



Willows City Council Regular Meeting

March 26, 2024
Willows City Hall
6:00 PM

City Council
Gary Hansen, Mayor
Evan Hutson, Vice Mayor
Rick Thomas, Council Member
Forrest Sprague, Council Member
David Vodden, Council Member

City Manager
Marti Brown

City Clerk
Amos Hoover

201 North Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041

Agenda

Watch the Council meeting online via Zoom (Passcode 95988):

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84796283443?pwd=vv9tGGXft7msadlPdi41zJlaC2baNN.1>

Remote viewing of the City Council meeting for members of the public is provided for convenience only. In the event that the remote viewing connection malfunctions for any reason, the City Council reserves the right to conduct the meeting without remote viewing.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

3. **ROLL CALL**

4. **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

5. **CEREMONIAL MATTERS**

- a. Proclamation – National Vietnam War Veterans Day
- b. Proclamation – Kiwanis Club 100th anniversary

6. **PRESENTATION**

a. **The Dangers of Fentanyl**

Recommended Action: Receive presentation from Dr. Jared Garrison on the dangers of fentanyl.
Contact: Marti Brown, City Manager, mbrown@cityofwillows.org

7. **PUBLIC COMMENT & CONSENT CALENDAR FORUM**

All matters on the Consent Calendar are considered routine and are approved by one motion and vote, unless Councilmembers or the City Manager first requests that a matter be removed for separate discussion and action. Individuals wishing to address the City Council concerning Consent Calendar items or regarding matters that are not already on the agenda are invited to make oral comments of up to three minutes at this time. Please address your comments to the Mayor and Councilmembers, and not to staff and/or the audience. By State law, the Council is not permitted to undertake any action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. If you have any documentation that you would like distributed to the City Council, please mail it to the City Clerk at 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988 or email it to: ahoover@cityofwillows.org.

a. **Register Approval**

Recommended Action: Approve general checking, payroll, and direct deposit check registers.
Contact: Amos Hoover, City Clerk, ahoover@cityofwillows.org

b. **Minutes Approval**

Recommended Action: Approve the March 12, 2024, meeting minutes.

Contact: Amos Hoover, City Clerk, ahoover@cityofwillows.org

c. **Sierra Nevada Cheese Company Grant Letter of Support**

Recommended Action: Approve a letter of support in favor of Sierra Nevada Cheese Company's grant application for their anaerobic digestion project.

Requested by: Mayor Hansen

Contact: Marti Brown, City Manager, mbrown@cityofwillows.org

8. **DISCUSSION & ACTION CALENDAR**

All matters in this section of the agenda are discussed and will be acted on individually. Individuals wishing to address the City Council concerning any of these items are invited to make oral comments of up to three minutes at this time. Please address your comments to the Mayor and Councilmembers, and not to staff and/or the audience. When the Mayor calls for public comment, please raise your hand to be acknowledged. While not required, the City requests that you please state your name clearly for the audio recording. By State law, the Council is not permitted to undertake any action or discussion on any item not appearing on the posted agenda. If you have any documentation that you would like distributed to the City Council, please mail it to the City Clerk at 201 North Lassen Street, Willows, CA 95988 or email it to: ahoover@cityofwillows.org.

a. **Glenn Groundwater Authority (GGA) - Prop 218 Study**

Recommended Action: Discuss the Glenn Groundwater Authority's upcoming Proposition 218 Study and approve paying the GGA assessment on City of Willows parcels.

Requested and Discussion facilitated by: Mayor Hansen

Contact: Gary Hansen, Mayor, ghansen@cityofwillows.org

9. **COMMENTS & REPORTS**

- a. Council Correspondence
- b. City Council Comments & Reports
- c. City Manager's Report

10. **CLOSED SESSION**

Pursuant to Government Code Sections §54954.3, the public will have an opportunity to directly address the legislative body on the item below prior to the Council convening into closed session. Public Comments are generally restricted to three minutes.

a. **Conference with Labor Negotiators (§54957.6)**

Agency Designated Representatives:

Marti Brown, City Manager and Carolyn Walker, City Attorney

Employee Organizations: WEA, UPEC, and Management

b. **Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957)**

Title: City Manager

c. **Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation**

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to § 54956.9(b)

11. ADJOURNMENT

This agenda was posted on March 21, 2024.

Amos Hoover

Amos Hoover, City Clerk

A complete agenda packet, including staff reports and back-up information, is available for public inspection during normal work hours at City Hall or the Willows Public Library at 201 North Lassen Street in Willows or on the City's website at www.cityofwillows.org.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Willows will make available to members of the public any special assistance necessary to participate in this meeting. If requested, the agenda shall be made available in appropriate alternative formats to persons with a disability, as required by Section 202 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Sec. 12132). The public should contact the City Clerk's office at 934-7041 to make such a request. Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

The City of Willows is an Equal Opportunity Provider.



CEREMONIAL MATTERS

City of Willows

Proclamation

National Vietnam War Veterans Day

WHEREAS, the United States of America Vietnam War Commemoration gives us the opportunity for all Americans to recognize, honor and thank our Vietnam Veterans and their families for their service and sacrifices during the Vietnam War from November 1, 1955 - April 30, 1975; and

WHEREAS, more than 9,000 organizations across America have joined with the Department of Defense as Commemorative Partners to honor our Nation's Vietnam Veterans, including the Jacob Bennett Chapter of the New Mexico State Organization National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution; and

WHEREAS, the commemoration includes the 9 million Americans, approximately 7 million living today, who served in the United States Armed Forces during this period, and makes no distinction between those who served in-country, in-theater, or were stationed elsewhere during those 20 years because all of them answered the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, on March 28, 2017, the U.S. government passed the Vietnam War Veterans Recognition Act officially recognizing March 29th as National Vietnam War Veterans Day.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gary Hansen, Mayor of the City of Willows and on behalf of the Willows City Council and the Citizens of Willows, do hereby proclaim March 29, 2024, as Vietnam War Veterans Day and urge all citizens of Willows to recognize the valor and sacrifice of our veterans of the Vietnam War through ceremonies and prayers.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 26th day of March 2024.

Gary Hansen, Mayor



City of Willows

Proclamation

Kiwanis Club 100th Anniversary

WHEREAS, Kiwanis International is one of the largest service organizations in the world, with more than 430,000 members of all ages and abilities in more than 80 nations and geographic areas; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Kiwanis Club of Willows are devoted to improving the world one child and one community at a time, by seeking to give primacy to the human and spiritual rather than the material values of life; and

WHEREAS, in addition to improving the lives of children in Willows and in communities around the world, Kiwanis club members promote the development of community leaders, positive role models, intercultural understanding and cooperation, and opportunities for fellowship, personal growth, professional development and community service; and

WHEREAS, the first Kiwanis club started its service in Detroit, Michigan, U.S., in 1915; and the Kiwanis Club of Willows held its first meeting on March 26, 1924; and

WHEREAS, the service provided by the Kiwanis Club of Willows will continue to have a positive impact on our community and citizens.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Gary Hansen, Mayor of the City of Willows and on behalf of the Willows City Council and the Citizens of Willows, do hereby proclaim March 26, 2024, as Kiwanis Day in honor of their 100 years of service to our city and call upon all citizens of Willows to render support to the members of this organization and to make themselves aware of Kiwanis International, whose members this day are providing meaningful service to our homes, schools and community.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and official seal this 26th day of March 2024.

