

# Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition Syringe Exchange Provider Introduction

## Presentation for the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

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- Co-founder
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- Harm Reductionist

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SIERRA  
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# Our Mission

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition's mission is to empower and help our disadvantaged community and help build a strong recovery-ready environment within El Dorado County. Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition strongly believes there are no wrong doors to treatment and recovery, we are integral to these doors.

SHRC is a primary organization working in El Dorado County with our disenfranchised and drug-using community, meeting them where they are, on the street and in the field. SHRC is the primary source of education and resources to help our clients shift from harmful practices and towards a safe and fulfilling life by delivering and referring to services for treatment, health services, food, shelter, transportation, and supplying safer use materials.

**“We help each other help each other share hope”**

# Who is Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition?

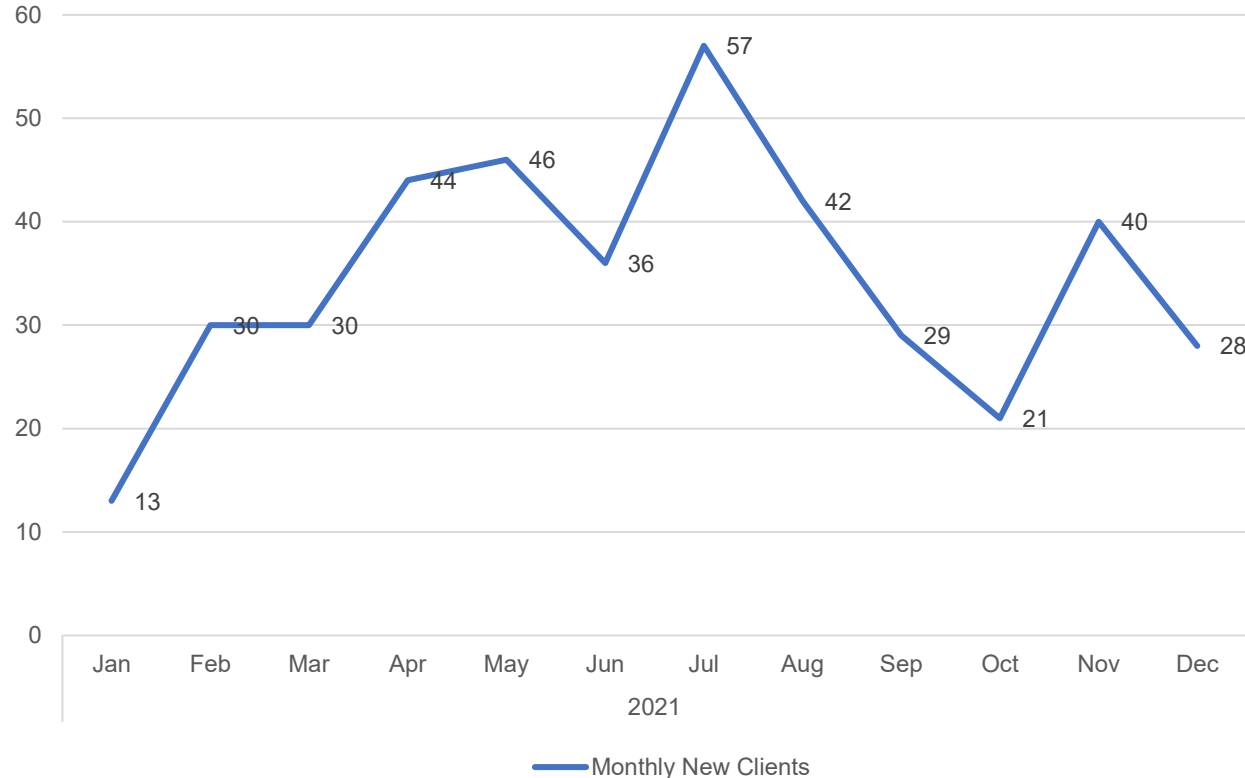
- Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition (SHRC) started in 08/2019
- Our mission is to support the health and safety of people who use drugs in El Dorado County using a foundation of Empathy & Empowerment
- Services offered
  - Outreach to vulnerable and disenfranchised people in our community
  - Case management navigation and referrals to critical services such as medical and mental health, financial, up to treatment (when our client requests the service)
  - Narcan training and distribution
  - Education, overdose prevention, health and hygiene supplies
  - Regular clean-up events
- Primary funding is 3-year California Harm Reduction Initiative grant
- 501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization

# Outside Documentation

- Syringe Exchange Programs and Supplies Distribution Information from the California Department of Public Health
  - [Fact Sheet: California Law and Syringe Services Programs](#)
  - [Fact Sheet: Harm Reduction Supplies and the California Harm Reduction Supply Clearinghouse](#)
  - [CDPH State-wide Memo: Subject: Changes to California Drug Paraphernalia Laws and Effects on Public Health Programs](#)

# Metrics for 2021 - Clients

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
Client Growth



## Metrics:

- New clients gained: 416 in 2021

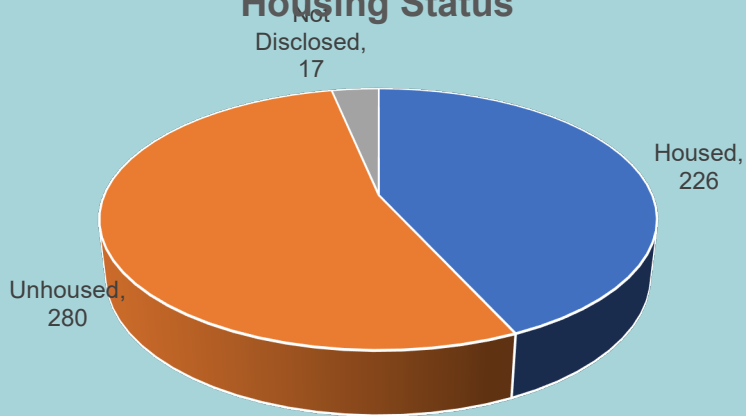
## Results / Comments:

- Engagement with our community
- Facilitated all referral services
- Only covers western slope of EDC

