



Health & Human Services Agenda Request

3A
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: March 26, 2024

Title of Item: Annual Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Update

- ☒ REGULAR AGENDA
☐ CONSENT AGENDA
☐ INFORMATION ONLY

Action Requested:

- ☐ Approve/Deny Motion
☐ Adopt Resolution (attach draft)

- ☐ Direction Requested
☒ Discussion Item
☐ Hold Public Hearing*
**provide copy of hearing notice that was published*

Submitted by:
Paula Arimborgo

Department:
H&HS Administration

Presenter (Name and Title):
Liz Short, H&HS Public Health

Estimated Time Needed:
20 min

Summary of Issue:

A presentation of the Annual Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Update

Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:

Recommended Action/Motion:

Financial Impact:

Is there a cost associated with this request?

☐ Yes

☐ No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

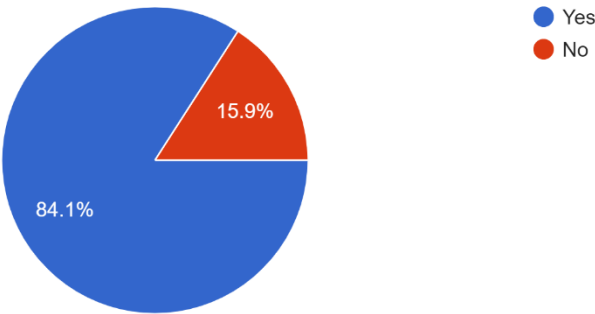
Is this budgeted? ☐ Yes ☐ No

Please Explain:

Aitkin County Opioid Settlement Funds Survey Responses

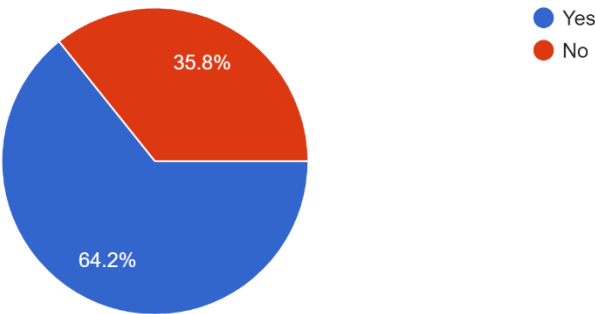
Do you live in Aitkin County?

151 responses



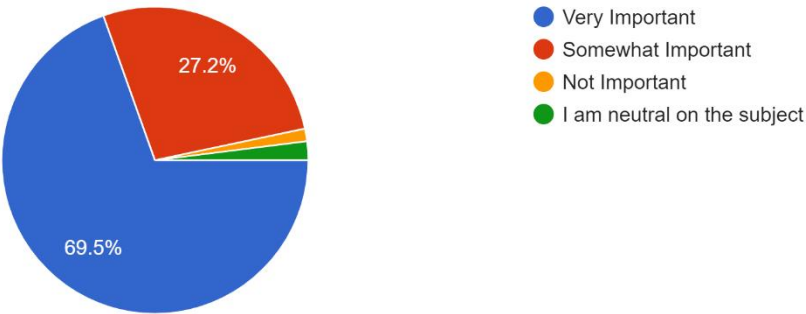
Have you or someone close to you been impacted by any type of substance use?

151 responses



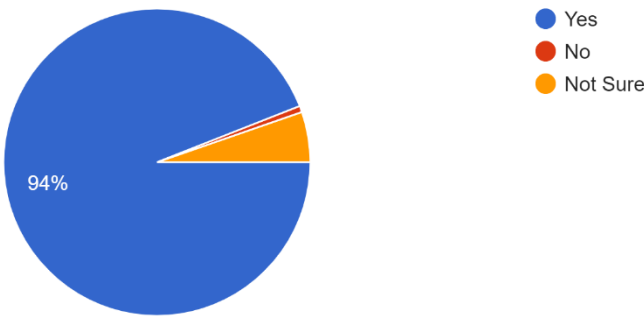
How important is this issue to you as a community member?

151 responses



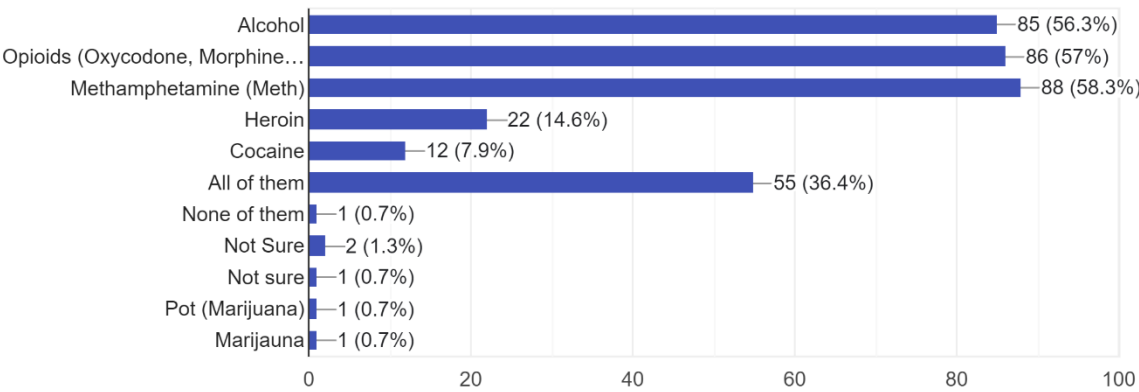
Do you think there is a problem with substance misuse or abuse of any kind in Aitkin County?