Gary Hansen, Mayor





PRESENTATION

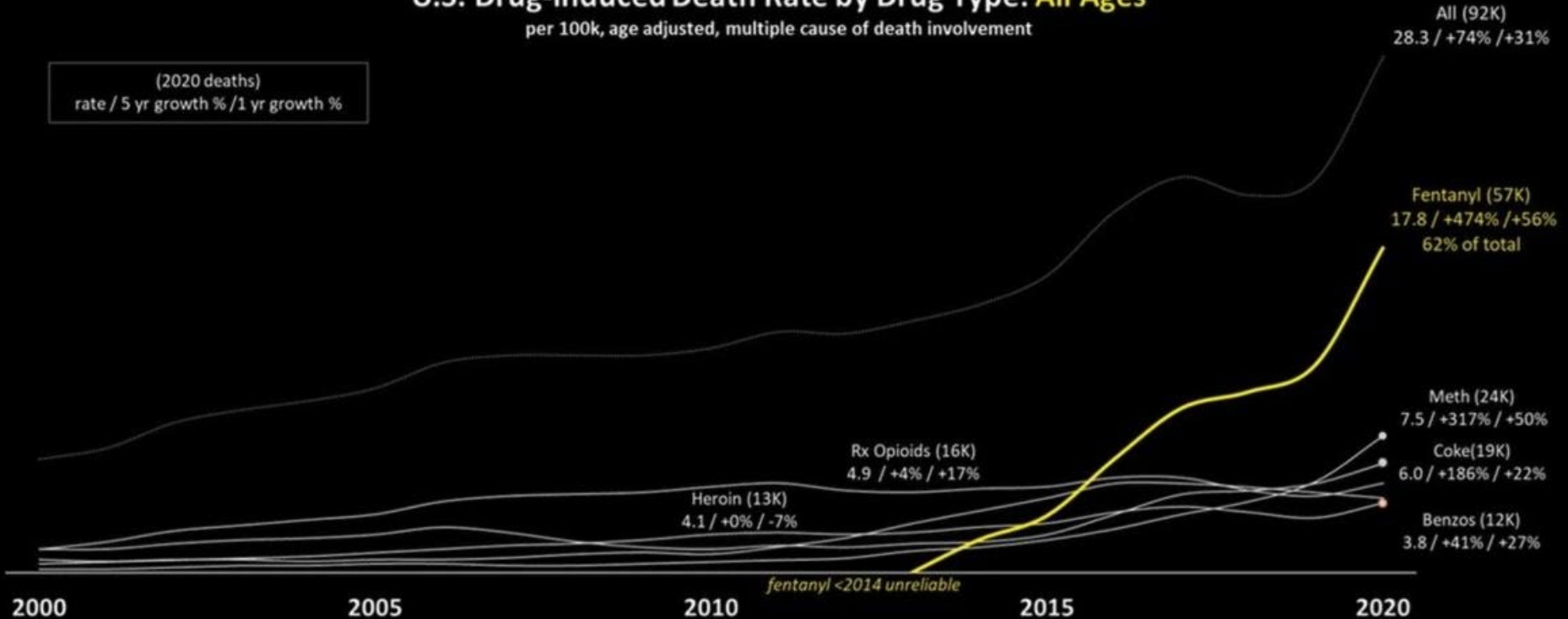
Fentanyl

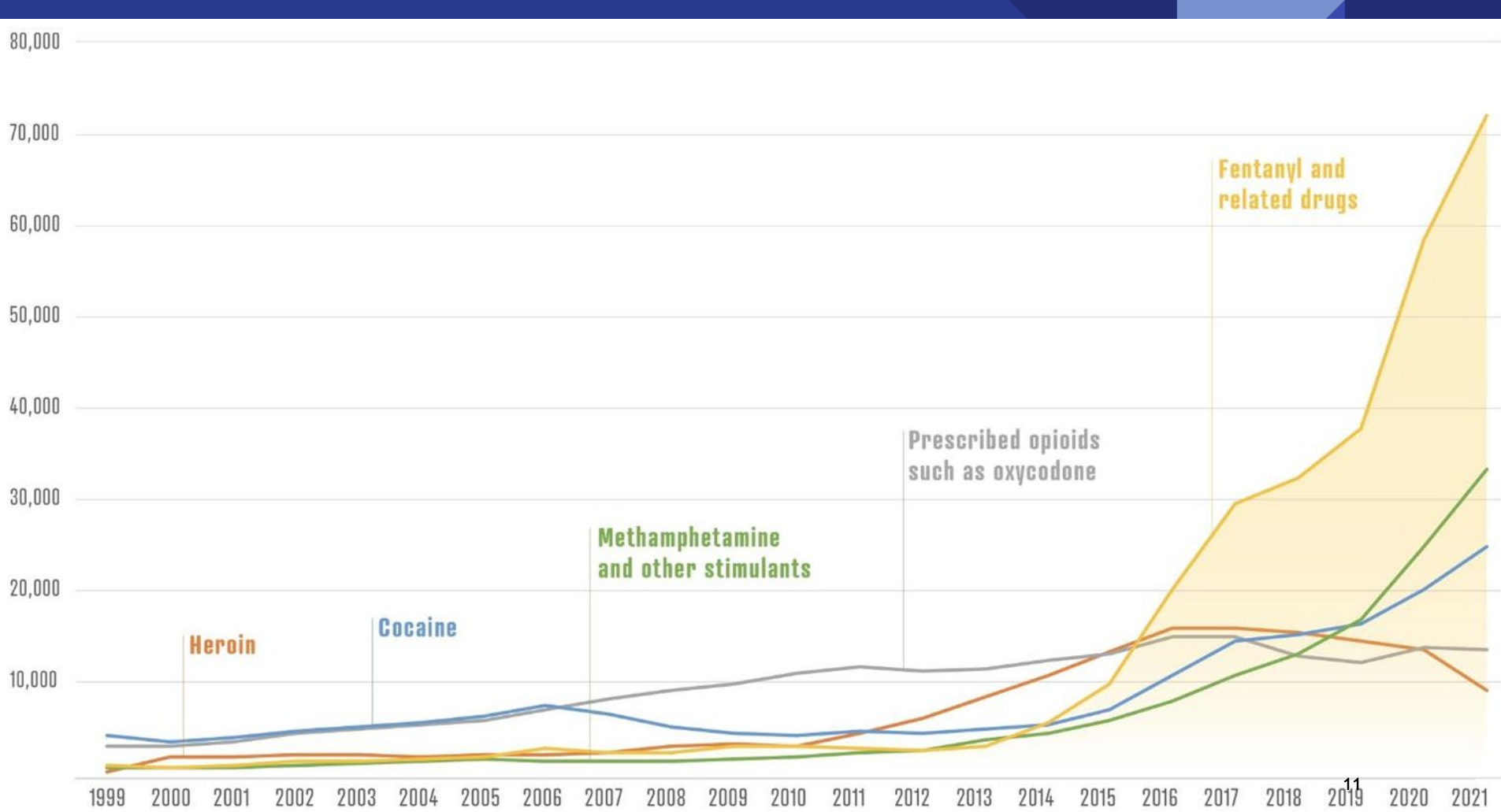
What are people dying of?

