



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

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RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE

Substance Use Response Group (SURG)

June 3, 2025

11:00 am

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL TO ESTABLISH QUORUM

Chair Kerns

1. Call to Order and Roll Call to Establish Quorum Cont.

Member	SURG Role	Subcommittee Role
Assemblymember Ken Gray	Member of the Assembly appointed by the Assembly Minority Leader	Member
Dr. Shayla Holmes	Rural Human Services (Lyon County)	Vice Chair
Dr. Terry Kerns	Attorney General Appointee	Chair
Nancy Lindler	SUD Treatment Provider	Member
Christine Payson	Sheriffs' & Chiefs' Assoc.	Member
Senator Jeff Stone	Member of the Senate appointed by the Senate Minority Leader	Member

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

- Public comment will be received via Zoom by raising your hand or unmuting yourself when asked for public comment. Public comment shall be limited to three (3) minutes per person (this is a period devoted to comments by the general public, if any, and discussion of those comments). No action may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to comments by the general public until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken pursuant to NRS 241.020.
- If you are dialing in from a telephone:
 - Dial 669-444-9171
 - When prompted enter the Meeting ID: 868 3331 1069
 - Please press *6 so the host can prompt you to unmute.
- Members of the public are requested to refrain from commenting outside the designated public comment periods, unless specifically called upon by the Chair.

3. REVIEW AND APPROVE MINUTES FROM MAY 14, 2025 RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Chair Kerns

4. PRESENTATION ON EMERGENCY BRIDGE PROGRAM

Kelly Morgan, MD, Emergency Physician; Medical Director, Las Vegas Fire & Rescue; Co-Founder/Chief Medical Officer, Elite 7 Sports Medicine

5. PRESENTATION ON MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)/MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER (MOUD) ACCESS IN CERTIFIED COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CLINICS (CBHCS)

Mark Disselkoen, MSW, LCSW, LADC. Project Manager, Center for Application of Substance Abuse Technologies (CASAT), University of Nevada, Reno

Lori Follett, Social Services Chief II, Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), Division of Health Care Financing and Policy (DHCFP), Behavioral Health Benefits Coverage Team

Presentation on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)/Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Access in Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CBHCs)

See separate meeting attachment labeled “Item 5-CCBHC Presentation SURG Response 6-2025.v2”

6. UPDATE ON WASTEWATER SURVEILLANCE OF HIGH-RISK SUBSTANCES IN NEVADA

Daniel Gerrity, Ph.D., P.E.

Principal Research Scientist, Southern Nevada Water Authority

Edwin Oh, Ph.D.

Professor, Neurogenetics and Precision Medicine Lab, University of Nevada Las
Vegas

