid Response Framework



Michigan's Opioid Settlement Breakdown



Current Settlements

- McKinsey – \$19.5 million received by the State of Michigan.
- Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen (Distributors) and Janssen - \$776 million over 18 years, split 50/50 state and local.
- Additional settlements in the future.

Settlement	Year 1 Local Government Share*	Year 1 State Share
Distributors (Cardinal, McKesson, and AmerisourceBergen)	\$13,482,437.84	\$13,457,661.78
Johnson & Johnson* (Janssen)	\$53,976,185.46	\$54,638,181.13
McKinsey	Not available to local governments	\$16,000,000.00
TOTALS	Year 1 Local Government Total: \$67,458,623.20	Year 1 State Total: \$84,095,842.91

*Johnson & Johnson Year 1 payment included the first four years of payments up front.

Michigan's Opioid Settlements: Additional Settlements



There are other settlements that the State of Michigan is involved in, including pending settlements.

- Walgreens: \$338 million
- Teva, Allergan, Walmart and CVS: \$450 million
- McKinsey & Co: \$19.5 million

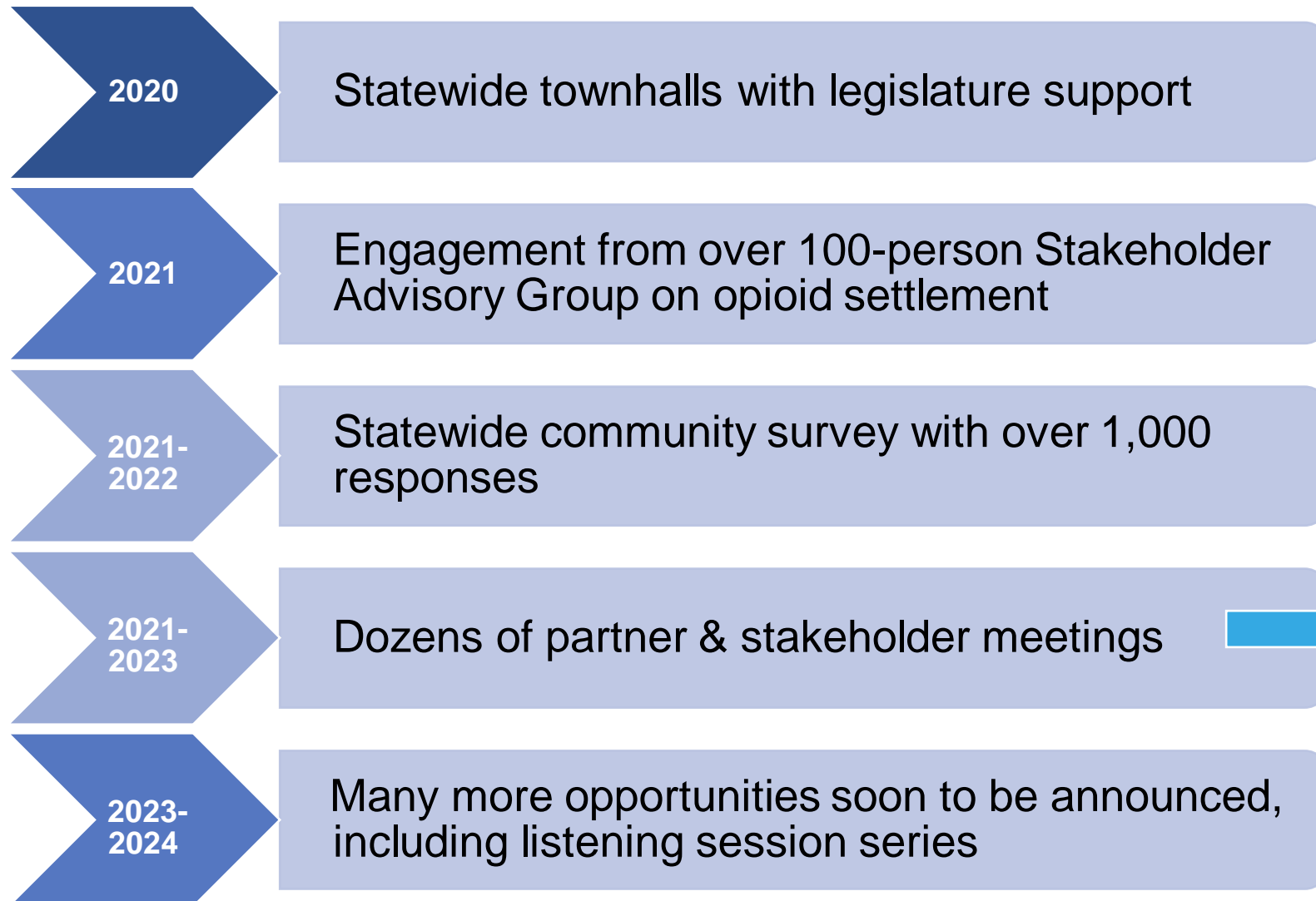
Michigan's Opioid Settlements: Bankruptcy Settlements



Additional companies sued are in bankruptcy and any settlements require approval of bankruptcy court.