Homicide	26,031 (2021)	Overdose 109,940 (2022)
Suicide	49,449 (2022)	
<u>Car accidents</u>	<u>42,795 (2022)</u>	
Total	118,275	

The Facts

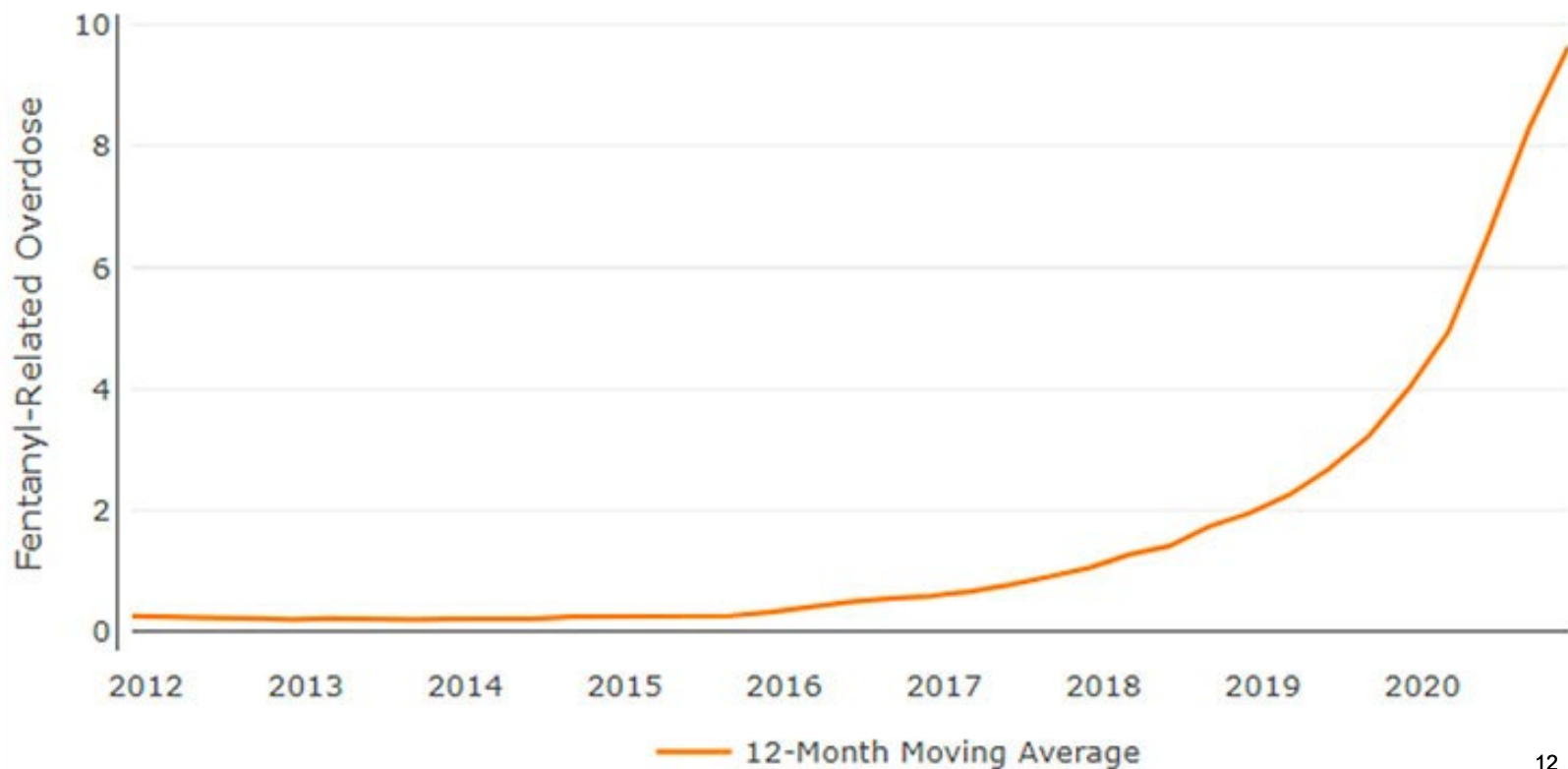
U.S. Drug-induced Death Rate by Drug Type: All Ages
per 100k, age adjusted, multiple cause of death involvement





Fentanyl-Related Overdose Deaths - Total Population

Age-Adjusted Rate per 100,000 Residents





Seized by Orland Police Department



Why is Fentanyl so Dangerous?



**A LETHAL DOSE
OF FENTANYL**



Real Oxycodone

Fake Oxycodone



Source: Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Oxycodone

Street names include: 30s, M30s, oxy, kickers, 40s, 512s, blues



Real Xanax

Fake Xanax



Source: Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Xanax

Street names include: bars, benzos, bricks, ladders, sticks, xanies, zanbars, z-bars



Real Adderall

Fake Adderall



Source: Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

Amphetamine

Prescribed as: Adderall, Ritalin, Concerta, Dexedrine, Focalin, Metadate and Methylin.

Chocolate Chip Cookie Effect

Not only do they have to measure like a chemist
They have to mix like a chemist

“There is only one terrifying way
to know if it is a lethal dose of
fentanyl”

Symptoms of Overdose

Small pupils

Falling asleep or losing consciousness

Slow breathing

Choking or gurgling sounds

Limp body

Discolored skin (especially around lips and nails)

Narcan



Laws and Regulations

Laws are currently in place that support making naloxone more readily available. For example, [California Civil Code Section 1714.22 \(Statutes of 2013, Chapter 707, Sec. 1\) \(PDF\)](#) eliminates civil and criminal liability for: 1) licensed health care providers that prescribe naloxone and issue standing orders for the distribution of naloxone, and 2) individuals that administer naloxone to someone suspected of experiencing an overdose after receiving it along with required training. This law took effect on January 1, 2014.

- [Drug Overdose Treatment Liability Bill](#)
- [Good Samaritan Law Handout \(PDF\)](#)
- [Good Samaritan Bill](#)



One red line = positive for fentanyl

Two red lines = negative for fentanyl

5 Things to Do to Prevent Overdose Death

Educate

Learn the signs of overdose

Carry Narcan

Test for fentanyl

Never use alone



Didier family

17-year-old Zach Didier passed away from Fentanyl two days after Christmas in 2020.



Questions?

GLENN COUNTY
**TOWN HALL
MEETING ON
FENTANYL**

131 E WALKER ST, ORLAND

6:00PM – 8:00PM
Dinner Provided

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 15, 2024





SHASTA COUNTY, Calif. — The growth of fentanyl use, overdoses, and deaths have been well-documented, nationally and locally. Today, Shasta County Supervisors heard more about it and pledged to do something about it.

Adult Services Program Manager Katie Cassidy consolidated information from various sources in a presentation to the board: Since 2019, there have been 95 deaths; 402 overdoses in Shasta County. She says several highways meet in and around Redding and that could contribute to a high rate of opioid use and abuse.

“The I-5 corridor: a huge trafficking zone where it intersects with multiple highways which, we think, also influences that,” said Katie. “The fentanyl deaths really are concentrated more along the I-5 corridor, is another pattern that was brought to light with this information. Whereas when we can take a comparison with the meth data, it was more spread out across the community.”

The number of cases is showing a sharp rise with the primary affected age group from 25-44 years old.

Was it an overdose or a
POISONING?

Comparing California data - 2022 to 2023

	2022 All drug OD deaths	2023 All drug OD deaths
January	977	1086
February	957	949
March	935	1079
April	978	1002
May	964	1037
June	968	889
Total, first half	5779	6042

