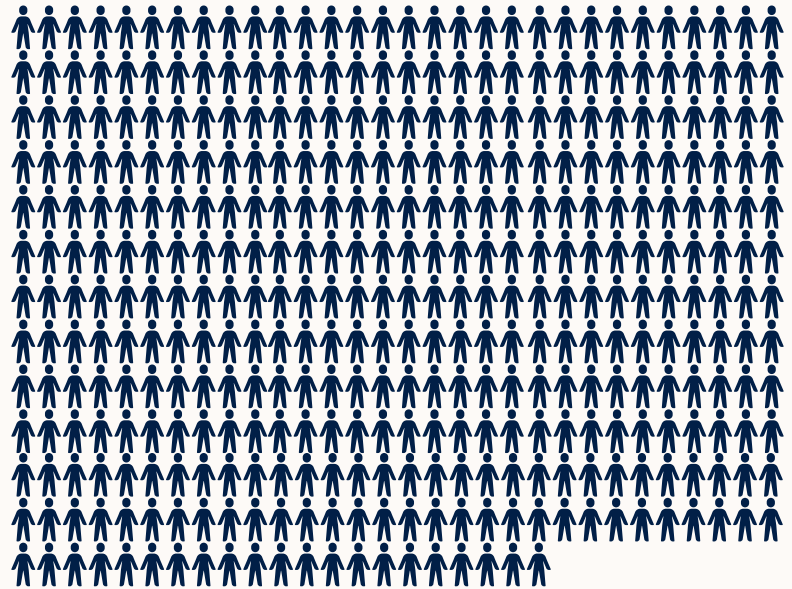


# OVERDOSE CRISIS AMONG BLACK ST. LOUISANS

Urgent action is needed to address racial inequities in overdose

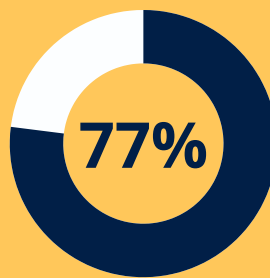
**381 BLACK MEN DIED OF A DRUG OVERDOSE IN ST. LOUIS CITY & COUNTY IN 2021**



**OVERDOSE DEATHS INVOLVING STIMULANTS AND OPIOIDS ARE INCREASING AMONG BLACK MEN IN ST. LOUIS. MORE PEOPLE ARE DYING AFTER CONSUMING FENTANYL-CONTAMINATED METH OR CRACK COCAINE ACCIDENTALLY**



**ST. LOUIS HAS AN UNSAFE & UNPREDICTABLE DRUG SUPPLY DUE TO THE PRESENCE OF FENTANYL**

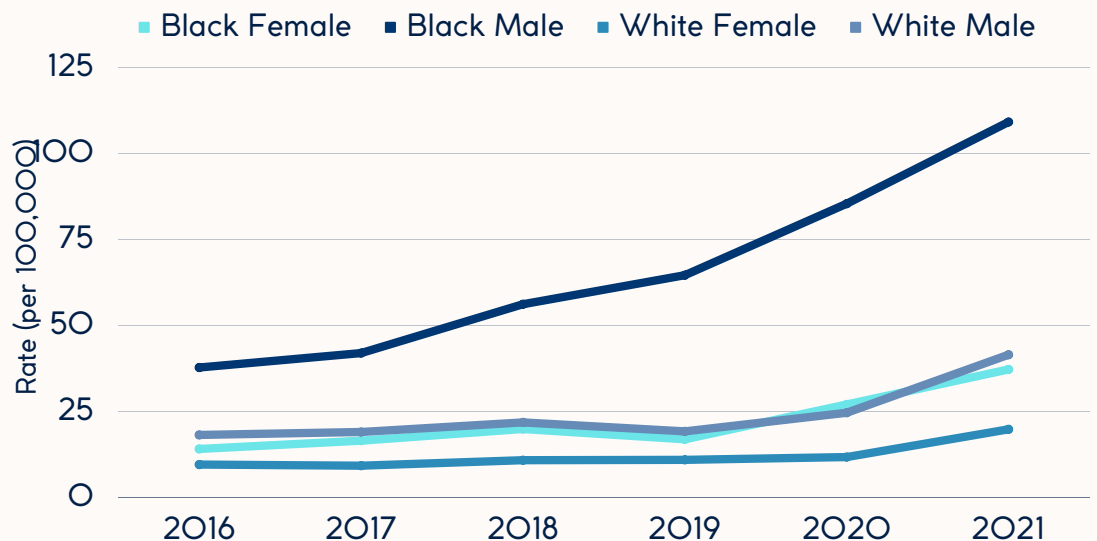


Fentanyl was present in 77% of all drug overdoses among Black individuals in 2021

**OPIOID-INVOLVED OVERDOSE DEATHS HAVE INCREASED 388% AMONG BLACK MEN SINCE 2015**



Missouri Opioid Overdose Mortality Rates by Race & Gender



# DRIVERS OF OVERDOSE AMONG BLACK ST. LOUISANS

- An unpredictable and unsafe drug supply full of fentanyl, which increases the risk of overdose and death
- A lack of services such as housing, substance use treatment, and medical care in Black communities because of disinvestment at the local, state, and federal levels
- Criminalized responses to drug use, such as incarceration & policing, that do more harm than good
- Historical & collective racial trauma in Black communities decreases trust and hope
- Healthcare and service providers are not meeting people's basic needs and don't make Black people who use drugs feel safe

## WAYS YOU CAN SAVE LIVES

### Keep People Alive

- Learn how to recognize and respond to an overdose. Carry naloxone (e.g. Narcan)
- Learn where to access safer use supplies (naloxone, sterile needles, fentanyl test kits, etc.)
- Learn about regional substance use treatment and service options (e.g. harm reduction services, outpatient treatment, residential treatment, medications such as methadone & buprenorphine)

### Reduce Drug Use Stigma

- Drug use is not always problematic. Many people use drugs without developing an addiction.
- Understand the difference between physical dependence and addiction. Addiction is when people keep using drugs despite harmful consequences (for example, failure to meet work, social, or family obligations)
- Show compassion and remember that people use drugs for a reason; drug use is often a way that people cope with individual and community trauma and pain
- Use person-first language. Use terms such as "people who use drugs" or "person with a substance use disorder." Don't use stigmatizing terms such as "addict," "junkie," or "crackhead."

### Advocate for...

- Black-led organizations to receive funding to provide services
- Universal healthcare so that people can afford treatment
- Reform to the criminal legal system to reduce the social harms of drug use
- Integration of harm reduction tools and practices to reduce the health risks of drug use



Get naloxone and other safer drug use resources at The T  
[theTstl.com](http://theTstl.com)



Get basic healthcare services & substance use treatment at Family Care Health Centers  
[FamilyCareHealthCenters.org](http://FamilyCareHealthCenters.org)



Visit [centerstl.org](http://centerstl.org) to learn more

