



MEDIA RELEASE

The La Crosse County Overdose Fatality Review Community Report Released

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The La Crosse County Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) Team released its 2024 annual report sharing statistics, trends, and recommendations to prevent future overdoses and deaths in our community.

The report includes data and information about the people who died within La Crosse County from an accidental drug overdose.

Some of the reports key takeaways were:

- The number of lives lost due to overdose continues to increase in La Crosse County. 55 people lost their lives to drug overdose in 2023, a 45% increase compared to 2022.
- Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, were involved in 85% of drug overdose deaths in 2023.
- 75% of people who lost their life due to a drug overdose had more than one substance in their system at the time of death.
- Lives lost to drug overdose are most common in people ages 25-64
- 75% of people who lost their life to an overdose had permanent, stable housing.

The OFR team outlined recommendations to prevent overdose deaths based on the data from local cases reviewed. From these recommendations, 4 overarching themes were identified: reduce stigma, understand harm reduction, increase bystander response, and foster community connections.

The La Crosse County Health Department and other community partners work through the Alliance to HEAL collaboration to address goals to help improve community outcomes related to opioid use.

To learn more visit [OFRT Report](#)