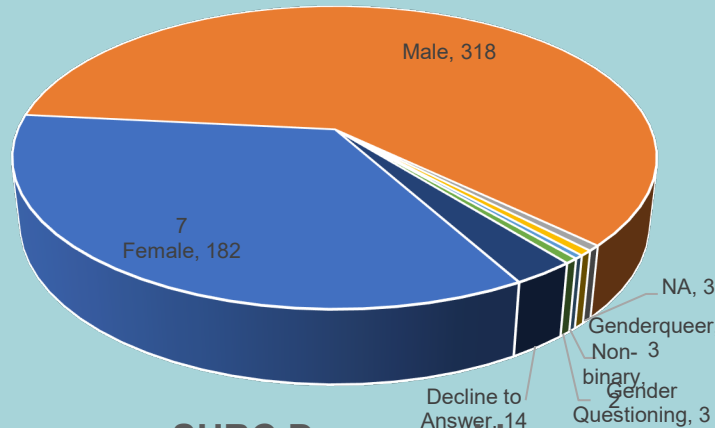


# Metrics 2021 - Demographics

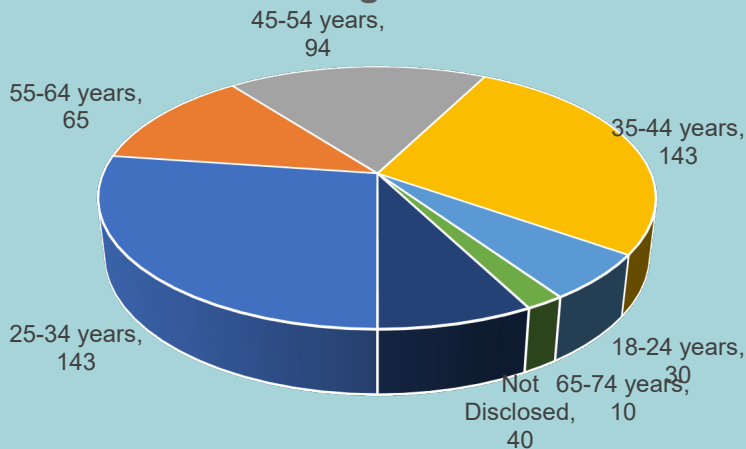
SHRC Demographics  
Housing Status



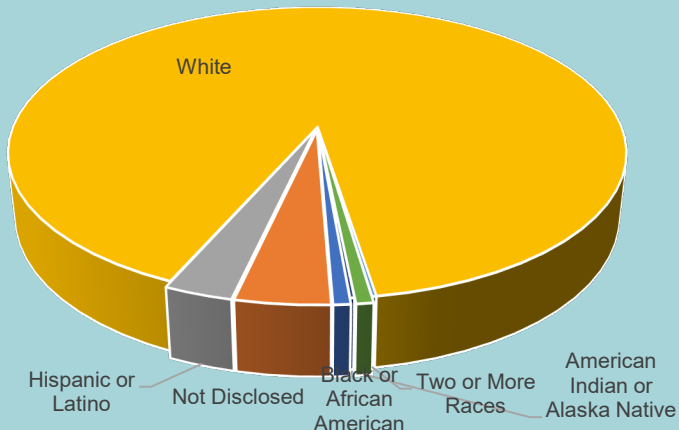
SHRC Demographics  
Gender



SHRC Demographics  
Ages



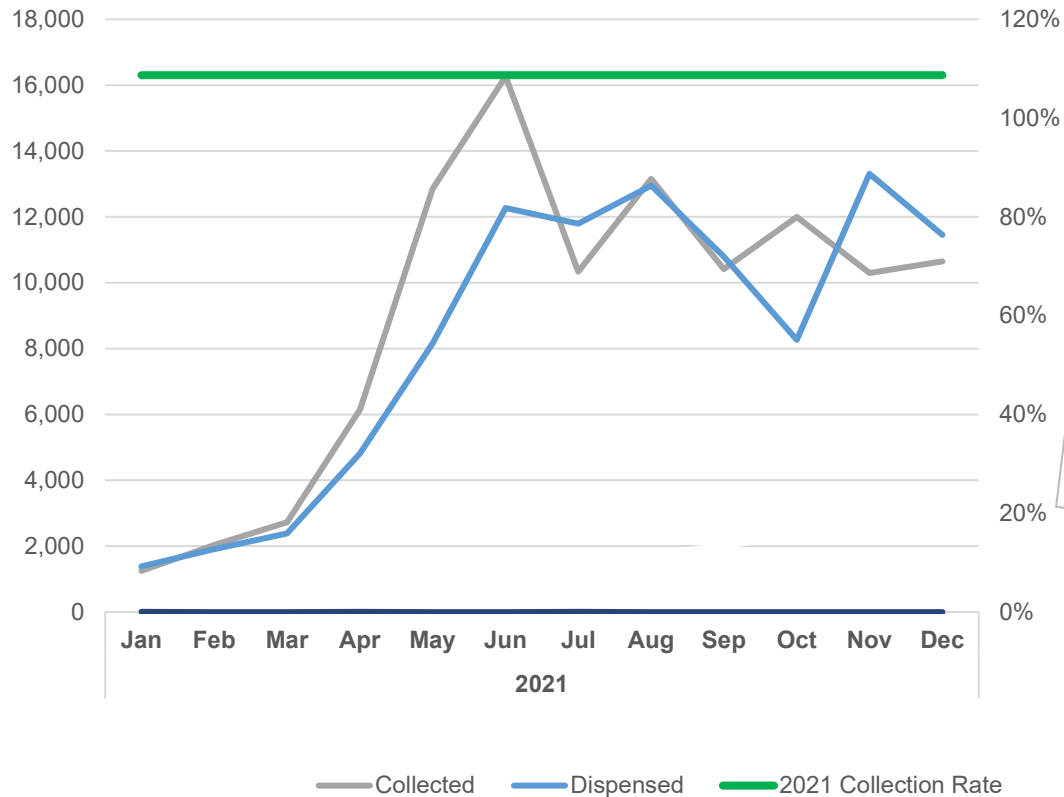
SHRC Demographics  
Race



- Our general demographics
- Our demographics are generally in-line with census numbers except:
  - Non-Caucasian representation is lower than census percentages which drives the need for additional outreach

# Metrics for 2021 – Syringe Exchange

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
FY2021 Syringe Exchange Metrics



