CENTER FOR
HEALTH EQUITY
A Division of Public Health and Wellness

Louisville Peer Led Harm Reduction Quick Response Team

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QRT in Louisville

- First iteration was a collaboration of LMPD & Centerstone Behavioral Health Services
- Barriers to this model
- Dr. Foley-Byard developed an innovative proposal to house QRT in the health department
- KRS218A.133 allows emergency services share data with the health dept
- QRT in LMDC

Stats & Data

- Partner with EMS, local authorities & hospitals

- Received over 2,500 referrals since 7/21, attempted to visit each person

- 1,830 in 2022 as of 12/21

- Connected with over 300 patients and over 400 family members

- Distributed over 700 units of Narcan

- Referred 53 people to treatment
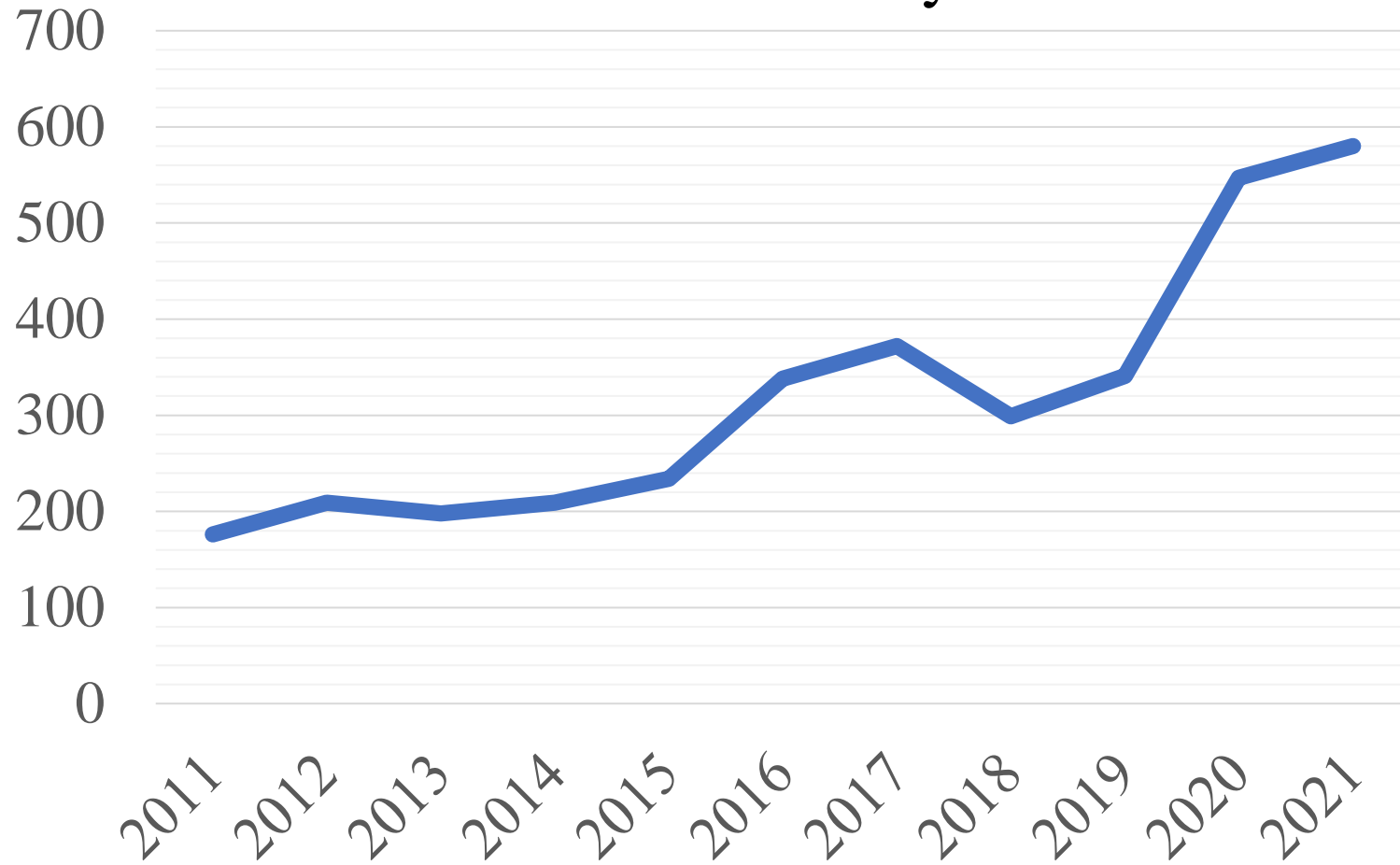
- 2176 have gone with EMS

