

From Struggle to Strength

Ms. Richards' 7th Hour
Estrella Middle School
2025-2026 Project Citizen Submission

Introduction to the Problem

Drug use and overdoses are a serious problem in **Phoenix**, and many people in our class feel like we see the effects everywhere. It can feel like on almost every corner in Arizona, there are people who are homeless, and a lot of them seem to be struggling with drugs.

When we look at the numbers, it shows how big the issue really is. One report states, *“In the Phoenix-Mesa-Glendale MSA, an annual average of 558,000 persons aged 12 or older used an illicit drug in the past year. This represents 16.0 percent of the MSA population...”* That means about 1 out of every 6 people in the area used illegal drugs in just one year.

According to **Phoenix Rescue Mission**, addiction is deeply affecting the community. Their report says, *“7.3% of youth aged 12–17 tried alcohol for the first time in the past year. 3.5% of youth aged 12–17 tried marijuana for the first time in the past year. 13.7% of young adults aged 18–25 reported having a substance use disorder in the past year. 6.8% of people aged 12+ reported having a substance use disorder in the past year.”* These numbers show that addiction is not rare — it impacts young people and adults.



Introduction to the problem

It's important to understand that homelessness and drug use are connected, but it's not always simple. Some people become homeless because they struggle with addiction. Others may become homeless first because of losing a job, high rent, or family problems, and then turn to drugs to cope with stress or trauma. Either way, addiction can make it much harder for someone to find housing and stability.

Seeing homelessness so often makes the problem feel very real to us. It shows that drug use and addiction don't just affect one person — they affect the whole community. Families are hurt, neighborhoods are impacted, and people's lives are changed.

That's why many of us feel this is such an important issue. It's not just statistics — it's something we see around us, and it shows why better prevention, treatment, and support systems are needed in Arizona.



Introduction to the Problem - Causes



- This quote explains that drug use often begins with a simple desire to feel better, whether that means feeling happier, more relaxed, or less stressed. In the moment, drugs can create temporary positive feelings, making them seem harmless or even helpful. For some people, using drugs may feel like a fun activity or an easy way to escape personal problems. However, these short-term effects can lead to long-term consequences. As a person continues to use drugs, their body can develop tolerance and dependence, increasing the risk of addiction. Over time, what started as a way to cope or enjoy oneself can become a dangerous habit that may result in serious health problems, including overdose.



Introduction to the Problem - Causes



- **Experimentation-** “Addiction often begins as an experiment or a social habit and evolves into a coping mechanism that people rely on.” This quote highlights how drug use frequently starts with curiosity, peer pressure, or the desire to fit in, but can gradually become something much more serious. Many people initially experiment with drugs in social settings, believing they are in control or that occasional use is harmless. However, factors such as stress, trauma, mental health disorders, and easy access to substances can increase the risk of continued use. Over time, the brain’s reward system is altered, leading to tolerance, dependence, and addiction. The risk of overdose also rises, especially when individuals use powerful substances like opioids or fentanyl, mix drugs together, or underestimate a drug’s potency. What begins as experimentation can quickly escalate into a life-threatening cycle fueled by biological, psychological, and environmental causes. Also, if you see people doing these things then you might want to even try it. If you experiment it only one time you can most likely get addicted.

Introduction to the Problem - Causes

THE PHYSICAL IMPACT

The number of deaths attributable to opioid addiction is extremely concerning, and it is increasing more and more as each year goes by. Because opioid drugs are so addictive, people will often turn to the street versions of them—heroin or a bootlegged opioid called fentanyl¹. The results of these addictions have been physically devastating for families and communities across the country.

Opioid deaths went up
17 percent
from 2016 to 2017²

66,324 deaths
from opioid use were reported in 2017³

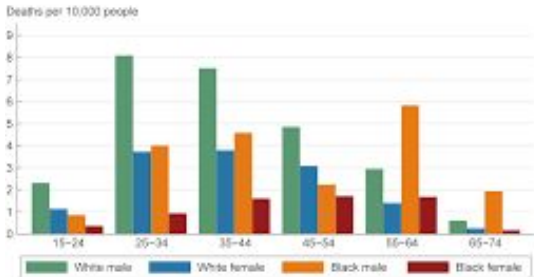
Drug overdoses are now the
leading cause of death
for people under the age of 55⁴

Over 23,000 deaths
from synthetic opioids occurred
from 2016 to 2017⁵

14,647 deaths
from prescription opioid
overdoses occurred from 2016
to 2017⁶

¹ Based on data of 2017 from <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/death-codes.html>
² Based on data of 2017 from <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/death-codes.html>
³ Based on data of 2017 from <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/death-codes.html>

Figure E. Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths in Ohio, 2015



Source: Ohio Department of Health; Ohio Resident Mortality Data.