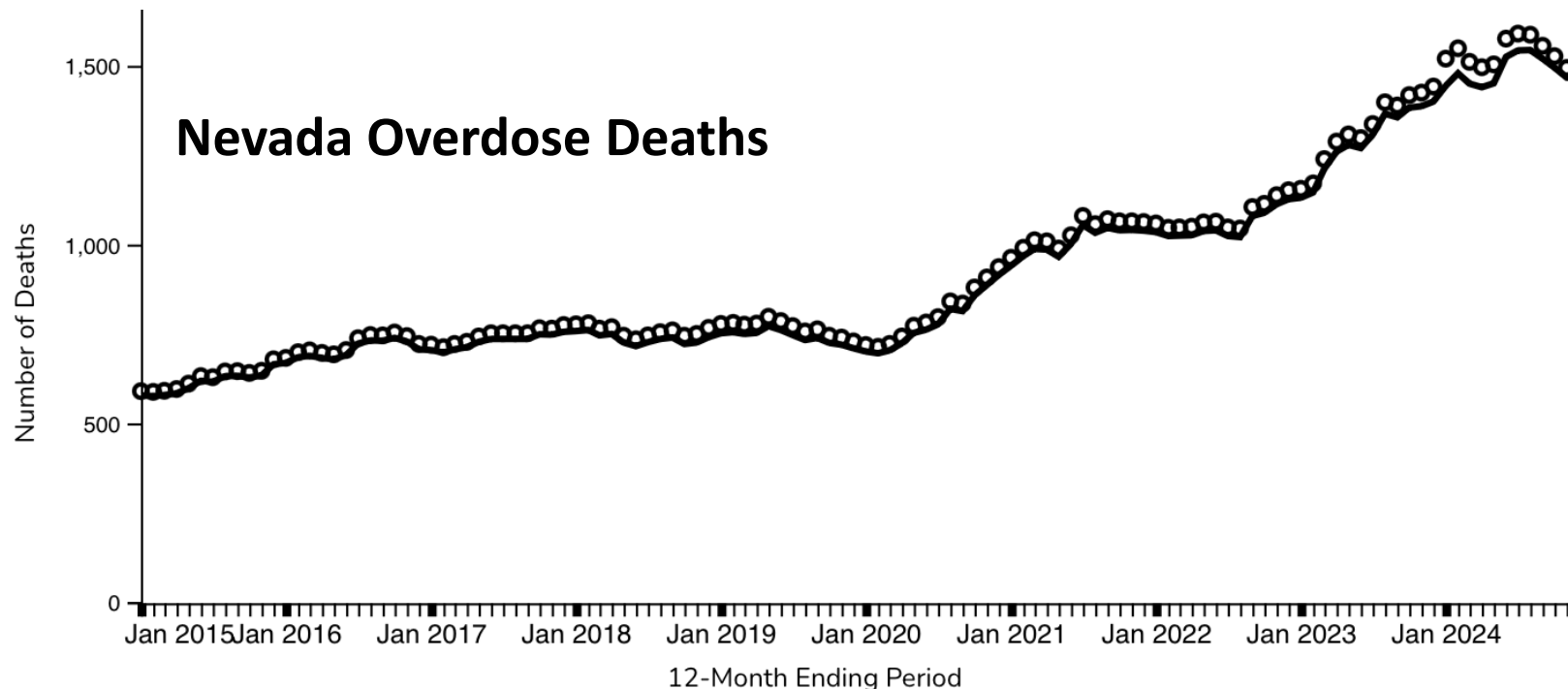
Nevada Opioid Epidemic

Opioid Overdose Mortality

Rate per 100,000 Population*
2019-2023

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Clark County*	9.9	16.0	15.4	15.3	19.5
Nevada*	8.8	13.5	12.8	13.9	19.6
United States**	15.5	21.4	24.7	25.0	24.0

