



## Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting

City Hall, 697 Vista Ave, Page AZ  
May 20, 2026 at 5:30 PM

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND AGENDA

Pursuant to Arizona Revised Statutes § 38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the City of Page Substance Abuse Task Force and the general public that the Page Substance Abuse Task Force will hold a meeting open to the public in Page City Hall located at 697 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona. Members of the Substance Abuse Task Force will attend either in person or virtually.

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**1. Call to Order**

**2. Roll Call**

Camilla Adams-Chair	Ron Macdonald
Breanna Vega	Vacant
Michael Barnes	Bunny Cochran
Madison Kavaia	
City Council Liaison, Mike Farrow	

**3. Minutes**

- A. Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting Minutes — January 21, 2026
- B. Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting Minutes — March 18, 2026

**4. Hear from the Citizens**

The public is invited to speak on any item or area of concern. Items presented during the Citizens portion which are not on the agenda, cannot be acted upon by the Substance Abuse Task Force. Individual members are prohibited by the Open Meeting Law from discussing or considering the item among themselves unless the item is officially on an agenda.

**5. Reports**

- A. Page Magistrate Court Update:
  - Case Statistic and Treatment Court Program
- B. Page Police Department Update:
  - Substance Abuse Related Statistics and Programs
- C. Canyonlands Healthcare Update:
  - Substance Abuse Treatment Program and Trends
- D. Catholic Charities Update:
  - Case Statistics and Programs
- E. Community Bridges, Inc. Update:
  - Substance Abuse Related Statistics and Programs
- F. Coconino County Health Update:

- Substance Abuse Treatment Programs and Trends
- Overdose Fatality Review Presentation

**6. Unfinished Business**

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to MPH Practicum by Brooke Whitethorne

**7. New Business**

- A. Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to Creating a Logo for the Substance Abuse Task Force.
- B. Discussion and Possible Action On Establishing Guidelines for Loaning Out the Impairment Goggles to Community Groups.

**8. Adjourn**

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

Next Regular Meeting Wednesday, June 17, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Persons with disabilities should call the City of Page at 928-645-8861 for program and services information and accessibility.

If you would like to receive City Council and Board agenda notifications via email, please visit our public portal and sign-in or create an account to subscribe: <https://pageaz.portal.civicclerk.com/>.

DISCLAIMER: Agenda Items may be taken out of order. This agenda may be subject to change up to 24 hours prior to the meeting. Please see the local crier boards or our website at [cityofpage.org](http://cityofpage.org) for the current agenda.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the attached notice was duly posted at the following places: City Hall Bulletin Board located at 697 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona; Justice Building Bulletin Board located at 547 Vista Avenue, Page, Arizona; U. S. Post Office Lobby located at 44 Sixth Avenue, Page, Arizona, on the 18 day of May, 2026, at 3:00 a.m./p.m.

By:

\_\_\_\_\_  
City of Page



**Substance Abuse Task Force  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
January 21, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force was held at 5:30 pm on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2026, in the Council Chambers at Page City Hall. Chair Camilla Adams presided. Vice Chair Rick Cottrell, Members Madison Kavaia, Ron Macdonald, and Breanna Vega were present. Members Michael Barnes and Bunny Cochran were absent. City Council Liaison Mike Farrow was present.

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Staff members present: City Manager Frank Marbury, Administrative Assistant Sheri Ptacek, City Clerk Cindy Scott, and City Attorney Josh Smith.

**HEAR FROM THE CITIZENS**

Coconino County Health representatives Brook Whitethorne and Merle Begay provided an overview of substance abuse issues affecting local youth and discussed the locations where they will conduct outreach presentations.

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

City Board Presentation (City Clerk): City Clerk, City Scott, and City Attorney Josh Smith gave a presentation on Responsibilities, Conflicts of Interest, Roberts Rules, and Open Meeting Law

Page Magistrate Court Update: Not attended

Page Police Department Update: Assistant Chief Larry Jones provided information on youth alcoholism and drug abuse.

Canyonlands Healthcare Chair Adams gave an update on Devil Days and education on vaping at the school.

Catholic Charities Update: Not Attended

Encompass Health Update: Nyki Thomas provided demographics at Encompass, and the City Attorney gave an update on the Detox Facility.

Coconino County Health Update: Not Attended

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**City of Page Task Force Regular Meeting – January 21, 2026**

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

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Sheri Ptacek, Staff Liaison

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Camilla Adams, Chair

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting, held on the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

Dated this, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Sheri Ptacek Staff Liaison



**Substance Abuse Task Force  
Regular Meeting Minutes  
March 18, 2026**

A Regular Meeting of the Substance Abuse Task Force was held at 5:30 pm on the 18th of March 2026, in the Council Chambers at Page City Hall. Chair Camilla Adams presided. Members Michael Barnes, Bunny Cochran, Madison Kavaia, Ron Macdonald, and Breanna Vega were present. Vice-Chair, Rick Cottrell, was absent. City Council Liaison was excused.

Chair Adams called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Staff members present: City Manager Frank Marbury and Administrative Assistant Sheri Ptacek.

**HEAR FROM THE CITIZENS**

No Citizens addressed the Board

**REPORTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Page Magistrate Court Update: No attendance

Page Police Department Update: No Attendance

Canyonlands Healthcare Chair Adams gave an update on Direct Services, Well Devil Days, and Parent Teacher Conferences

Catholic Charities Update: No Attendance

Encompass Health Update: Nyki Thomas provided demographics for Community Bridges, Inc.

Coconino County Health Update:

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Discussion and Possible Action Pertaining to the Page Attacks Trash Event.

Member Kavaia gave a presentation on Page Attacks Trash.

Motion was made by Member Cochran to attend the Page Attacks Trash and purchase items to hand out. The motion was seconded by Member Macdonald and passed unanimously upon a vote.

**NEW BUSINESS**

None

**ADJOURN**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.

**City of Page Substance Abuse Task Force Regular Meeting – March 18, 2026**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sheri Ptacek, Staff Liaison

\_\_\_\_\_  
Camilla Adams, Chair

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the foregoing minutes are a true and correct copy of the minutes of the City Council Regular Meeting, held on the 18<sup>th</sup> of March 2026. I further certify that the meeting was duly called and held and that a quorum was present.

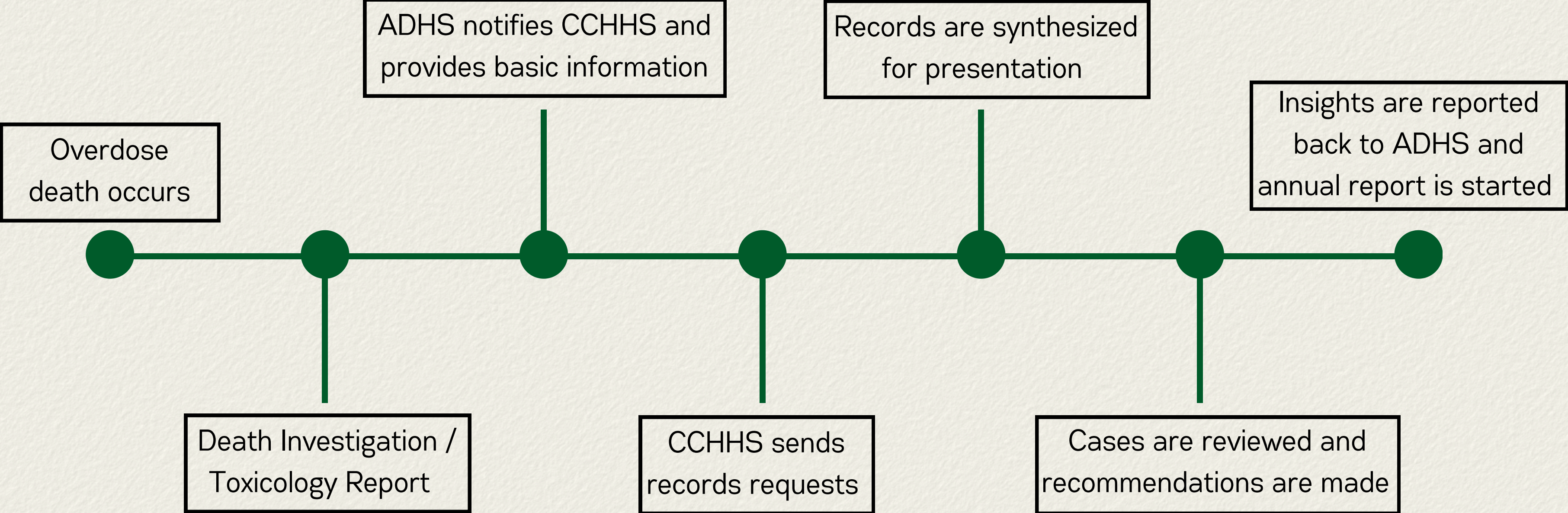
Dated this, May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2026