Jefferson County KY ZIP Codes
2021 OD Death Count

- 1 - 10
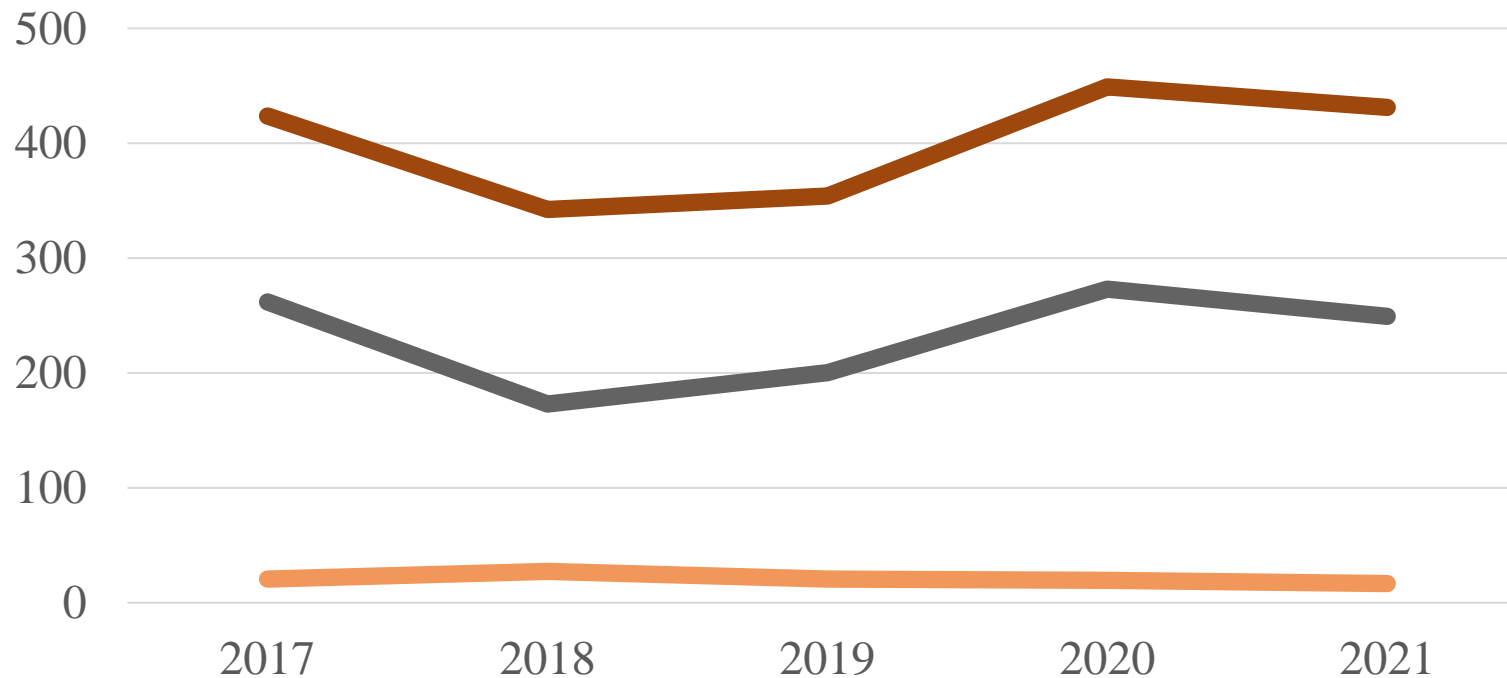- 11 - 14
