

STREET MEDICINE PHOENIX: HARM REDUCTION EFFORTS



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA

Mel & Enid Zuckerman
College of Public Health

Phoenix



Disclaimer / Disclosures

The views represented in this presentation are our own and do not reflect the perspectives of our employers or school institutions.

Speakers have no conflicts of interest to disclose.

About Us

- University of Arizona College of Public Health - Community Engagement and Outreach Program
 - Homeless outreach initiative
- Interprofessional health sciences and social justice team that brings together students and faculty from five universities to serve the needs of people experiencing homelessness in Phoenix, Arizona
- Utilizes a biopsychosocial, trauma-informed model of care



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The University of Arizona
Health Sciences



MAYO CLINIC COLLEGE
OF MEDICINE AND SCIENCE

ASU Arizona State
University

Creighton
UNIVERSITY

School of Medicine





Our Mission

To ensure access to the unmet needs of Phoenix's homeless population living and sleeping on the streets.



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Health Status

Common health issues among people experiencing homelessness⁴ :

- Noncommunicable disease, including lung disease, heart disease, cancer
- Poorly controlled chronic illness, particularly diabetes
- Malnutrition/undernutrition
- Substance use disorders
- Violence/injuries
 - High prevalence of traumatic brain injury
- Infectious disease
 - Particularly among sheltered homeless (i.e. TB outbreaks in shelters)
- Mental illness

Life expectancy for PEH approx. 12 years shorter than general population⁵



Core Functions

Addressing Social Determinants of Health



**Mobile Health
Outreach**



**Health & Community
Resource Navigation**



**Advocacy &
Homelessness Research**



What Students Learn from Street Med

- Learn to take care of a diverse population with unique sets of SDOH
- Practice listening skills. Sometimes it's the only thing you can do
- Build confidence in providing patient care and education
- Apply clinical skills learned through doctoring to help a population in need
- Learn how to manage multiple comorbidities and poorly controlled chronic condition
- Gain knowledge/clinical pearls from preceptors
- Work independently on organizing runs, running encounters, managing and resupplying needed materials
- And more...



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Student Teams



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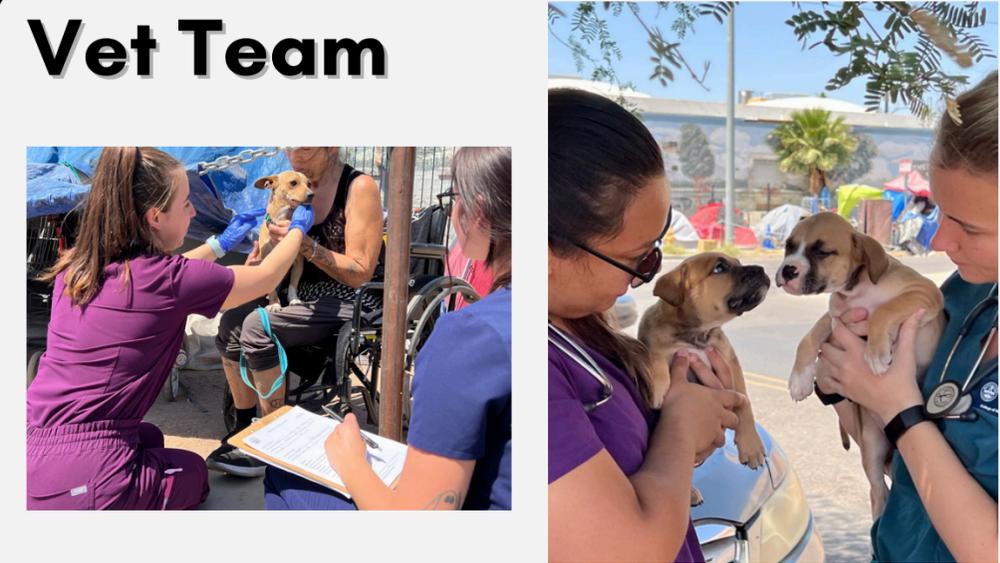
Wound Care Team