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Sheri Ptacek Staff Liaison

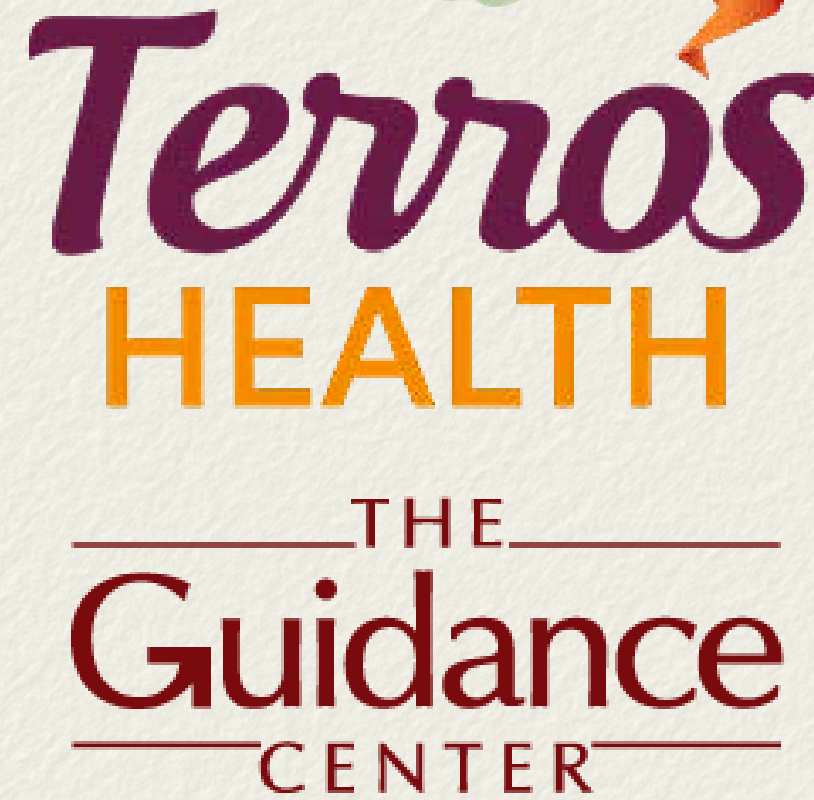
# *Coconino County*

## Overdose Fatality Review 2023 Annual Report

# Timeline



# OFR Team Members



Northern Arizona Healthcare



**\*\*Actively seeking tribal Law Enforcement participation\*\***

# Rules for Review

**Coconino County residents or  
non-residents that die while in  
Coconino County**

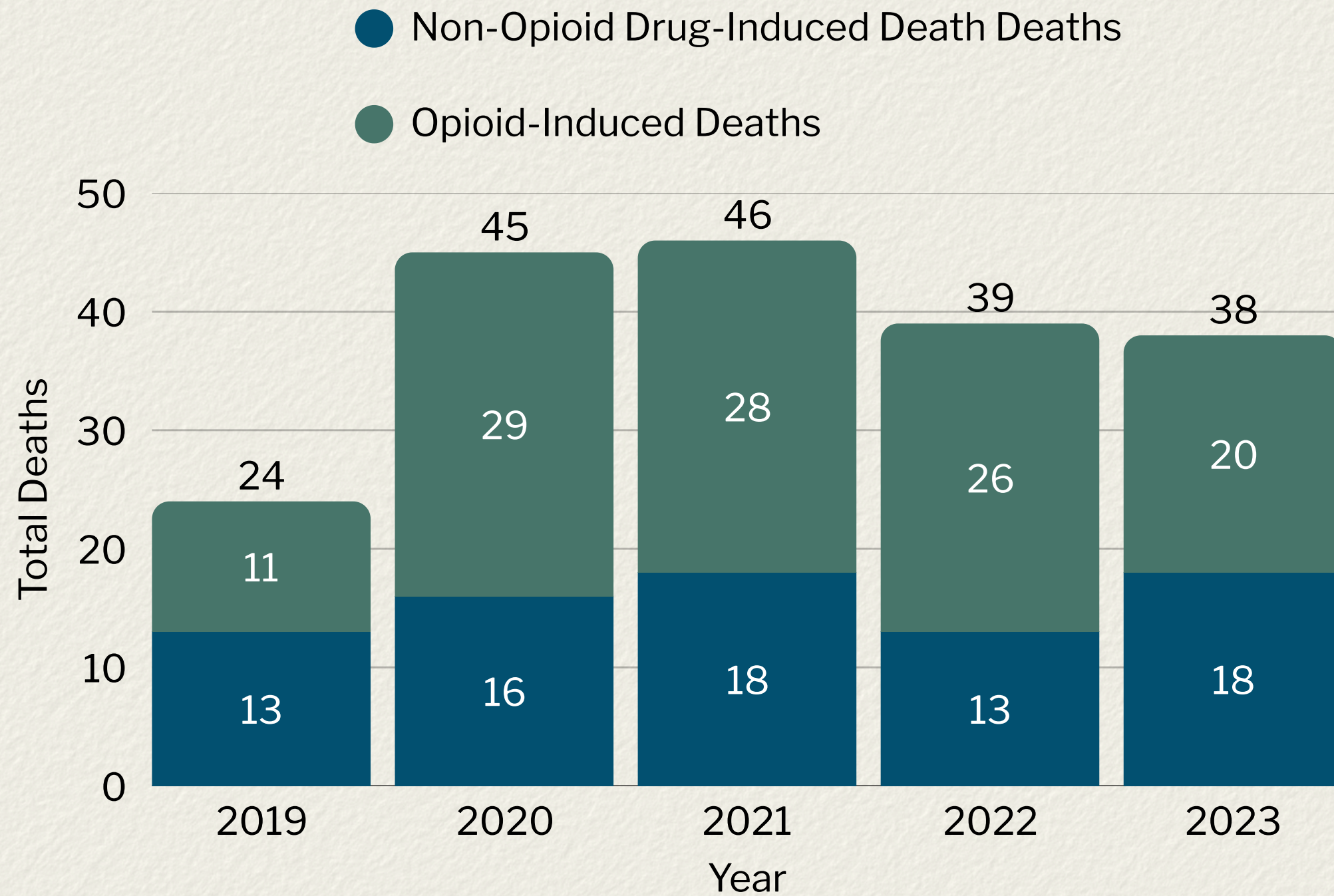
**Over 18 years old**

**Not a suicide**

**No alcohol poisoning or injuries  
resulting from substance use**

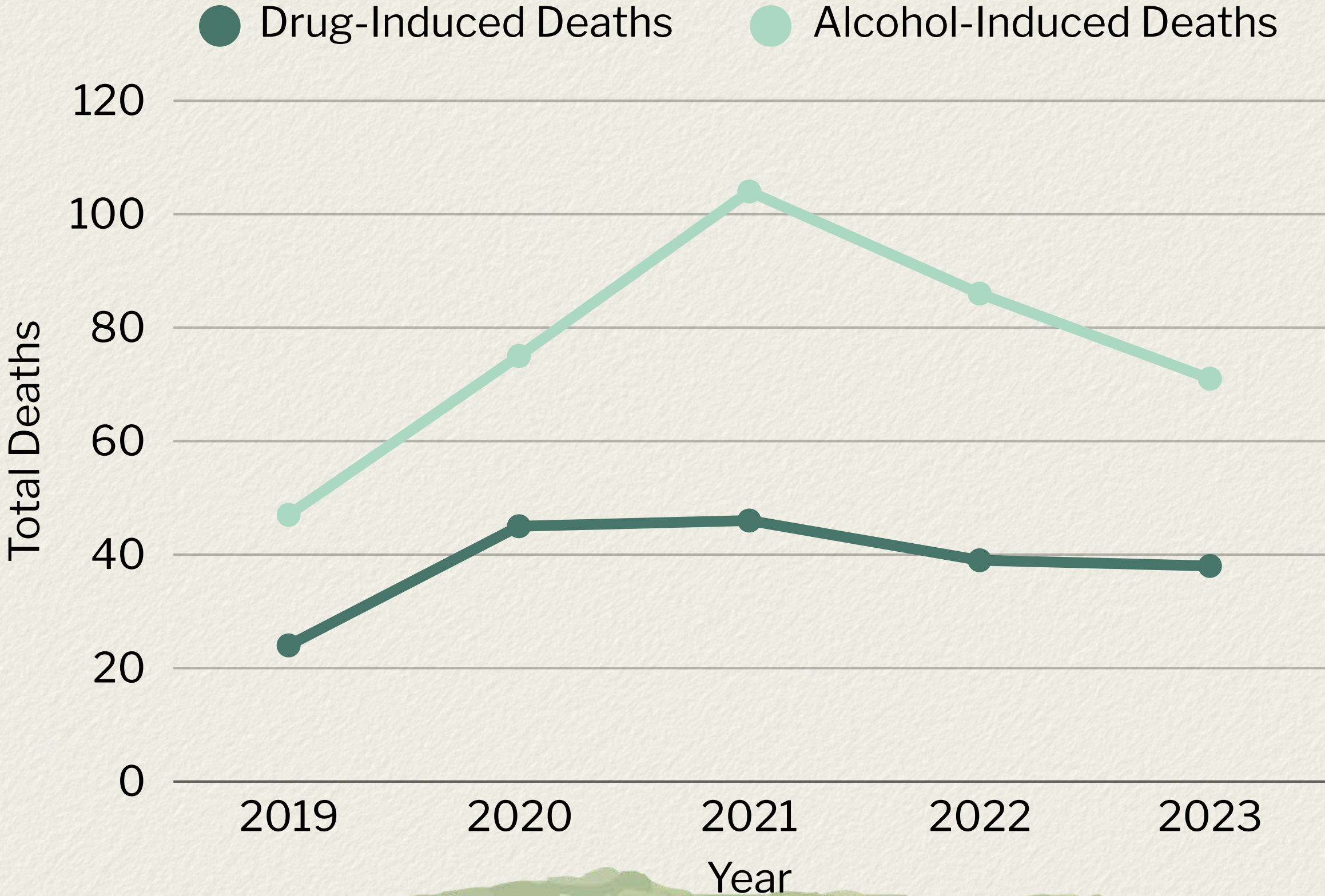