151 responses



If you answered yes to the question above what substances do you think are the most problematic?
Please select all that apply.

151 responses



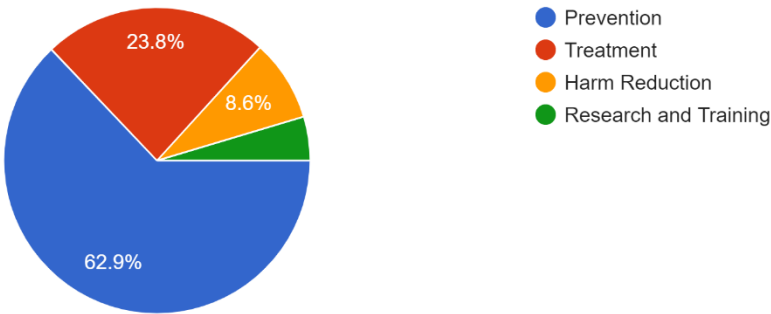
What do you think about giving someone the drug Narcan to reverse a drug overdose?

151 responses



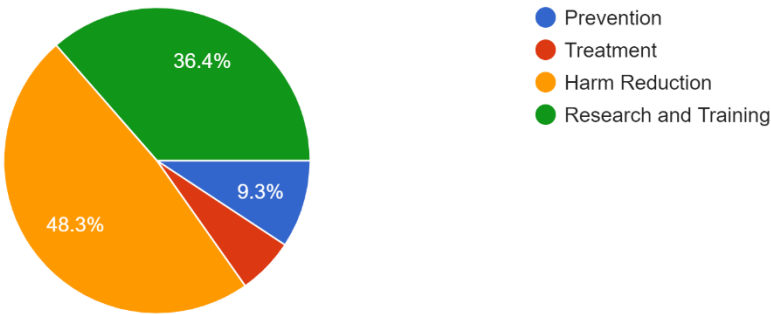
Out of the four general areas listed at the top of this survey, which one do you think is the most important to spend resources on? Please choose one.

151 responses



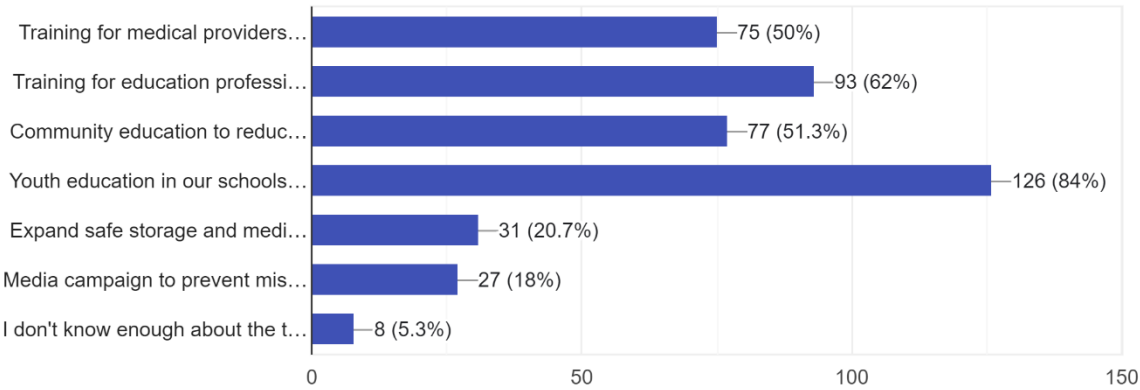
Out of the four general areas listed at the top of this survey, which one do you think is the least important to spend resources on ? Please choose one.