## Metrics:

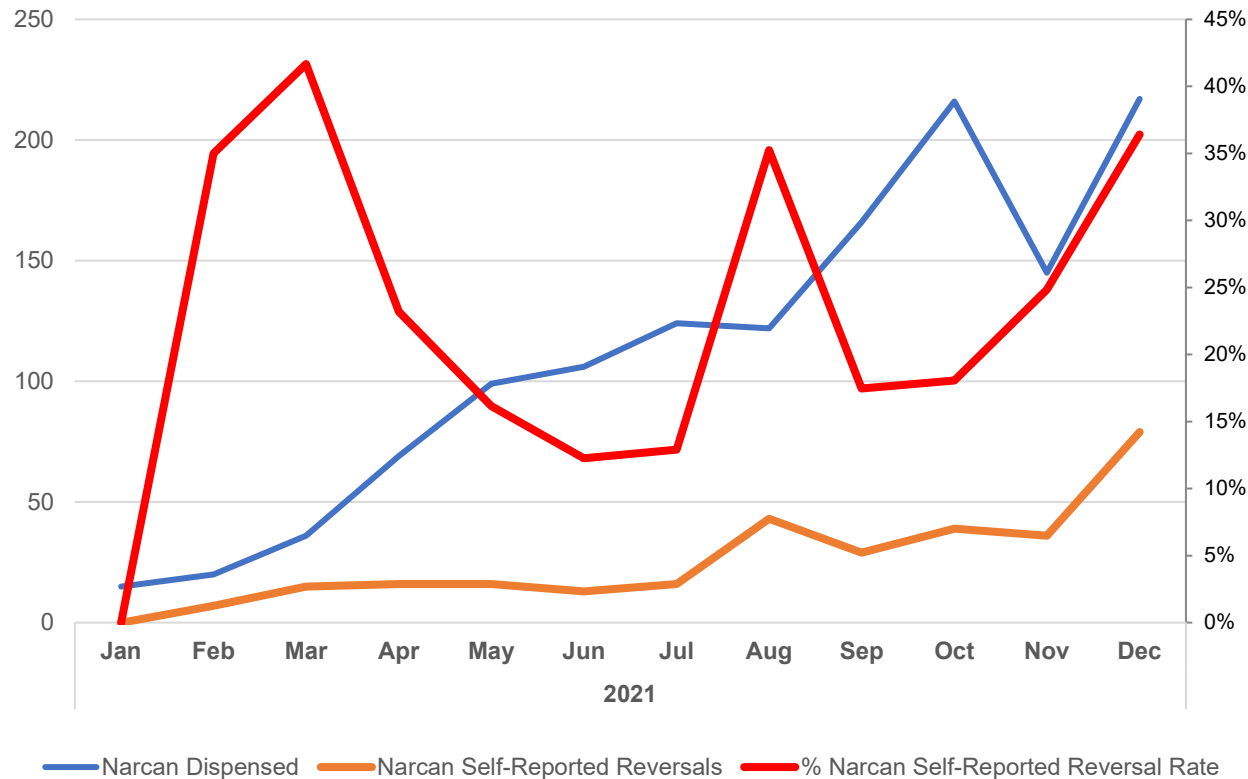
- Collection Rate: 108.8%

## Results:

- Significant reduction of syringe litter

# Metrics for 2021 – Narcan Distribution

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
Narcan / Naloxone Distribution



## Metrics:

- NARCAN distributed: 1335 (total > 2000)
- Client reported overdose reversals: 309 (total 503)
- Reversal rate trending up