Menstrual Health Team



Vet Team



Harm Reduction Team



Clothing and Supply Team



HIV Team



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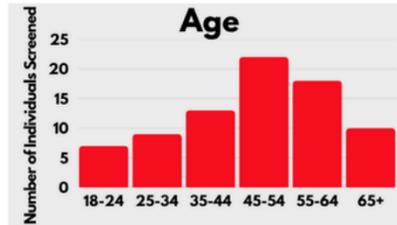
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Optometry Team

Optometry Team

Total # Glasses Provided
Since Jan 2022:

845



LOCATION OF SERVICES

85007 & 85004

Keys to Change - Grace Lutheran Church

315
Number of Prescription Glasses Distributed Since Jan 2022

530
Number of Reading Glasses Distributed Since Jan 2022

1,208
Number of Vision Screenings Since Jan 2022

With Support From
Our Partners:



Heat Relief/Shot in the Dark

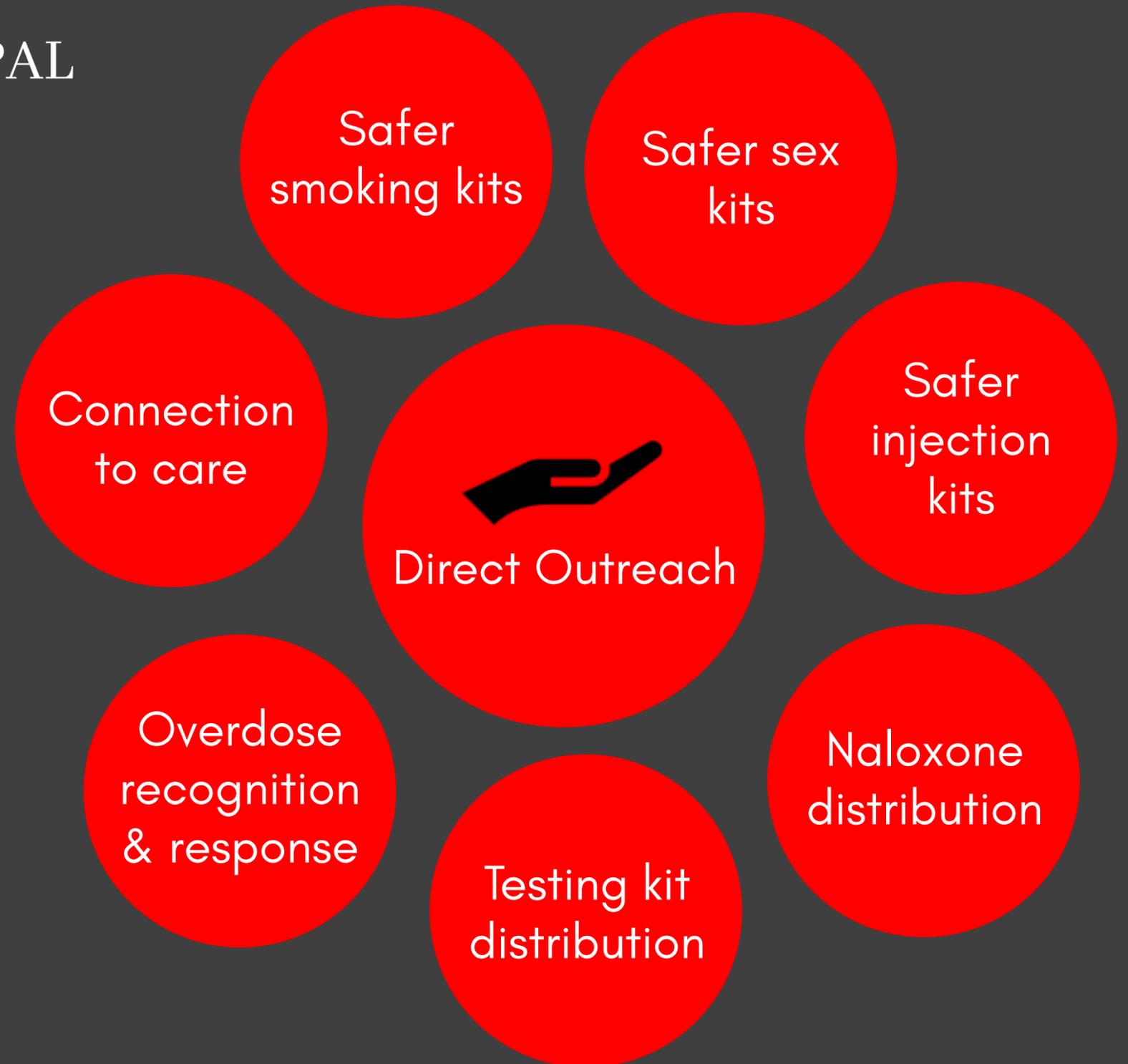