5%↑

	2022 Any Opioid OD deaths	2023 Any Opioid OD deaths
	620	738
	645	639
	660	739
	677	732
	671	737
	630	654

3903

4239

9%↑

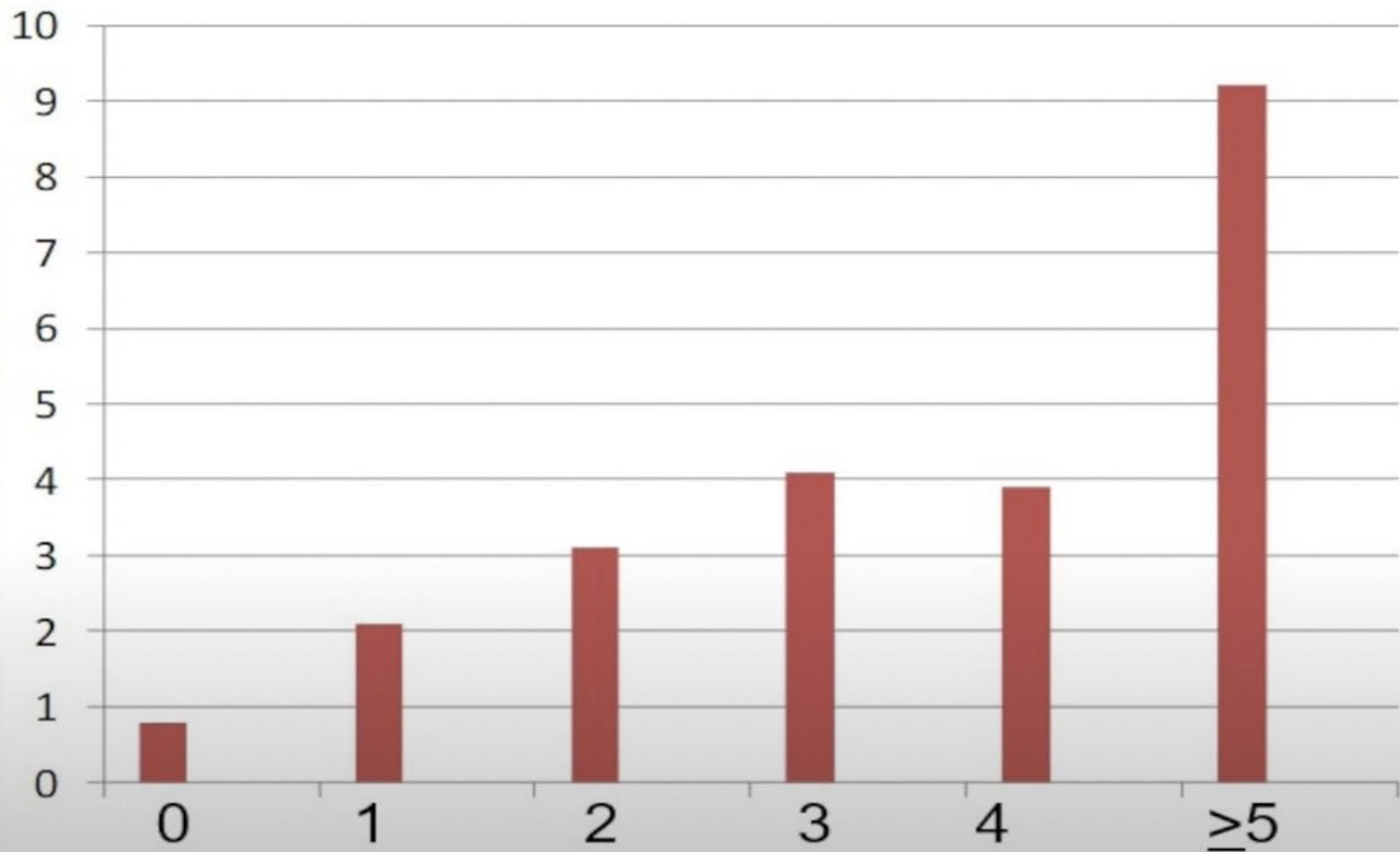
	2022 Fentanyl OD deaths	2023 Fentanyl OD deaths
	529	663
	555	592
	570	668
	595	672
	588	669
	571	592

