

A Multiregional Approach:  
**The Coroner's Role**  
in Overdose Fatality Reviews

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# Charleston County Coroner's Office



**Jurisdiction** Charleston County, SC / Population 413,024 (2021)  
86% urban

**OFR** Addiction Crisis Task (ACT) Force, Est. 2019 by U.S.  
District Court Judge

**Legislation** No

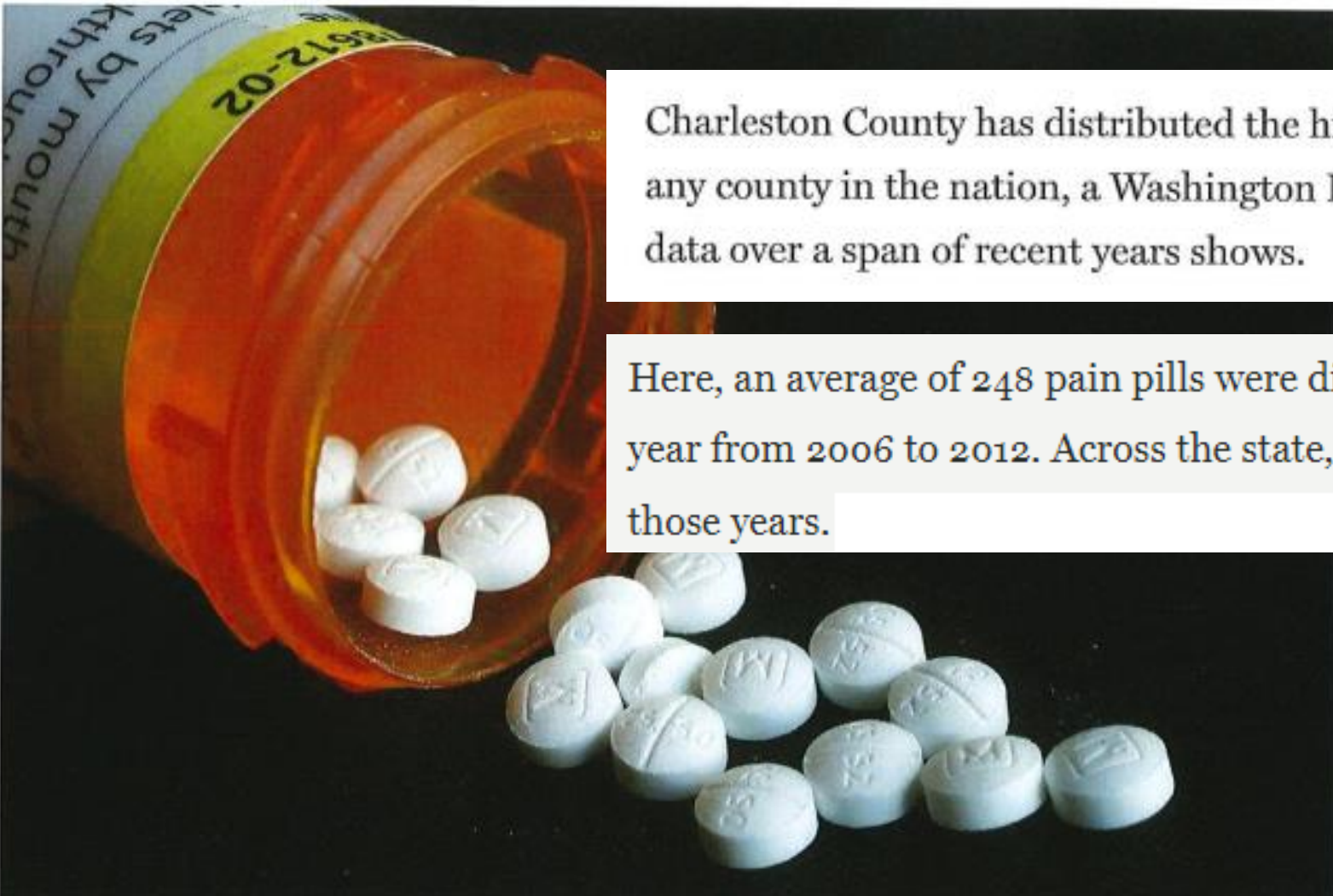
**Overdoses** 190 drug overdoses in 2021, 12 reviewed

**Fun Fact!** Obama administration drug czar is a member of our  
team

# Charleston County had highest rate of opioids dispensed in the nation, new DEA data shows

BY MARY KATHERINE WILDEMAN MKWILDEMAN@POSTANDCOURIER.COM

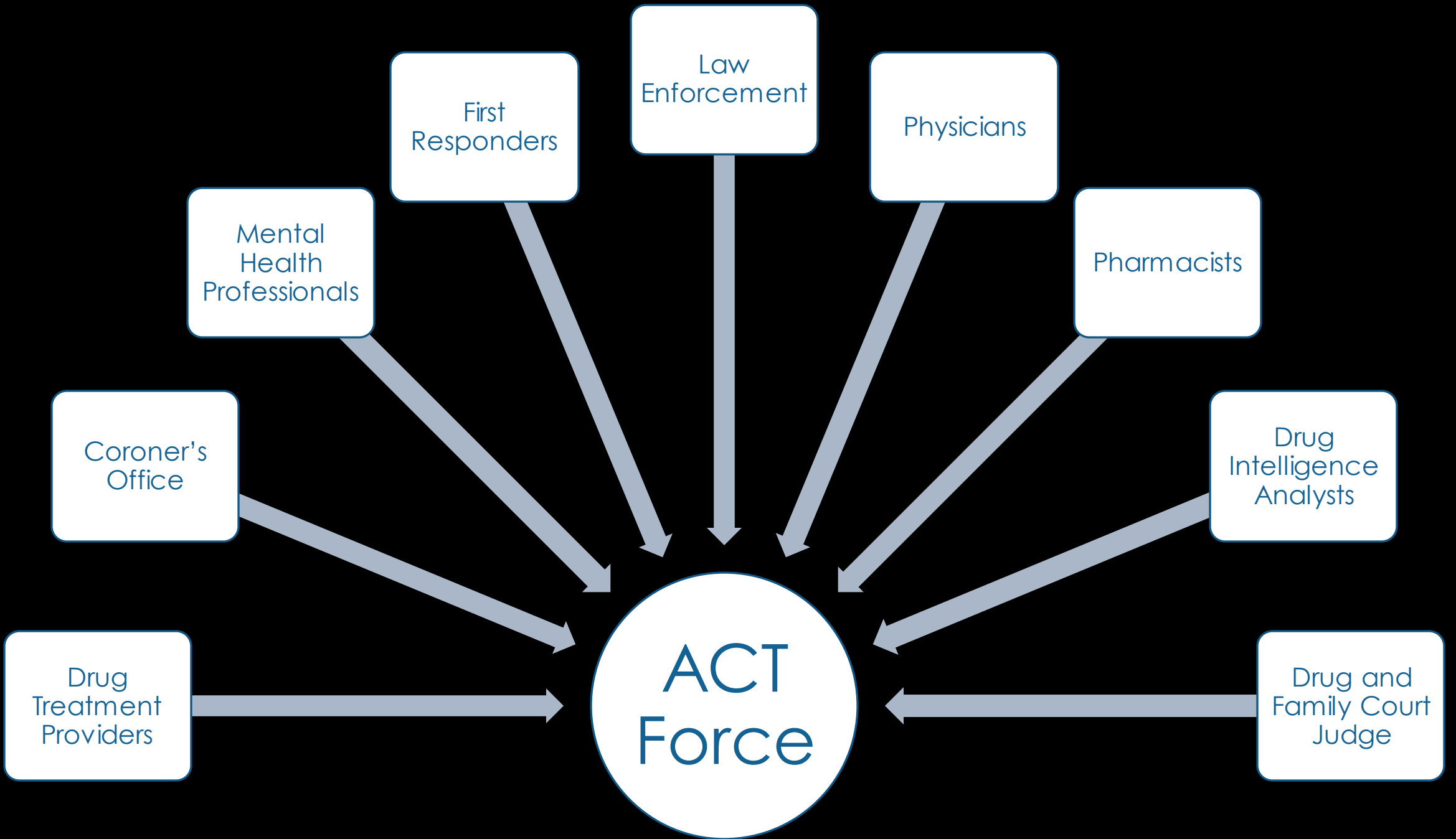
JUL 17, 2019



Charleston County has distributed the highest concentration of opioid pain pills of any county in the nation, a Washington Post analysis of federal drug enforcement data over a span of recent years shows.

Here, an average of 248 pain pills were distributed for every county resident in every year from 2006 to 2012. Across the state, 1.8 billion pills were dispensed during those years.







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Toxicology Report

Report Issued 08/22/2022 15:01

Patient Name  
Patient ID  
Chain  
DOB  
Sex  
Workorder



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To: 10153  
Charleston County Coroner (FSN)  
4050 Bridgeview Drive  
Suite 500  
North Charleston, SC 29405

Positive Findings:

Analyte	Result	Units	Matrix Source
4-ANPP	Presump Pos	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Cotinine	Presump Pos	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Nordiazepam	81	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Alprazolam	35	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Alpha-Hydroxyalprazolam	7.2	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Benzoylcegonine	4800	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Cocaine	130	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Gabapentin	60	mcg/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
11-Hydroxy Delta-9 THC	14	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Delta-9 THC	3.8	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Buprenorphine - Free	6.1	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Norbuprenorphine - Free	3.2	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Diphenhydramine	77	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Amphetamine	12	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Methamphetamine	32	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
MDMA	8.5	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Fentanyl	12	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Norfentanyl	1.3	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Etizolam	23	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Alpha-Hydroxyetizolam	39	ng/mL	001 - Iliac Blood
Cocaine / Metabolites	Presump Pos	ng/mL	002 - Urine
Benzodiazepines	Presump Pos	ng/mL	002 - Urine
Cannabinoids	Presump Pos	ng/mL	002 - Urine
Fentanyl / Metabolite	Presump Pos	ng/mL	002 - Urine



Patient: [Redacted]

Case: [Redacted]  
Sex: [Redacted]  
Age: [Redacted]

Date of Death: [Redacted]  
Time of Death: [Redacted]  
Date of Exam: [Redacted]  
Time of Exam: [Redacted]  
County: [Redacted]  
Investigator: [Redacted]  
Pathologist: [Redacted]  
Autopsy Procedure: [Redacted]

Forensic Examination Report

Final Diagnoses:

1. Marked pulmonary edema and congestion
2. History of drug use

Cause of death: Mixed drug toxicity (cocaine, gabapentin, MDMA, fentanyl, etizolam)

Manner of death: Accident

Case History: This 23 year old was found supine on the kitchen floor. Drugs found on scene. He is identified by Charleston County Deputy Coroner Elizabeth Dobbins who authorizes a full autopsy.

External Description: This 23 year old white male is received in a white body bag sealed with red tag # 3649. He is well developed, well-nourished, and appears the stated age of 23. Rigor mortis is breakable and livor mortis is fixed. He measures 73 inches in height and weighs an estimated 161 pounds. He is clothed in a camouflaged long sleeve hooded shirt, black pants, black and white checked underwear, black socks, and black and tan shoes. A 20 dollar bill is present in one pocket. His hair, mustache, and beard are reddish brown. The eyes are hazel and without conjunctival petechiae. The teeth are natural and in fair repair. The nose is in the midline, uninjured. The lips are uninjured. The anterior neck shows no scars nor palpable masses. The chest is unremarkable. The abdomen is round. The upper extremities are symmetrical without absence of digits but with a soft cast over the