## Drug and Opioid-Induced Deaths



Substances	Percent of Deaths
Synthetic Opioids (IE: Fentanyl)	48%
Methamphetamine	39%
Alcohol	30%
Other Opioids	14%
Sedatives	11%
Other Substances	15%

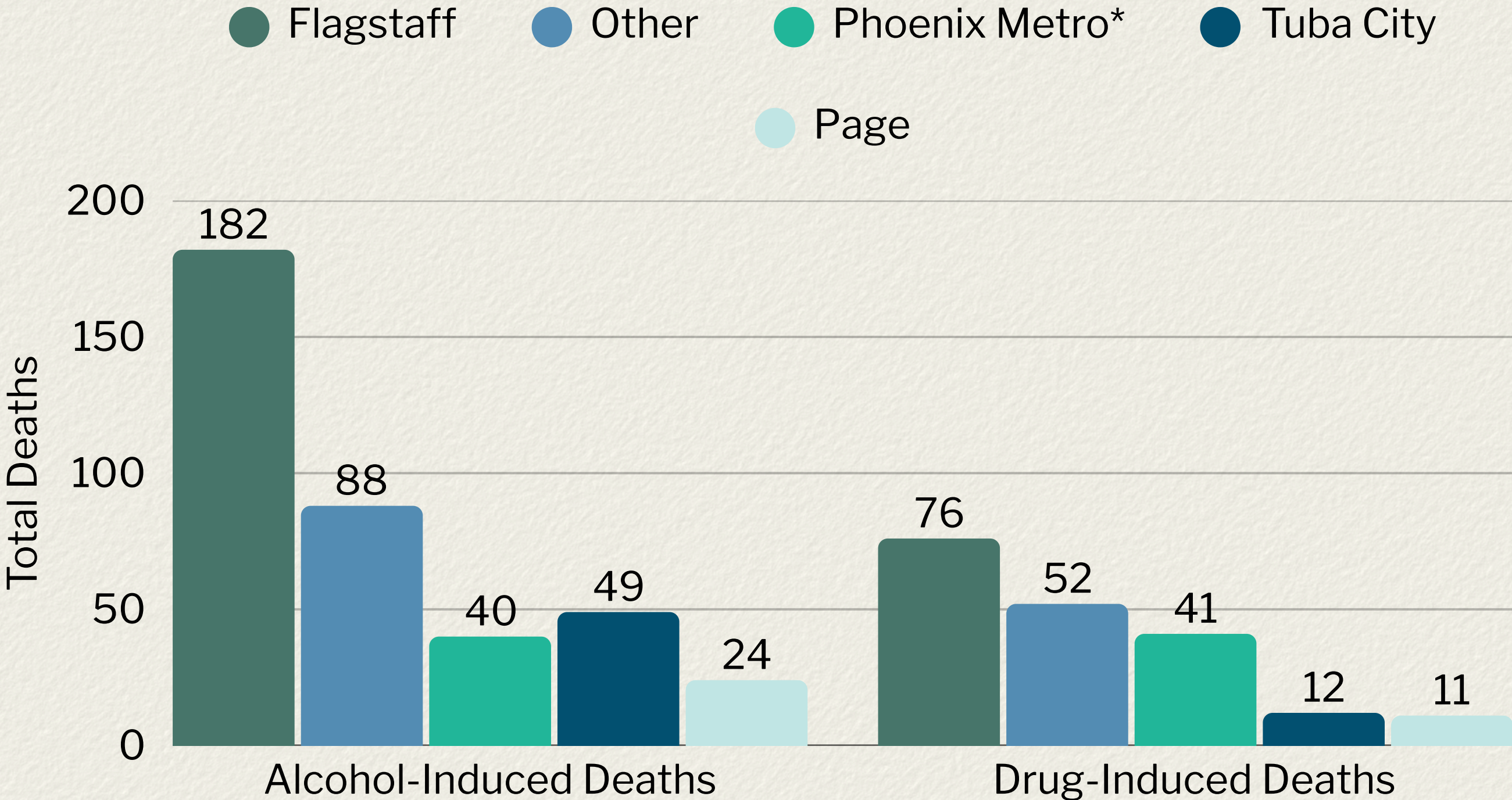
# Drug and Alcohol-Induced Death



Between 2019 and 2023, there were twice as many alcohol-induced deaths (n=383) as drug-induced deaths (n=192) among Coconino County residents.



# Drug and Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Location (2019-2023)

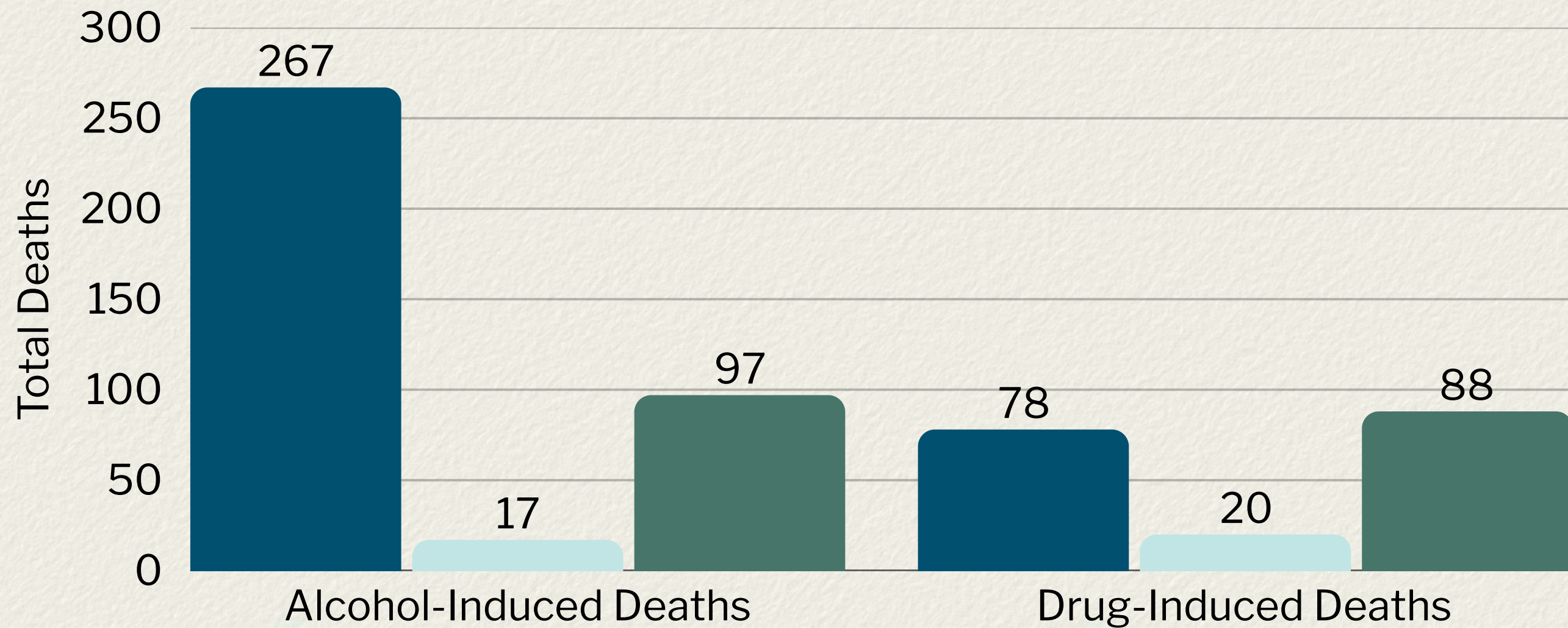


\*Deaths of Coconino County residents who died of an overdose in the Phoenix Metropolitan area