151 responses



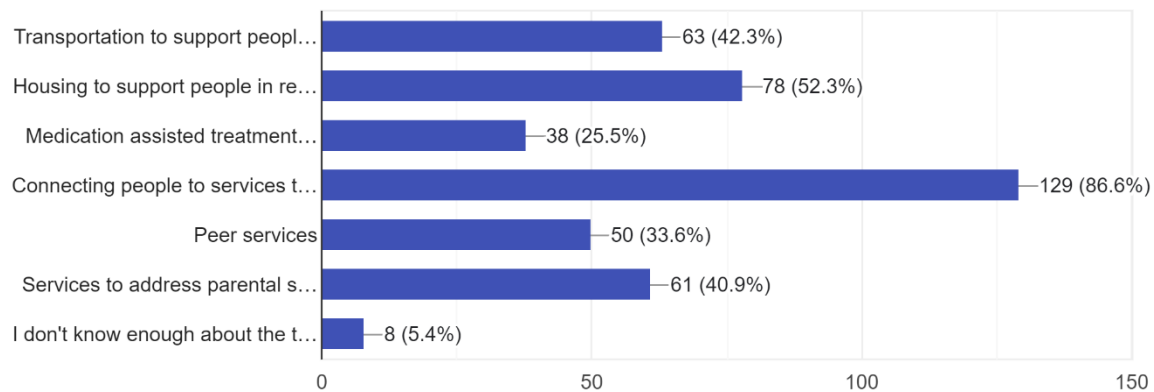
In the area of Prevention, please choose the top three priorities in which you think resources should be spent.

150 responses



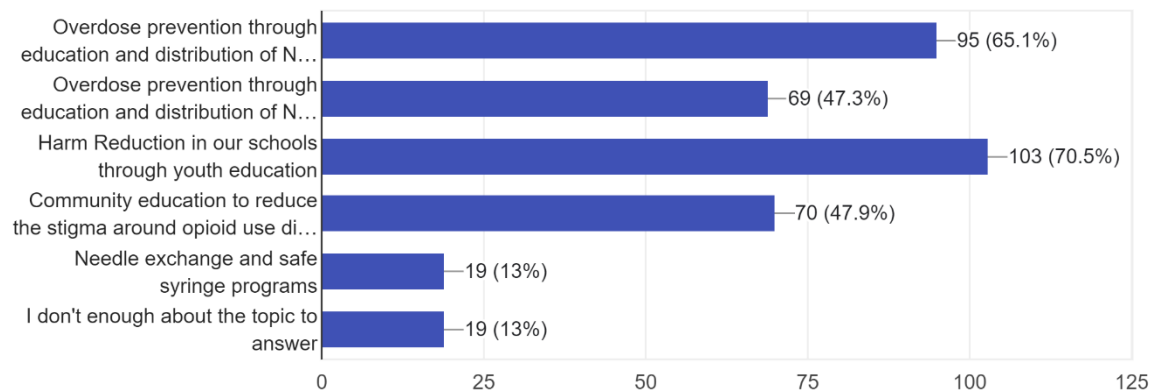
In the area of Treatment, please choose the top three priorities in which you think funds should be spent.

149 responses



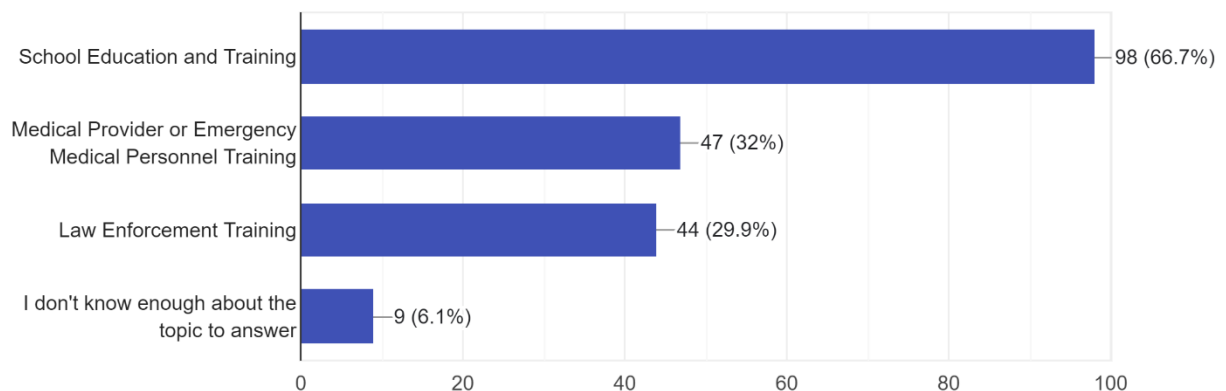
In the area of Harm Reduction, please choose the top three priorities in which you think funds should be spent.

146 responses



In the area of Research and Training, please choose the top priority in which to spend resources.

147 responses



What additional feedback would you like to offer Aitkin County Public Health regarding the use of these funds? 28 responses

Treat adults and Children for Recovery

I would like to see the insurance companies get out of the way so that Dr.'s can address health issues without throwing pills at every problem. Children see too many pills in their homes and see it as a healing solution.