- **Socio-economic Issues-** Drug use and overdose are often linked to deeper social and economic problems, especially in low-income areas. As the quote explains, **“Impoverished communities face significantly higher rates of addiction. Financial instability fosters stress, increasing the likelihood of addictive behaviors.”** When people struggle to meet basic needs like housing, food, or healthcare, stress and anxiety can push them toward drugs as a way to cope. Limited access to education, mental health services, and addiction treatment also increases the risk of substance overuse. Over time, repetitive drug use can lead to addiction, making overdose more likely, especially when support systems are weak. Understanding these causes shows that drug overdose is not just a personal issue, but a community and societal problem that needs prevention and support. Communities can decrease these rates by giving more resources to people that are limited to this. Without proper help this can make the rate go up even higher, helping this issue requires community support and better access to these resources/treatment.

Introduction to the Problem - Causes



To escape emotions- Many people begin using drugs because they want to feel good or escape difficult emotions, such as stress, sadness, or anxiety. At first, drugs can seem appealing because they may create temporary feelings of happiness, relaxation, or relief, making problems feel easier to ignore for a short time. However, this feeling does not last, and the body can start to depend on the drug to feel normal. Over time, this can lead to addiction, where a person feels unable to stop using even when it causes harm. As drug use increases, so does the risk of overdose, which can be extremely dangerous and even life-threatening. What may start as a way to feel better can quickly turn into a serious health and safety issue.

In my opinion, I think that people who surround themselves around people who do drugs easily get exposed to it. Mostly because they feel like the odd one out or their friends influence them to do it, since they think it's "cool".

Introduction to the Problem - Causes



Peer Pressure- Drug use and overdoses often begin with the pressure to fit in, even when it goes against someone's better judgment. As the quote says, "Peer pressure is pressure you put on yourself to fit in," and many people make risky choices because they fear being left out or judged. When someone doesn't have strong values or confidence, "Those who stand for nothing, fall for anything," making it easier to give in to drugs despite the serious risks, including addiction and overdose. The truth is, "Why fit in, when you were born to stand out," reminds us that being different and making healthy choices takes courage. Instead of forcing risky behavior just to be accepted, "Don't force yourself to fit in where you don't belong," because real friends and safe environments won't pressure you into choices that can harm or even end your life.

In my opinion this is very not surprising to me as student i have been offered and even peer pressured into vapes,weed pens,edibles and so much more. I wonder if the people who do decide to take the risk and try it what do they feel,do they like it?,do they regret it?,I genuinely wonder what goes inside their head before,in process,and after.

Introduction to the Problem - Causes



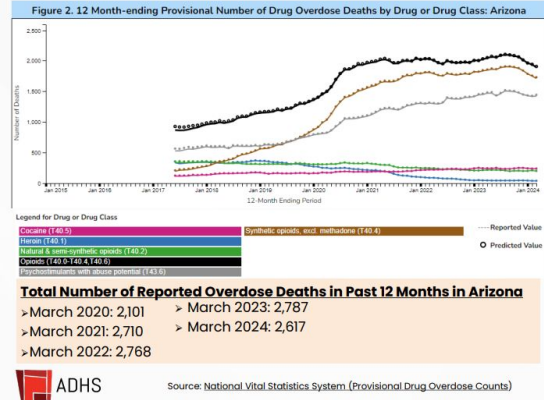
Easy to Find- Drugs are really easy to find in a lot of places, which is a big problem. Even though some drugs are illegal, people still sell them and somehow everyone knows someone who can get them. Stuff like alcohol, vapes, and pills are everywhere, and it feels like adults don't always stop it. A lot of kids see drugs at school or around their neighborhood, so it starts to seem normal even though it's not. When drugs are this available, it makes it harder for people to say no, especially when there's peer pressure and not enough rules being enforced. Overall, the easy access to drugs just makes things worse for teens and communities:



Introduction to the state Problem - causes

This chart in the top left shows the number of drug overdoses and overdose related deaths in Phoenix over the past six years, beginning in mid 2017, and the data reveals a clear and alarming upward trend over time. While overdoses were already a concern at the start of the timeline, the numbers increased each year, reaching higher levels in the most recent data, which shows that the crisis has intensified rather than improved. The right side of the chart further breaks down the causes of death, highlighting that many of these fatalities are linked to opioids, particularly synthetic opioids like fentanyl, which are extremely potent and often mixed into other drugs without users knowing. Overall, the chart demonstrates that overdose deaths in Phoenix have risen dramatically over the past several years, reflecting a worsening public health crisis that continues to impact families, healthcare systems, and the broader community.

