



## Racial Equity Analysis for Significant Board Items

**Board Item Date: 9/24/2024**

**Board Item Name: Opioid Settlement Funds Programming**

**Department/Agency (Lead): Dept. of Health Services**

*If this is an inter-departmental initiative, please identify a lead.*

**Person(s) Completing Analysis: Roy Dajalos**

### 1. **Proposal: What is your proposal and the desired results and outcomes?**

- a. What is the policy, program, practice, or budget decision under consideration?
- b. What are the desired results (in the community) and outcomes (within your own organization)?
- c. What does this proposal have an ability to impact?

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Children and youth	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Health
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Community engagement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Housing
<input type="checkbox"/> Contracting equity	<input type="checkbox"/> Human services
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Criminal justice	<input type="checkbox"/> Jobs
<input type="checkbox"/> Economic development	<input type="checkbox"/> Parks and recreation
<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Planning / development
<input type="checkbox"/> Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation
<input type="checkbox"/> Food access and affordability	<input type="checkbox"/> Utilities
<input type="checkbox"/> Government practices	<input type="checkbox"/> Workforce equity
<input type="checkbox"/> Other _____	

The Opioid Settlement Funds Programming Proposal aligns funds with equity centered socials and the county's racial equity and social justice strategic pillar. Public relations outreach aims to support BIPOC groups that have been disproportionately impacted by the opioid crisis with prevention education and overdose reductions. Sheriff's office prevention, education, research, and abatement team will increase community engagement, prevention, and tackle root causes that impact justice involved persons. This justice involved group is further supported by plans to fund increased substance use disorder treatment. Further, funds for recovery housing and aftercare will address housing needs to vulnerable persons. Vulnerable persons with mental health and co-occurring substance use needs will be supported by funded dual diagnosis programming. Children and youth are supported by investments in infrastructure and programming for youth residential substance use disorder treatment, crisis

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services, and outpatient treatment. In summation this proposal will impact the health outcomes of children and youth, justice involved and unsheltered persons, co-occurring substance use disorder and mental health, Latinx, and LGBTQ groups: it will prevent overdoses, increase treatment, increase housing opportunities, and support safer choices that reduce harm to the community as a whole.

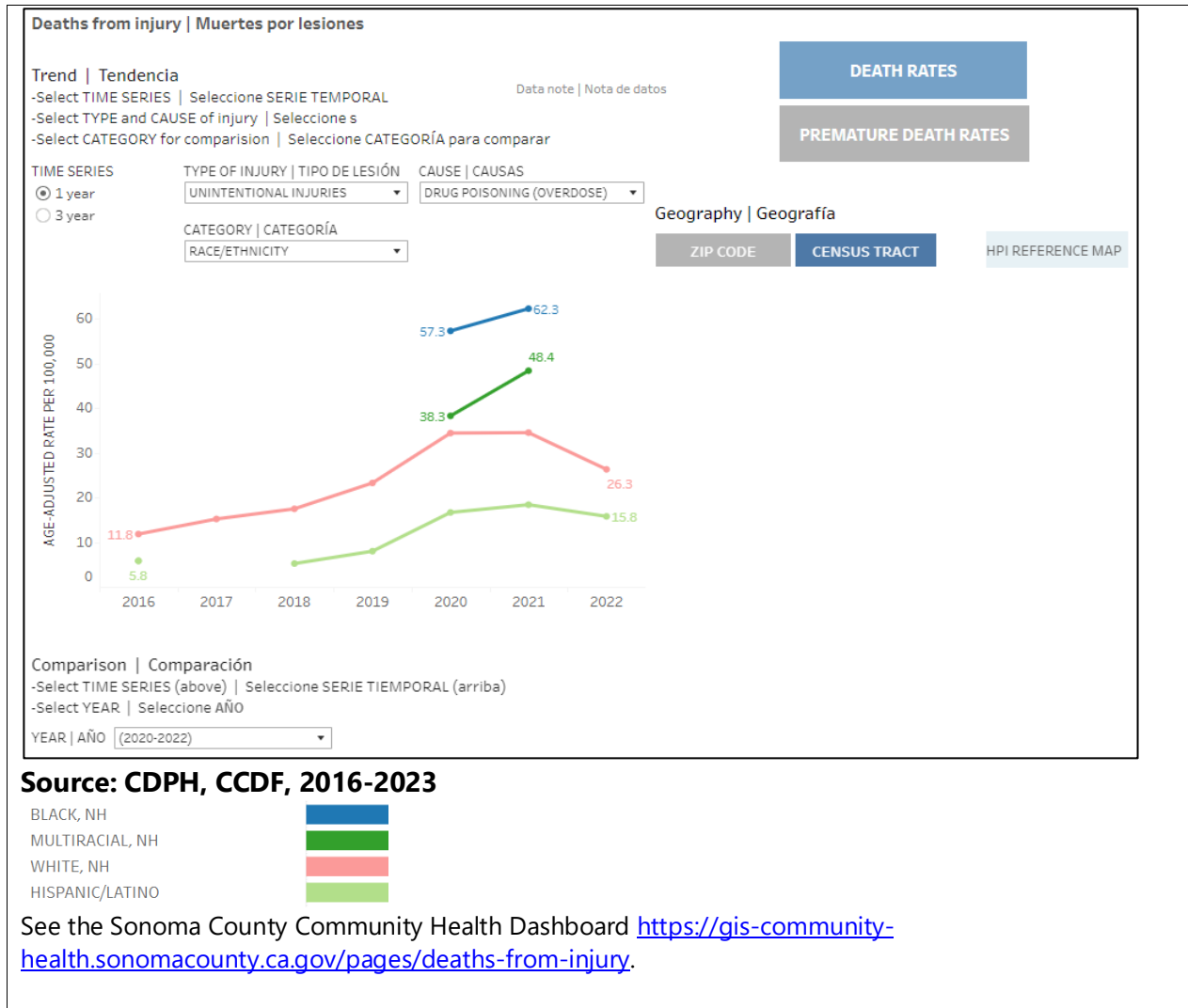
### **2. Data: What's the data? What does the data tell us?**

