

# Opioioid Litigation Settlement: *Using Evidence to Lead Action*

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Connections

# Agenda

- Impact of the Opioid Crisis
- Community Response
- Settlement Agreement Background
- Allowable Uses of Funding
- Guiding Principles
- Using Data to Inform Decisions
- County Framework
- Support to Cities
- Questions

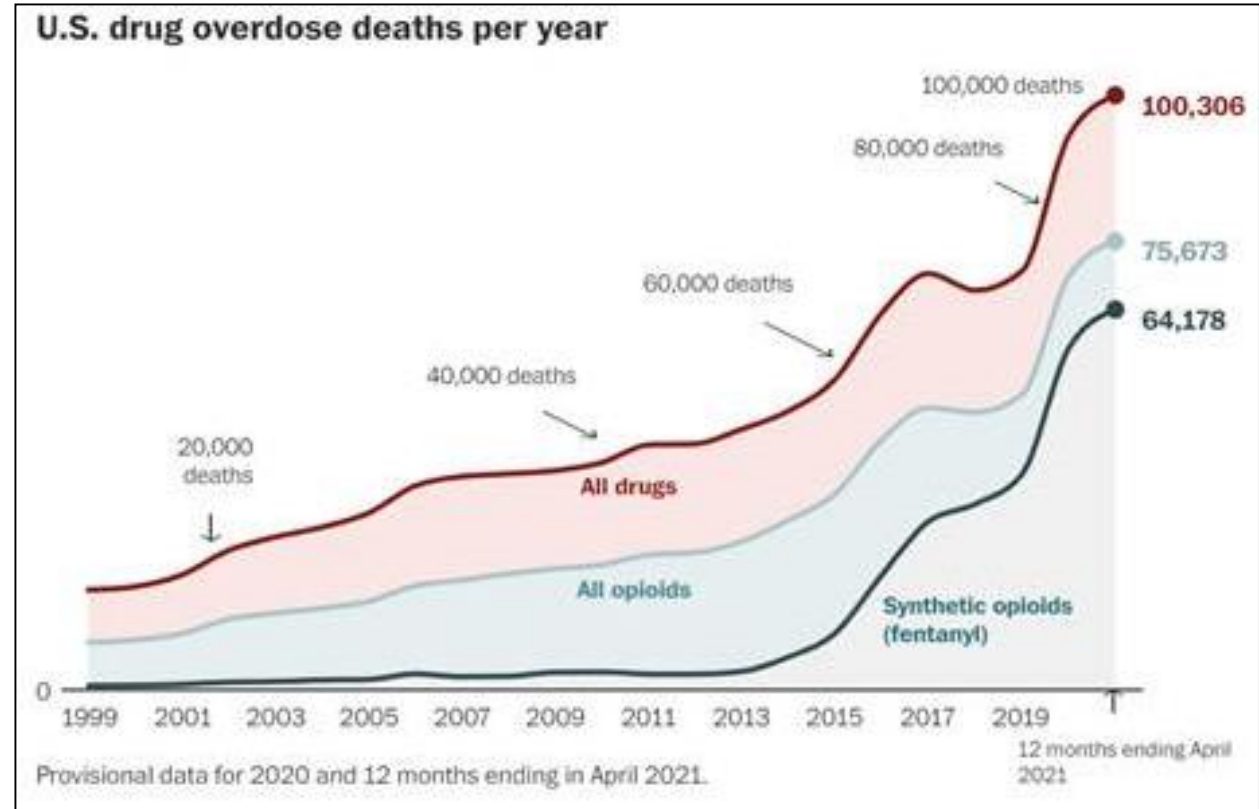
# Lifting Up Our Community

- Clackamas County and Cities will receive funding from the National Opioid Settlement to mitigate harms associated with the opioid and other drug crisis.
- New funding provides an opportunity to make strategic investments in evidence-based approaches that **strengthen our communities, prevent opioid misuse and stem the rising number of overdose deaths.**