3408

3856

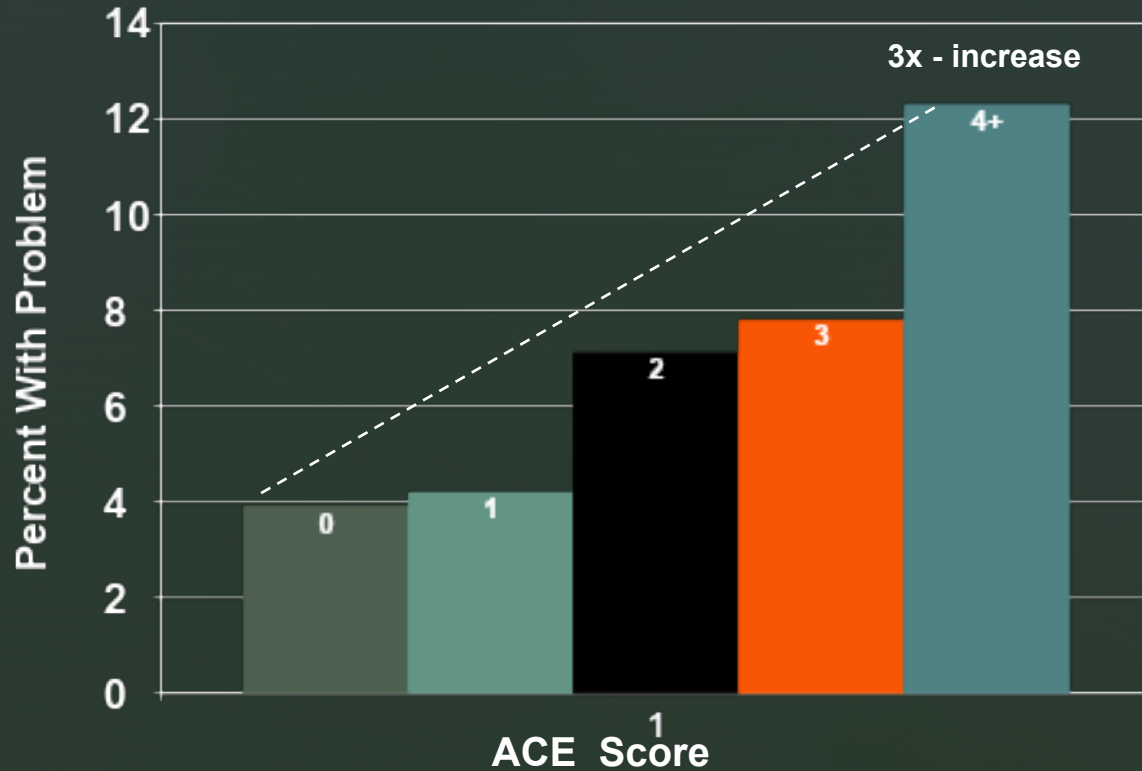
13%↑

% addicted

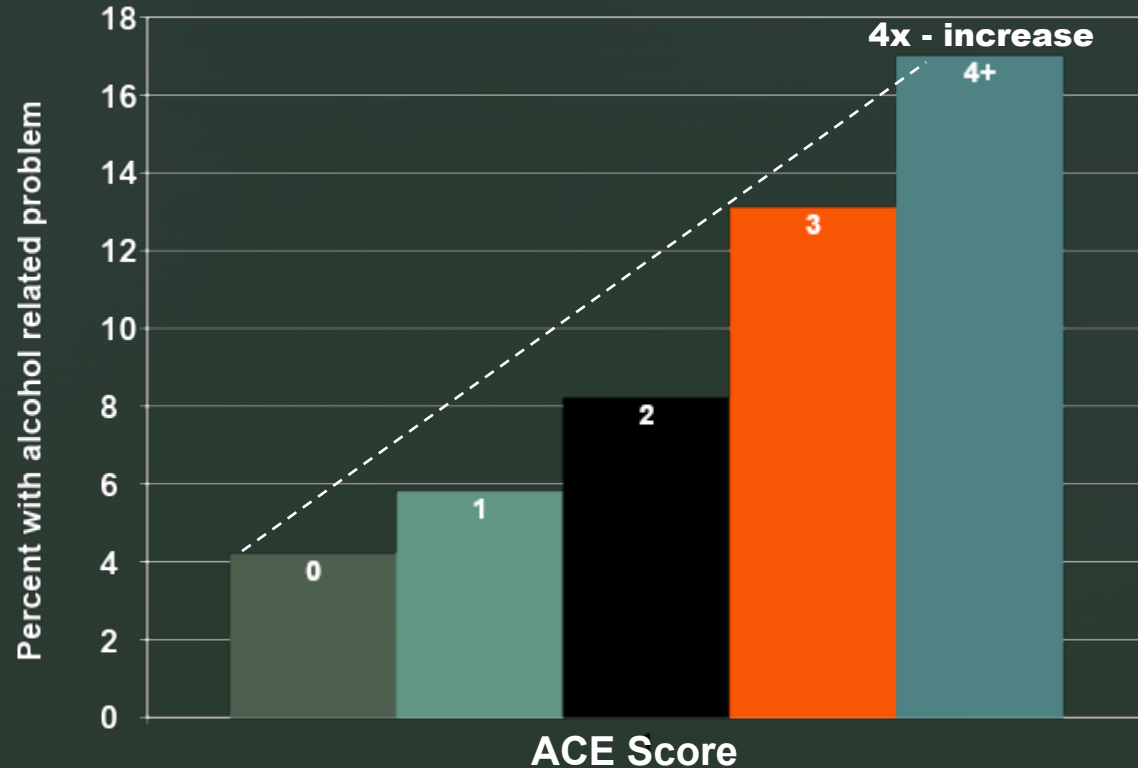


ACE Score

ACE Score vs Smoking

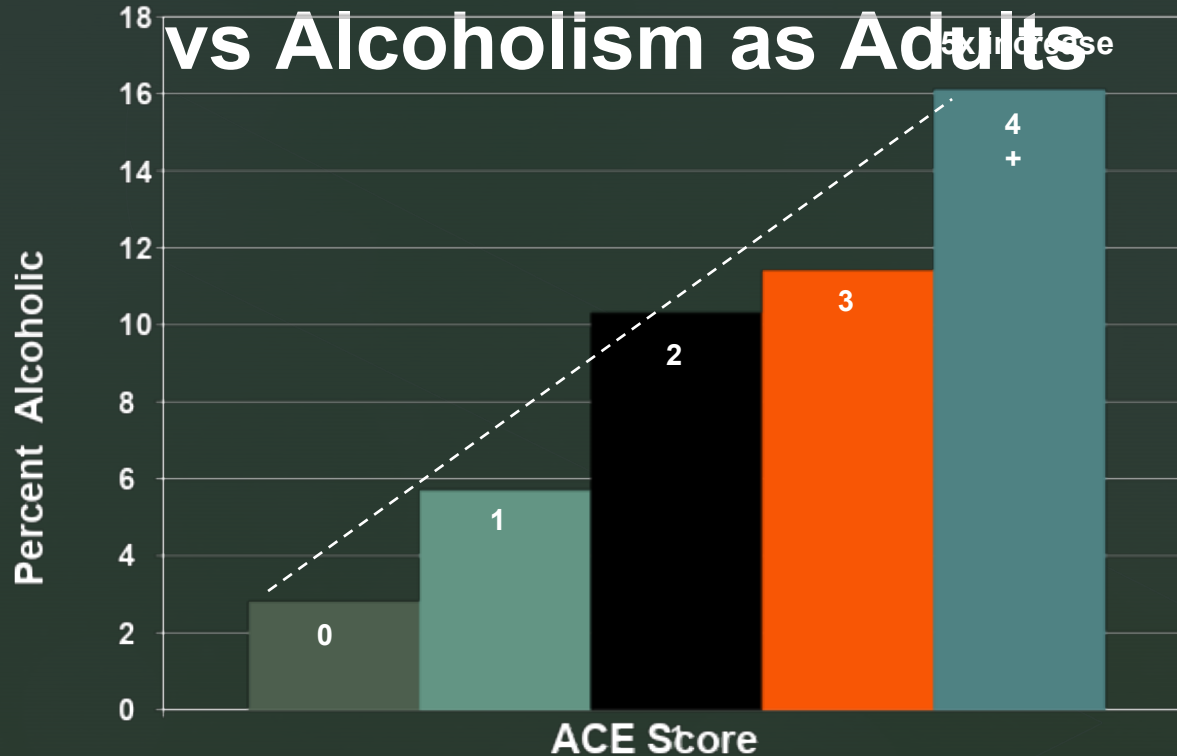


ACE Score vs Alcohol Use by age 14

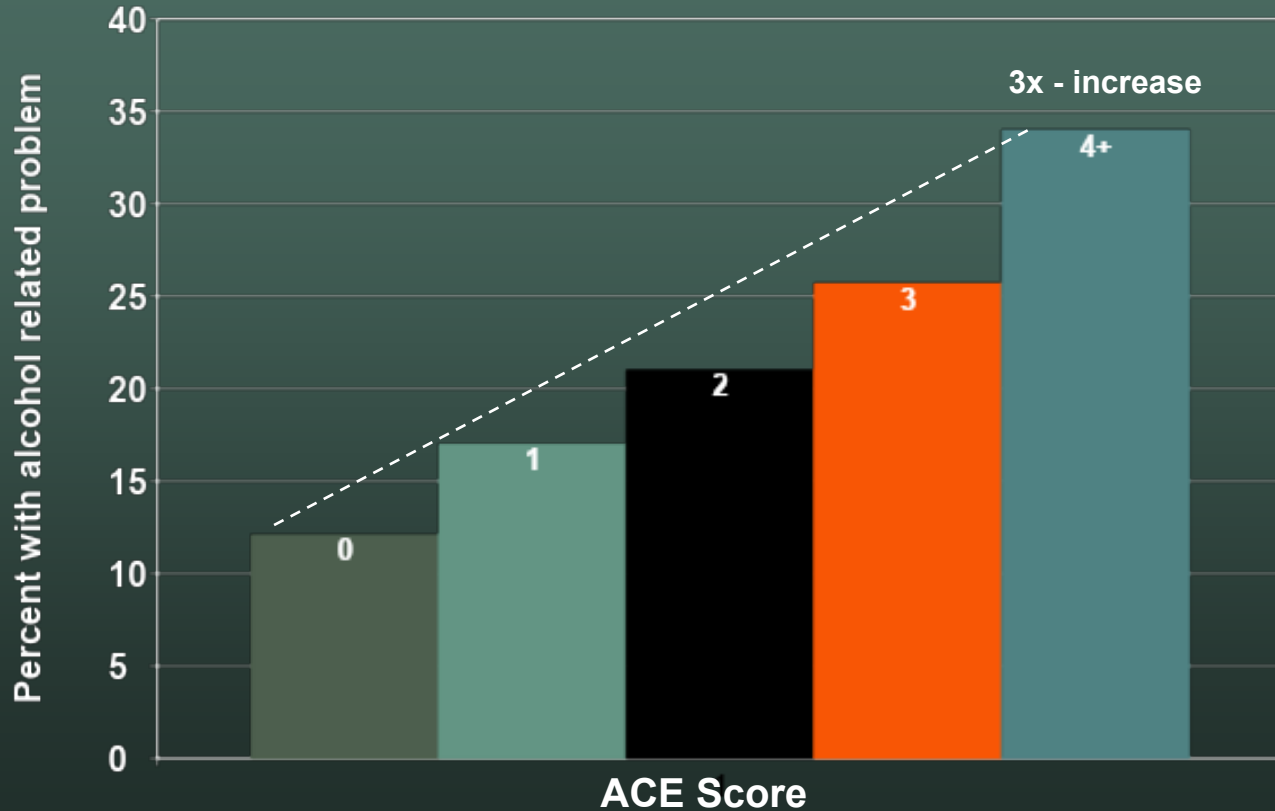


Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE)