- 15 - 23
- 24 - 36
- 37 - 49
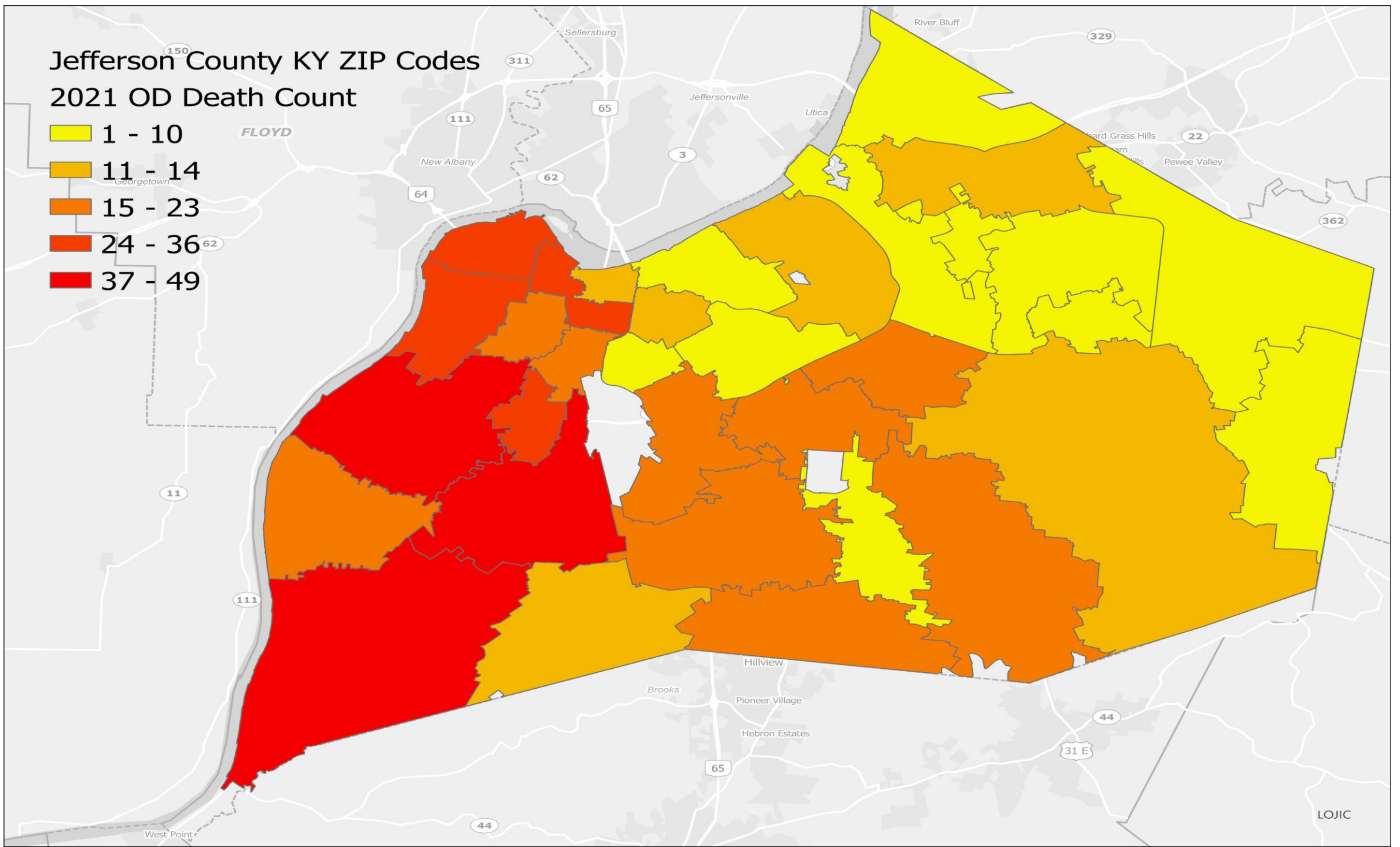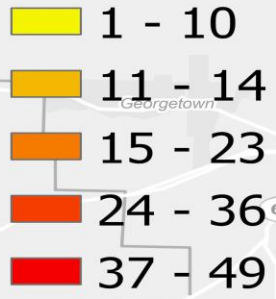
Redlining in Louisville
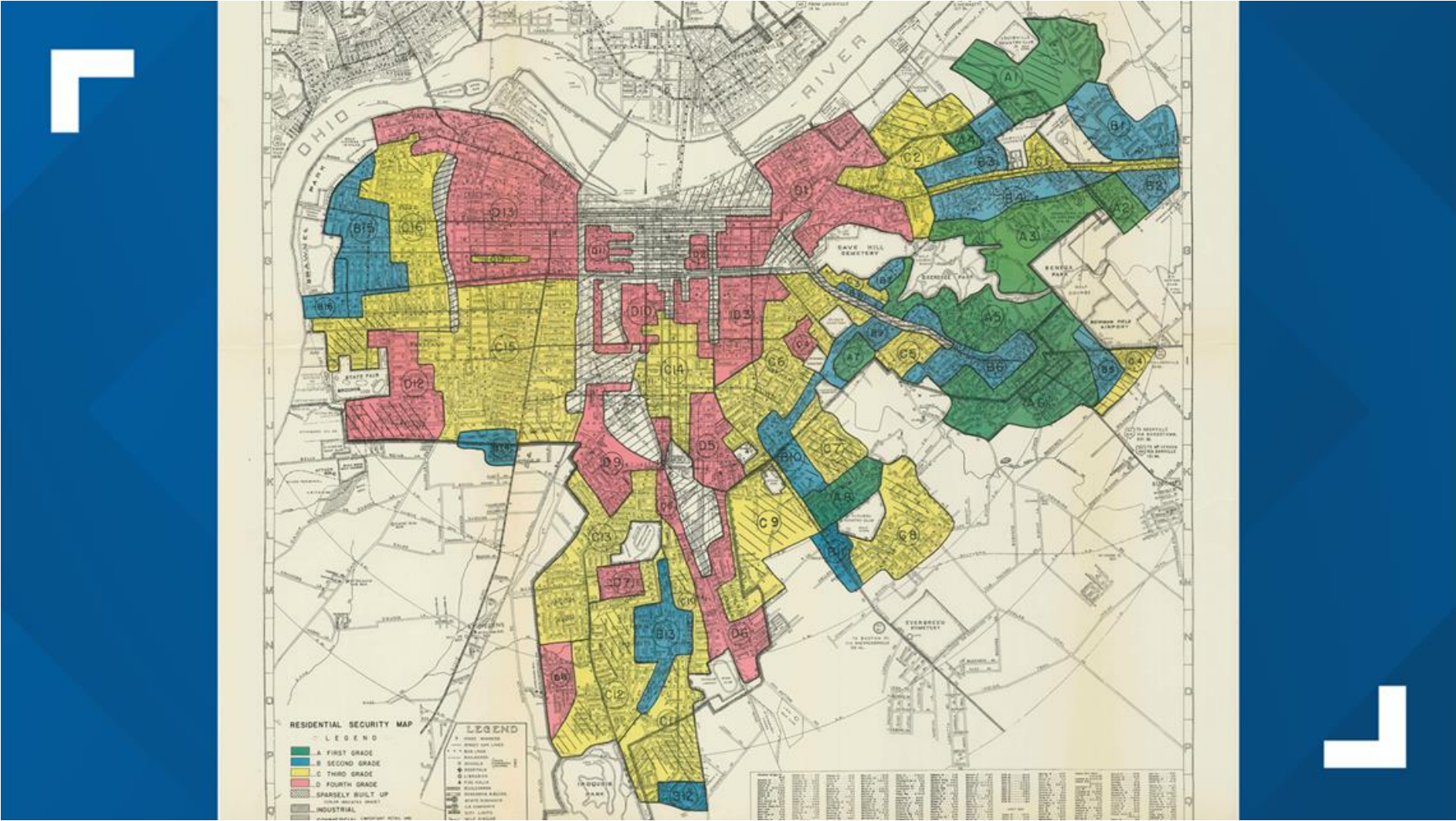
Overdose Deaths (Count)
Jefferson County

