



# We Heart You: Recovery in Our Community

Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team

# Who We Are

## **Jennifer Skolaski**

Facilitator, Winnebago County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team

## **Sandy Shaffer**

Owner, Shaffer Counseling & Consulting, LLC, & OFR Partner

## **Alex Belville**

Owner, Mirrorless Productions



WE  YOU

RECOVERY  
IN OUR COMMUNITY

RECAP VIDEO

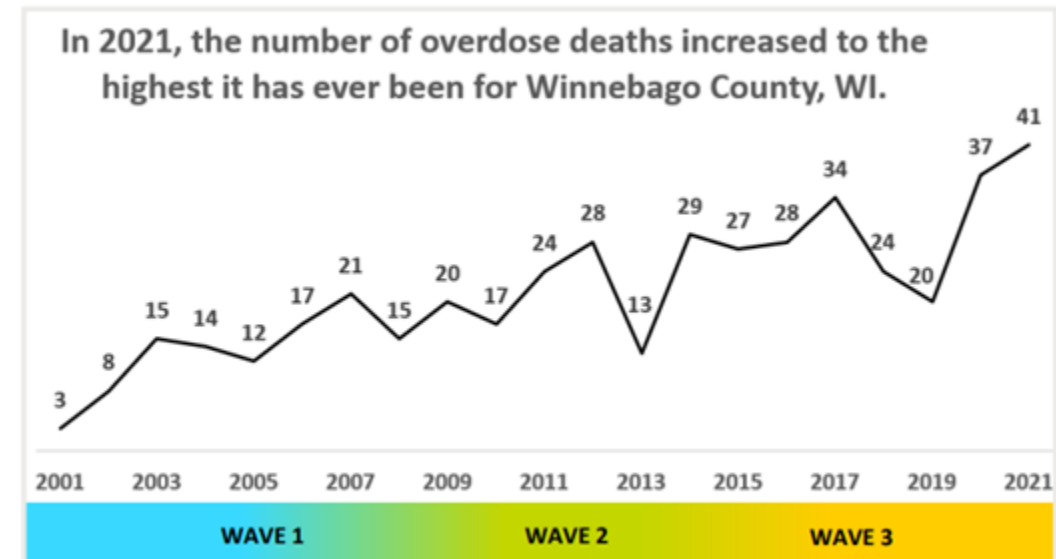
BREAK THE SILENCE.  
REDUCE STIGMA. SAVE LIVES.



# Winnebago County, Wisconsin



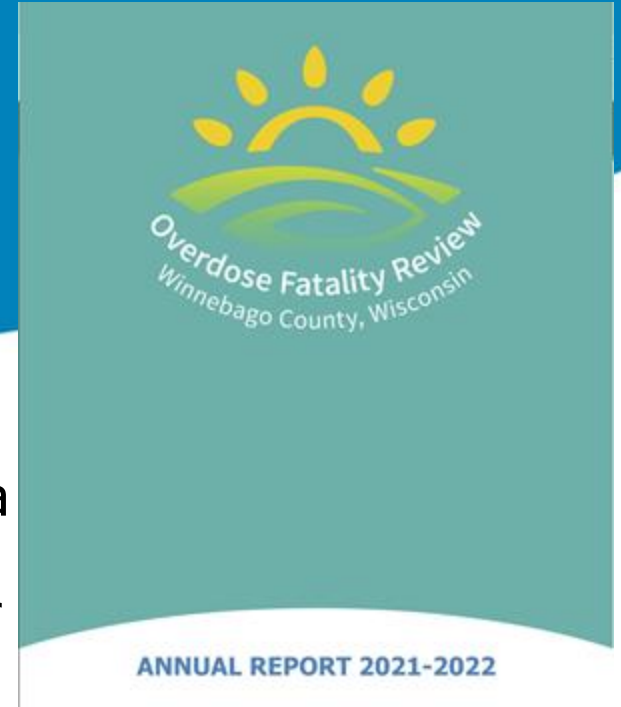
- **Size of population:** With a rural population of 171,623 (U.S. Census, 2020), Winnebago County is located between the Milwaukee and Green Bay metropolitan areas
- **Demographics of population at large:** According to the U.S. Census, the majority of Winnebago County's population identifies as White (93%), followed by Asian (4%), Black or African American (3%), and American Indian or Alaskan Native (1%). Four percent of the population identifies as Hispanic or Latino of any race
- **In 2021, we had 41 overdose deaths, and 2022 is trending to break that record**