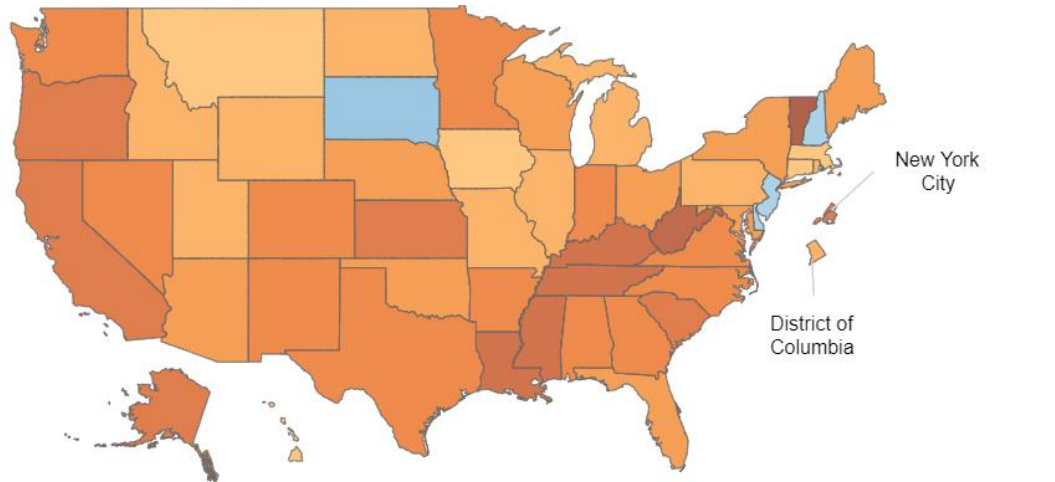
# National Opioid Crisis

- Over **100,000** people died as a result of the overdose epidemic from April 2020 to April 2021.
- Approximately **75,000** of those deaths involved opioids, most of which were due to synthetic opioids such as fentanyl.



# Local Impact

Oregon saw a **45.1% increase** in ALL overdose deaths- Apr 2020-Apr 2021.



Legend for Percent Change in Drug Overdose Deaths Between 12-Month Ending Periods



## Alcohol and Drug Addiction Worsens in Oregon- Deaths soar during pandemic

- Oregon now ranks 2nd in the country for substance use disorders
- Oregon fell to 50th in access to treatment,
- Oregon ranks 1st in prescription opioid misuse
- Oregon ranks 1st in methamphetamine use

CDC, Center for Health Statistics, Vital Statistics Rapid Release (VSRR) program: <https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00438.asp>

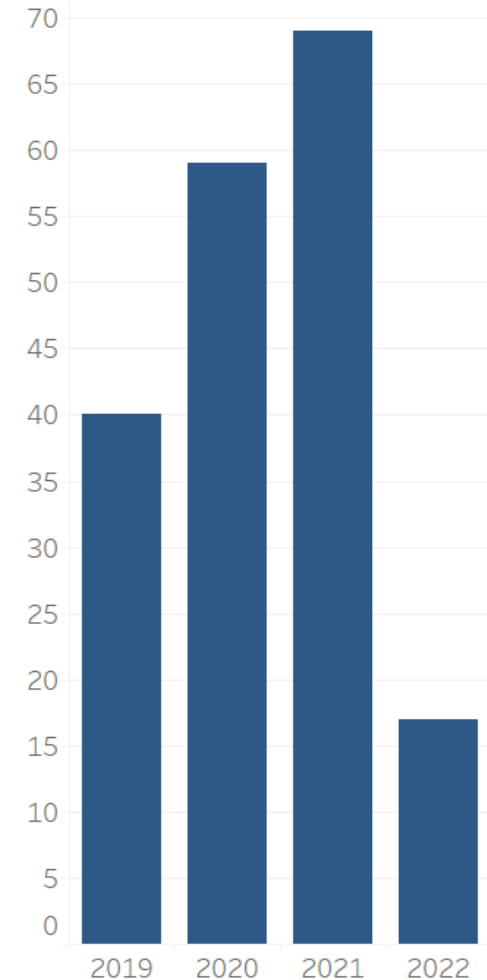
[National Survey on Drug Use and Health](#), conducted by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), 2020

# Local Impact

- Clackamas County saw a 68% increase in drug-related deaths from 2019 (41) to 2021 (69).
- The presence of opioids in the results of people who died in association with substance use has increased 168% from 2019 (19) to 2021 (51) in Clackamas County.
- Deaths related to fentanyl have increased more than 5 fold from 2019 (5) to 2021 (40).

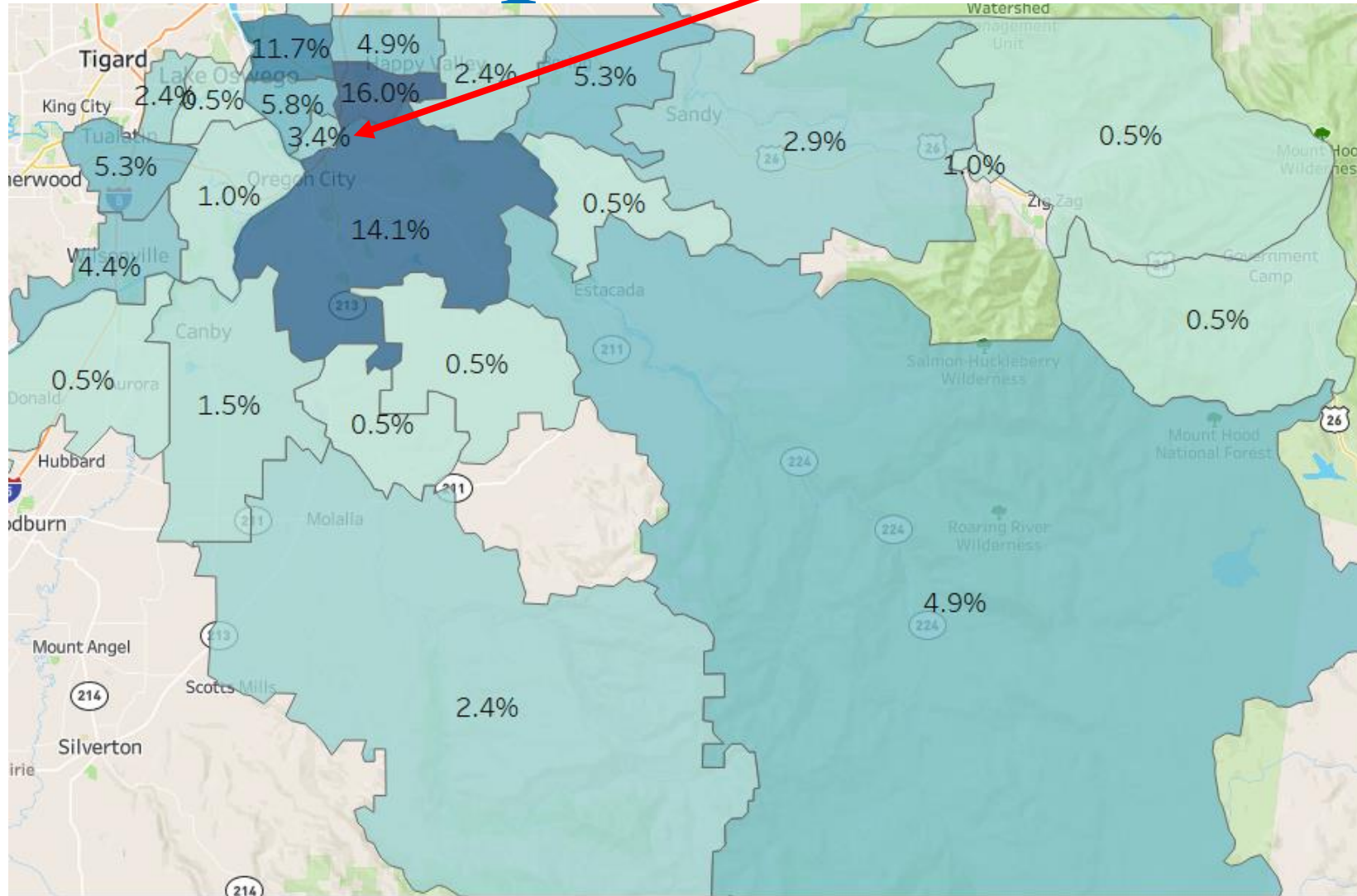
Source: Clackamas County Medical Examiner  
Created by: Clackamas County Public Health Division  
Data are preliminary and subject to change