CDC 12 Monthending Provisional Drug Overdoses

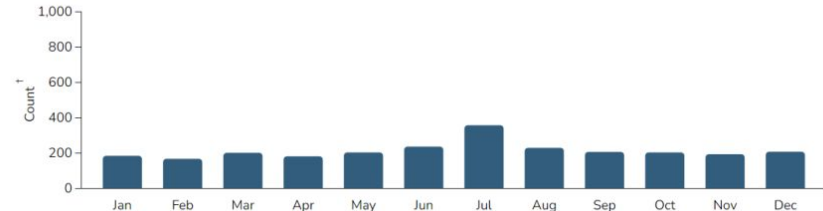


As of March 2024
(In prior 12 months):

- > 1,888 deaths involving opioids
- > 1,709 deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone
- > 1,421 deaths involving psychostimulants

How many drug overdose deaths occurred each month in 2022, Arizona?

Arizona 2022

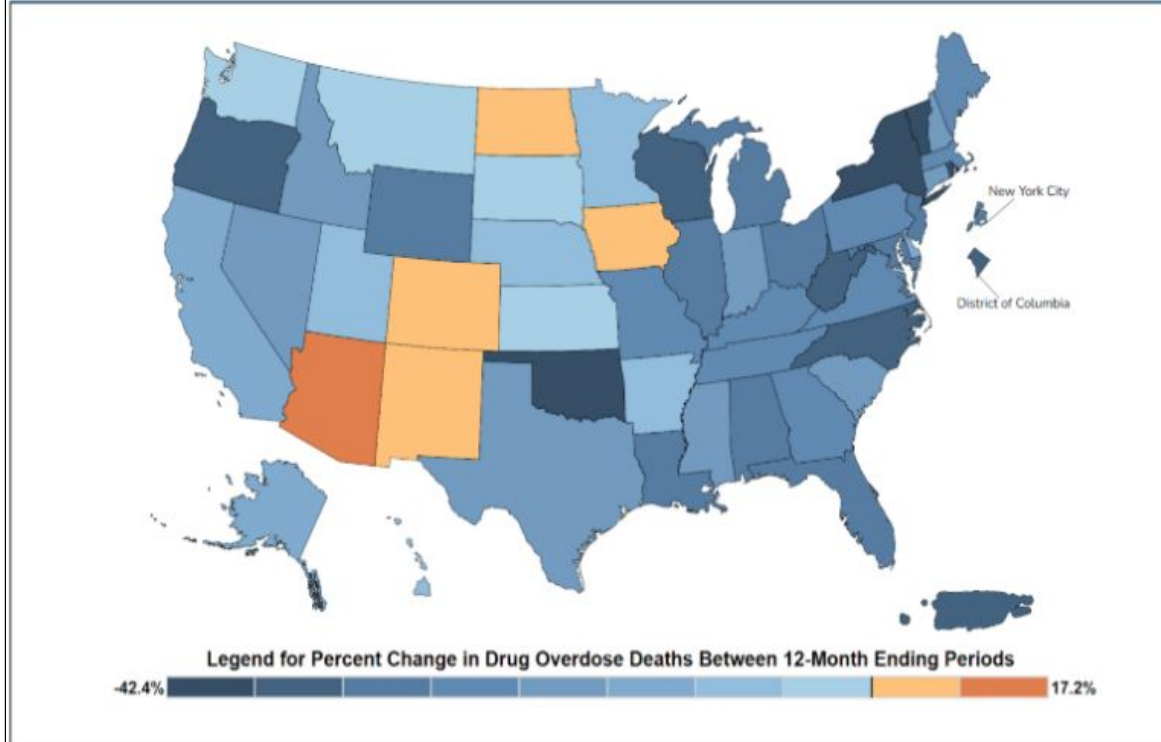


¹ Scale of the chart may change based on the data presented

Introduction to the Problem

On the map, Arizona is colored orange, which shows that drug overdose deaths increased during the 12-month period shown. The orange color means there was a noticeable rise, but it wasn't as high as the states shaded in darker colors. Overall, the map shows that Arizona experienced a moderate increase in overdose deaths compared to the previous time period.

Figure 1b. Percent Change in Reported 12 Month-ending Count of Drug Overdose Deaths, by Jurisdiction: September 2024 to September 2025



Community Disagreement about the Impact of Drug Use



- In the past few years , Phoenix has had more drug overdoses, especially from opioids like fentanyl.
- Overdoses have been causing families to lose loved ones.
- Hospitals and emergency workers in Phoenix respond to overdose calls every day.
- Using drugs can cause addiction, and that makes it really hard to quit even if someone wants to.
- Overdoses can seriously hurt your body or can cause you to die.