- Considerable increases in per capita overdose rates in 2020 **and 2023**



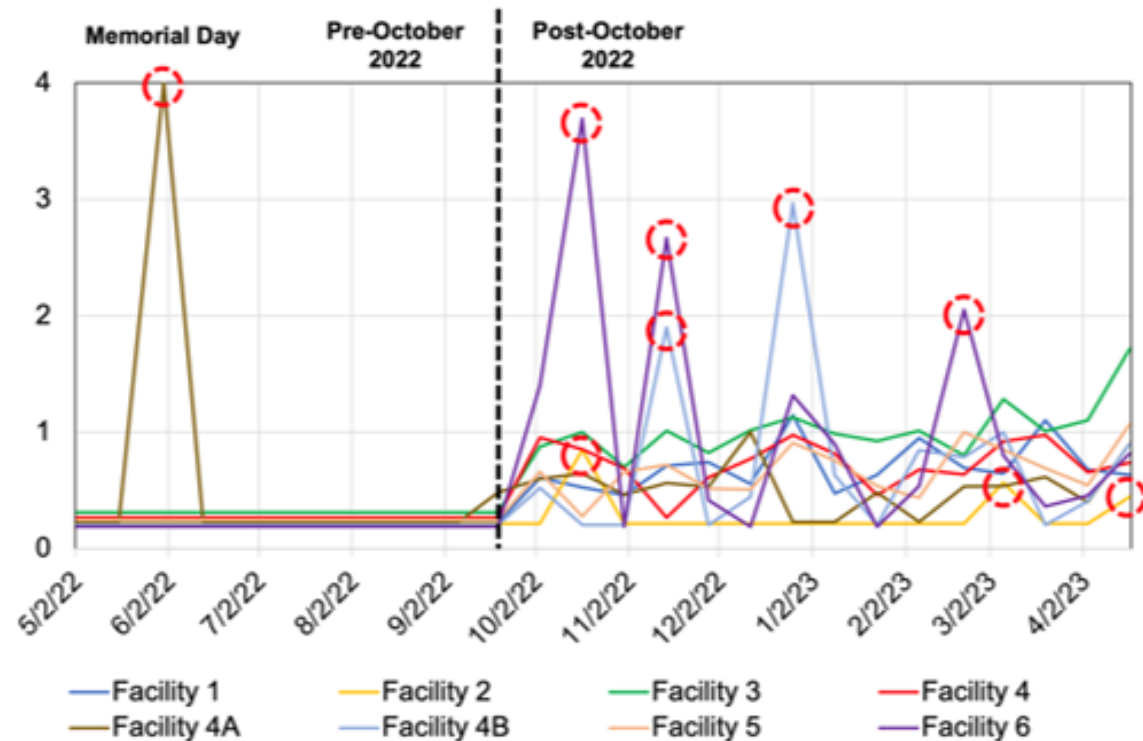
- Overall increase in Nevada overdose deaths from 2023 to 2024 **but signs of slowing**

Sources: Southern Nevada Community Health Assessment Report (2025); CDC National Vital Statistics System (2025)

Nevada Wastewater Surveillance

- Considerable increases in per capita overdose rates in 2020 and **2023**

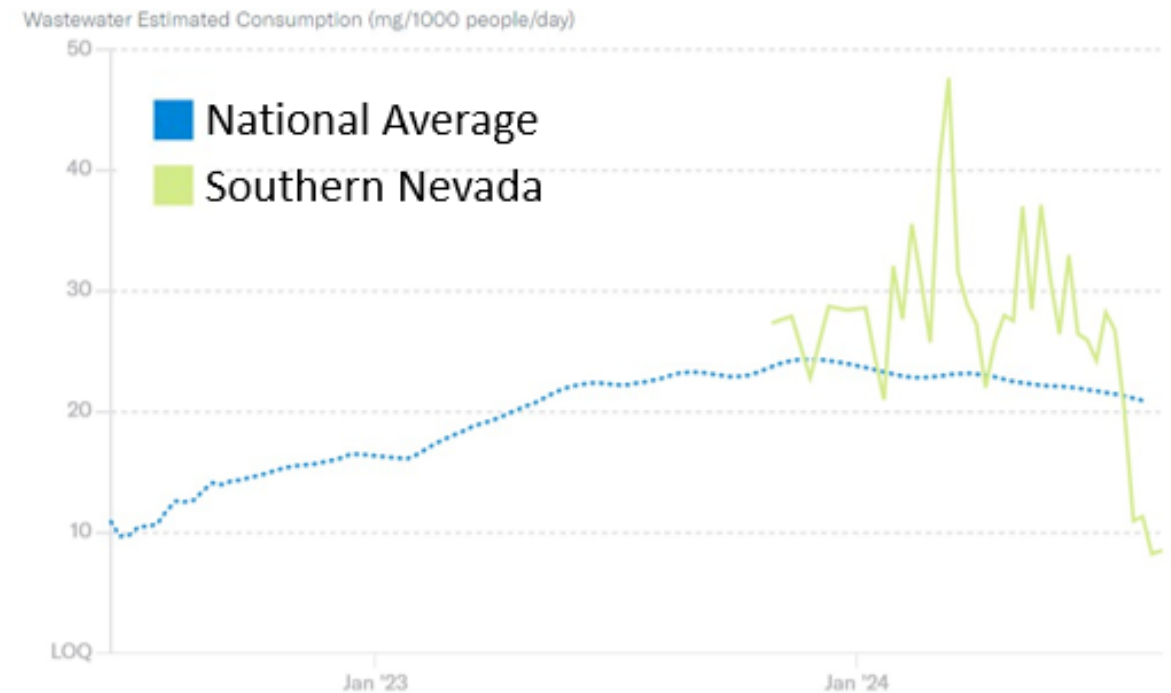
Norfentanyl in Wastewater:



Source: Gerrity et al. (2024) Sci. Tot. Environ.