# Coroner Participation in OFR

Ensures accuracy of data



Initial repository and  
distributor of stakeholder  
data



Legitimizes agency



Interagency data sharing



Drives action

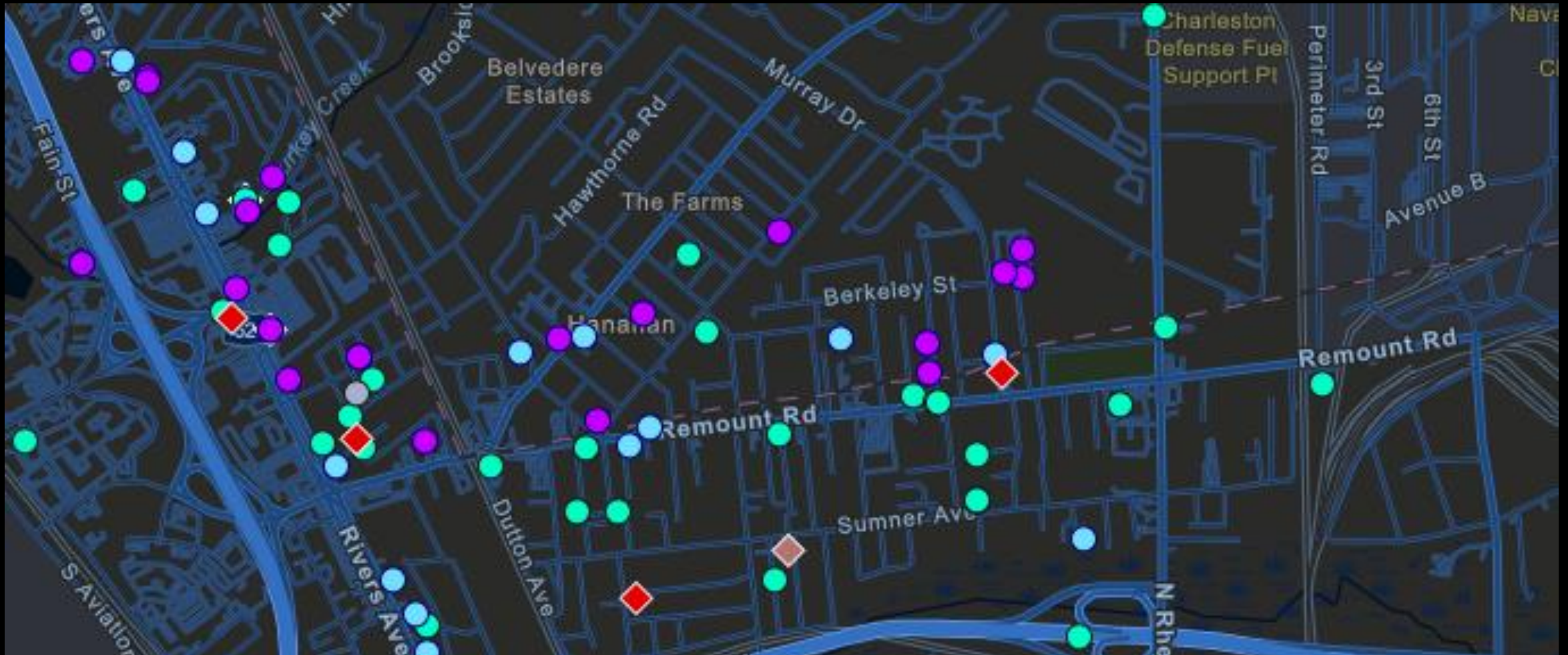


# ODMAP

**OVERDOSE DETECTION  
MAPPING APPLICATION PROGRAM**

*Who is entering **your** data?*





Why did the opioid cross the road?