Impact of Drug Use and Overdoses in Phoenix

Some disagreements about the current policies:

- In **2023, Arizona reported about 2,624 drug overdose deaths**, which is approximately **35 deaths per 100,000 residents**.
- Thousands of emergency department visits each year are related to overdoses.
- Phoenix has experienced a significant increase in suspected drug overdose incidents: in 2024 there were over **4,200 suspected overdoses**, and in 2025 this jumped to nearly **5,942 suspected opioid overdoses**
- Substance use is strongly linked to homelessness.
- Visible drug use in public areas affects tourism and local businesses.
- Increased ER visits and hospital admissions related to overdoses
- Community concerns about safety and neighborhood stability.

Community Disagreement about the Impact of Drug Use

- **Phoenix has seen a rise in drug overdoses in recent years, especially from opioids like fentanyl.**
- **Many families in the city have lost loved ones because of overdoses.**
- **Hospitals and emergency workers in Phoenix respond to overdose calls every day.**
- **Drug use can lead to addiction, which makes it hard for people to stop even if they want to.**
- **Overdoses can cause serious health problems or death.**
Overdoses can lead to death or health problems.
-
- **Schools and communities in Phoenix are working to teach teens about the dangers of drugs.**
Many communities and schools are trying to teach students the danger of drugs.
-
- **Drug use can increase crime and homelessness in some areas.**
Drugs can be the reason there is more crims and homeless people.
-
- **The city spends a lot of money on healthcare, police, and programs to fight drug abuse.**
Our city has spent a lot of money so there are no drugs by having programs to prevent that .
-
- **Support groups and treatment centers in Phoenix help people recover and stay drug-free.**
There are groups that help people stop consuming drugs

Current Policy on Drug use and addiction-

- There are current laws that criminalize drug possession, use and sale.
- Phoenix offers free Narcan to assist with overdoses.
- “In August 2021, 90 Arizona cities and towns and all 15 countries signed onto the One Arizona Opioid Settlement Memorandum of Understanding (“One Arizona Agreement”). The One Arizona Agreement outlines the distribution of funds that Arizona will receive over 18 years.”
- “Maricopa County Attorney’s Office Diversion Programs offer an alternative to traditional case processing so certain individuals accused of committing a crime may participate in community-based education or treatment program that addresses behavioral change, so the individual may become a productive citizen.”
- “A program is for eligible offenders, who as the parent/guardian, is charged with child abuse, neglect, endangerment, or related offense AND the circumstances of the offense are related to substance use, particularly opioids. This Pilot is an intensive, multi-collaborative partnership with MCAO, Maricopa County Public Health, SAGE Counseling, LaFrontera-EMPACT, and our drug testing provider Averhealth.”



Disagreements about current policies

Some disagreements about the current policies:

- *Others believe restricting harm-reduction services (like needle exchanges or Narcan distribution) can lead to more overdoses.*
- *Some residents feel the policies don't address root causes like*
- *homelessness, poverty, and mental health.*
- *Some people think there are not enough rehab and treatment centers available.*
- *Community members worry about open drug use and trash (like needles) in parks and neighborhoods.*
- *Some argue that arresting people for drug use gives them criminal records, making it harder to get jobs or housing.*
- *Business owners and community members argue drug use in public spaces makes areas feel unsafe.*
- *Some families feel the government is not doing enough to stop fentanyl and other dangerous drugs from spreading.*



Disagreements about current policies

Some disagreements about the current policies:

- One common argument against giving naloxone to people who use opioids is the belief that having access to it could make them feel safer and lead them to use drugs more often or take greater risks.
- “The supportive setting of OPCs draws drug consumption away from public spaces, where it can be dangerous or disruptive, and makes participants more receptive to seeking treatment. However, some residents and policymakers in Phoenix disagree with this approach, arguing that drug prevention strategies like overdose prevention centers may enable continued drug use, conflict with Arizona’s strict drug laws, and send the message that substance use is being tolerated rather than discouraged.”

Phoenix leaders passed a new controversial rule to ban needle exchanges and limit how volunteers and groups provide medical treatment to the homeless at city parks, a move that many healthcare providers and advocates disagree with because it could block life-saving care and harm public health.



Current Policy on Drug use and addiction-

Possession of narcotics in Arizona is a felony. The distinction, depending on the kind of possession, is what level of felony offense is involved:

- Possession for use is a **Class 4 felony**
- Possession of for sale, and/or transportation for sale, and/or importation is a **Class 2 felony**
- Possession of equipment or chemicals to make narcotic drugs is a **Class 3 felony**



Why should government be involved.

A state government should be involved in addressing drug problems because these issues directly impact public health, safety, economic stability, an overall quality of life for residents.