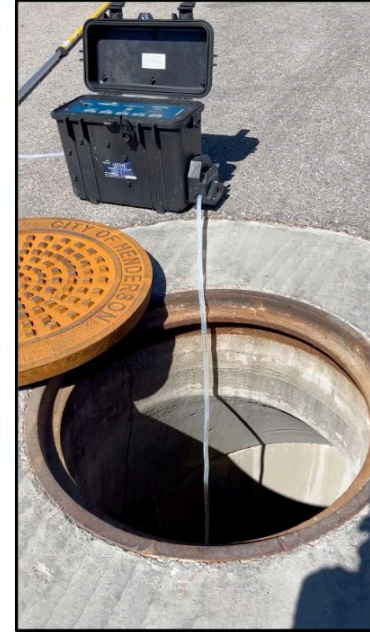
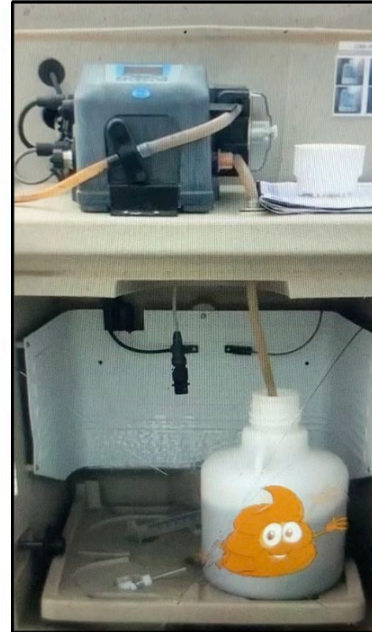
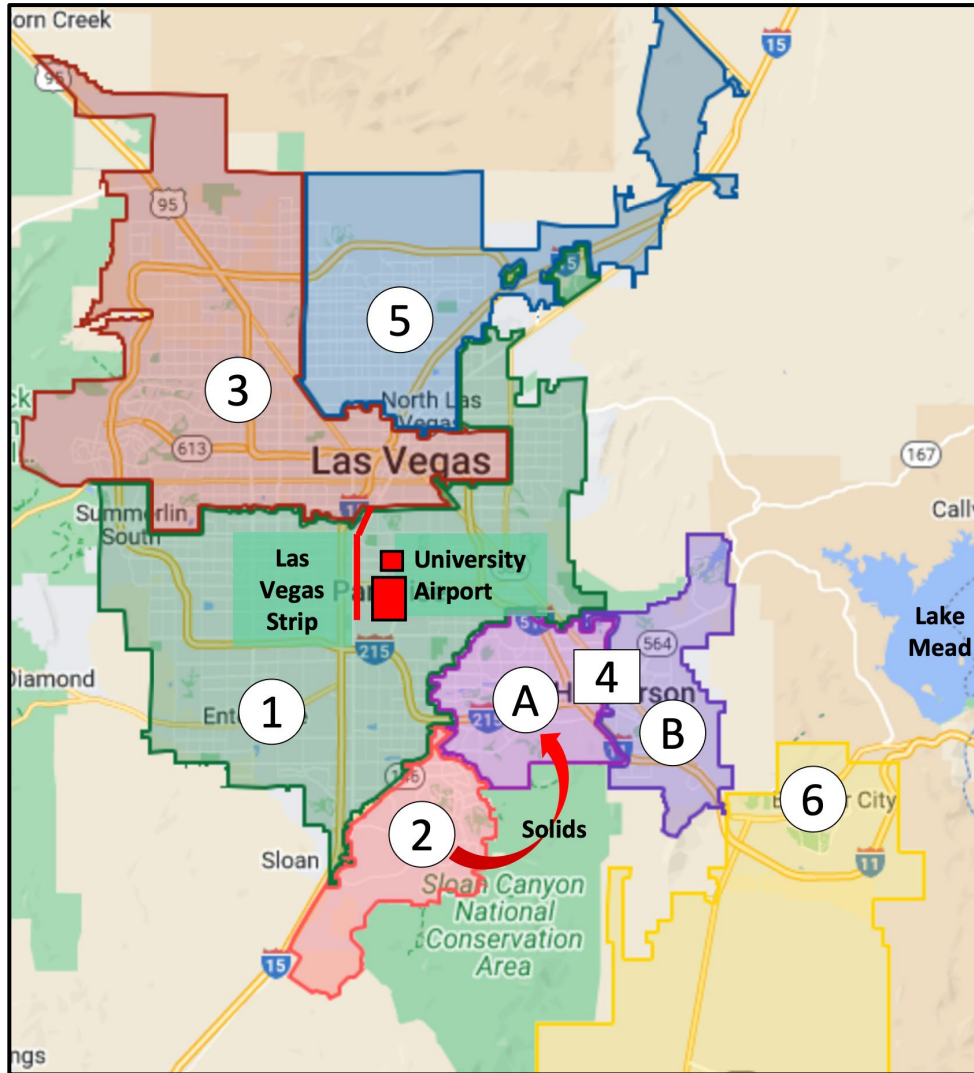
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Norfentanyl in Wastewater:



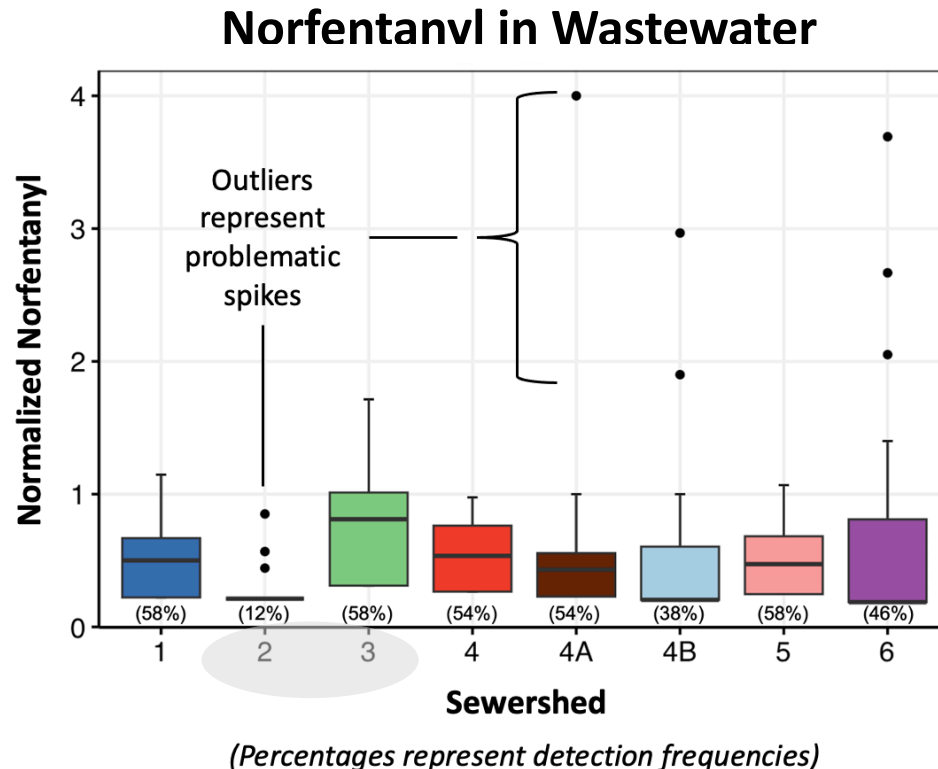
Source: Biobot/NIDA (2024)

