



Our mission is to Develop a sustainable, accessible and integrated system of care that serves people with mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in crisis, in order to efficiently and effectively deliver services that create positive outcomes.

2/14/2023

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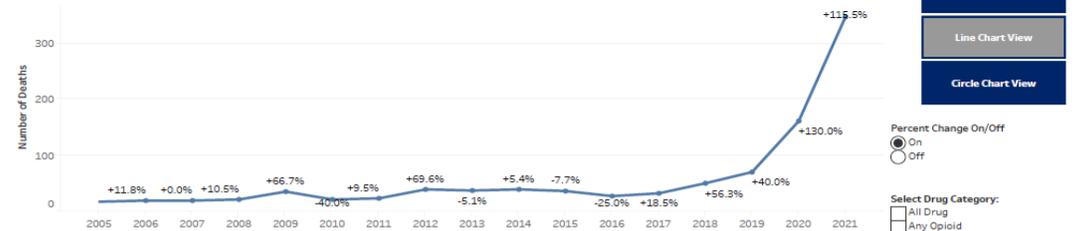
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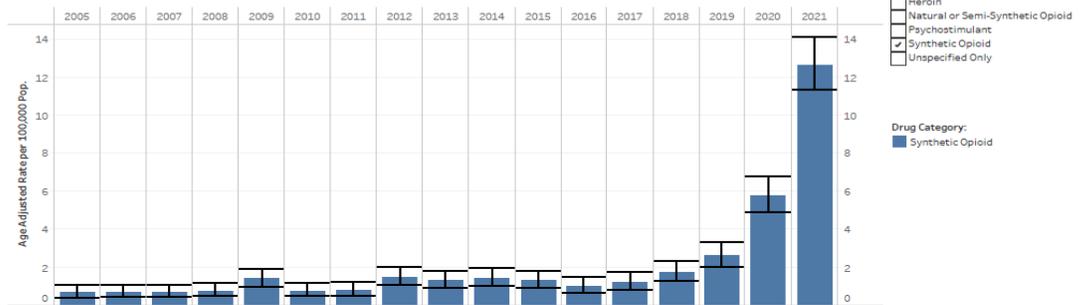
As the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition, we urge you to support increased funding for substance use disorder residential programs providing treatment for opiate addiction and primarily fentanyl abuse.

Kansas Overdose Data Dashboard: Statewide Deaths

Kansas Synthetic Opioid Overdose Death Totals and Percent Change by Year, 2005-2021



Kansas Age Adjusted Synthetic Opioid Overdose Death Rates by Year, 2005-2021



As indicated by the graphs provided by KDHE the impact of fentanyl abuse is startling. Additionally, federal and state budget reductions have impacted licensed substance use disorder treatment programs due to the unmet needs of those eligible for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Federal Block Grant (SABG) funding. With the increase of referrals, the grant funding for fiscal year 2022-2023 has been exhausted for residential and outpatient substance abuse treatment programs.

With the 2022-2023 Federal Block Grant funding being depleted, we find:

- Mirror Inc discontinued accepting referrals in October 2022.
- DCCCA discontinued accepting referrals for their men's residential program in November of 2022.
- In the past two months, the Substance Abuse Center of Kansas (SACK) received at least 10 referrals per day and today, are receiving 15 referrals per day. With the increase of referrals and depleted funding, treatment providers are unable to meet community needs.
- The Substance Abuse Center of Kansas, SACK exhausted their Federal Block allocation in December 2022.
- The wait list for individuals referred for indigent residential substance abuse treatment has increased from one week in October to six weeks in January.
- There are approximately six months remaining in the fiscal year without funding to support residential treatment.

Understanding the SABG allocations are exhausted for this fiscal year, the availability of "bed space" with providers is minimized, creating a wait list for indigent consumers to exceed a waiting period of a month. Many of which are abusing fentanyl. While resources are exhausted, the treatment facilities continue to accept referrals without reimbursement to provide services. The impact on the local communities and the state is significant. Wait times or the inability to access treatment comes at a greater cost with the utilization of emergency services, hospital, law enforcement, courts, jails and prisons. The greatest cost comes to those that lose their lives. The Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition is supportive of state funds being increased to continue providing detoxification and residential treatment services.

Best,

Robyn Chadwick

Chair, Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition