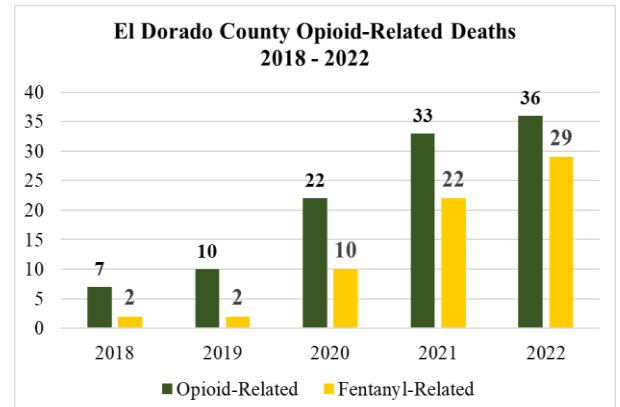


EL DORADO COPE FACT SHEET

PROBLEM: The opioid crisis, characterized by related overdoses and death, has historically been driven by high rates of opioid prescribing and their misuse. From 2018 to 2022, local changes in prescription opioid guidance and standards have successfully decreased rates of opioid prescribing by nearly 30%. Despite this decline, our county experienced a 400% increase in opioid-related overdose deaths over this same period, a death rate that surpassed many other California counties. 36 opioid-related fatalities occurred in 2022 – exceeding local deaths related to COVID, motor vehicle accidents, and gunshots combined. This rise in mortality has been driven by powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl, with related deaths soaring from 2 in 2018 to 29 in 2022.



California Overdose Surveillance Dashboard. Prepared by California Department of Public Health (CDPH - Substance and Addiction Prevention Branch (SAPB)). <https://skylab.cdph.ca.gov/ODdash/>

COALITION INTRODUCTION: The El Dorado Coalition for Overdose Prevention and Education (COPE) was founded in 2018 and is led by Access El Dorado (ACCEL). COPE is a county collaborative addressing substance use-related issues that impact community wellness and safety. With 146 members from 47 organizations, COPE members meet quarterly to exchange strategies and experiences that focus on improving wellness in areas such as overdose prevention, medication-assisted treatment, youth prevention, and peer support. Past initiatives have promoted opioid stewardship, expanded MAT services, and improved the distribution of free naloxone and fentanyl test strips.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- COPE partners distribute thousands of NARCAN doses annually, reversing hundreds of overdoses.
- COPE partners have expanded medication-assisted treatment options, serving thousands each year.
- COPE partners have initiated community-focused programs that have secured funds for specialized services and staff.

“That feeling of knowing that I’m not alone meant everything. COPE isn’t just doctors and nurses, but people coming together across the community. That feeling of community, the fellowship, is powerful and impactful.”
~Brie White, Peer Support Specialist

MULTI-SECTOR PARTNERHIPS: COPE membership is diverse, including representatives from education, law enforcement, criminal justice, local government, public health, behavioral health, substance use services, medication-assisted treatment services, pharmacies, first responders, peer support, recovery services, youth substance use prevention, faith-based organizations, and community-based organizations.

COPE MEMBERSHIP: Anyone interested in spreading awareness about the complex and challenging nature of substance use and its associated harms is welcome to join COPE and help save lives in our community. Please contact COPE leadership for inquiries related to membership and future meetings:

Chris Weston, MPH
Project Director
cweston@comcast.net

Kirsten Rogers
Project Manager
rogers_kirsten@comcast.net

COPE website: <https://www.eldoradocope.org/>
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/ElDoradoCOPE>
Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/eldoradocope/>