Links & Source

- [\(https://www.pinnaclepeakrecovery.com/arizona-drug-use-statistics/](https://www.pinnaclepeakrecovery.com/arizona-drug-use-statistics/)
- <https://www.samhsa.gov/data/sites/default/files/NSDUHMetroBriefReports/NSDUHMetroBriefReports/NSDUH-Metro-Phoenix.pdf>
- <https://www.beachhouserehabcenter.com/peer-pressure-how-to-effectively-warn-your-teen-about-giving-in-to-drugs-and-alcohol/>
- <https://www.nextavenue.org/finding-solutions-to-drug-overdoses/>
- <https://sobernation.com/peer-pressure-to-use-drugs-what-is-the-effect/>
- <https://www.clevelandfed.org/publications/economic-commentary/2017/ec-201715-opioids>
- <https://onlinedegrees.kent.edu/college-of-public-health/community/opioid-crisis-statistics>
- <https://drughelpline.org/teens/>
- <https://oregoncapitalchronicle.com/2024/12/12/oregons-experiment-in-addressing-drugs-starts-with-about-220-people/>
- <https://directorsblog.health.azdhs.gov/arizonas-ongoing-fight-against-fentanyl-and-overdose-fatalities/>
- <https://www.drugcrime-law.com/blog/2015/february/the->
- <https://policinginsight.com/feature/opinion/tranq-first-uk-death-from-the-flesh-rotting-zombie-drug-xylazine/>
- <https://www.biv.com/news/economy-law-politics/rob-shaw-bc-ndp-takes-another-step-its-drug-decriminalization-experiment-8271933>
- <https://azcapitoltimes.com/news/2025/04/19/dont-ban-overdose-prevention-centers/>

Alternative one- Drug Treatment Centers

One alternative solution we considered was to ask for additional drug treatment facilities to be constructed in Maryvale to help people get off of drugs.

Alternative one- Drug Treatment Centers

Pros

- Adding additional treatment centers would add additional locations that are closer to those in our community. People who need help to get off drugs would be able to get there if the centers are closer to us.
- Drug treatment centers provide medical assistance for people to get clean and that will reduce overdoses.

Alternative one- Drug Treatment Centers

Cons

- Running a treatment center costs a lot of money. You have to pay staff and trained professionals, keep the building in good shape, provide therapy and other resources, and make sure you follow healthcare rules and standards
- Some people don't want drug treatment centers in their neighborhoods because they think it will bring in homeless people and people who use drugs who didn't live there before.

Why Running a Treatment Center Is Complex



Staff & Trained Professionals

Facility Maintenance

Therapy & Support Resources

Healthcare Rules & Standards

Running a treatment center costs a lot of money.

Community Concerns

Some people worry treatment centers may bring in homeless individuals or people who use drugs who did not previously live in the area.



Alternative Two- Safe Drug Use Locations

Safe drug use locations are places where people can use drugs they already have while trained workers watch to make sure they are safe. These places are also called supervised consumption sites. The workers give clean supplies and are ready to help right away if someone has an overdose.

The main goal of these locations is to save lives and keep people healthier. They help stop the spread of diseases like HIV and hepatitis by providing clean equipment. They also try to connect people with doctors, counselors, and treatment programs if they want help for addiction. Some people disagree with these sites, but others believe they make communities safer by focusing on health and safety.

“**Supervised consumption sites** provide a safe, clean space for people to bring their own drugs to use, in the presence of trained staff.” <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/substance-use/supervised-consumption-sites/explained.html>

Part of the ‘Perspectives on drugs’ (PODs) series, launched alongside the annual European Drug Report, these designed-for-the-web interactive analyses aim to provide deeper insights into a selection of important issues.

https://www.euda.europa.eu/topics/pods/drug-consumption-rooms_en

Alternative 2



Pros

- **They save lives.** Trained staff can respond right away if someone overdoses, which helps prevent deaths.
- **They reduce the spread of diseases.** Clean supplies help lower the risk of infections like HIV and hepatitis.
- **They connect people to help.** These sites can offer information about treatment, counseling, and healthcare services for people who want support.



Cons

- **1. May encourage drug use** – Some believe they normalize or enable continued drug use.
- **2. Community concerns** – Neighbors may worry about crime, loitering, or public disorder.
- **3. Legal issues** – They can conflict with drug laws and face political opposition.



Government Responsibility

Why does city government have a responsibility to intervene in drug use and overdoses.