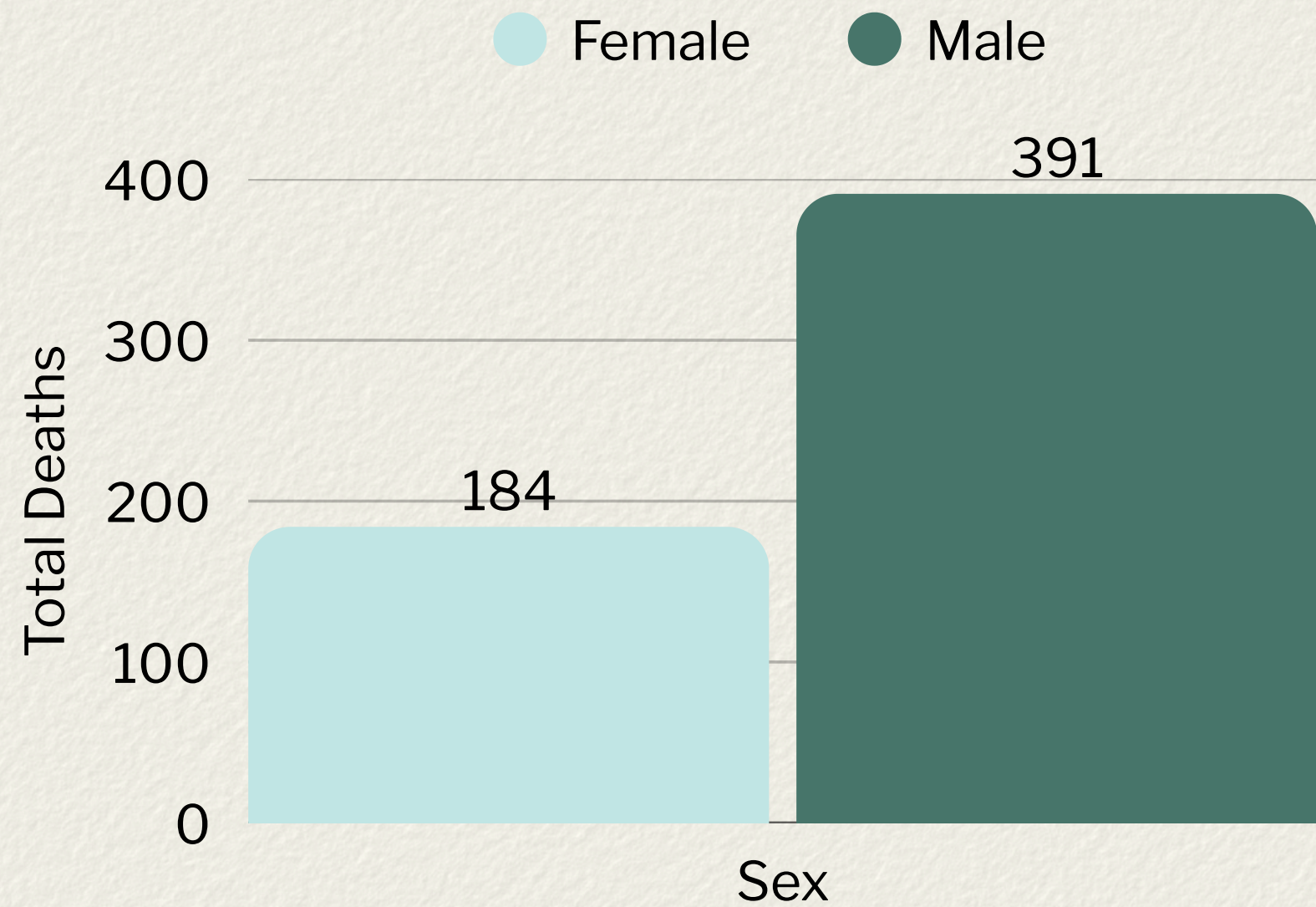


# Drug and Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Race (2019-2023)

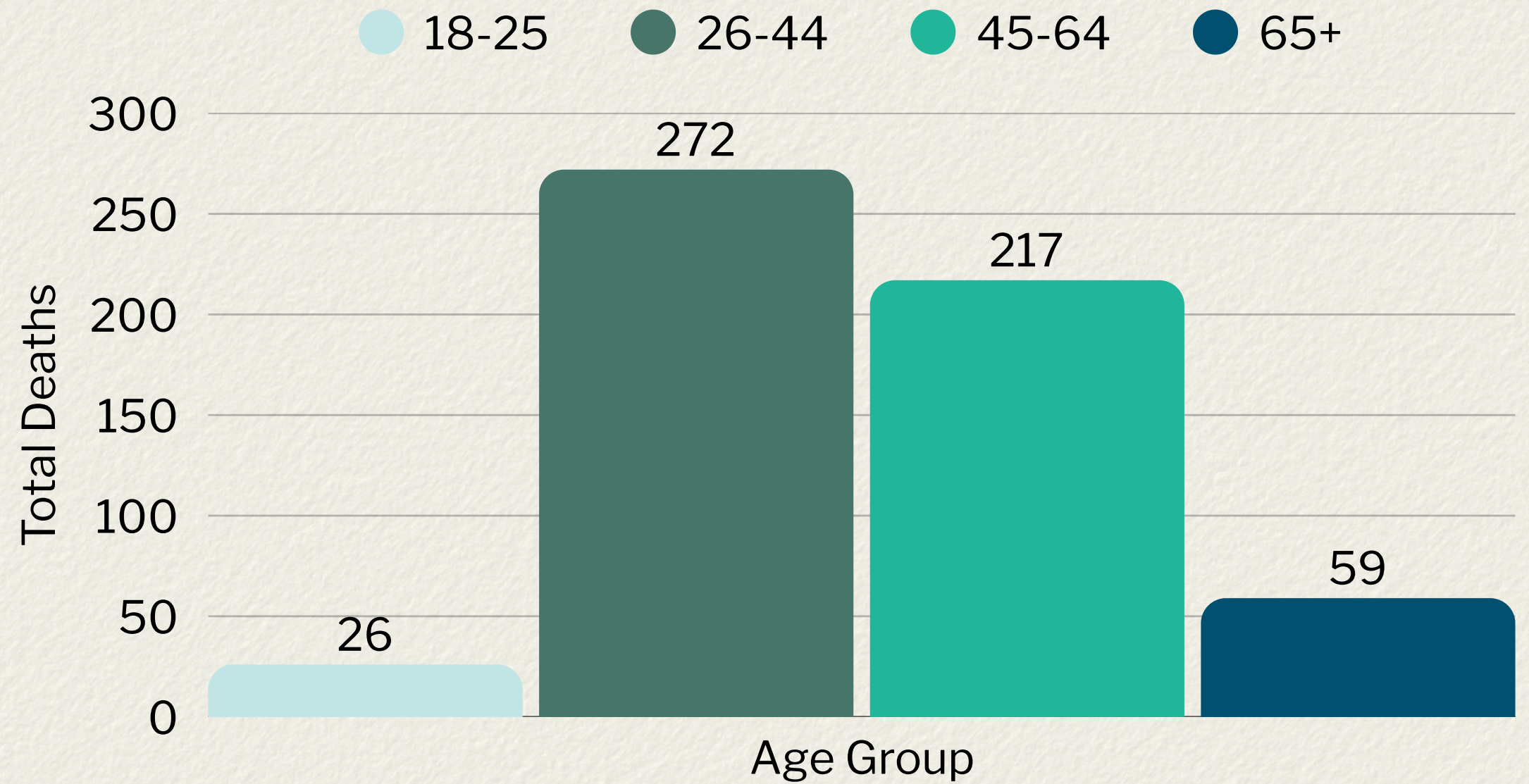
- American Indian or Alaska Native
- Hispanic or Latino
- White Non-Hispanic



## Drug and Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Sex (2019-2023)



## Drug and Alcohol-Induced Deaths by Age Group (2019-2023)



In 2023, Coconino County Health and Human Services (CCHHS) reviewed 16 overdose death cases involving county residents.