- Mallinckrodt: \$233 million settlement reached in 2022 with company that sells and markets pharmaceutical products. Michigan was scheduled to receive close to \$14.5 million from the settlement. However, a second bankruptcy finally has occurred that will impact Michigan's share.
- Additional funds may also be issued to Michigan through Purdue Pharma and Endo International, who both are pursuing bankruptcy plans that include opioid abatement trusts funds.
- Purdue Pharma case to be heard by US Supreme Court next year.

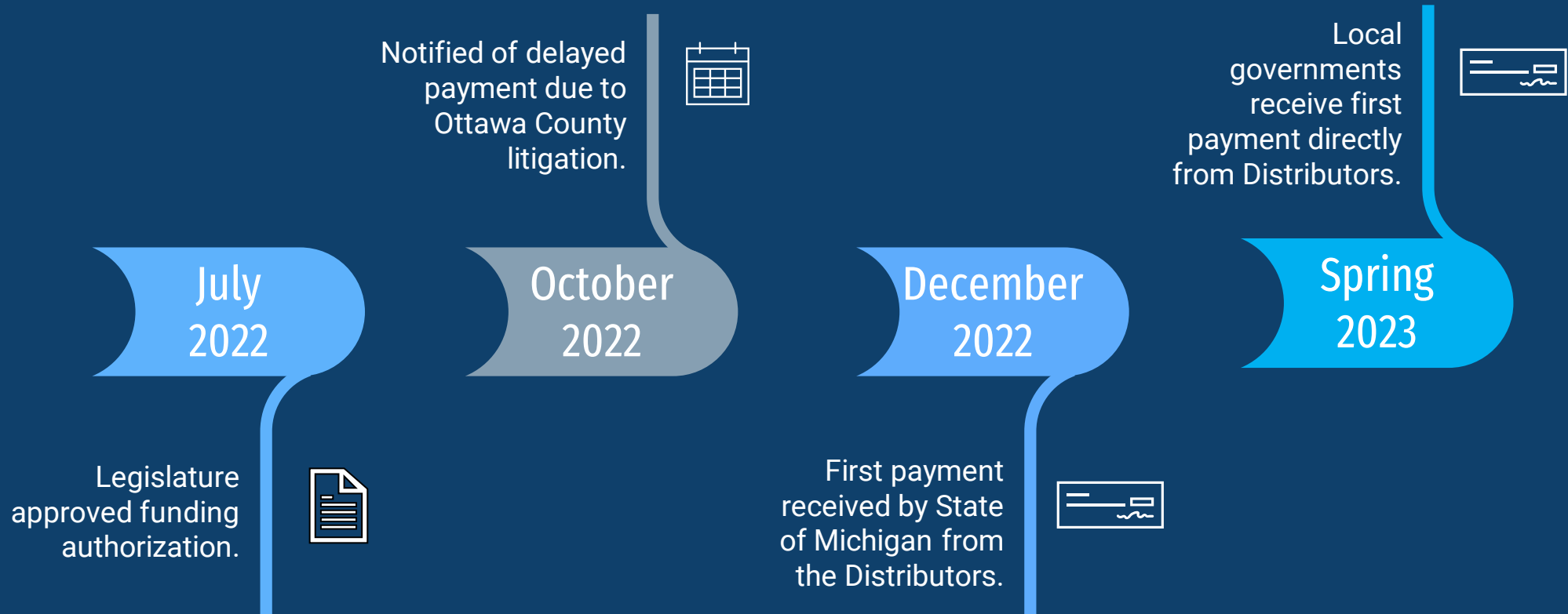
Engagement with Partners



Meetings held with the following groups to discuss opioid settlements since 2021

- ✓ Michigan's tribes and one Urban Indian Health Organization
- ✓ Michigan Association of Counties
- ✓ Michigan Municipal League
- ✓ Michigan Townships Association
- ✓ Community Mental Health Association of Michigan
- ✓ Michigan Association for Local Public Health
- ✓ Michigan Association of Treatment Court Professionals
- ✓ Michigan Center for Rural Health
- ✓ Recovery Community Organizations
- ✓ Michigan Association of Recovery Residences
- ✓ Council of Michigan Foundations
- ✓ Michigan Sheriffs Association
- ✓ PIHP and SUD Directors
- ✓ Many other organizations and community members

Michigan's Opioid Settlements: Additional Settlements



Opioid Settlement FY23 Spend Plan Initiatives (\$39 million)



Primary Prevention

FY23: \$4.5 million

- Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) initiatives.
- Education and awareness campaigns.
- Quick Response Teams.

Harm Reduction

FY23: \$8.5 million

- Naloxone Portal.
- Syringe Service Program operations.

Treatment

FY23: \$9.1 million

- Staffing incentives.
- Infrastructure grants.
- Expanding capacity to treat stimulant and polysubstance use.

Recovery

FY23: \$7.6 million

- Recovery Community Organizations.
- Recovery housing.
- Other recovery supports.

Prioritizing the needs of vulnerable groups

FY23: \$9.3 million

- Medications for opioid use disorder in prisons and jails.
- Overdose surveillance system improvements, maintenance, and rapid toxicology from medical examiners.
- High Touch High-Tech screening expansion for pregnant individuals.
- Rooming-In for infants born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).
- Technical assistance to local governments on best practices.
- Projects related to opioids task force Racial Equity Workgroup.

First payments arrived Dec 2022
Money distributed starting January 2023

Questions?

welehodskyj@michigan.gov