Nonfatal Overdose by Drug Type
(per 100,000 population), Jefferson County

Source: KIPRC
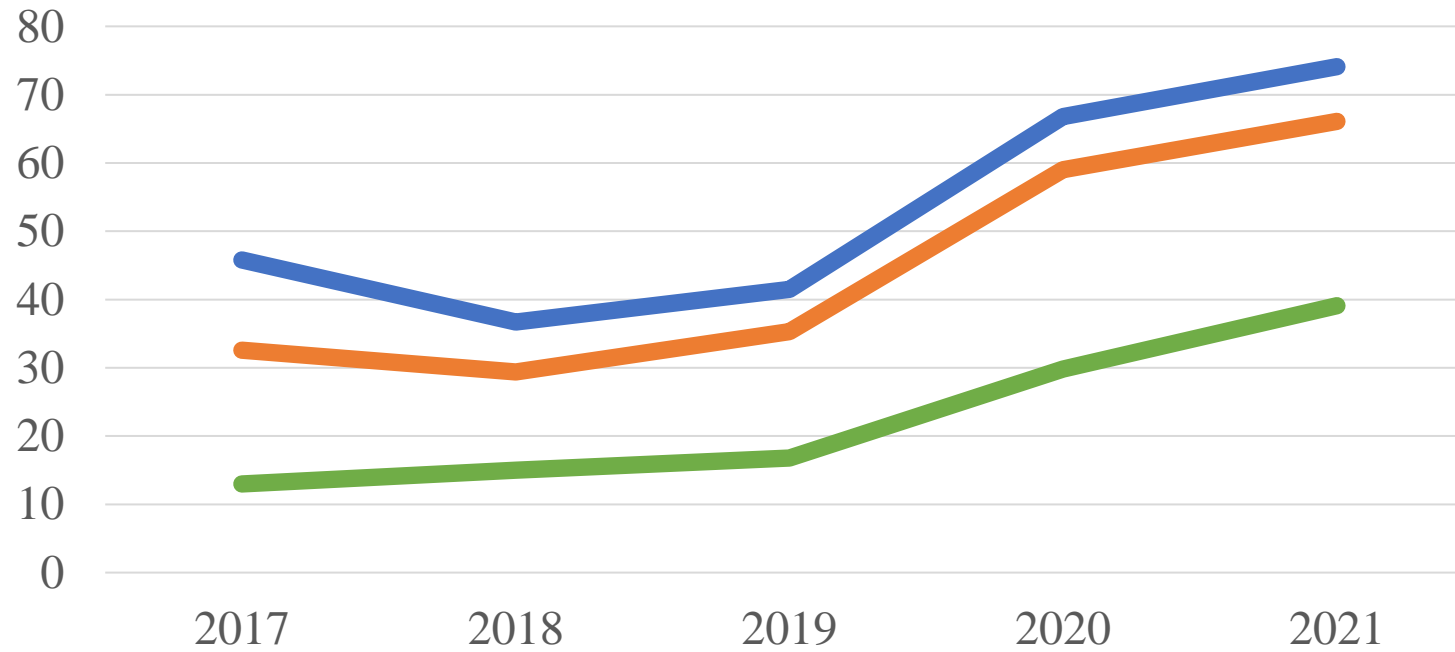https://kiprc.uky.edu/programs/overd
ose-data-action/county-profiles

Any Drug-Involved nonfatal OD
Any Opioid-Involved nonfatal OD
Stimulant-Involved nonfatal OD