- **Substances involved:**

- **9** decedents tested positive for methamphetamine
- **9** tested positive for fentanyl
- **11** deaths involved **polysubstance use**, most commonly methamphetamine, fentanyl, and alcohol (listed in order of prevalence)\*
- **1** oxycodone, **1** heroin, and **1** cocaine deaths

- **Demographics and locations:**

- **12** of the decedents were male
- **12** were under the age of 45
- Places of death:
  - **5** in Flagstaff
  - **3** in Page
  - **1** in Phoenix (Coconino County resident who died in Phoenix)
  - **7** in rural communities: Tuba City, Williams, Cameron, Hotevilla, and Kaibeto
- **9** individuals died in their own residence
- **13** were employed at the time of death
- **9** were identified as White, and 5 as Native American



# 2024 Review

37 total cases

## 26 - 78 years old

- Male - 29
- Female - 8

## Never Married - 25

## Education

- Some college + - 15

## Not Military - 33

## Substance found in TOX (not exclusive, just total presence)

- Fentanyl - 22
- Methamphetamine - 18
- Cocaine - 3
- Other Opioid - 9
- Ethanol - 5
- Ketamine - 1
- Mitragynine - 4

## Death City

- Flagstaff - 24
- Smaller cities and areas - 7
- Phoenix - 14

## Race

- White - 19
- AI/AN - 14



# 2025 Review 25 total cases January 2025 - June 2025

## 23 - 71 years old

- Male - 16
- Female - 9

## Never Married - 20

## Education

- No HS Diploma - 13

## Not Military - 24

## Substance found in TOX (not exclusive, just total presence)

- Fentanyl - 15
- Methamphetamine - 16
- Cocaine - 2
- Other Opioid - 4
- Ethanol - 3

## Race

- White - 6
- AI/AN - 14

## Death City

- Flagstaff - 7
- Tuba City - 7
- Smaller towns - 11

# Recommendations

## Treatment for Substance Use Disorder

- Strengthen policies and procedures within treatment facilities to promote consistent, coordinated care for all individuals.
- Expand access to a broader range of evidence-based therapies, with a focus on rural communities. Priorities include:
  - **Culturally responsive therapies that incorporate Indigenous beliefs and practices,**
  - Medications for opioid and alcohol use disorders, along with education and support for prescribers,
  - Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Dialectical Behavior Therapy (DBT), step-down programs, and peer support.
  - Continue to research and implement evidence-based approaches for reducing methamphetamine use.
  - **Provide individuals in recovery—and their families and support networks—with clear, honest information about relapse risks and warning signs.**



# Recommendations

## Healthcare

- Expand access to peer support services within healthcare settings.
- Strengthen case management systems to ensure patients are consistently connected to comprehensive, wraparound services.
- Integrate routine screening for substance and alcohol use into all medical visits.
- Reduce stigma among healthcare providers to encourage honest disclosure of substance and alcohol use by patients.
- Offer safety-focused interventions to patients who disclose substance or alcohol use but are not yet ready or willing to stop.

## Behavioral Health

- Provide support, services, and education for individuals experiencing grief and trauma, including those who have lost a loved one to overdose.
- Continue efforts to reduce stigma and expand access to timely, comprehensive care.



# Recommendations

## Judicial System

- Explore deflection programs within local law enforcement agencies.
- Expand access to and utilization of specialty courts, such as drug courts and mental health courts.
- Provide access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) in alignment with best practice standards.
- Identify opportunities to expand the scope and reach of correctional programs.

## Education / Safety-Focused Interventions

- Explore alternative methods to deliver life-saving and safety-focused education to individuals in rural and hard-to-reach areas.
- Provide ongoing education about drug tolerance and the increased risk of overdose following periods of abstinence, particularly for individuals in treatment or recovery.
- Improve access to opioid reversal medications for residents of recovery housing.



# Recommendations

## OFR Team Representation

- Page Police Department representatives
- Tribal agency representatives (Law Enforcement, First Responders, Health, Behavioral Health, Treatment, and Recovery)

## Next of Kin Interviewing

- Valuable information regarding decedent's substance use history, mental health, recent behaviors, and any known stressors or life changes leading up to the overdose to better understand contributing factors and opportunities for prevention
- Conduct these interviews within a few months of death and with those who were close to the decedent



# Thank You

**Merle Begay**  
**merbegay@coconino.az.gov**  
**(928) 679-7305**



**Cooper Rogers**  
**corogers@coconino.az.gov**  
**(928) 679-7279**

# YOUTH WELLNESS & ALCOHOL PREVENTION

Building a Community  
Partnership

Masters of Public  
Health (MPH)  
Practicum Project  
Brooke Whitethorne,  
MPH Candidate  
Grand Canyon  
University



# K'e - Family



Me



Shí



# THE STORY BEHIND THE NUMBERS

# Community Overview

Indicator	Page, AZ	Coconino County
Population	~7,500	~145,000
Median Household Income	\$79,521	\$67,266
Poverty Rate	12.3%	16.4%
Uninsured Rate	9.5%	13.8%

Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). WISQARS Fatal Injury Reports. Community Health Needs Assessment (CCHHS, 2024); U.S. Census Bureau, 2024; and Arizona Department of Health , 2024.

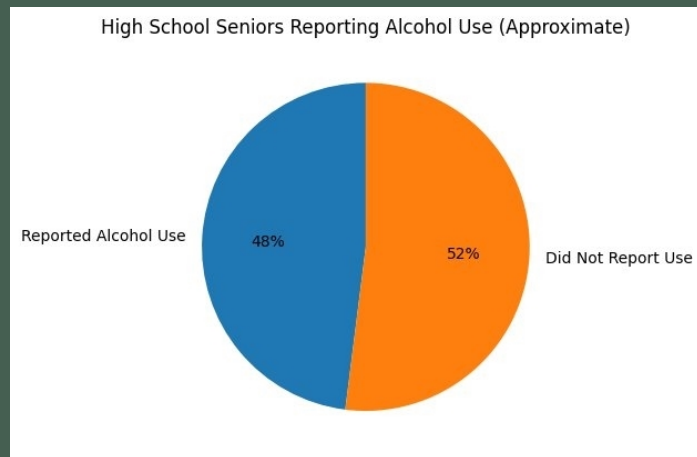
## Key Challenge

- Large rural geography
- Limited access to behavioral health services
- Communities spread across vast distances
- Diverse tribal and rural populations

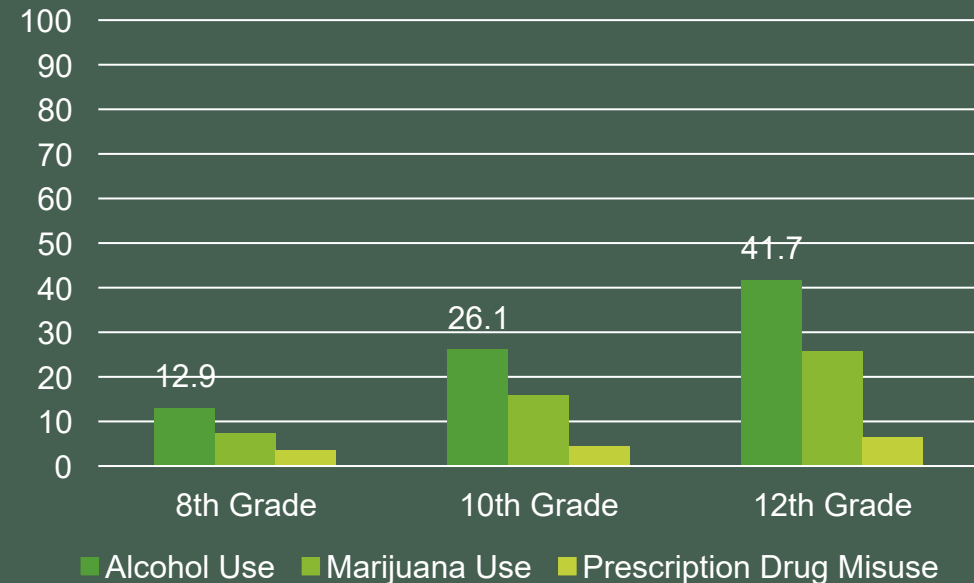


# Youth Substance Use Trends

*Nearly half of high school seniors report alcohol use, highlighting the need for early prevention programs.*