Confirmed and Suspect Drug-Related Deaths  
2019-July 2022



# Local Impact

Zip code 97027- 3.4%



Drug-Related Deaths by Location of Death (zip code)

2019-July 2020

\*Data are preliminary and subject to change

Source: Clackamas County Medical Examiner

Created by Clackamas County Public Health Division

# Local Impact

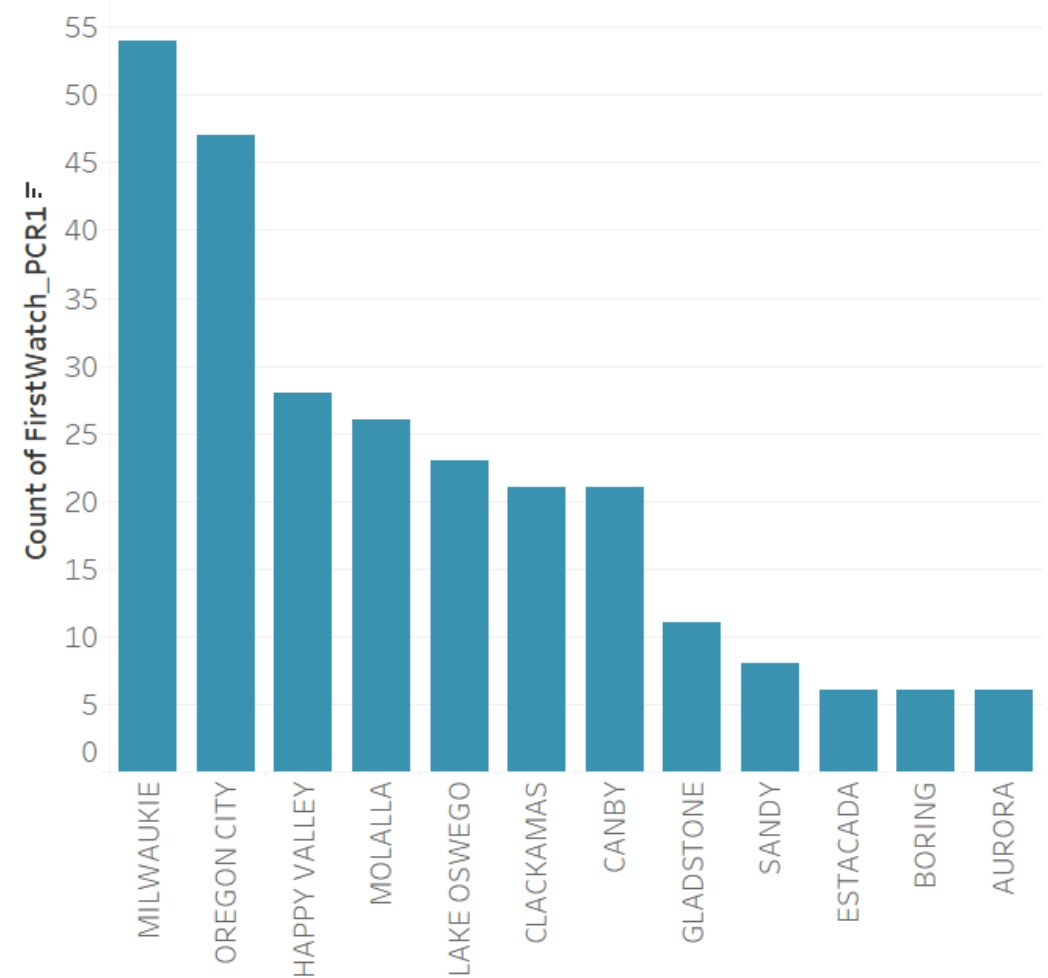
## Overdose-Related 911 Calls via FirstWatch By Week and By City February 1– July 30, 2022