vs Alcoholism as Adults



ACE Score vs Married an Alcoholic



ACE-Associated Health Conditions: Adults

Symptom or Health Condition	Odds Ratio (excluding outliers)
Cardiovascular disease ²¹ (CAD, MI, ischemic heart disease)	2.1
Tachycardia ²⁷	≥ 1 ACE: 1.4
Stroke ²⁰	2.0
Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (emphysema, bronchitis) ²¹	3.1
Asthma ⁴³	2.2
Diabetes ²¹	1.4
Obesity ²⁰	2.1
Hepatitis or jaundice ¹	2.4
Cancer, any ²¹	2.3
Arthritis ^{22,7} (self-reported)	3 ACEs, HR: 1.5 ≥ 1 ACE: 1.3
Memory impairment ²⁹ (all causes, including dementias)	4.9
Kidney disease ⁴³	1.7
Headaches ¹¹	≥ 5 ACEs: 2.1
Chronic pain, any ¹⁸ (using trauma z-score)	1.2
Chronic back pain ²⁶ (using trauma z-score)	1.3
Fibromyalgia ²⁷	≥ 1 ACE: 1.8
Unexplained somatic symptoms, including somatic pain, headaches ^{10,2}	2.0 - 2.7
Skeletal fracture ¹	1.6 - 2.6 ²⁰
Physical disability requiring assistive equipment ²³	1.8
Depression ²¹	4.7
Suicide attempts ²¹	37.5
Suicidal ideation ²⁰	10.5
Sleep disturbance ²⁰	1.6
Anxiety ²¹	3.7
Panic and anxiety ²⁰	
Post-traumatic stress disorder ²⁷	4.5
Illicit drug use ²¹ (any)	5.2
Injected drug, crack cocaine, or heroin use ²¹	10.2
Alcohol use ²¹	6.9
Cigarettes or e-cigarettes use ³⁵	6.1
Cannabis use ³⁵	11.0
Teen pregnancy ²¹	4.2
Sexually transmitted infections, lifetime ²¹	5.9
Violence victimization ²¹ (intimate partner violence, sexual assault)	7.5
Violence perpetration ²¹	8.1

Odds ratios compare outcomes in individuals with > 4 ACEs to those with 0 ACEs, except where specified

ABUSE



Physical



Emotional



Sexual

NEGLECT



Physical

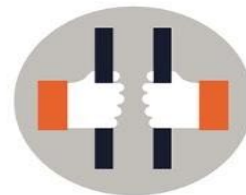


Emotional

HOUSEHOLD DYSFUNCTION



Mental Illness



Incarcerated Relative



Mother treated violently



Substance Abuse



Divorce

Goals

Review concerning trends regarding fentanyl

Educate why so much more dangerous

Briefly discuss some ways of preventing overdose deaths

INJURY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION (IVP) BRANCH

Injury and Violence
Prevention Branch

Programs

Topics of Interest

Resources

Contact Us

COVID-19 Women and
Families

What's New

- [Naloxone Grant Program Final Report](#)

Naloxone Information

- [DHCS Naloxone Distribution Project](#)
- [California Statewide Naloxone Standing Order](#)
- [Administering Naloxone - Training Video \(You Tube\)](#)
- [Data: California Opioid Overdose Surveillance Dashboard](#)
- [CDPH Prescription Drug Overdose Program](#)

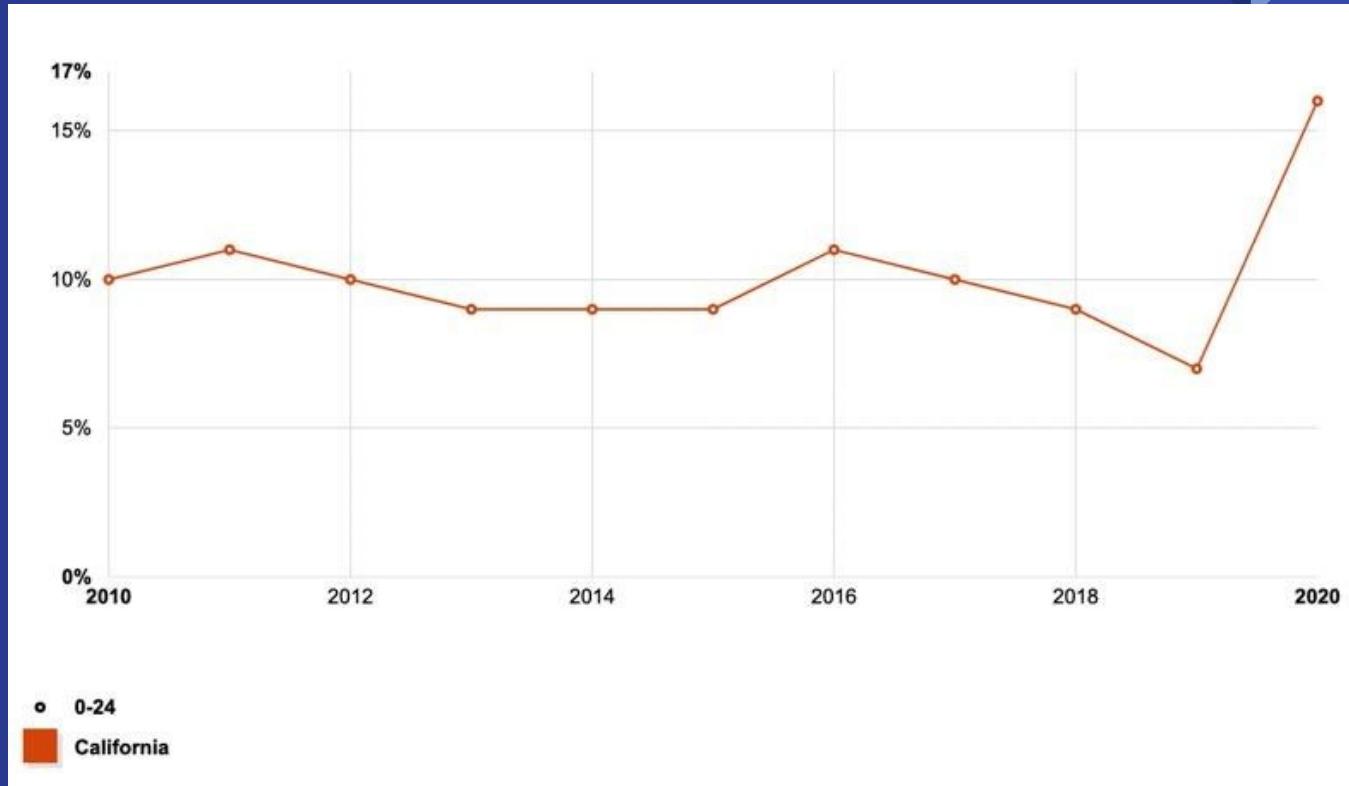
What is Naloxone?

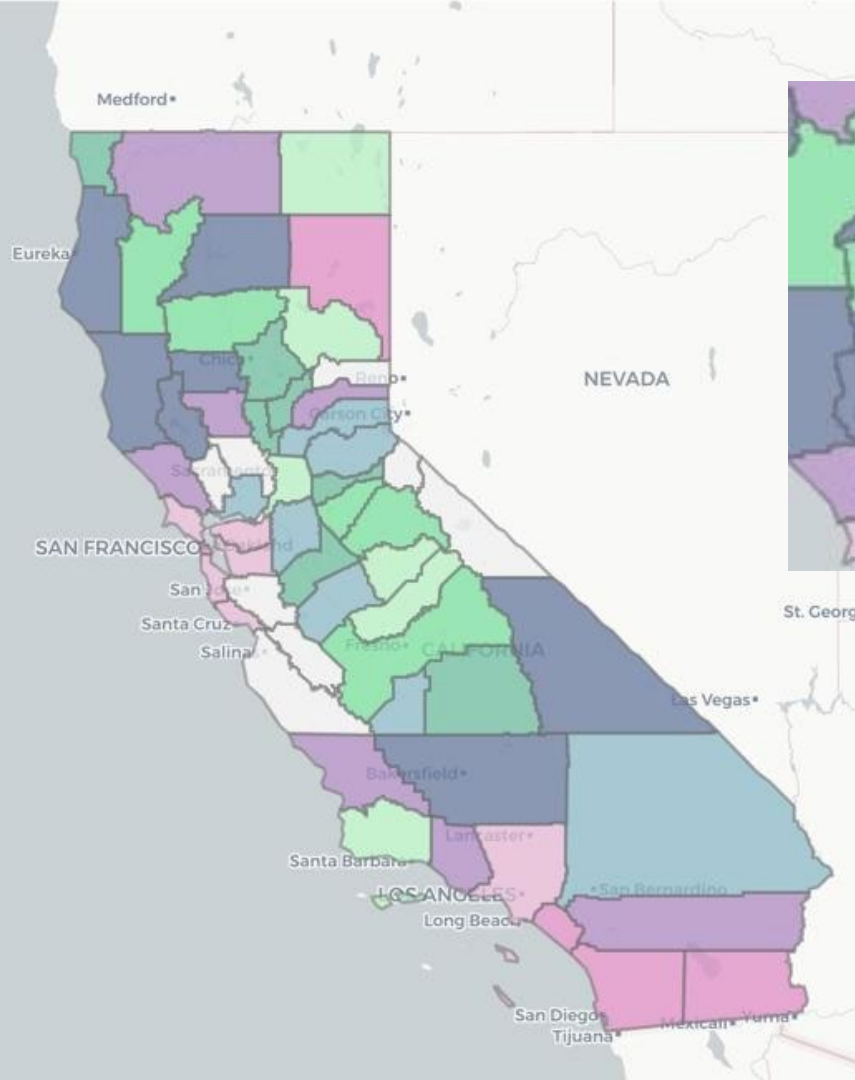
Naloxone is a medication that works almost immediately to reverse opiate overdose. Naloxone is currently a prescription drug, but is not a controlled substance. It has few known adverse effects, no potential for abuse, and can be rapidly administered through intramuscular injection or nasal spray. While most professional first responders and emergency departments are equipped with naloxone, emergency service providers may not arrive in time to revive overdose victims. Trained and equipped bystanders such as friends, family and other non-health care providers (lay people) and drug users themselves can effectively respond and reverse an opioid overdose. Given the success of bystander naloxone programs, the CDC and the World Health Organization have recommended expanding the availability of naloxone to lay people.