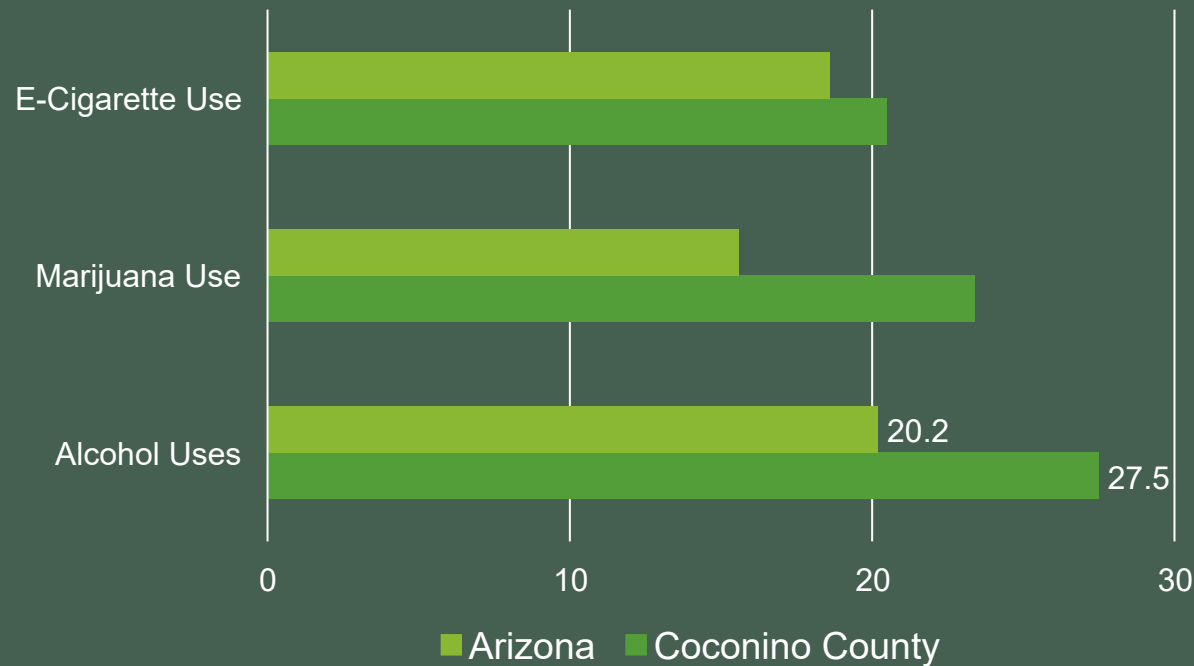
## Substance Use Trends Among Youth



Source: Arizona Youth Survey (Arizona Criminal Justice Commission [ACJC], 2024)

# Local Youth Substance Use

Substance Use Among Youth –  
Arizona vs. Coconino County



*Youth in Coconino County report higher substance use rates than the state average.*

Source: Community Health Needs Assessment (CCHHS, 2024).



# Youth Substance Use is a Growing Public Health Concern

Alcohol remains the most commonly used substance among adolescents



Early alcohol use increases risk of:

Substance use disorder

Mental health challenges

Academic and behavioral problems



Rural communities face additional barriers:

Limited mental health services

Transportation barriers

Workforce shortages

# Practicum Project Overview

## Project Title

- *Youth Alcohol Use Prevention in Northern Arizona:  
A Community-Driven Approach*

## Project Purpose

- Support youth wellness and reduce alcohol use through:
  - Community-based prevention
  - Youth skill building
  - Family and community education
  - Cross-sector collaboration

Reduce

- Reduce youth alcohol use

Increase

- Increase prevention education

Strengthen

- Strengthen community engagement

Build

- Build sustainable partnerships

# Project Goals

# Project Strategies



# Impact

## Short-Term Outcomes

- Increase knowledge
- Increase perceived risk
- Increase refusal confidence
- Increase parental disapproval
- Reduction in peer norms

## Long-Term Outcomes

- Reduction in alcohol use
- Stronger protective factors
- Improved mental health referral pathways
- Sustainable prevention coalition

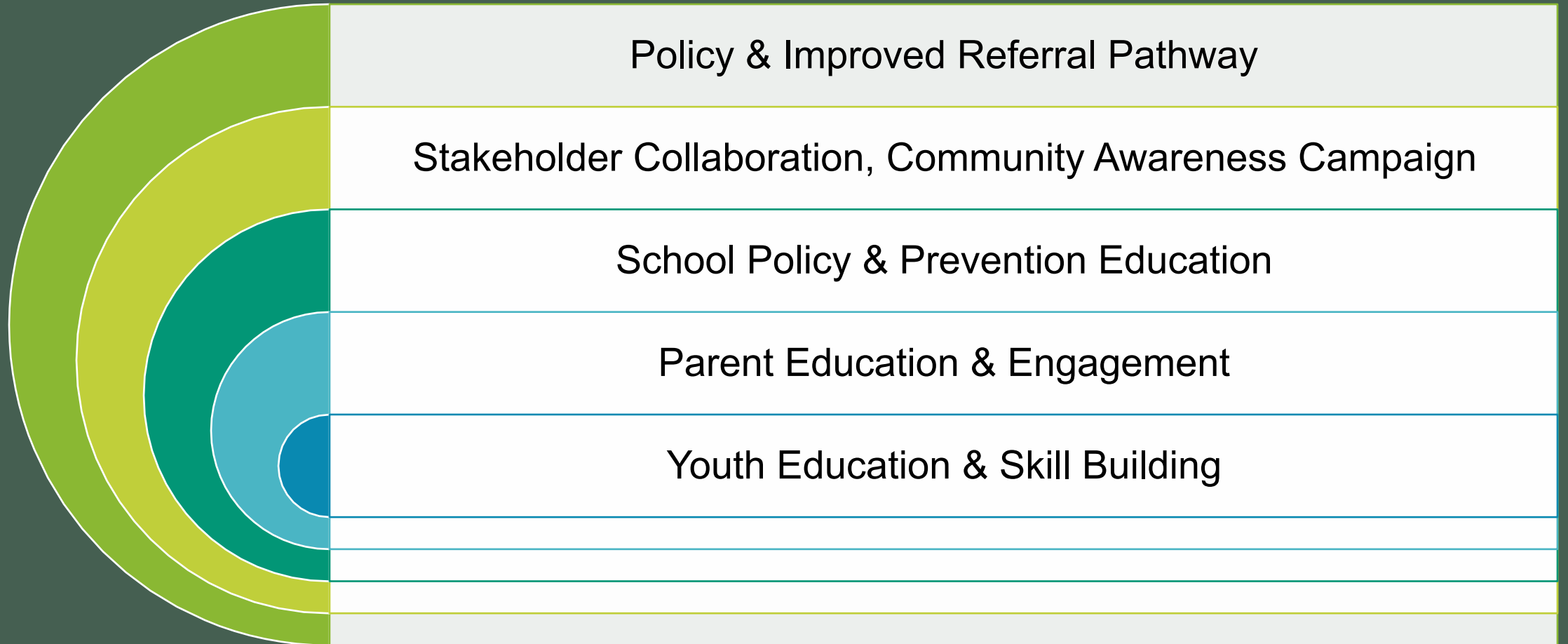
## Sustainability Plans

- Sustainability toolkit
- Policy/practice brief
- Formalized referral pathway
- Continued stakeholder collaboration