Fatal Overdose by Drug Type
(per 100,000 population), Jefferson County

Source: KIPRC
https://kiprc.uky.edu/programs/overd
ose-data-action/county-profiles

Overdose Runs EMS Jefferson County
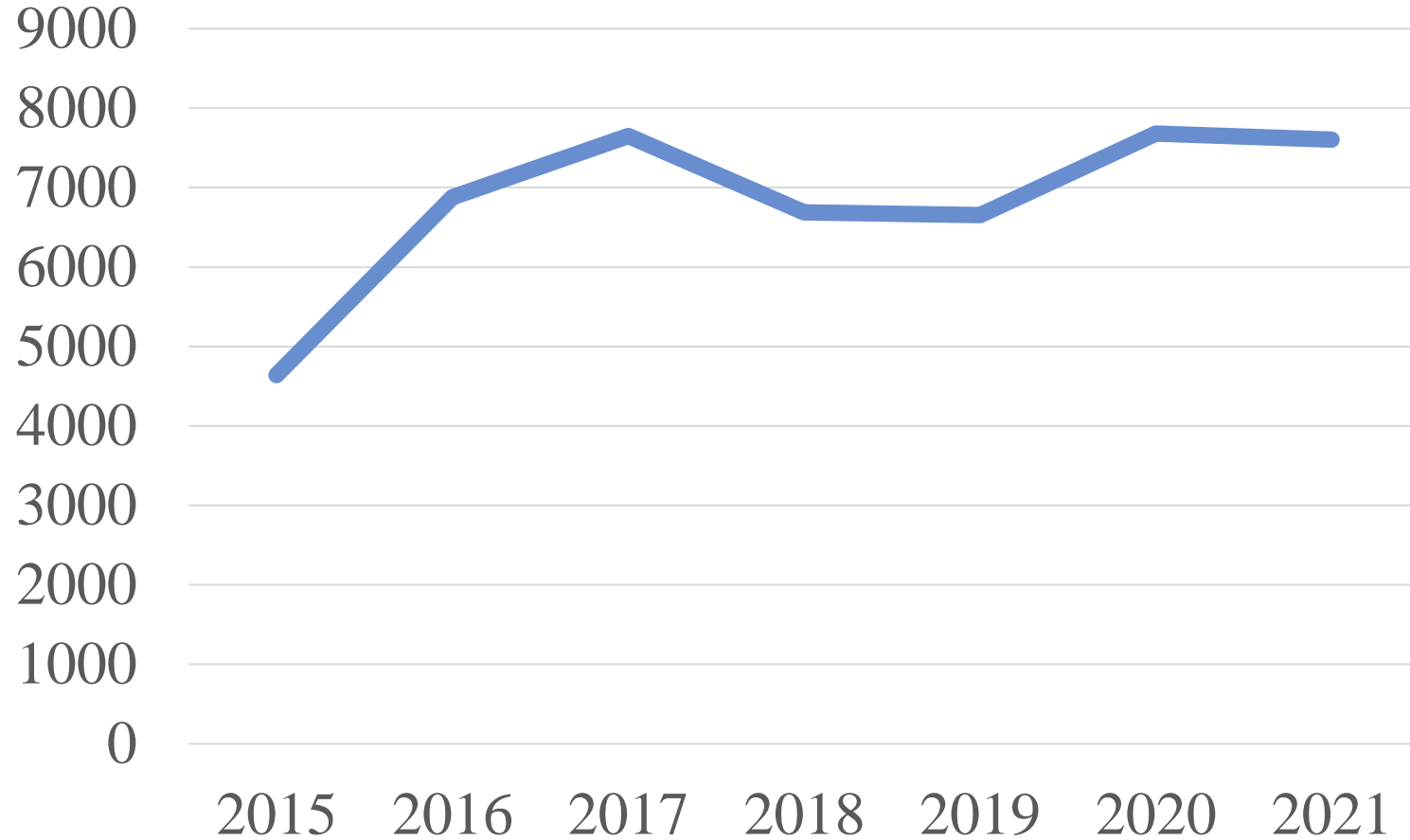
Harm Reduction