Source: FirstWatch

Created by Clackamas County Public Health Division

*# of Calls by Drug (Drugs appearing less than 5 times suppressed)*

UNKNOWN	127
fentanyl	39
oxy	21
meth	19
heroin	19
antidepressant	15
acetaminophen	9
opioid	7
antihistamine	6
cocaine	5
antianxiety	5

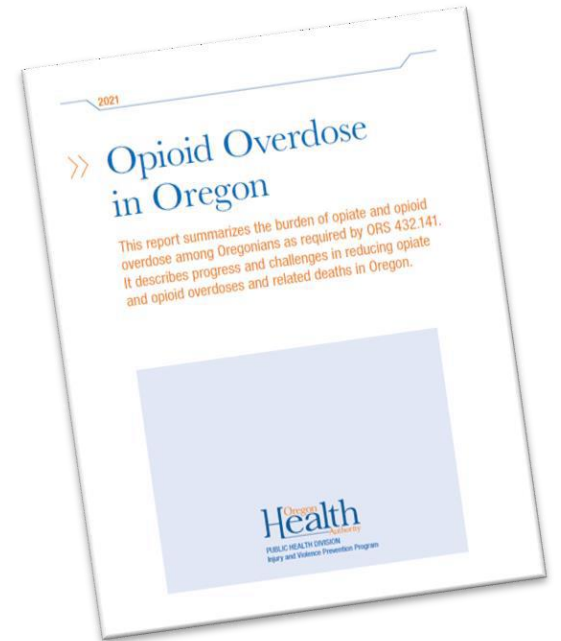




# Key Take-Aways from OR Overdose Report:

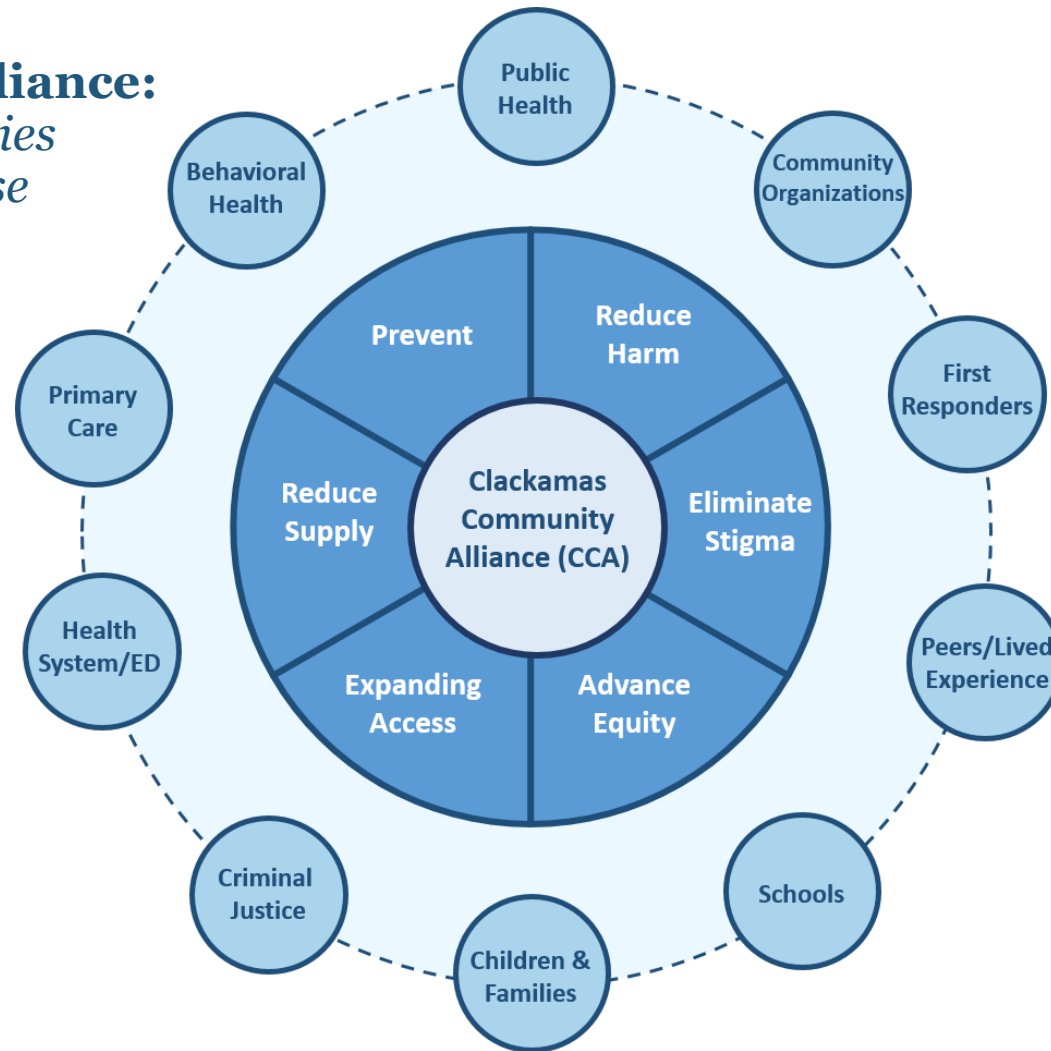
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- Many people who overdosed never touched the health care system
- 70% of people who overdosed were not administered naloxone
- Root causes: lack of community cohesion, mental health issues, and absence of basic needs
- Stigma associated with substance use
- Lack of access to shelters, detox facilities, and treatment centers
- Many don't know what community resources exist