- a. Will the proposal have impacts in specific geographic areas (neighborhoods, areas, or regions)? What are the racial demographics of those living in the area?
- b. What does population level data, including quantitative and qualitative data, tell you about existing racial inequities? What does it tell you about root causes or factors influencing racial inequities?
- c. What performance level data do you have available for your proposal? This should include data associated with existing programs or policies.
- d. Are there data gaps? What additional data would be helpful in analyzing the proposal? If so, how can you obtain better data?

### **3. Data: What's the data? What does the data tell us?**

Data from DHS's Health Data & Epidemiology Unit: (Source: CDPH, CCDF, 2016-2023) drug overdose from opioids contributes to Premature Death labeled as Unintentional Injury. In 2021, 80.25% of all drug overdose deaths in Sonoma County were due to opioids. (74% was due specifically to fentanyl.) In 2021, Blacks accounted for 62.3 out of every 100,000 overdose deaths while Whites were recorded at 34.5 for every 100,000. For the same year, Hispanic/Latino overdose deaths were recorded at 18.4 out of every 100,000

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#### 4. Community Engagement: How have communities been engaged? Are there opportunities to expand engagement?

- Who are the most affected community members who are concerned with or have experience related to this proposal? How have you involved these community members in the development of this proposal?
- What has your engagement process told you about the burdens or benefits for different groups?
- What has your engagement process told you about the factors that produce or perpetuate racial inequity related to this proposal?

The most impacted community members concerned with and having experience related to this proposal are: justice involved persons, unsheltered persons, persons with co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders, adolescents with substance use disorders, and Latinx persons.

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Design panel for board item included representatives with lived mental health and substance use disorder experience, Latinx representation, and subject matter expert with experience in field of homeless outreach and shelter services.

Engagement included a discussion of needs for substance use disorder system in Sonoma County at Behavioral Health Quality Improvement Committee. The process of engagement at this community showed the disparity in reaching the Latinx community is an ongoing struggle and one that should be addressed with any service-oriented programming. It illustrated a need to expand and integrate the substance use disorder continuum of services including treatment needs for youth, prevention and education, and more integration supporting co-occurring conditions such as mental health and substance use disorders.

The engagement process has shown that there are continued bias and barriers to reaching Latinx populations and stigma for persons with substance use disorders. Education, prevention, and targeted information media campaigns can help address these barriers, save lives, and produce better health outcomes.

### **5. Analysis and Strategies: What are your strategies for advancing racial equity?**

- a. Given what you have learned from research and stakeholder involvement, how will the proposal increase or decrease racial equity? Who would benefit from or be burdened by your proposal?
- b. What are potential unintended consequences? What are the ways in which your proposal could be modified to enhance positive impacts or reduce negative impacts?
- c. Are there complementary strategies that you can implement? What are ways in which existing partnerships could be strengthened to maximize impact in the community? How will you partner with stakeholders for long-term positive change?
- d. Are the impacts aligned with your community outcomes defined in Step #1?

**Direction from the Board is still pending.**

### **6. Implementation: What is your plan for implementation?**

- a. Describe your plan for implementation.
- b. Is your plan:
  - Realistic?
  - Adequately funded?
  - Adequately resourced with personnel?
  - Adequately resourced with mechanisms to ensure successful implementation and enforcement?
  - Adequately resourced to ensure on-going data collection, public reporting, and community engagement?

Direction from the Board is still pending.

*If the answer to any of these questions is no, what resources or actions are needed?*

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### 7. ***Accountability and Communication: How will you ensure accountability, communicate, and evaluate results?***

- a. How will impacts be documented and evaluated? Are you achieving the anticipated outcomes? Are you having impact in the community?
- b. What are your messages and communication strategies that will help advance racial equity?
- c. How will you continue to partner and deepen relationships with communities to make sure your work to advance racial equity is working and sustainable for the long-haul?

Impact can be evaluated in terms of number of individuals completing residential and outpatient drug treatment with further calculations to different impact by racial and ethnic background.

Overdose data by demographics including a lens toward equitable racial outcomes will be analyzed. A goal would be reduction in all groups but especially those where BIPOC have been trending upward in recent years.

A targeted media campaign for education and prevention will include specific events and messaging for BIPOC with emphasis on Latinx populations.

Messaging will boost awareness of inequities in healthcare and health outcomes and work to destigmatize substance use disorders such that communities feel safer asking for help and using harm reduction methods.

To depend relationships in communities the public relations outreach will target specific BIPOC and youth community events with strategic tabling events. The prevention efforts will include information campaign and coalition building to support sustainable partnerships.