Wastewater Surveillance Sampling



Sewershed Wastewater Surveillance

- **Objective:** Identify concerning spikes in high risk substance (HRS) use
- **Policy/Health:** Identify times and locations for targeted interventions
- **Scale:** Centralized wastewater treatment facility (or collection system)



2022/2023 Overdose Rates:

Lowest: 80 per 100k → Sewershed 2

Highest = 337 per 100k → Sewershed 3

Fund for a Resilient Nevada (FRN)

- ***Collaboration:*** UNLV (Ed Oh), UNR (David Hanigan), CSN (Doug Sims), SNWA (Dan Gerrity)
- ***Priority Area:*** *Target 7 - Provide high quality and robust data and accessible, timely reporting*
- ***Requested Funding:*** \$750k/year in 3 one-year projects (**shortened year 1 nearly complete**)
- ***Overview of Project***
 - Target population = **youth** (~13-17) + **transitional age youth** (18-24)
 - Manhole sampling at **college/university campuses** and urban and rural **high schools** in Nevada
 - Manhole sampling specific to **bars/nightclubs**
- ***Potential Public Health Actions***
 - Awareness/outreach programs
 - Naloxone deployment
 - Fentanyl test strips to bars/nightclubs

FRN Project Flyer

What's in the wastewater?

Wastewater monitoring for opioids and other high-risk substances provides information for public health interventions and response.

60% of 2023 overdose deaths in Nevada involved an opioid.

43% of those overdose deaths involved fentanyl.

355 youth, adolescents, and transitional age youth (TAY) were admitted to a hospital with opioid-related dependence in 2023.



Source: [Fund for a Resilient Nevada Annual Report](#), January 1, 2023, through December 31, 2023 (dhhs.nv.gov).

Community wastewater has been analyzed for opioids and other high-risk substances in urban areas throughout the U.S., including in Las Vegas, NV.

Interventions informed by community wastewater monitoring can include:



Public health awareness campaigns



Access to fentanyl test strips



Naloxone access and training for overdose response



A pilot program, supported by Fund for a Resilient Nevada (FRN), is implementing wastewater monitoring for opioids and their metabolites on college/university campuses in Nevada.

Learn more about wastewater monitoring on your campus:

Visit empower.unlv.edu

Email sciencefromthetap@gmail.com

Locate addiction and recovery services in Nevada:

Call 1-866-535-5654 or 2-1-1

Visit nevada211.org

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

What is this project?

This project is implementing a statewide wastewater monitoring program for fentanyl and other opioids (and their metabolites).

Where is wastewater monitoring occurring?

Wastewater samples will be collected from one or more utility access holes on or near campus at colleges and universities in Nevada, including University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Nevada State University (NSU), and College of Southern Nevada (CSN).

Why is this being done at universities?

This program is focused on youth (0-18) and transitional age youth (18-24), which includes college and university students.

What is the timeframe for this project?

During the first phase of this project, wastewater sampling will occur approximately biweekly from April through July of 2025.

What results will be obtained from this project?

Each wastewater sample will be analyzed for the presence and concentration of several opioids and opioid metabolites. While some wastewater samples may originate from a specific building's wastewater utility access point, we are not able to identify the specific source location from within that building.

How will the results be shared?

This project will generate reports, summarizing trends in wastewater concentrations of opioids and their metabolites over time, to be shared with project partners including campus administrators, student health and wellness staff, and public health agencies. In the future, results will also be shared on an online dashboard.

What will be done based on the results obtained from this project?

Results may be used to inform public health interventions, including awareness campaigns, trainings, and justification for additional wellness resources, like naloxone supplies or fentanyl test strips.

Results obtained from this project are for public health purposes only. Due to the anonymized nature of wastewater, the results **cannot** be used for punitive actions or criminal prosecutions. Student, staff, and visitor privacy will remain protected.