**Validity** of data

# Charleston County: Fentanyl OD and Educational Attainment

**ODMAP**  
OVERDOSE DETECTION  
MAPPING APPLICATION PROGRAM

[Home](#) [Contact](#) [Overdoses](#)

ACS Educational Attainment  
Boundaries - Tract



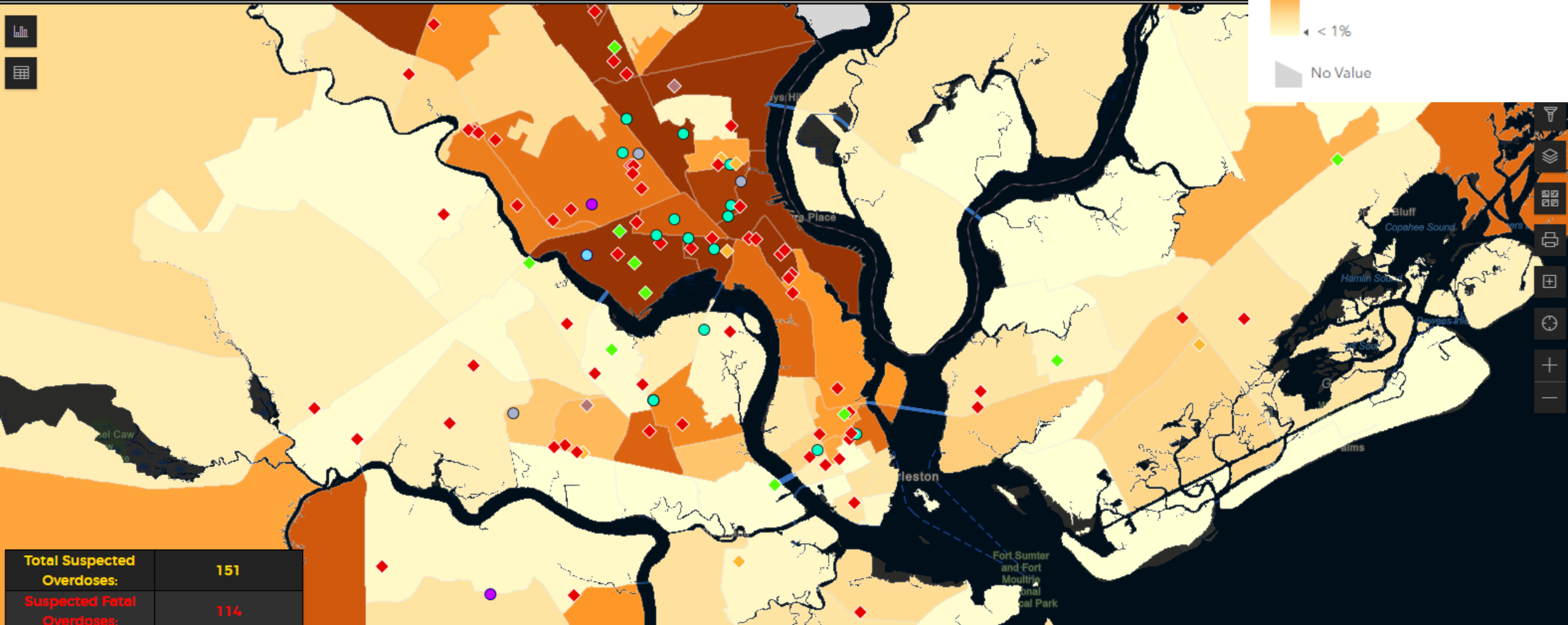
Percent of Population 25 Years and  
Over whose Highest Education  
Completed is Less Than High School