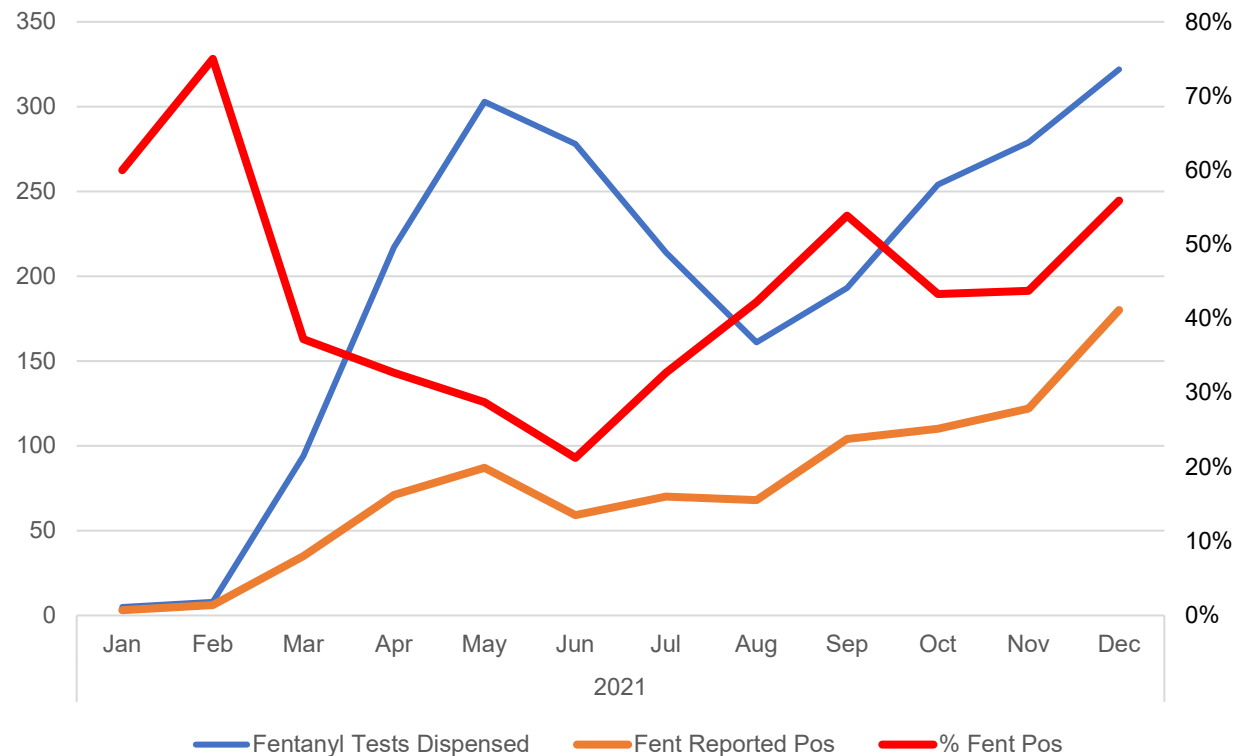
## Results:

- Increased community awareness of opioid overdose and Narcan
- Increased distribution of Narcan



# Metrics for 2021 – Fentanyl Test Distribution

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
Fentanyl Test Distributed



## Metrics:

- Fentanyl tests distributed: 2328 (total 3090)
- Client reported positive test for fentanyl: 915 (total 1194)
- Positive testing rate rapidly trending up
- Increased fentanyl test distribution

## Results:

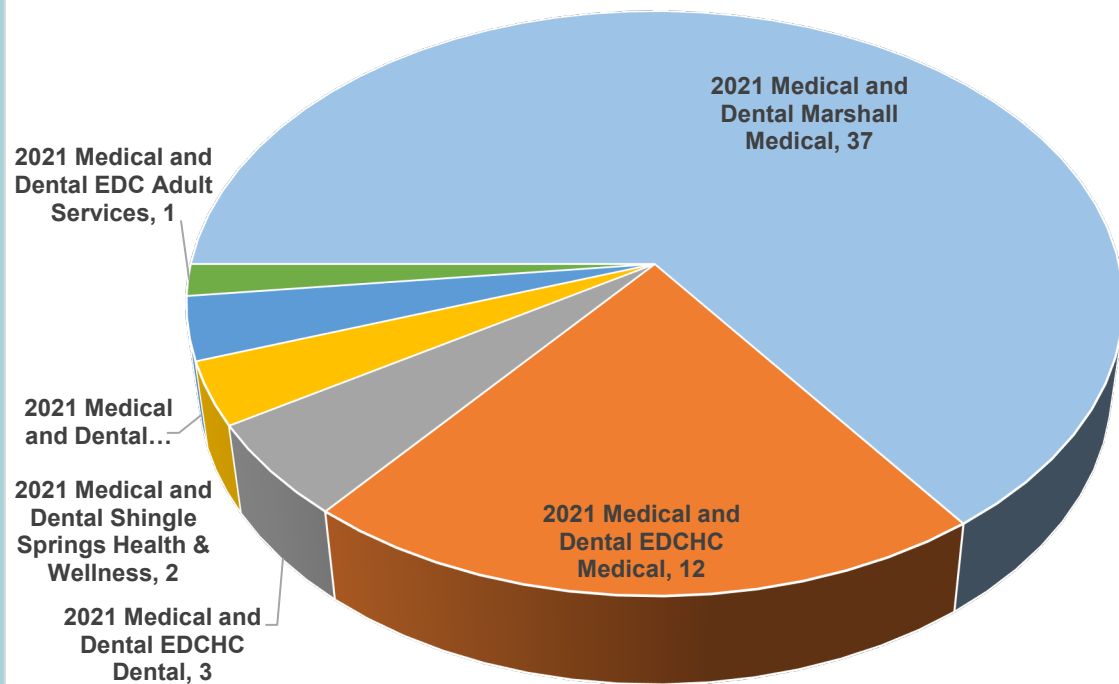
- Increased awareness of fentanyl in community drug supply

# Fentanyl in El Dorado County

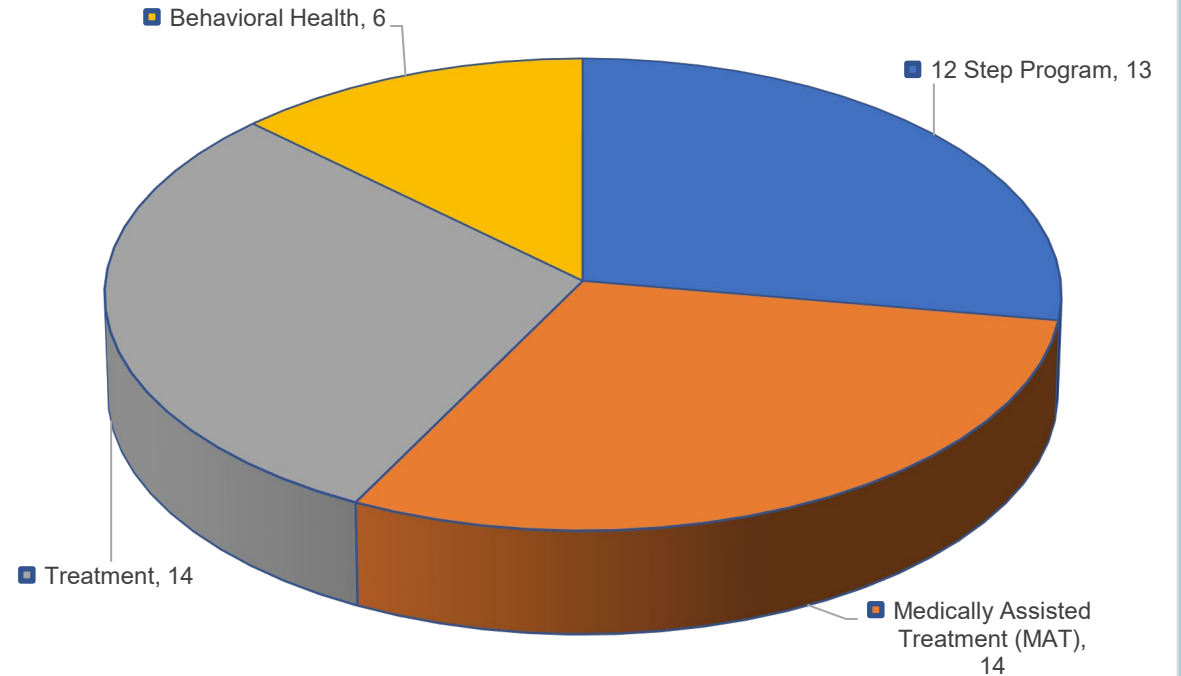
- **Fentanyl has a high prevalence in El Dorado County**
- **Punitive programs or actions will not stem this issue**
  