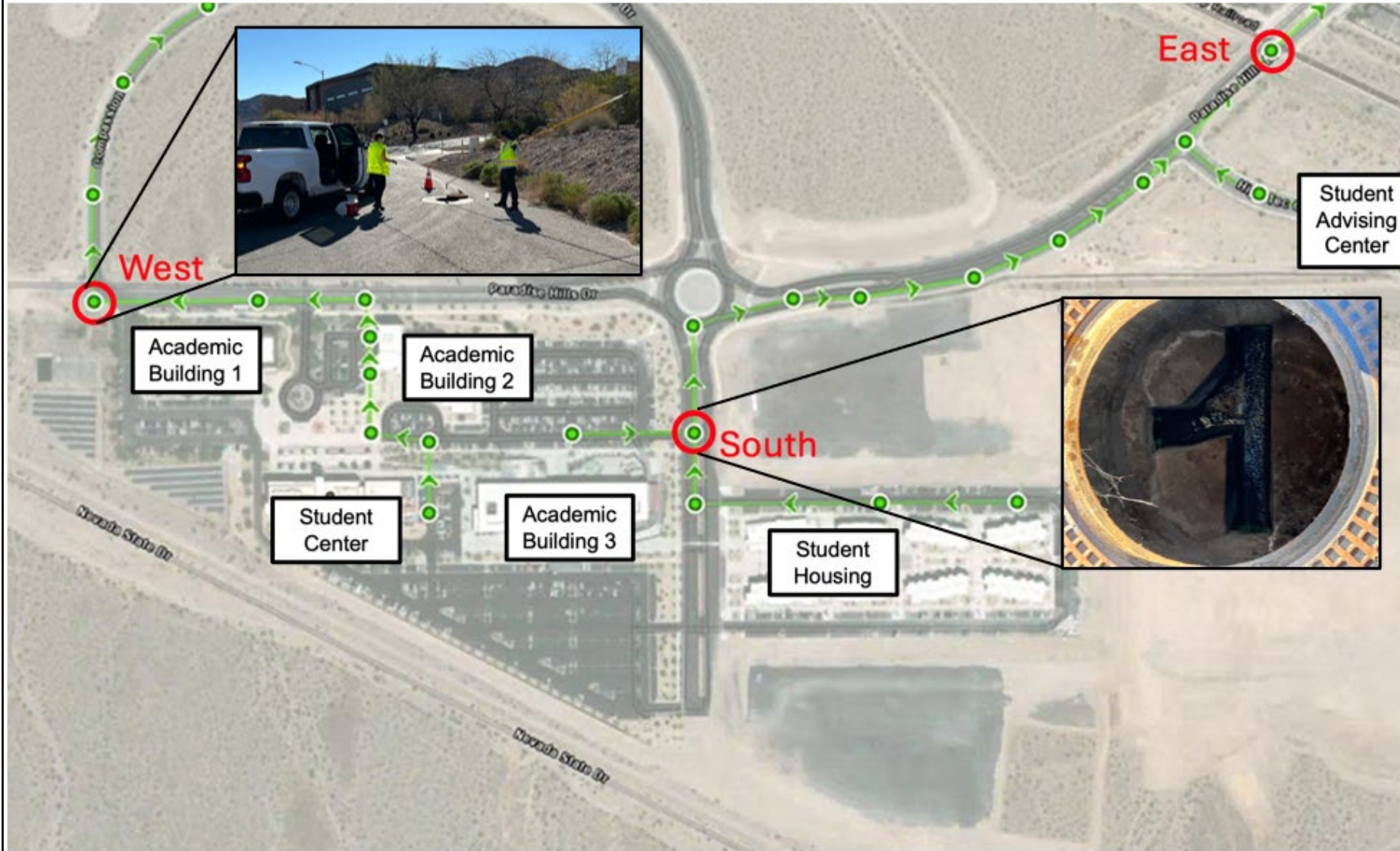
How is this project funded?

This project is supported by Fund for a Resilient Nevada (FRN). FRN is administered by the Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to address the impacts, risks, and harms of opioid use in the State of Nevada. FRN is funded by Nevada's allocation of recent opioid litigation recoveries.