# Background on OFR

- Winnebago County established its OFR team in early 2018 when the Winnebago County Drug and Alcohol Coalition's (now Breakwater) data team wrote and was awarded an OFR grant from the Department of Justice and Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS). As part of this grant, we receive technical assistance from the Medical College of Wisconsin and Wisconsin DHS
- Bureau of Justice Assistance's (BJA) Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Abuse Program (COSSAP) OFR Mentor Site
- Published our fourth Annual Report

[https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/2021-2022\\_winnebago\\_ofr\\_annual\\_report\\_final.pdf](https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/2021-2022_winnebago_ofr_annual_report_final.pdf)



**Northeast Wisconsin Mental Health Connection**

**Nova Counseling Services**

**Omro Police Department**

**Oshkosh Area School District**

**Partnership Community Health Center**

**Samaritan Counseling Center of the Fox Valley**

**Solutions Recovery, Inc.**

**ThedaCare and ThedaCare Behavioral Health**

**University of Wisconsin Oshkosh Police Department**

**Village of Winneconne Police Department**

**Winnebago County Coroner's Office**

**Winnebago County Health Department**

**Winnebago County Human Services Department—Behavioral Health**

**Winnebago County Safe Streets Committee (Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee)**

**Winnebago County Human Services Department—Child Welfare**

**Winnebago County Office of the District Attorney**

**Winnebago County Sheriff's Office**

**Winnebago County Sheriff's Office—Jail**

**Wisconsin Department of Corrections**



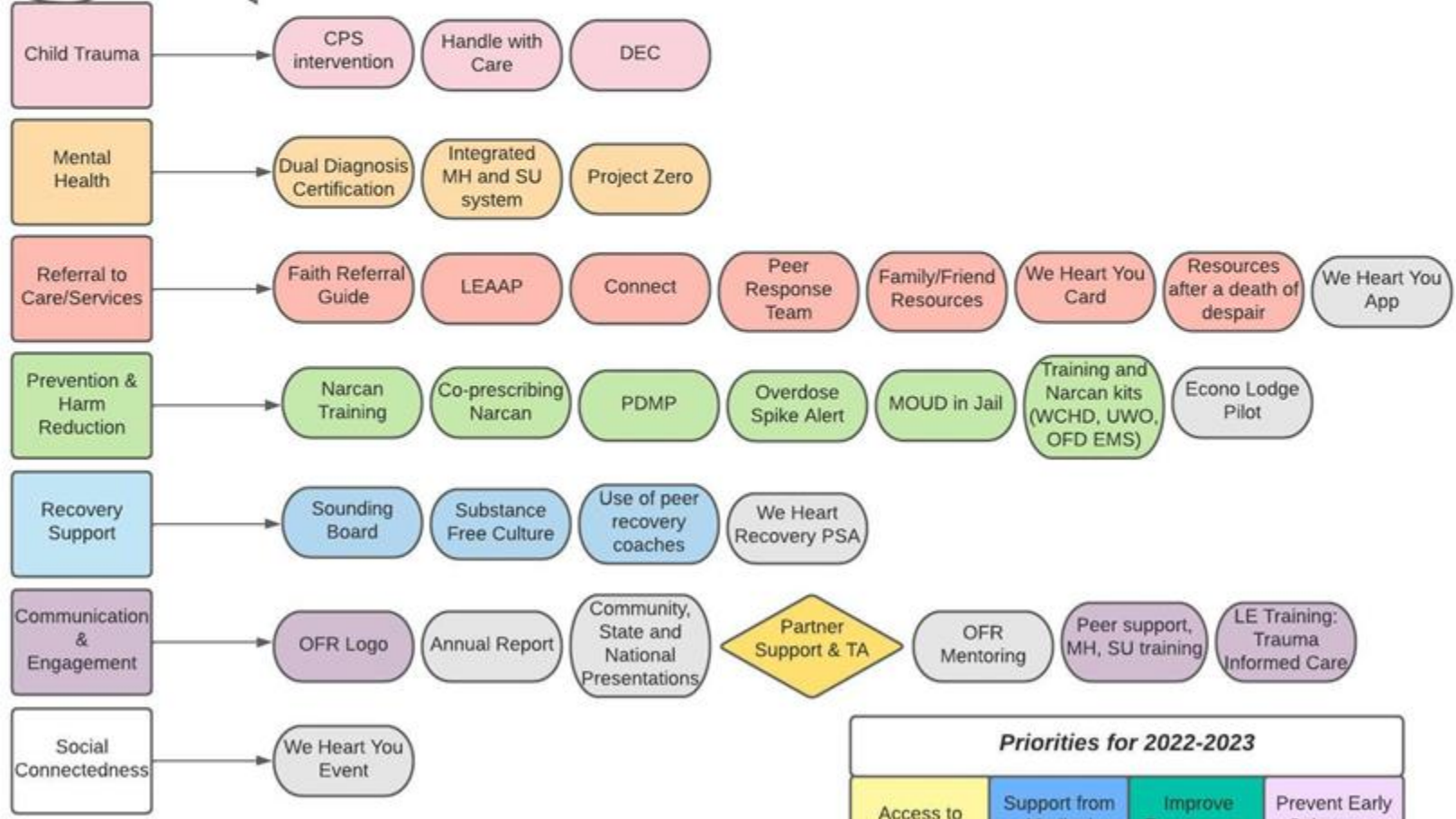
*Law enforcement  
(Police, Department of  
Corrections,  
Department of Justice,  
District Attorney),  
Health Care  
(Emergency  
Department, Primary  
Care, Behavioral  
Health, Pharmacy,  
EMS), Public Health,  
Human Services, Child  
Welfare, Treatment,  
Recovery, Local  
Coalitions, Education,  
and Faith Communities*



- OFR Partners**  
47 partners  
36 agencies
- OFR Steering Team**  
acts as a sounding board and gives input on budget and grant requirements
- OFR Recommendations & Monitoring Team**  
helps evaluate and drive recommendations
- OFR Support Staff**  
Jennifer Skolaski, Ashlee Rahmlow, Stephanie Gyldenvand, Sarahjean Schluectermann

**Priorities**  
Determined by OFR team based on data and themes identified from case reviews

**OFR Recommendations, Subcommittees, and Pilots**



**Priorities for 2022-2023**

Access to Treatment	Support from Medical Partners	Improve Response to Drug Trends	Prevent Early Substance Use
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# Creating the “We Heart You” Card