In Phoenix, Arizona, all three levels of government help reduce drug use and overdoses. The city and county work on local programs, police enforcement, and health services to help people in the community. The state of Arizona makes drug laws and provides money for treatment and prevention programs. The federal government helps by enforcing national drug laws, tracking overdose data, and giving funding for research and support. All three levels work together to solve the problem. The source we would go to is the city government because it's more convenient because the city government is focused

Analysis

One solution we had was Treatment Centers. We were going to take that into consideration, but “ Some people don’t want drug treatment centers in their neighborhood because they think it will bring in homeless people and people who didn't use drugs who didn’t live there before.” A treatment center can be very expensive for families to afford.

Another solution is “safe drug use centers” was an idea that we were going to take in to consideration because They save lives. Trained staff can respond right away if someone overdoses, which helps prevent deaths. Although the conflict is that Running a treatment center costs a lot of money. You have to pay staff and trained professionals, keep the building in good shape, provide therapy and other resources, and make sure you follow healthcare rules and standards.



Jackie- treatment centers
Valeria- Safe drug use
centers

Links & Sources

- <https://www.mesaaz.gov/Public-Safety/Court/Community-Court>
- <https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/arizonas-drug-policies-are-racist-stupid-and-ineffective-for-treating-addiction-9558723>
- <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2024/09/17/arizona-addiction-overdose-treatment-not-prison/75183151007/>
- <https://www.phoenix.gov/healthsite/Pages/Substance-Use.aspx>
- <https://ktar.com/uncategorized/new-phoenix-program-allows-users-to-get-rid-of-drugs-if-they-promise-to-get-treatment/1332565/>
- <https://www.maricopacountyattorney.org/303/Diversion-Programs>
- <https://www.acluaz.org/en/news/arizona-war-drugs>
- <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2019/10/20/opioids-remain-crisis-maricopa-county-because-inaction/3978961002/>
- <https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/arizonas-drug-policies-are-racist-stupid-and-ineffective-for-treating-addiction-9558723>
- <https://www.aclu.org/documents/drug-policy-health-issue>

Links & Sources

- <https://www.acluaz.org/en/news/arizona-war-drugs>
- <https://www.azcentral.com/story/opinion/op-ed/2019/10/20/opioids-remain-crisis-maricopa-county-because-inaction/3978961002/>
- <https://www.phoenixnewtimes.com/news/arizonas-drug-policies-are-racist-stupid-and-ineffective-for-treating-addiction-9558723>
- <https://www.aclu.org/documents/drug-policy-health-issue>
- <https://arizonadigitalfreepress.com/mesa-community-court-mcc-join-forces-to-empower-individuals-facing-homelessness-through-higher-education/>
- [Nonprofit drug treatment center for low-income Texas teens shutters amid opioid crisis](#)

Our Class Policy

Our class decided to create Narcan machines in public places around our neighborhood because we want to help save lives. Narcan is a medicine that can help someone who is having an overdose, and having it in easy-to-find places can make a big difference. We want to put one in El Oso Park because a lot of families and kids go there every day. We also think a public library in Phoenix would be a good place since many people visit to read, study, and use computers. We hope that by putting Narcan machines in these places, our community will be safer and more prepared to help in an emergency.

<https://www.minneapolismn.gov/news/2025/october/third-narcan-vending-machine-installed/#:~:text=History%20of%20harm%20reduction%20vending%20machines&text=%E2%80%9CThe%20Station%205%20vending%20machine,Bryan%20Tyner%2C%20Minneapolis%20Fire%20Chief.>

Examples of Narcan Vending Machines

Many communities across the country have installed Narcan vending machines to help prevent opioid overdose deaths. In Oklahoma, machines were installed at FireLake Foods, FireLake Casino, and Grand Casino Resort to make the medication easy for people to access in public places. In Minneapolis, the machines were placed at fire stations because they are trusted, open 24/7, and located in central areas of the community. In Marin County, machines are placed throughout the county, including community locations, to promote easy access. These vending machines operate 24/7 and do not require identification or a prescription, which removes barriers for people who may need help quickly. Studies in Nevada suggested that similar harm reduction machines were linked to a 15% reduction in opioid overdose deaths in just one year, showing how

Benefits of Narcan Vending Machines

- People who use drugs but avoid clinics due to stigma or legal concerns can still obtain naloxone without judgment or documentation.
- Narcan vending machines provide immediate, **24/7 access** to naloxone, a medication that can quickly reverse an opioid overdose and restore breathing before professional help arrives — literally giving someone a second chance at life when every minute counts.