Harm Reduction Team

in collaboration with the MEZCOPH- NOPAL
(Naloxone and Overdose Prevention
Alliance) Initiative

We focus on **direct outreach** to teach harm reduction techniques, distribute harm reduction supplies, and provide support to people who use drugs.

NOPAL is a grant-funded program through the UofA Mel & Enid Zuckerman College of Public Health which collaborates with community outreach programs to provide harm-reduction services and education



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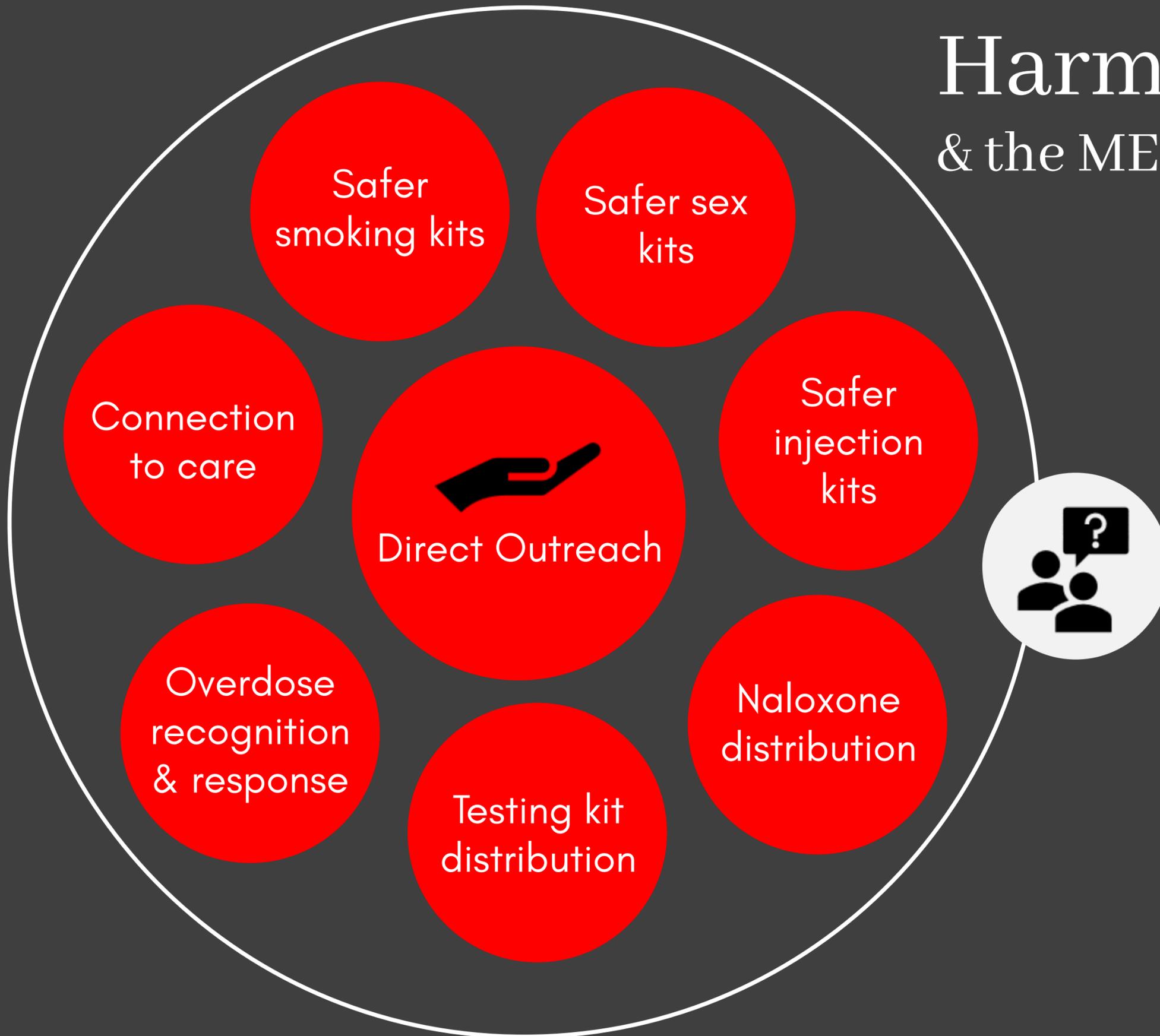
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Harm Reduction Team & the MEZCOPH-NOPAL Initiative