# Connecting With People in Recovery

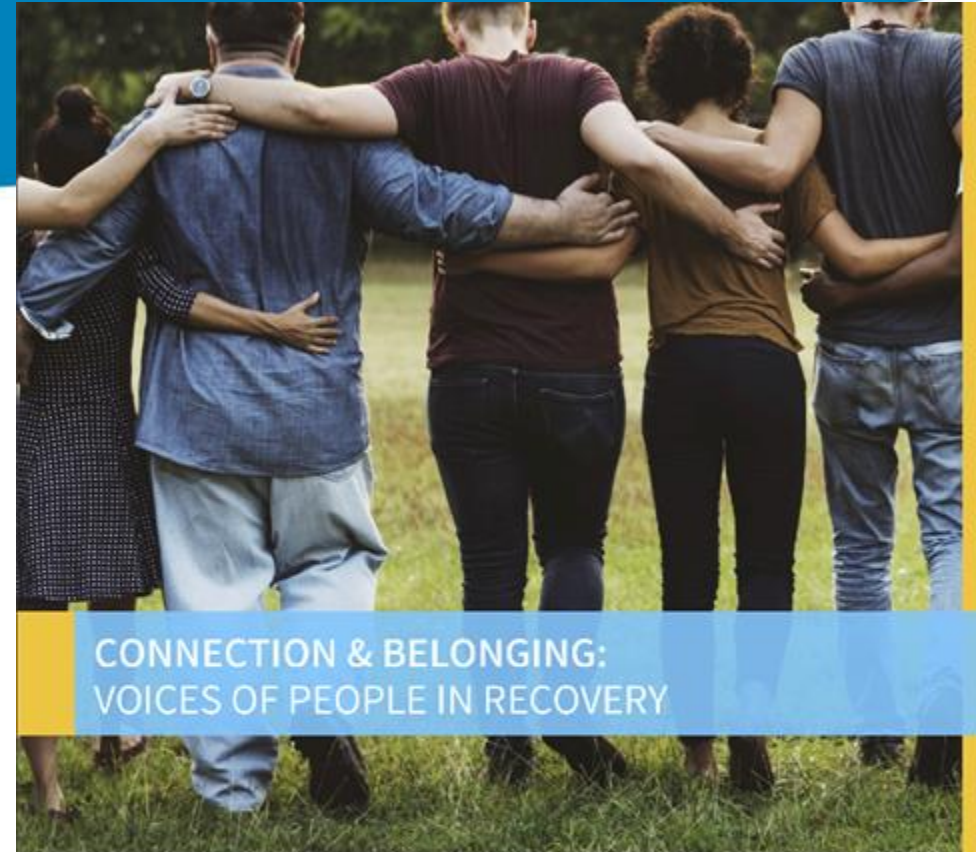
- OFR Data Point: Very few people we reviewed through case reviews were connected to the recovery community
- How We Involved People in Recovery Through OFR Work
  - As OFR partners
  - As sounding board
  - As populations benefiting from OFR recommendations
- February 5, 2020, OFR Recommendation: Support and expand a substance-free culture that engages many stakeholders in our community and focuses on the support of individuals and families that are on a path to recovery



# Connecting With People in Recovery

- June/July 2020—Community Conversations
  - People in recovery wanted to feel valued and heard
  - Bridge the recovery community with the broader community
  - Educate people that addiction is a disease
  - Reduce stigma/shame

[https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/connection\\_belonging\\_recovery\\_report\\_wchd\\_final.pdf](https://www.co.winnebago.wi.us/sites/default/files/uploaded-files/connection_belonging_recovery_report_wchd_final.pdf)



CONNECTION & BELONGING:  
VOICES OF PEOPLE IN RECOVERY

*"I found out, through many years of recovery, that the more that I stay connected to people, stay social, and the less isolated I am, the better the chances of me staying sober. It is very significant in my personal recovery."*

*-Listening Session Participant*



**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.  
**Winnebago County  
Health Department**

**WE**  **YOU**

**RECOVERY  
IN OUR COMMUNITY**

**#weheartyourecovery  
#breakwatercoalition  
#solutionsrecovery**

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<https://www.laurensisler.com/>

**#weheartyourecovery  
#breakwatercoalition  
#solutionsrecovery**

# Recommendations From “We Heart You” Event

- September 2022: Solutions Peer Response Team
- Now: [weheartyou.org](https://weheartyou.org)
- February 2023: “We Heart You” App





# Thriving in Recovery PSA

# Timeline of PSA

- January 2022: OFR team received implementation funds from the Overdose Data to Action grant from the CDC to make this possible
- February 2022: Community partners brainstormed what we could use the funds for; contracted with Mirrorless Productions
- March–July 2022: Interviewed and filmed real people in recovery in the community
- October 2022: Brought back to the team for edits
- December 2022: Created website with further stories and resources



# Why This Is Important









SCAN ME



# Any Questions? Contact Us!

## **Jennifer Skolaski**

Facilitator, Winnebago County OFR

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