Negatives of Narcan Vending Machines

Community Opposition & Perception Issues

Some community members and local leaders express opposition to vending machines distributing Narcan, believing these programs send the wrong message about drug use or “enable” opioid use rather than addressing its causes. For example, critics have said such machines are not something they support and would prefer medication be limited to clinical settings

Misconceptions About Incentivizing Drug Use

Some opponents argue that easy access to naloxone might reduce the *perceived consequences* of opioid use, thereby indirectly enabling drug misuse. While this idea is debated, it remains a public criticism

Operational & Logistical Problems

Naloxone vending machines have faced **stock shortages, malfunctions, and high operating costs**, leading at least one program to be discontinued. In Oklahoma, the state health department removed its vending machines partly because the initiative wasn't *cost-effective* and machines were often emptied soon after restocking

Constitutionality

Our proposed policy does not break any constitutional rights:

Our proposed policy does not break any of the 10 amendments. Actually, the Bill of rights state plenty of reasons supporting our case.

The Bill of Rights protects freedoms like:

- Speech (1st Amendment)
- Protection from unreasonable searches (4th Amendment)
- Due process (5th and 14th Amendments)

These are just some of the Bill of Rights supporting our case. We are not the only ones using these though, people in court cases agree with our case and can use these Amendments themselves.

Constitutionality

Here are some court cases that show why Narcan vending machines can help communities:

- **City of Huntington v. Amerisource Bergen** – Said companies helped cause the opioid crisis, so cities can use solutions like Narcan machines. A news article says these machines help save lives.
- **State of Oklahoma v. Johnson & Johnson** – Showed opioids created a public health problem, so tools like Narcan vending machines are needed. A news article says they reduce overdoses.
- **Ruan v. United States (2022)** – Highlighted how serious opioid misuse is, supporting ideas like Narcan machines. A news article says they help people get medicine quickly.
- **County of Santa Cruz v. State of California** – Supported harm reduction programs, which includes Narcan machines. A news article says naloxone access saves lives.

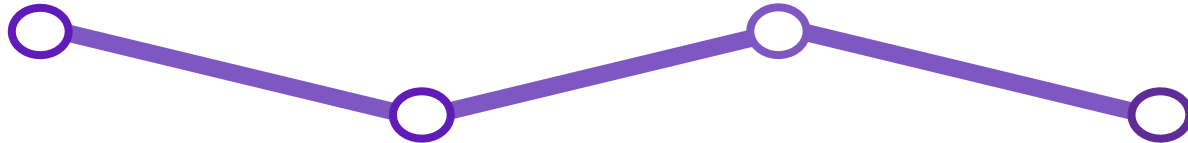
Links & Sources

- <https://www.phillyvoice.com/philadelphia-national-opioid-settlement-mobile-methadone-kensington-overdose-prevention-funds-200-million/>
- <https://www.healthaffairs.org/content/forefront/new-mobile-methadone-rules-and-they-mean-treatment-access>
- <https://www.denverhealth.org/services/mobile-health-centers/mobile-opioid-medication-assisted-treatment>
- <https://www.orienttreatmentconsulting.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-opening-a-treatment-center/>
- https://vmfsusa.com/blogs/business/what-is-narcan-vending-machine?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://www.kpbs.org/news/health/2024/11/14/instead-of-sodas-these-vending-machines-offer-needles-and-narcan-to-fight-overdoses?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- <https://www.firstalert4.com>
- https://www.vendingtimes.com/articles/naloxone-vending-machines-performing-life-saving-function/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- <https://www.KOSU.com>
- https://www.jurist.org/news/2025/10/federal-appeals-court-resurrects-west-virginia-opioid-lawsuit/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/08/26/health/oklahoma-opioids-johnson-johnson.html>
- <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2021/20-1410>
- <https://law.justia.com/cases/california/court-of-appeal/4th/38/1139.html>

Action Plan Introduction: Timeline of events

Conduct research

Create a solution and find
available funding sources



Survey the Community

Propose our solution to the
City Council

Step 1- Conduct Research to Identify the Problem

Our first step was to research the problems caused by drug addiction in our neighborhood. We used Google to find news articles that explained what is happening with drug addiction in Phoenix. We also researched what our government is currently doing to solve the problem of drug addiction. This helped us see how big of a problem drug addiction is in our community and that we need to do more to help solve this problem.



Step 2- Survey the Community

We talked with our school and community about the problems related to drug addiction. This was done to identify the perspectives of our community on this problem. It was important to be sure that this was not just an issue that impacted us but our whole community.



Step 3- Funding the proposed project

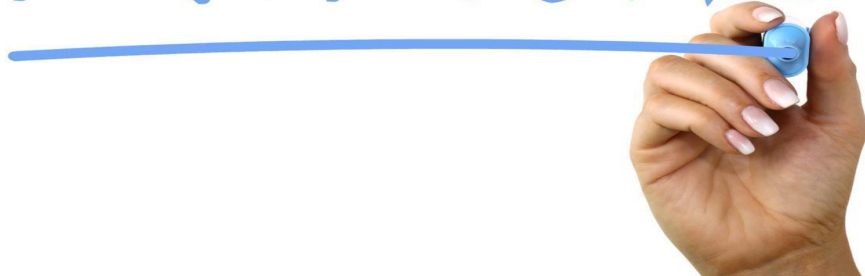
We looked for grants that could help fund this program. We did this so we can implement this project without raising taxes. People may not support this if they have to pay extra tax to make it happen. We searched for grants that would exceed the estimated cost to get our project done.