# Community Response

**Clackamas Community Alliance:**  
*Strengthening communities  
affected by substance use*



# Settlement Agreement Background

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- **Oregon will receive \$333 million** as part of two settlements, including Johnson & Johnson (\$5 billion) and the 3 distributors (\$21 billion).
  - Defendants have **up to 18 years** to complete payments.
  - State funding: 45%
  - Local funding: 55% to counties and cities who signed onto the agreement
- **Clackamas County will receive approximately \$13.7 million.**
  - Cities will receive lesser amounts depending on population.
  - Expect that payments will be front-loaded with 40% distributed in the first 2-3 years.
  - First payment expected July 2022
  - County Attorney fees paid by national settlement, not county funds

# Allowable Uses of Settlement Funding

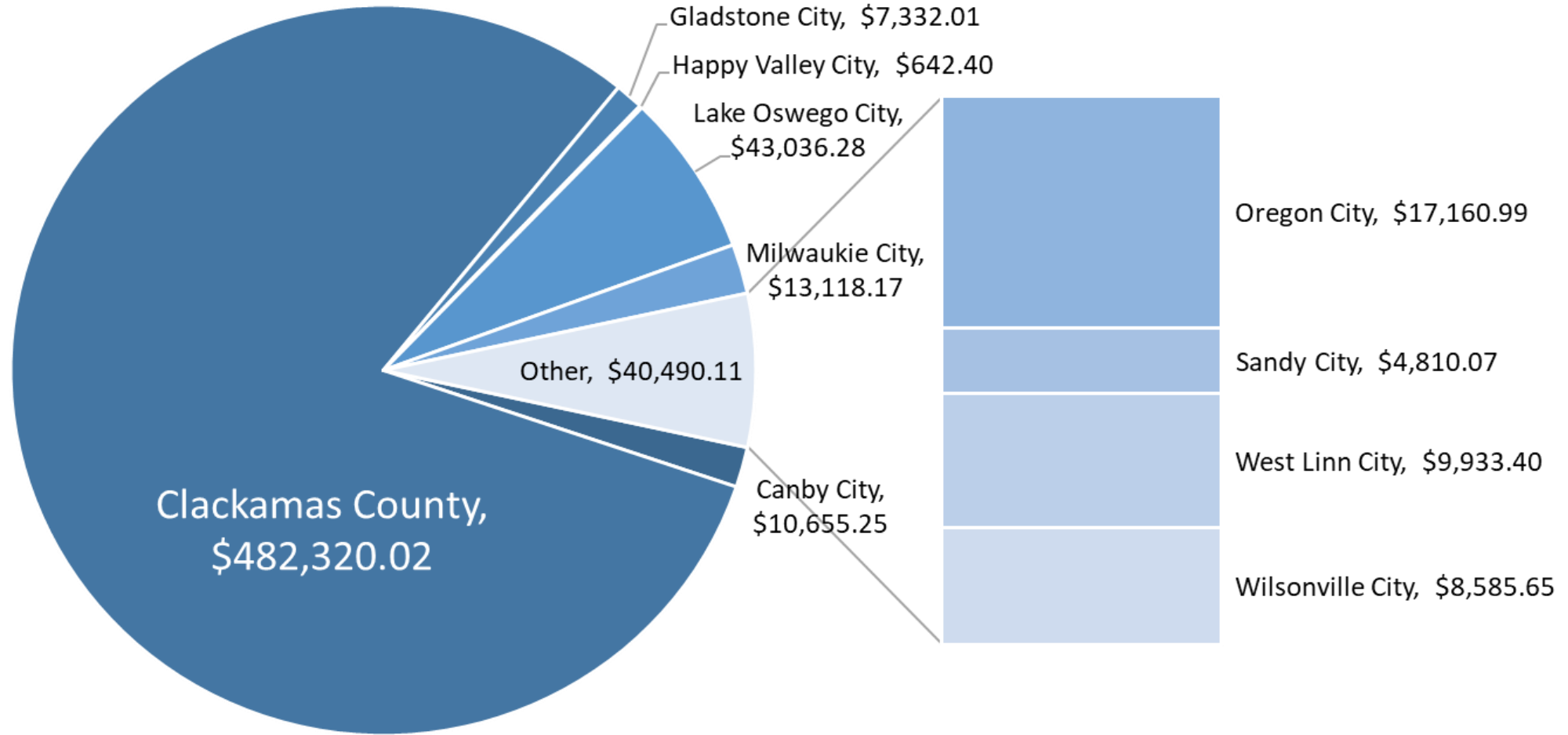
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The Exhibit E of the Settlement Agreement identifies **nine core abatement strategies**:

- 1) Targeted naloxone distribution
- 2) Criminal justice interventions
- 3) Medication for Opioid Use Disorder
- 4) Enrich prevention strategies
- 5) Linkage to Syringe Exchange programs
- 6) Healthcare system interventions
- 7) Warm hand-off program and recovery support
- 8) Data collection and research
- 9) Treatment during pregnancy & postpartum period

# Settlement Funding for Cities

## Year 1 Abatement Allocation



# Guiding Principles

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- 1) **Spend Money to save lives**
- 2) **Use evidence to guide spending**
- 3) **Invest in youth prevention**
- 4) **Focus on racial equity**