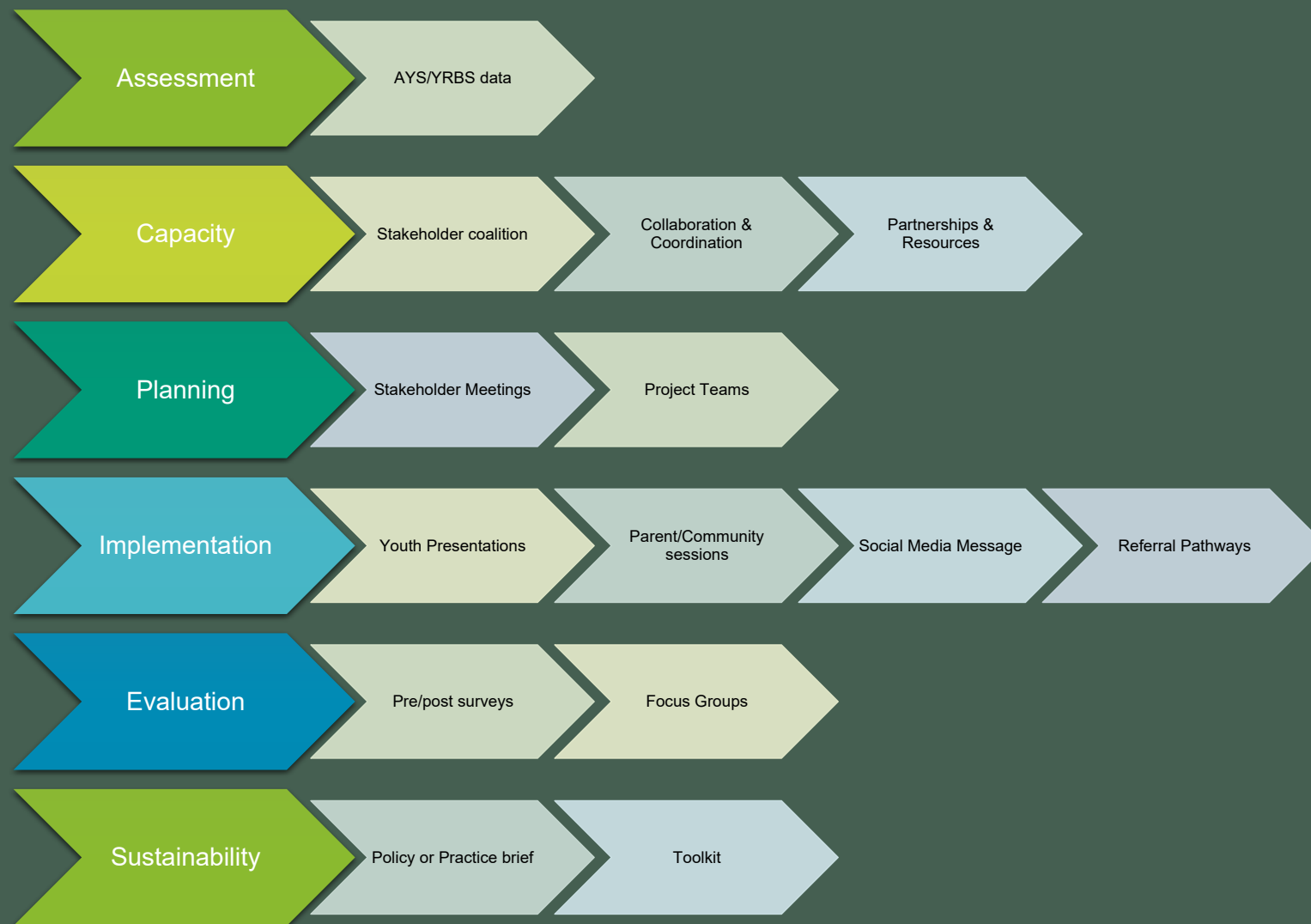


# MODELS & FRAMEWORKS

# Socio-ecological Model & Youth Wellness

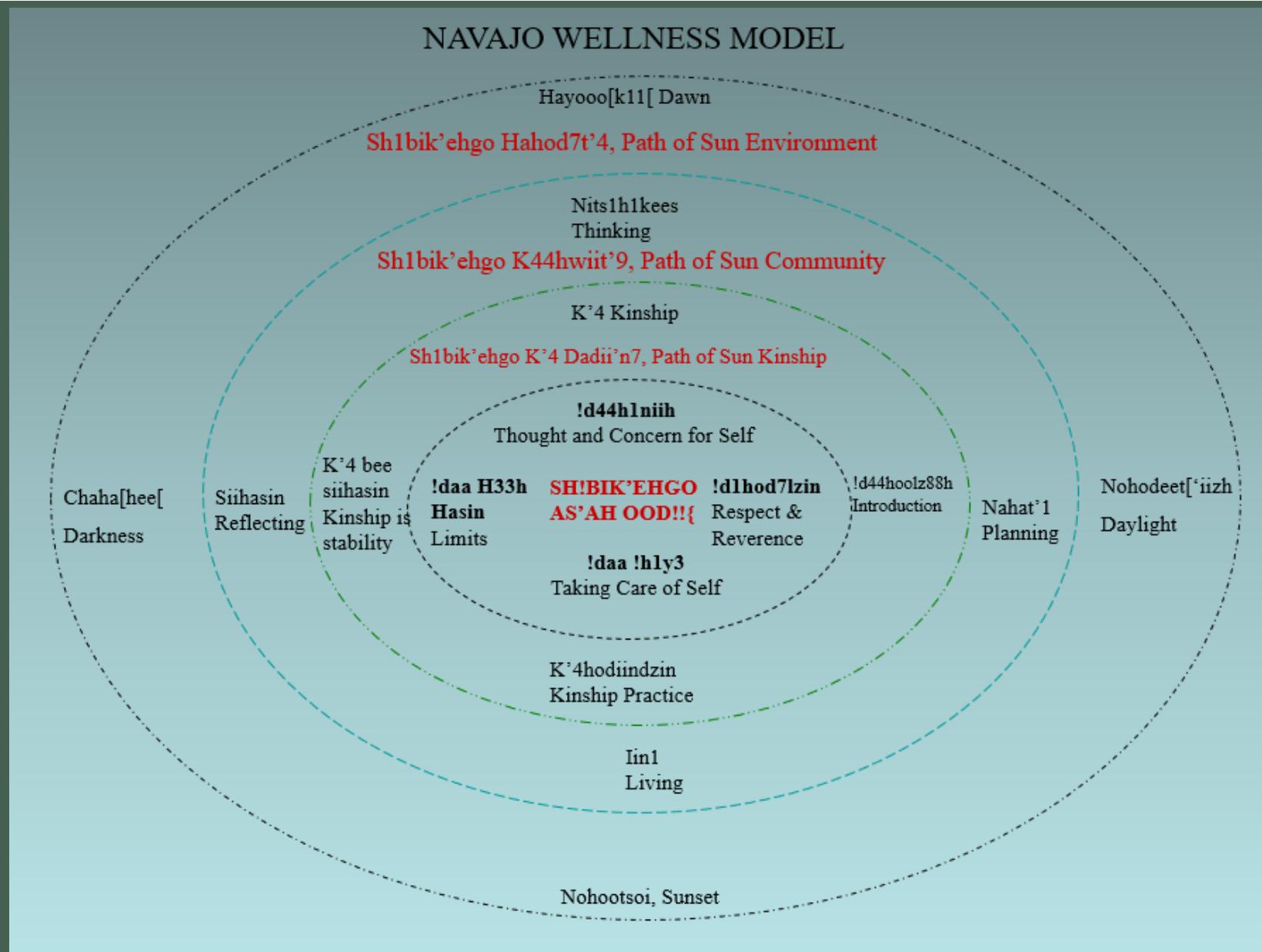


# SAMHSA Prevention Framework



# Navajo Wellness Model

- Shabik'ehgo As'ah Oodaal –
  - A Journey with Wellness and Healthy Lifestyle Guided by the Sun





# TEAMING UP – K'E



# Community Strengths

## Protective Factors in the Community

- Strong school systems
- Health resources
- Tribal and cultural networks
- Existing community interest in prevention
- Local government

# Building a Community Prevention Partnership

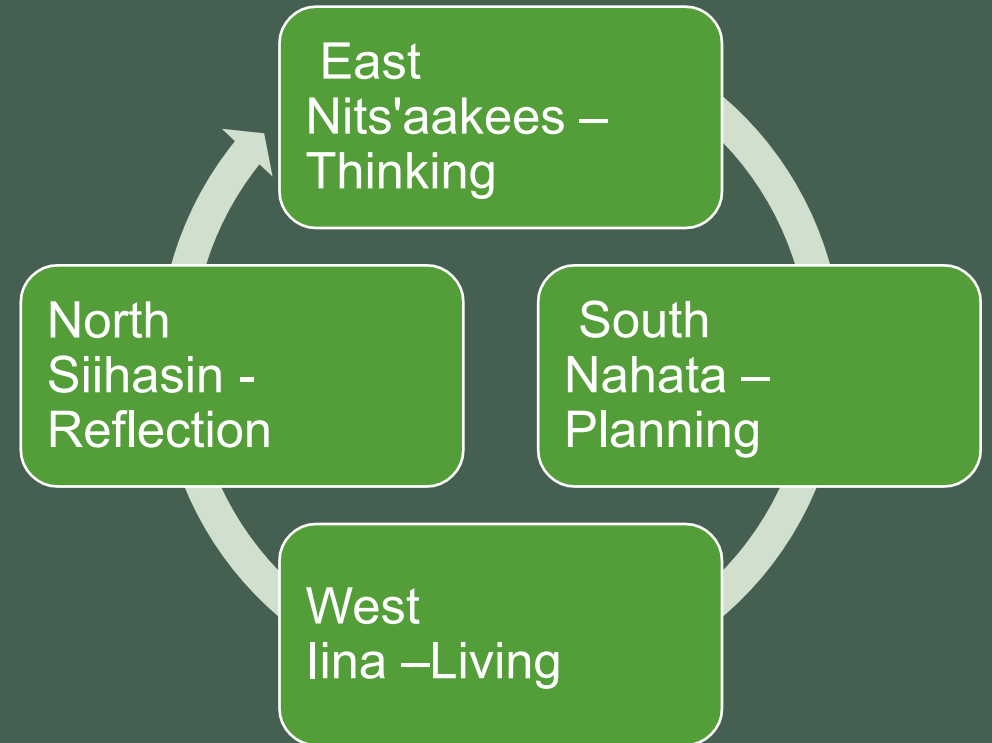




# CONVERSATION CAFÉ

# Conversation Café

- **Nits'aakees –Thinking**
  - From your perspective, how does youth alcohol use affect the community or the population you serve?
- **Nahata –Planning**
  - What strengths or resources already exist in our community that could help prevent youth alcohol use?
- **lina –Living**
  - What would culturally appropriate prevention look like for youth in our community?
- **Siihasin -Reflection**
  - How could you or your organization contribute?