Laws and Regulations

Laws are currently in place that support making naloxone more readily available. For example, [California Civil Code Section 1714.22 \(Statutes of 2013, Chapter 707, Sec. 1\) \(PDF\)](#) eliminates civil and criminal liability for: 1)

The Percentage of Young People Dying From Overdoses Compared to the Total





Glenn - 2020
Variable 1: High
Any Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths: 14.87
Variable 2: High
Opioid Prescriptions by Patient Location : 548.27



One person is dead and a dozen others were rushed to the hospital after an apparent mass fentanyl overdose in Chico, California, on Saturday morning.

Four of those taken to the hospital are in critical condition, according to authorities. Police called the 13 people "friends and acquaintances," but did not provide exact relationships to the homeowner. The victims ranged in age from 19 to "about 30," police said.

Police did not provide many details of the person who died, but said he was an adult male who died on the scene.

Two police officers, the first to appear on the scene, were also taken to the hospital after reporting symptoms. They were treated and released, police said.



How Common in Glenn County?

Don't have good data

Methamphetamines still most common source of overdose deaths

We do know students K-12 in Glenn County are using fentanyl

Overdose common enough that the Sheriff thinking of no longer giving award for using Narcan



3/3

A LEGO container is seen among items seized by officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration, in this handout picture, in New York, U.S., October 4, 2022. Drug Enforcement Administration/Handout via REUTERS



U.S. fentanyl bust in Lego box points to Mexican cartels, DEA says

By Sarah Morland



1/3

Fentanyl pills found by officers from the Drug Enforcement Administration are seen in this handout picture, in New York, U.S., October 4, 2022. Drug Enforcement Administration/Handout via REUTERS

Oct 5 (Reuters) - U.S. authorities seized 15,000 rainbow-colored fentanyl pills hidden in a Lego toy box destined for distribution in New York City, the city's largest such seizure to date according to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

A grain of salt weighs about 60 micrograms. Fentanyl the size of 3 grains of salt can be lethal.





PUBLIC COMMENT & CONSENT CALENDAR FORUM



	<u>PERIOD</u>		
	3/14/2024	TO	3/15/2024
Payroll	496	TO	521
Payroll Check Register	40899	TO	40903
Check Register	54233	TO	54236

APPROVAL DATE 3/26/2024

APPROVED _____



City of Willows

Check Register

Packet: APPKT00182 - AP CHECK RUN 03.14.24

By Check Number

Vendor Number	Vendor Name	Payment Date	Payment Type	Discount Amount	Payment Amount	Number
Bank Code: Gen Chk-General Checking						
2377	ALLEN GILL CONSTRUCTION	03/14/2024	Regular	0.00	95,874.78	54233
1068	ANDY HEATH FINANCIAL SERV	03/14/2024	Regular	0.00	2,805.00	54234
1810	MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVI	03/14/2024	Regular	0.00	16,874.69	54235
1829	NCCSIF	03/14/2024	Regular	0.00	29,392.00	54236

Bank Code Gen Chk Summary

Payment Type	Payable Count	Payment Count	Discount	Payment
Regular Checks	5	4	0.00	144,946.47
Manual Checks	0	0	0.00	0.00
Voided Checks	0	0	0.00	0.00
Bank Drafts	0	0	0.00	0.00
EFT's	0	0	0.00	0.00
	5	4	0.00	144,946.47



City of Willows

Payroll Check Register

Employee Pay Summary

Pay Period: 2/26/2024-3/10/2024

Packet: PYPKT00196 - Payroll 2-26-24 to 3-10-24

Payroll Set: Payroll Set 01 - 01

Employee	Employee #	Payment Date	Number	Earnings
ABOLD, STEVEN B	ABO00	03/15/2024	513	1,930.09
ARELLANES, ASHLEY MARIE	ARE00	03/15/2024	500	1,307.51
BEATTY, RYAN	BEA00	03/15/2024	40899	160.00
BETTENCOURT, JOSEPH	BET01	03/15/2024	519	4,690.62
BOBADILLA, TAVIAN	BOB02	03/15/2024	507	160.00
BOBADILLA, TRISTAN	BOB01	03/15/2024	506	168.85
BRIONES, BRENDA VALENZU	BRI00	03/15/2024	501	320.00
BROWN, MARTHA	BRO01	03/15/2024	496	5,676.92
CANO, GABRIELA M	CAN01	03/15/2024	40900	96.00
CANO, ILIANNA	CAN00	03/15/2024	40901	80.00
CORTES-LOSOYA, MARIA	COR00	03/15/2024	514	240.00
EHORN, CAITLIN A	EHO02	03/15/2024	502	1,428.00
ENOS, KYLE	ENO00	03/15/2024	510	2,254.24
FLOWERDEW, NICK	FLO00	03/15/2024	509	80.00
FUENTES, JAIME	FUE01	03/15/2024	511	2,023.84
GAMBOA, YADIRA	GAM00	03/15/2024	503	352.00
HOOVER, AMOS	HOO00	03/15/2024	497	2,388.00
LOMBARD, TYLER JOSEPH	LOM00	03/15/2024	512	2,170.34
MCDERMOTT, ELLA G	MCDE01	03/15/2024	40902	96.00
MINGS, MICHAEL E	MIN00	03/15/2024	515	1,964.70
MONCK, NATHANIAL T	MON00	03/15/2024	520	4,651.38
MOORE, JOANNE	MOO01	03/15/2024	498	3,940.15
PALAFIX-SAN, NYLA	PAL03	03/15/2024	40903	160.00
PFYL, NATISA N	PFY00	03/15/2024	521	2,961.51
RANDOLPH, MATTHEW	RAN01	03/15/2024	516	1,636.15
RAYGOZA, RODRIGO	RAY00	03/15/2024	508	180.00
REED, JOSHUA	REE00	03/15/2024	517	1,636.15
RUSTENHOVEN, TARA L	RUS01	03/15/2024	499	2,406.92
SPENCE, KYLIEGH C	SPE02	03/15/2024	504	536.00
VARGAS, GIOVANI	VAR00	03/15/2024	505	416.00
VASQUEZ, PEDRO CEASAR	VAS01	03/15/2024	518	2,130.69
			Totals:	48,242.06



Willows City Council Regular Meeting Action Minutes

Agenda Item #7b.