Step 4- Propose solution to the City Council

Our last step would be to present this solution to the Phoenix City Council for their consideration. We will work to contact a City of Phoenix council member to discuss how to bring this idea up for consideration by the council at a future board meeting.

PROPOSAL



Proposed Costs



Buying two Narcan vending machines can cost between **\$6,000 and \$30,000 or more**. The price depends on what kind of machine is bought. A basic indoor machine without temperature control can cost about **\$300–\$700**. A standard machine usually costs between **\$3,000 and \$7,400**. Outdoor or more advanced machines with temperature control, touchscreens, or data tracking can cost **\$7,400 to \$15,000 or more** each. Maintenance costs are usually low, but restocking the Narcan can cost a lot. Many times, state programs or grants help pay for refilling the machines.

Sources:

- National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Proposed funding sources

One of the grants that we discovered is the state opioid response. This grants focuses on supporting communities to fight against drug abuse and misuse. “In addition, GOYFF supported the continued service enhancements and implementation of best practices addressing the full continuum of care related to opioid misuse, abuse, and dependency by distributing approximately \$3.7 million to partnering agencies to aid in the development of state, regional, and local level collaborations.” They target communities facing drug use,



Proposed funding sources

Substance Use Block Grant or known as SUBG is funding \$5 million to prevent kids, adults, and communities from getting addicted to drugs early.

SUBG Funding allow “organizations to develop and implement evidence-based drug prevention programs, screening, and behavioral health and substance abuse assessments”. Funding is also distributed to the TISAPP to prevent drug abuse by supporting and expanding the use of trauma-informed care principles.



Proposed funding sources

State Opioid Response (SOR) & Tribal Opioid Response (TOR) Grants

- Administered by the **Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)** – part of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).
- Provides substantial funding to states and tribes to address the opioid crisis, including **prevention, treatment, recovery services, and overdose reversal medication like naloxone.**
- In FY25, more than **\$1.5 billion** in SOR/TOR awards were allocated. These funds support things like distributing naloxone kits and expanding access to treatment services.

How it works: States award sub-grants to local agencies, healthcare providers, nonprofits, and community coalitions that deliver services on the ground.

https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-state-tribal-opioid-response-grants-2025.html?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Government Officials Needing to be Influenced

We would need to influence the City Council as their vote is needed to enact this solution.

- The current Mayor of Phoenix is Kate Gallego, and the Vice Mayor is Ann O'Brien - She oversees public services, leads our city, and acts as a representative for our community
- Our current vice mayor is Ann O'Brien - He takes our mayors place when needed, and overall supports our Mayor

And our current city council members

- Jim Waring (District 2)
- Debra stark (District 3)
- Laura pastor (District 4)
- Betty Guardado (District 5)
- Kevin robinson (District 6)
- Anna hernandez (District 7)
- Kesha hodge washington (District 8)

Supporters and opponents

SUPPORTERS

- Community members who want to see these people get the help they need.
- People in need of help getting off of drugs.
- Businesses because they won't have as much crime or health issues they need to address in the areas surrounding their businesses.
- Church/Community groups

OPPONENTS

- Taxpayers because they don't want to pay more money
- People that live near methadone clinics because it brings in lots of people on drugs and homeless people
- State news, Because they say the rules in the methadone clinic are jeopardizing the path of recovery
- [U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration](#), they say that they have concerns of potential diversion of medication.

Links & Sources

- <https://www.phillyvoice.com/philadelphia-national-opioid-settlement-mobile-methadone-kensington-overdose-prevention-funds-200-million/>
- <https://www.denverhealth.org/services/mobile-health-centers/mobile-opioid-medication-assisted-treatment>
- <https://www.orienttreatmentconsulting.com/the-pros-and-cons-of-opening-a-treatment-center/>
- <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10394629/>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2024/07/21/nyregion/mobile-methadone-vans-fentanyl.html#:~:text=Constructing%20and%20outfitting%20a%20methadone,a%20safe%20for%20the%20medication.>
- <https://goyff.az.gov/SORgrant>
- <https://www.grants.gov/search-results-detail/349683>
- <https://goyff.az.gov/SUBGgrant>



Thank you for
your time and
consideration!

YOUR WELCome