# Conversation Café Summary



Need for  
youth  
activities

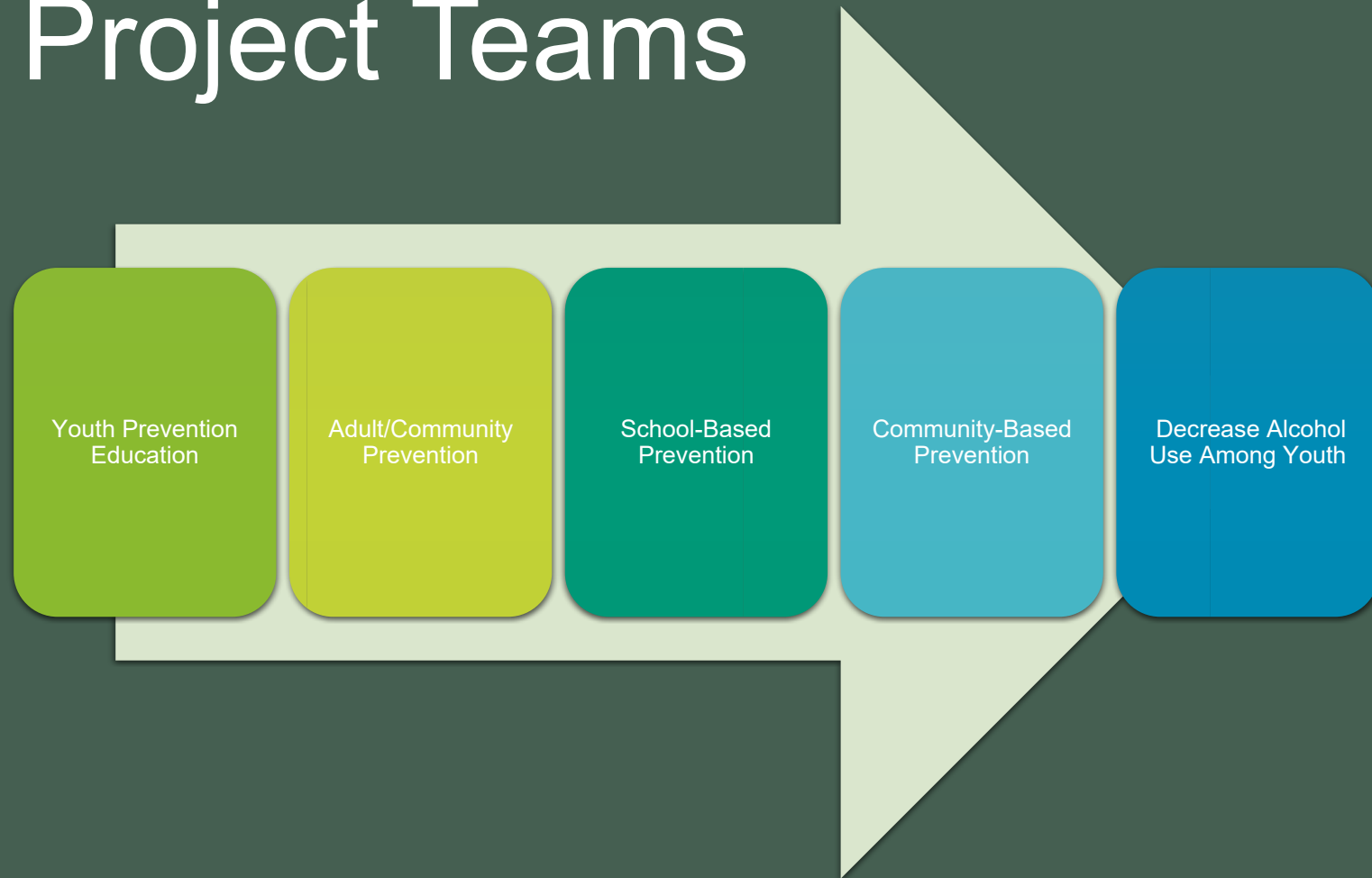
Importance of  
cultural  
connection

Family  
involvement  
is critical

Limited  
prevention  
resources

*Opportunity to build on these strengths through **collaborative prevention efforts.***

# Project Teams



# Youth Prevention Education

Activities	Purpose / Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Youth Prevention Workshop</b> (Youth Basketball 1/2 Day Camp) – 5/9/26</li><li>• <b>Classroom Education</b> – National Prevention Week – Youth Alcohol Prevention Edu. 7th–9th Grade - 5/13</li><li>• <b>Youth Focus Group</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Gather youth input on strengths, gaps, and ideas for youth alcohol prevention and social media campaign drafts – 5/7 - After-school</li></ul></li></ul>	Directly engage youth in alcohol prevention education, build skills, increase awareness, and gather youth perspectives to inform programming.

# Adult/Community Prevention

Activities	Purpose/Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parent/Community Education</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-<i>Summer Resource Fair for Families</i> – 5/6 Games, Booths, share events &amp; activities for the summer for youth.</li> <li>-<i>LeChee Public Health Week Booth</i> – Completed</li> <li>-<i>Just Move It</i> – Kaibeto 5/12, Tonalea 5/19, LeChee 6/2, Coppermine 5/23,</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Adult Focus Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Set up booth at Summer Resource Fair with questionnaire for parents with raffle.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Community Newsletter</b> – 4/15           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Collaborate w/ City of Page – National Prevention Week – May Newsletter – Drafted.</li> <li>- Sent Alcohol Awareness Month article to local newspaper – completed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• <b>Social Media Campaign</b> – Collaborate with City of Page PI team, Youth Council &amp; PUSD Students Focus Group. 5/20 - Pres.</li> </ul>	<p>Increase awareness among parents and community members, strengthen community support, and promote prevention messaging across multiple platforms.</p>

# School- Based Prevention

Activities	Purpose/Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Classroom Education</b> – Collaboration with partners to education youth - 5/13</li><li>• <b>School Newsletter</b> – May 10-14 National Prevention week - Drafted</li><li>• <b>Arizona Youth Survey (AYS) Participation</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Collaboration w/ PUSD/CCHHS/ASU - by May 15</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Referral Pathways (MOU/MOA)</b> - Schedule a meeting with school, stakeholders, and health providers.</li></ul>	<p>Integrate prevention into school settings, support data-driven decision-making, and reinforce messaging through school communication channels.</p>

# Community- Based Prevention

Activities	Purpose/Focus
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Stakeholder Coalition</b><ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Next meeting May 6, 2026 at 12pm – Project updates, data dive, vision &amp; mission introduction. In Progress.</li></ul></li><li>• <b>Sustainability Toolkit</b> – Draft by 5/8</li><li>• <b>Resource Map</b> – Draft by 5/8</li><li>• <b>Business Partnership</b> - Research best practices and policies for how to partner with local businesses to limited access to alcohol to youth. 5/5</li><li>• <b>Social Media Campaign</b> – Draft by 4/24</li></ul>	Build long-term infrastructure for prevention, strengthen partnerships, improve service coordination, and ensure sustainability of efforts.



# NEXT STEPS

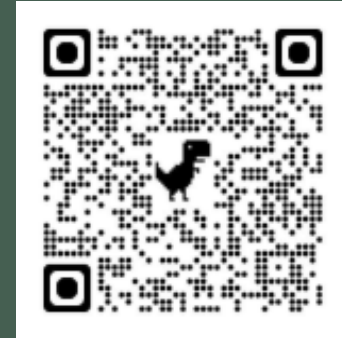
What will our story look like?

# Upcoming Presentations/Meetings

- **Next Meeting:**
  - Stake Holder Meeting #3
  - 5/6/2026 at 12pm MST
  - Virtual Meeting
- **Tentative Agenda:**
  - Project Updates
  - Data Dive – Review data
  - Mission/Vision Intro – What do you envision for the stakeholder meetings?
- Presentations
  - 5/20 - Youth Council – City of Page
- **Stakeholder #4 Meeting – 6/9/26**
  - MPH Practicum Report & Strategic Planning
  - In-Person, 11AM-1PM
  - Location TBD – Host?

# How to Get Involved

- Scan QR Codes -
  - Scan QR code to sign up for Project Teams or Stakeholder Meetings.
  
- New Members –
  - Answer these questions by April 24, 2026.
- Returning Members –
  - Revisited Café questions to fill any missing information





# Questions

**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING  
YOUTH WELLNESS!**

**CONTACT:  
BROOKE WHITETHORNE  
[BWHITETHORNE@MYGCU.EDU](mailto:BWHITETHORNE@MYGCU.EDU)**

Masters of Public  
Health (MPH)  
Graduate Student  
Page, Arizona

# References

- Arizona Department of Health Services. (2022). *Arizona youth survey state and county data report*. <https://www.azdhs.gov>
- Arizona Criminal Justice Commission. (2024). *Arizona youth survey statewide report*. <https://www.azcjc.gov>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *WISQARS fatal injury reports: Suicide data*. <https://wisqars.cdc.gov>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2023). *Youth risk behavior surveillance system (YRBSS)*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.cdc.gov/healthyyouth/data/yrbs>
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. (2025). *Underage Drinking in the United States (ages 12–20)*. National Institutes of Health.
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. (2019). *Strategic prevention framework (SPF)*. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. <https://www.samhsa.gov/prevention-framework>