March 12, 2024
Willows City Hall
6:00 PM

City Council
Gary Hansen, Mayor
Evan Hutson, Vice Mayor
Rick Thomas, Council Member
David Vodden, Council Member
Forrest Sprague, Council Member

City Manager
Marti Brown

City Clerk
Amos Hoover

201 North Lassen Street
Willows, CA 95988
(530) 934-7041

1. CALL TO ORDER – 6:02 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. ROLL CALL

Councilmembers Present: Mayor Hansen, Vice Mayor Hutson and Councilmembers Thomas, Sprague, and Vodden

Councilmembers Absent: None

4. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

5. PRESENTATION

a. Managing Sidewalk Liability

Action: Received presentation from Marcus Beverly, Program Administrator, NCCSIF, and provided feedback to staff.

b. Master Fee Schedule – Project Update

Action: Received presentation on the current status of the Master Fee Schedule update project and provided feedback to staff.

6. PUBLIC COMMENT & CONSENT CALENDAR FORUM

a. Register Approval

Action: Approved general checking, payroll, and direct deposit check registers.

b. Minutes Approval

Action: Approved the February 27, 2024, meeting minutes.

c. Amendment – Willows Employee Association (WEA) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Action: Approved amendment to the WEA's MOU approving the United Public Employees of California (UPEC) to represent the bargaining unit in labor negotiations and all areas of bargaining.

Public Comment

Dwayne Stewart

Ryan Friesen

Moved/Seconded: Councilmembers Thomas and Vodden

Yes: Councilmembers Thomas, Sprague, and Vodden, Vice Mayor Hutson, and Mayor Hansen

No: None

7. DISCUSSION AND ACTION CALENDAR

a. Use of Façade Improvement Funds

Action: Discussed use of Façade Improvement Funds to cover wayfinding signage and authorized councilmember Sprague to continue discussions with relevant stakeholders.

b. Agreement with Willows Unified School District to lease City-Owned Property

Action: Authorized the City Manager to execute a lease agreement with the Willows Unified School District to lease City-owned property located at Willows High School.

Moved/Seconded: Councilmembers Vodden and Sprague

Yes: Councilmembers Thomas, Sprague, and Vodden, Vice Mayor Hutson, and Mayor Hansen

No: None

8. COMMENTS & REPORTS

- a. Council Correspondence
- b. City Council Comments & Reports
- c. City Manager's Report

9. CLOSED SESSION

- a. Conference with Labor Negotiators (§54957.6)
- b. Public Employee Performance Evaluation (§ 54957)

Title: City Attorney

Report Out: Information was received by the Council and direction was given to staff.

10. ADJOURNMENT - 9:45PM

Amos Hoover, City Clerk



Date: March 26, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Amos Hoover, City Clerk
Subject: Sierra Nevada Cheese Company Grant Letter of Support

Recommendation:

Approve a letter of support in favor of Sierra Nevada Cheese Company's grant application for their anaerobic digestion project.

Rationale for Recommendation:

Requested by Mayor Hansen.

Background:

Sierra Nevada Cheese Company is applying for a grant from the California Energy Commission (energy.ca.gov) to install an Anaerobic Digestion (AD) facility that processes wastewater from cheese production. Anaerobic digestion is a process where bacteria consume waste and generate methane as a byproduct (e.g., biogas). Biogas produced by the AD facility will fuel an electric generator and provide clean, renewable electricity to the cheese factory. The AD facility will also process the wastewater into a high-quality water supply to irrigate orchards and agricultural land.

Discussion & Analysis:

The result will be a dramatic decrease in greenhouse gas emissions from the facility, improved water quality for the region, and growing economic and environmental sustainability for the company. To minimize environmental impact and integrate it into existing operations, the AD facility will be built in what is now an open-air lagoon. Benefits of the project include: A reduction of electrical and natural gas costs, eliminate waste disposal costs, ease load demand on the power grid, create new jobs, cut facility air emissions, and improve water quality.

Fiscal Impact:

There is no fiscal impact by providing this letter of support.

Attachment:

- Attachment 1: Draft Letter of Support



201 North Lassen • Willows, California 95988 • (530) 934-7041 • FAX: (530) 934-7402

March 26, 2024

California Energy Commission
715 P Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Endorsement for Sierra Nevada Cheese Company’s Anaerobic Digestion Project

Dear CEC:

The City of Willows is writing to share its enthusiastic endorsement for the grant application submitted by Sierra Nevada Cheese Company for its Anaerobic Digestion (AD) Project. We are deeply committed to supporting innovative, solution-oriented initiatives that will have a positive impact in our community.

The Sierra Nevada Cheese Company's proposal to install an AD facility to process wastewater from cheese production is not just about technological innovation; it's also about investing in the future of our community and environment. By harnessing AD to generate clean, renewable energy and produce high-quality irrigation water, Sierra Nevada Cheese Company is setting a precedent for responsible environmental stewardship and economic sustainability.

We have all witnessed firsthand the challenges and opportunities facing our local dairy industry, and are acutely aware of the importance of supporting projects like the AD Project. This project has the potential to not only reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve water quality, but also create jobs and bolster economic resiliency in the region.

The Sierra Nevada Cheese Company's commitment to excellence and sustainability, combined with the innovative nature of the Anaerobic Digestion Project, makes them a deserving applicant for the CEC’s support. We urge you to consider their grant application favorably, knowing that your support will make a meaningful difference in the future of our community and the region.

Very truly yours,

Gary Hansen, Mayor
City of Willows
(On behalf of the Willows City Council)

CC: City of Willows City Council



DISCUSSION & ACTION CALENDAR



Date: March 26, 2024
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Marti Brown, City Manager
Subject: Glenn Groundwater Authority - Prop 218 Study

Recommendation:

Discuss the Glenn Groundwater Authority's upcoming Proposition 218 Study and approve paying the GGA assessment on City of Willows parcels.

Rationale for Recommendation:

The GGA seeks direction from the City of Willows as to whether it wishes to continue to directly fund the agency on behalf of property owners (as it has done since 2019) or opt for some other approach. This is a continuation of the discussion from the February 13, 2024, City Council meeting.

Background:

In 2014, the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act was passed and signed into California State Law which set into motion a change in the way groundwater is managed throughout California. In 2017, the Glenn Groundwater Authority was formed, which is currently comprised of ten member agencies, including the City of Willows. The first two years of operations were funded by member agency contributions.

In 2019, the Glenn Groundwater Authority approved a property-related fee to fund the operations of the agency. The maximum fee was set at \$1.93 per acre. The first year, the fee was set at \$1.61 per acre and has since been set at \$1.50 per acre. The City of Willows adopted Resolution 16-2019 memorializing the City's intention to directly fund the Glenn Groundwater Authority for the acreage within the City limits of Willows and the property owned by the City of Willows. The City of Orland passed a similar Resolution with the same commitment.

Discussion & Analysis:

While the Glenn Groundwater Authority is currently updating its fees, the City has paid approximately \$2600 per year over the past four years (with very slight annual variations).

Currently, via a Proposition 218 Study, the GGA is considering property-related fees based on assigned user classifications for each parcel to distinguish between different types of water users. As a result of the proposed Proposition 218 Study, the GGA anticipates that the rates will increase to between \$2.40 and \$5.50 per acre. The total new assessment cost to the City of Willows would range between \$4,159 and \$9,531 per year.

As demonstrated by the City's past support, the Glenn Groundwater Authority is seeking the continued assistance of the City of Willows to directly fund the Glenn Groundwater Authority on behalf of the property owners within the City's jurisdiction.

Fiscal Impact:

Depending on the results of the Proposition 218 study, and if the City wishes to continue its commitment to directly fund the GGA on behalf of property owners, the City would incur a cost of up to approximately \$10,000 per year.



COMMENTS AND REPORTS



CLOSED SESSION