- January 2021 – SHRC starts distributing fentanyl test strips
- June 2021 – SHRC has seen an incredible increase in fentanyl being used
  - This increase was reported by our clients (heroin, methamphetamine, counterfeit pills)
  - SHRC intensified education of our client community, and test distribution efforts
  - Client reported positive rate generally low at **21-28%** (Jun-21)
- November 2021 to April 2022 - Increase fentanyl test distribution and high positive rate in amount of fentanyl in the area
  - Fentanyl tests distributed increased from 8 / month (February 2020) to 300 / month (February 2022)
  - Client reported positive rate very high at **55.9%** (Dec-21)
  - Some clients are reporting that they have changed their drug of choice to fentanyl
- SHRC proposes that they be granted the opportunity to take Narcan and fentanyl education into the high schools in partnership with EDCOE and community members

# Metrics for 2021 – Referrals Detail

Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
2021 Referral Detail - Medical and Dental

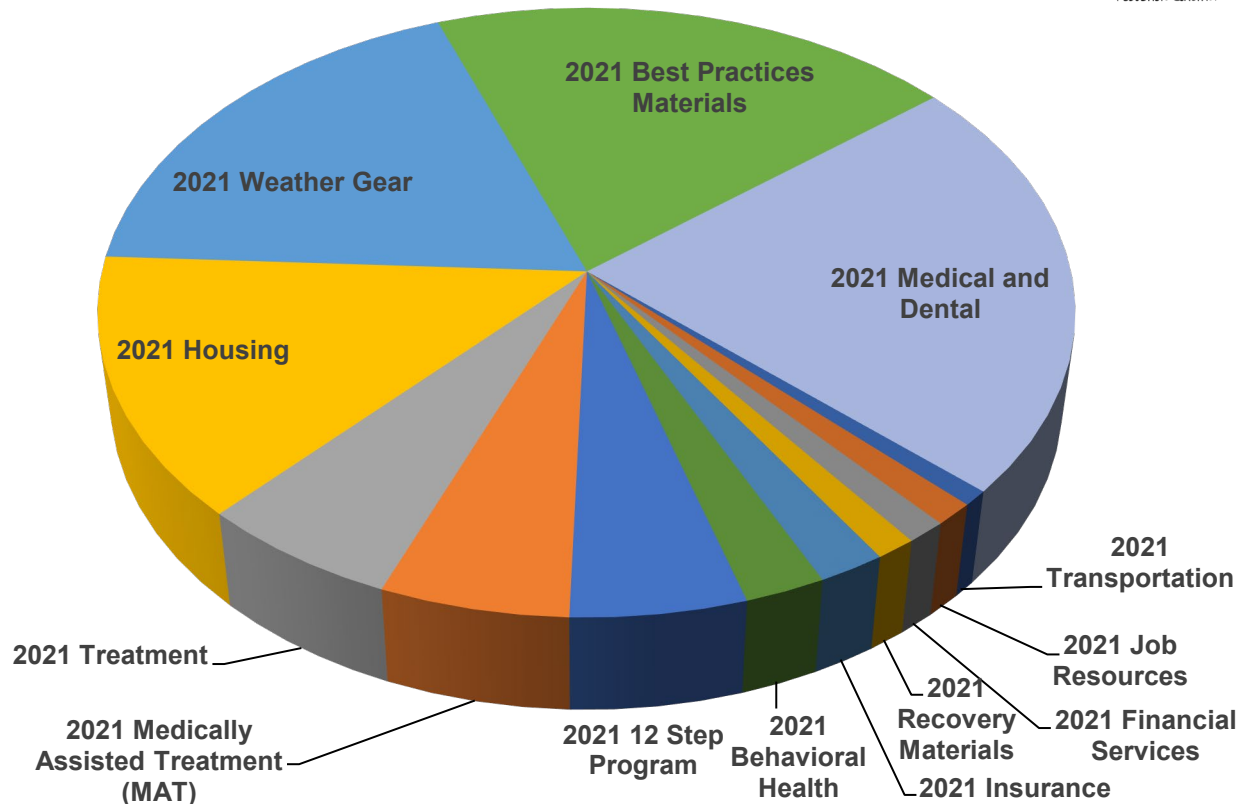


Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition  
2021 Referrals



# Metrics for 2021 – Referrals Summary

## Sierra Harm Reduction Coalition 2021 Referral Summary



## Metrics:

- 253 referrals in 13 categories

## Results:

- Connection to community support services
- Connection to health/treatment support services

# Questions?