- 5) **Develop a fair & transparent process**

Source: Principles For the Use of Funds from the Opioid Litigation, Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, [opiodprinciples.jhsph.edu](https://opiodprinciples.jhsph.edu)

# Using Data to Inform Decisions

Public Health staff maintain a substance use data dashboard that includes key indicators of opioid harm. These numbers describe some, but not all, of the impact of opioids on the people of our county.

Data can be used to identify populations and areas of the county most impacted. Data collected includes:

- **Overdose deaths** involving opioids
- **Emergency Department (ED) visits** for overdose
- Non-fatal overdoses that involve **illicit drugs, such as heroin, fentanyl and meth**
- The rate of **prescriptions for opioids**



# Opioid Settlement Framework

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## Evidence

- Assess gaps in prevention, treatment, harm reduction and recovery.

## Equity

- Identify populations and those most generally impacted including our communities of color.

## Collaboration

- Engage communities to identify priorities and need to inform funding allocations.
- Bring together multi-disciplinary representation including those with lived experience to advise the process.

## Transparency

- Provide annual report on investments and lives saved.



# Support to Cities

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- **Inform investments**
  - Assessment findings & data
    - **Identify gap & needs**
  - Share evidence-based programs/practices
- **Maximize investments**
  - Coordinate aligned activities to build economies of scale
  - Strengthen local response through **collaborative investments**

# Questions?