We also augment these direct services by providing **peer-to-peer training** for future medical professionals. We aim to **reduce stigma** toward people who use drugs among future healthcare providers.

Examples of trainings & educational efforts:

- Opioid overdose recognition & response training for MD students
- One-on-one train-the-trainer opioid overdose recognition & response
- Cross-campus talks on addiction medicine, harm reduction



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Harm Reduction Team: By the Numbers

#

815

Naloxone kits
distributed since
Jan 2025

#

268

Fentanyl &
xylazine test
strips distributed
since Aug 2025

#

117

Overdoses
reported
reversed since
Jan 2025

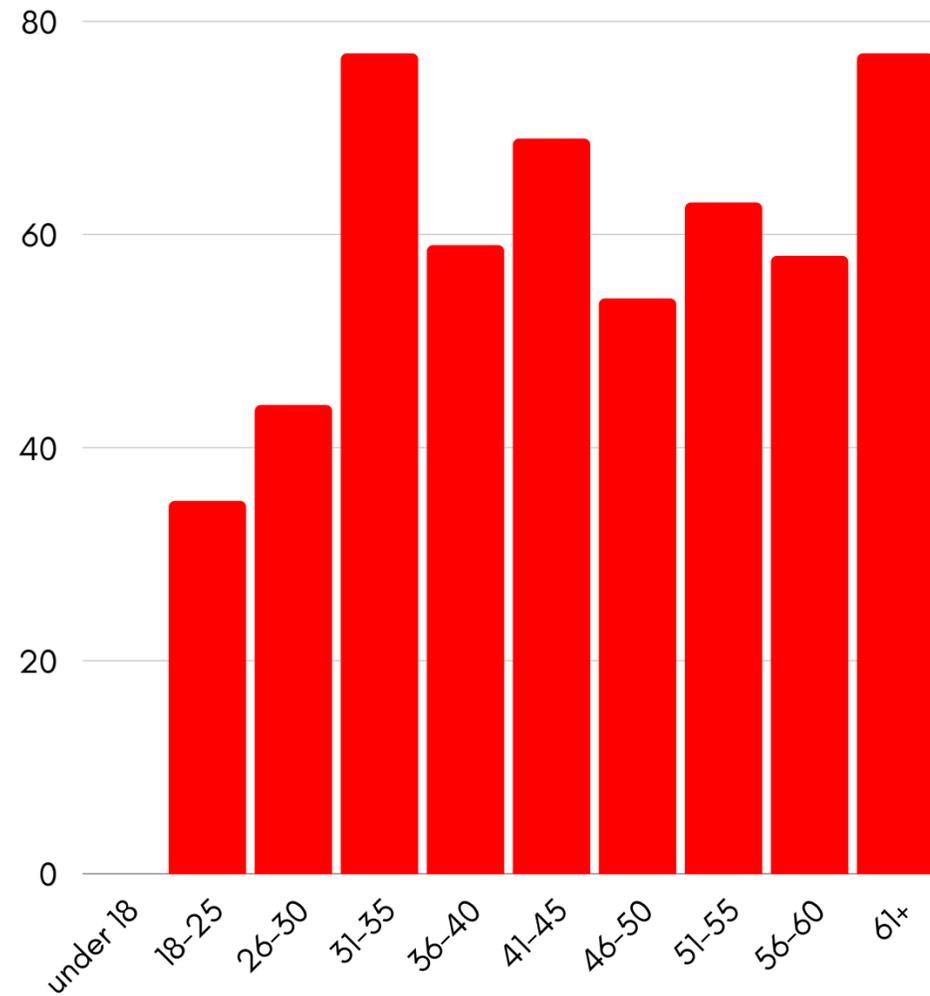


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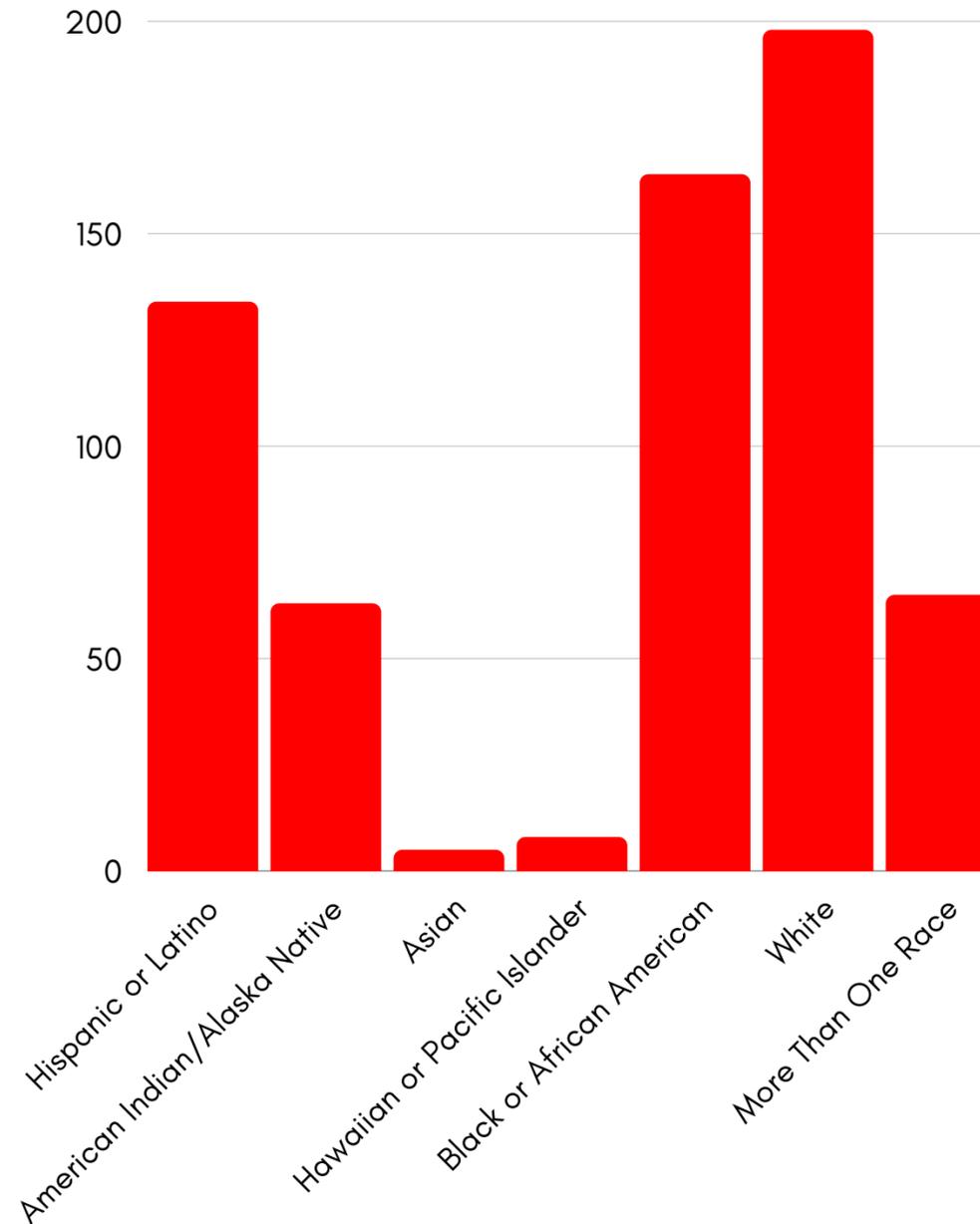
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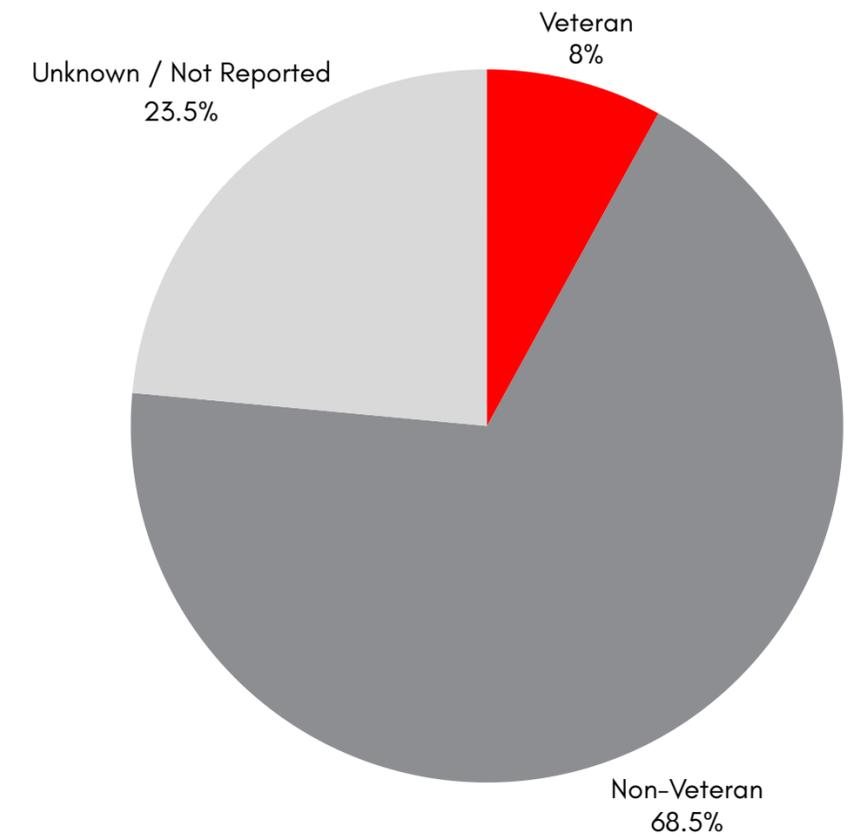
Naloxone Distribution