< 21%

< 11% - national average

< 1%

No Value



**Total Suspected  
Overdoses:** 151

**Suspected Fatal  
Overdoses:** 114

# Charleston County: Fentanyl OD and Income (by race and age)

ACS Median Income by Race and Age  
Selp Emp Boundaries - Tract

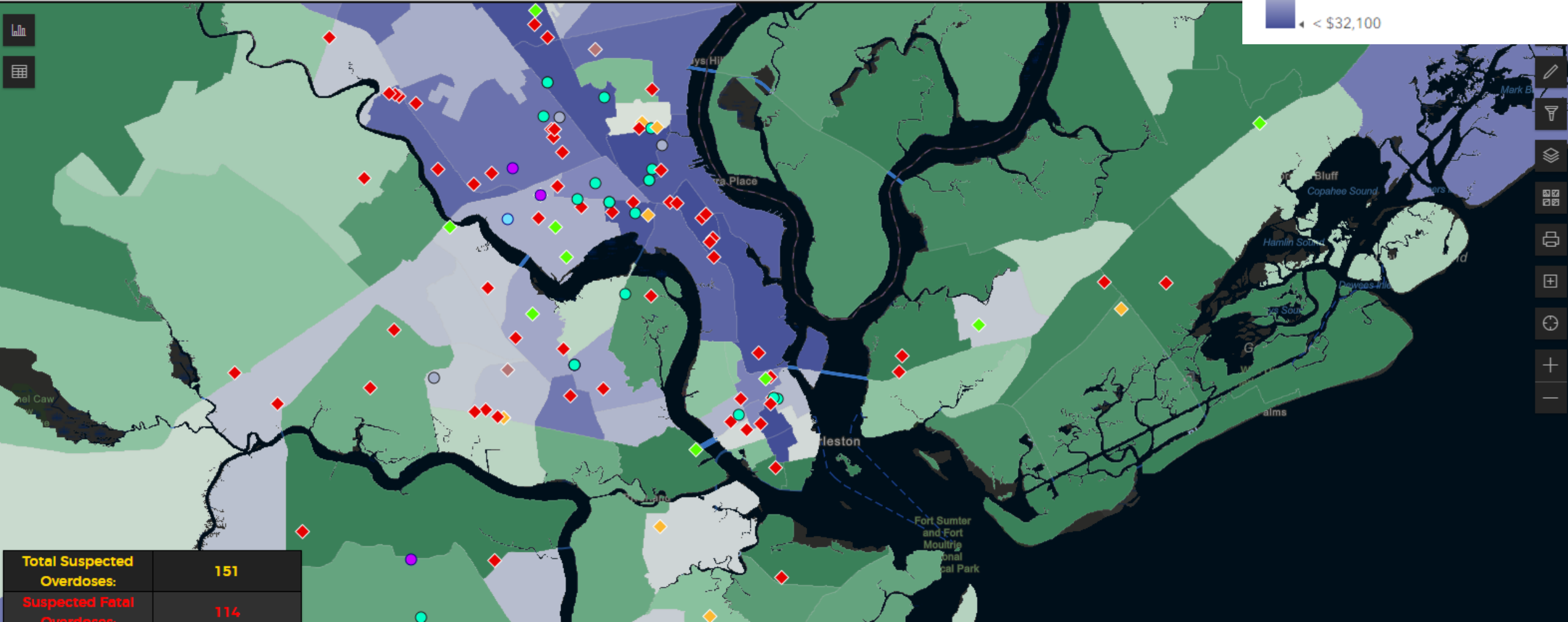


Median Household Income in past 12 months (inflation-adjusted dollars to last year of 5-year range)

- < \$105,900
- < \$69,000 - national median
- < \$32,100

**ODMAP**  
OVERDOSE DETECTION  
MAPPING APPLICATION PROJECT

Home Contact Overdoses ▾



Total Suspected Overdoses:	151
Suspected Fatal Overdoses:	114

# Take-away Points



- Use ODMAP, visual data (layers) to leverage funding
- Coroners as active participants in OFRs
- Secure partnerships with neighbors
- Think multiregionally—collaboration is key