Public knowledge on use of funds

I want to see more aftercare programs for people who need it. Also, the families while loved ones go through treatment and also if they want it while the loved one is still using. I want to see more peer recovery workers, maybe even a program

Funeral expenses for low income/ tribal. Folks that OD in the tribal community risk improper burial due to the overwhelming costs to recover body from Hennepin.

Build an Aitkin County treatment and mental health center in Aitkin to improve access to addiction treatment, mental health services, and detox programs. Allow and encourage parents and schools to drug test children to curb drug use in our youth/teens. Remove the red tape so it's easy to test all youth routinely to catch those who are using and get them treatment before it's too late. Channel low-level drug offenders into treatment and support services instead of jail. Build the treatment and mental health center in our community so it is designed to house and treat mentally ill inmates who are burnt out on drugs or have other mental illnesses, with the focus being on their recovery not incarceration - move them out of our jail system. (Thank you, Liz, for the amazing work that you and the public health team does in our local community. You are very much appreciated.)

Look into supplying Narcan to the local first responder groups in the area, supply the ambulance systems and the law enforcement officers. Cope is an organization that will help with peer support and transportation to treatment centers, they will help with treatment access etc.

Mille Lacs Band Representatives from the Districts in our County should be contacted and involved in this.

Should be more effort in enforcement and getting illegal drugs off the streets and punishing the suppliers of the illegal drugs instead of looking at ways for reducing the harm people are causing themselves by the use of the illegal drugs

Have Narcan available in a safe space for users of opioids to access it safely and without judgement.

The county has a high number of volunteers for emergency medical response, they enter homes and scenes where they may or may not know there are opioids in the house. Fentanyl exposure is becoming a more common theme. These volunteer groups would benefit greatly by having training on the drugs, training on Narcan and access to test strips. They are the communities first on a scene of an emergency and it would be sad for them to have an accidental exposure putting their life at risk for volunteering to help another. The county over the years has maybe put too much faith in these groups that they take care of and have resources available on their own. County support in one way or another as another resource for these small groups would be valuable to both the county and the group. These groups could also be another resource for the county in reaching out to the communities with education on the issue.

All areas are important however I think we must start with education to leaders, first responders, medical professionals, schools, students and community members on the facts. Prevention measures are so important and the right resources for those ready to quick to be successful.

Harm Reduction is very important. I think we need to look in to other options then the list provided.

The question regarding "spending money on" -- I answered Prevention but Treatment is obviously an Immediate need..

Thank you for the hard work and dedication.

Where does Aitkin County think this money can make the biggest difference? In other words what is the county greatest strength? What information do the people of Aitkin need to know to help them take action? Thank you for the opportunity to try and be part of a solution.

I think long term treatment options should be number one priority!!

Don't enable it, do what it takes to stop the problem.

When making referrals for individuals seeking treatment there is a lack of detox options from opioids and limited treatment availability resulting in individuals not being able to access treatment when they are ready to seek it. If the funds could be used to support getting providers for these services in our area I think that would help.

I think it would be cool to use some of the funds for individuals affected by people who have used or have died from their use. Funds maybe for kids in school who have addict parents and need additional support/items/fun in their life. Also, education on enabling as well. So many people feel that they are helping an addict when in fact they are assisting in keeping them sick.

Thank you for working on this tough issue. I'll be watching to see where the funds are spent
The problems not going away unless the dope goes away.....

Treatment in the jail

Improving our cultural understanding and organic understanding of why people choose to abuse is critical to thwarting initial exposures. Stopping initial introductory use is critical/pivotal. We all make life choices which we cannot take back. Society should not be paying for bad choices of individuals.

Since abuse/deaths are impacting young people, it's critical to educate children and parents around substance abuse.

Find the ones that don't work a job.

Concentrate on mental health and alcohol abuse too

Use monies for something new don't pad existing programs



2023 Accomplishments

Prevention

- Dave Baker Community Education
- Nalox-Boxes in the Aitkin County Government Center, Judicial Center and Health and Human Services
- Vape Lock-Boxes at Hill City Schools

Harm Reduction

- Nalox-Boxes per locations cited in prevention
- Equipped EMS and school districts with naloxone
- Added rescue and medical guidance to the Aitkin County Safety Policy
- Awarded funding to projects in the area of prevention and harm reduction: Making a Change, Hill City Schools, Nalox-Boxes

Research and Training

- Established an Opioid Subcommittee
- Established a regional Community Of Practice
- Developing the Opioid Settlement County Webpage
- Conducted a community survey
- Created guidance for use of naloxone by county employees

Treatment

What is Ahead

- ✓ Outreach and Prevention
- ✓ Opioid Prevention Campaign
- ✓ Opioid Harm Reduction

Financials

Funds Recieved YTD	\$ 312,214.79
Funds Dispersed YTD	\$ 26,320.58
Balance YTD	\$ 285,894.21