Age distribution of naloxone recipients
Note: 136 declined to respond

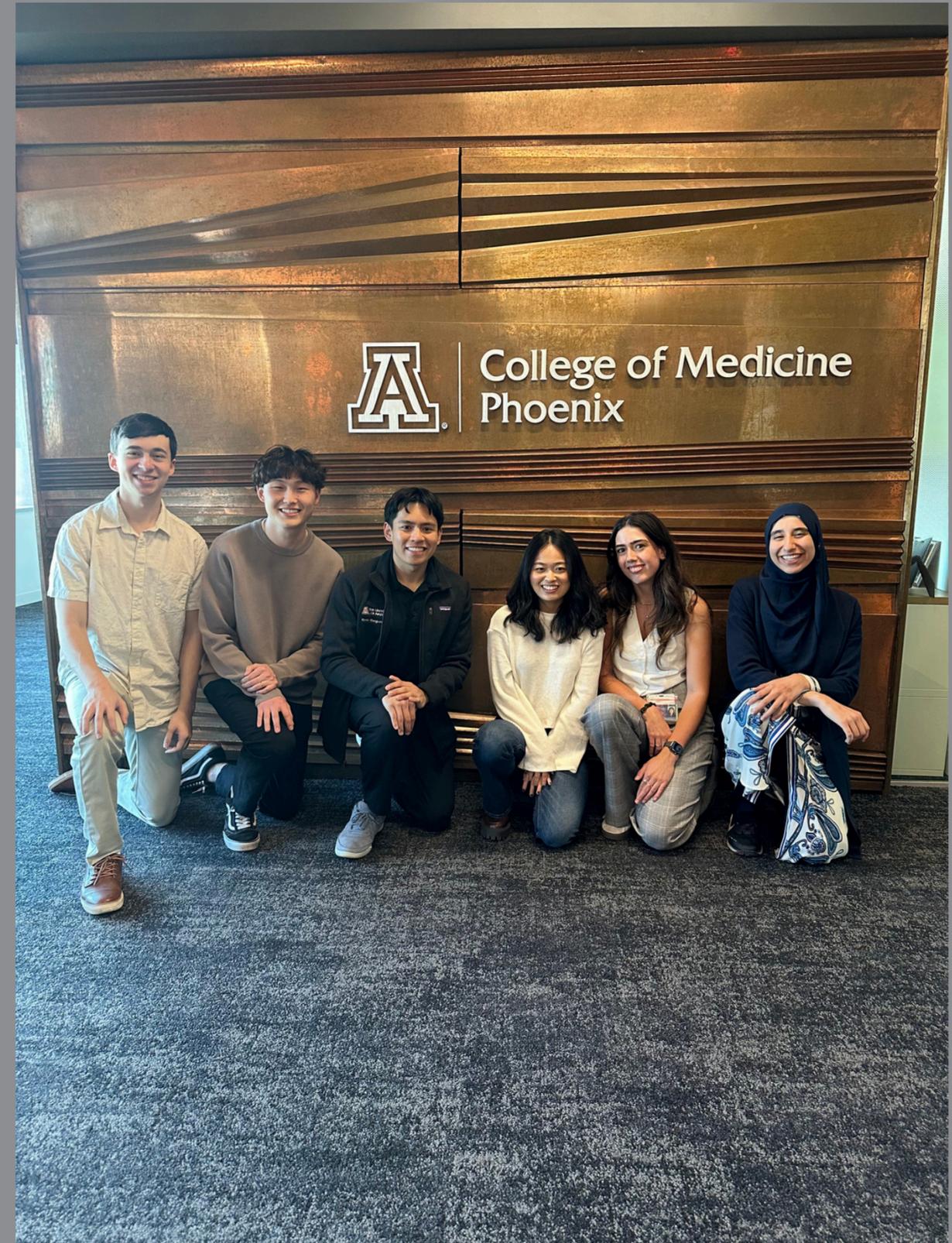


Self-reported race or ethnicity of naloxone recipients
Note: 172 declined to respond



Self-reported Veteran status of naloxone recipients

Questions?



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Contact Us

Website:
[publichealth.arizona.edu/outreach/
street-medicine-phoenix](http://publichealth.arizona.edu/outreach/street-medicine-phoenix)

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