



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors  
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
(805) 568-2240

**Department Name:** Sheriff-Coroner  
**Department No.:** 032  
**For Agenda Of:** April 2, 2024  
**Placement:** Departmental  
**Estimated Time:** 1.5 Hours  
**Continued Item:** No  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Department Bill Brown, Sheriff-Coroner (805) 681-4290  
Director(s)  
Contact Info: Jarrett Morris, Lieutenant (805) 681-4136

**SUBJECT:** Receive and File Report Regarding Santa Barbara County Overdose Data

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file a report on drug overdose-related deaths in Santa Barbara County; and
- b) Determine that the above action is an organizational or administrative activity of the government that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Section 15378(b)5) of the CEQA Guidelines.

**Summary Text:**

This item is before your Board to receive a comprehensive presentation on the statistical analysis of overdose-related fatalities in Santa Barbara County spanning the years 2021 to 2023.

**Background:**

Sheriff-Coroner Bill Brown's presentation contains a thorough examination of the statistical trends surrounding overdose-related fatalities within Santa Barbara County, spanning the years 2021 through 2023. The data reveals a concerning escalation in the number of deaths over this period, with 149 recorded in 2021, 164 in 2022, and a significant spike to 226 in 2023. Of particular note is the prevalence of Fentanyl-related fatalities, with figures showing 78 cases in 2021, 117 in 2022, and 112 in 2023. These

statistics underscore the urgent need for a multifaceted approach to address substance misuse and its devastating consequences.

In addition to presenting the raw statistical data, the presentation will delve into the various strategies and initiatives aimed at prevention and awareness. Efforts in education and outreach will be highlighted, showcasing programs designed to inform and empower community members about the risks associated with substance abuse. Furthermore, the importance of harm reduction strategies will be emphasized, focusing on interventions aimed at minimizing the harm caused by drug use while promoting safety and well-being among individuals who use substances.

Moreover, the presentation will explore the continuum of care available to those affected by substance use disorders, encompassing treatment options, counseling services, and demand reduction efforts. By addressing the complex needs of individuals struggling with addiction, these initiatives seek to provide comprehensive support and pathways to recovery. Additionally, insights into the investigation and enforcement aspects of the County's response to drug-related crimes will be provided, underscoring the collaborative efforts aimed at curbing the supply of illicit substances and holding accountable those who perpetrate harm within the community.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no financial impact with receiving this report and presentation.

**Attachments:**

Attachment A – Santa Barbara County Public Health and Sheriff-Coroner Report on Santa Barbara County Overdose Deaths: January 2021 – December 2023

Attachment B – Santa Barbara County Overdose Deaths Presentation

**Authored by:**

Jarrett Morris, Lieutenant – Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office