"A set of practical strategies and ideas aimed at reducing negative consequences associated with drug use. Harm Reduction is also a movement for social justice built on a belief in, and respect for, the rights of people who use drugs"

--National Harm Reduction Coalition

Harm Reduction Approach
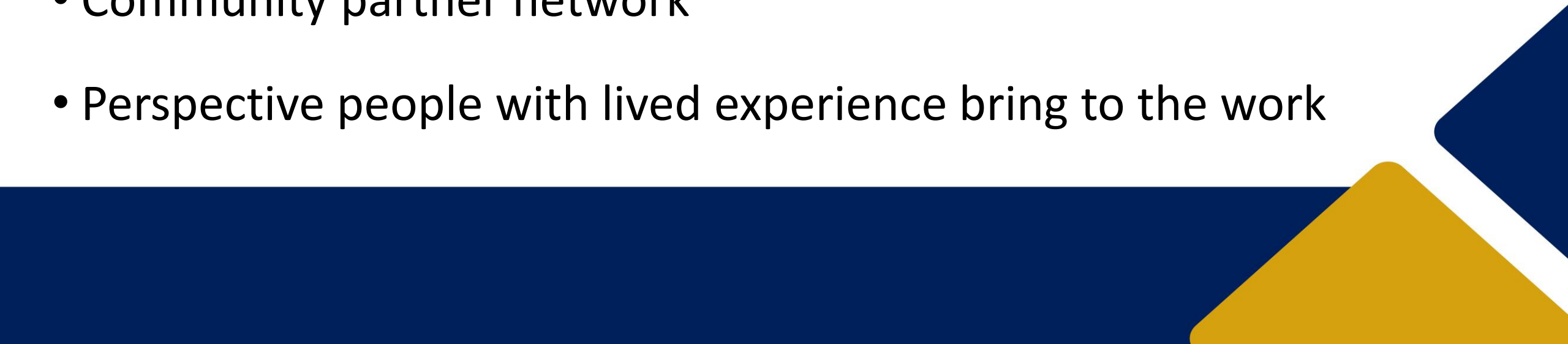
Utilize a Harm Reduction approach to the community

- Meet people where they are at but don't leave people where they are at

- Justice and human rights

- Instill positive change

- Free from judgment, coercion, discrimination

- Does not require anyone to stop what they do

Harm Reduction in the field

- Narcan (naloxone)

- Fentanyl test strips

- Sterile injection supplies

- Safer using practices, overdose prevention & linkage to services

- MOUD

Peer led team....Pros

- Compassionate, empathetic approach through lived experience

- Immediate reduction in stigma and shame

- Less threatening than law enforcement

- Community partner network

- Perspective people with lived experience bring to the work

Peer led team…Cons

- Vicarious trauma

- Lack of resources such as data tracking, access to databases or getting warrants redocketed

- Missed opportunity for improving police relationships with the public

Vicarious Trauma

A TRAUMA EXPOSURE RESPONSE

- Feeling Helpless and Hopeless
- A Sense That One Can Never Do Enough
- Hypervigilance
- Diminished Creativity
- Inability to Embrace Complexity
- Minimizing
- Chronic Exhaustion/Physical Ailments
- Inability to Listen/Deliberate Avoidance
- Dissociative Moments
- Sense of Persecution
- Guilt
- Fear
- Anger and Cynicism
- Inability to Empathize/Numbing
- Addictions
- Grandiosity: An Inflated Sense of Importance Related to One's Work

Substance Use Vs. Substance Use Disorder

- Not all QRT clients have SUD

- Most residents report a one time use

- Example: Took a bad Xanax, needs information about mental health treatment and safer drug use

Partnerships

- Hospitals, treatment facilities, emergency services, behavioral health services and community centers

- Foster genuine, honest and compassionate relationships for our community and residents

- Two way trust system

- Treatment facility tours, Narcan training, table events, school health fairs, LMDC

Thank you,

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Open Discussion