How can I learn more about this project?

Visit empower.unlv.edu or email sciencefromthetap@gmail.com to learn more.

Nevada State University Sampling



Timeline:

- Samples collected **Sunday/Monday/Tuesday** mornings
- Samples processed and analyzed by **Tuesday** afternoon
- Data shared with project partners **Wednesday** morning
 - Nevada State University (Student Wellness)
 - City of Henderson Mobile Crisis Intervention Team
 - Southern Nevada Health District

Nevada State University Summary

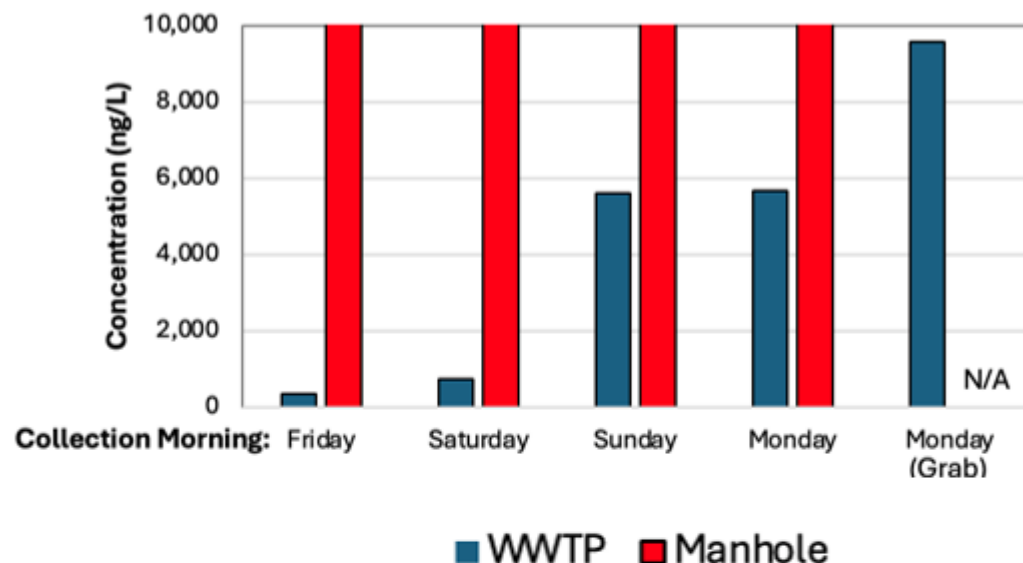
REPORTING DATE	OVERALL DETECTION FREQUENCY			DETECTIONS IN MOST RECENT WEEK			
5/8/25	(N = 12 samples per site to date)			(N = 3 samples per grab site and 1 sample for composite)			
Target	West (Grab)	South (Grab)	East (Grab)	West (Grab)	South (Grab)	South (Comp.)	East (Grab)
Fentanyl	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Norfentanyl	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Xylazine	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Heroin	0%	8%	8%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Acetylmorphine	0%	8%	8%	0	0	Detected	0
Morphine	0%	25%	42%	0	0	Detected	0
Codeine	0%	0%	8%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Hydrocodone	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Oxycodone	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Tramadol	8%	0%	17%	1	0	Non-Detect	1
Methadone	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
EDDP	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Methamphetamine	25%	58%	58%	1	2	Detected	2
Amphetamine	50%	75%	83%	1	0	Detected	1
Cocaine	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Benzoylcegonine	0%	8%	17%	0	0	Detected	1
Ecgonine Methyl Ester	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Ecgonine	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
Norcocaine	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
THC	0%	8%	17%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
THC-COOH	50%	92%	100%	2	3	Detected	3
THC-OH	25%	42%	83%	1	0	Non-Detect	2
MDMA	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0
MDA	0%	0%	0%	0	0	Non-Detect	0

*Samples collected every 2 weeks on Sundays, Mondays, and Tuesdays

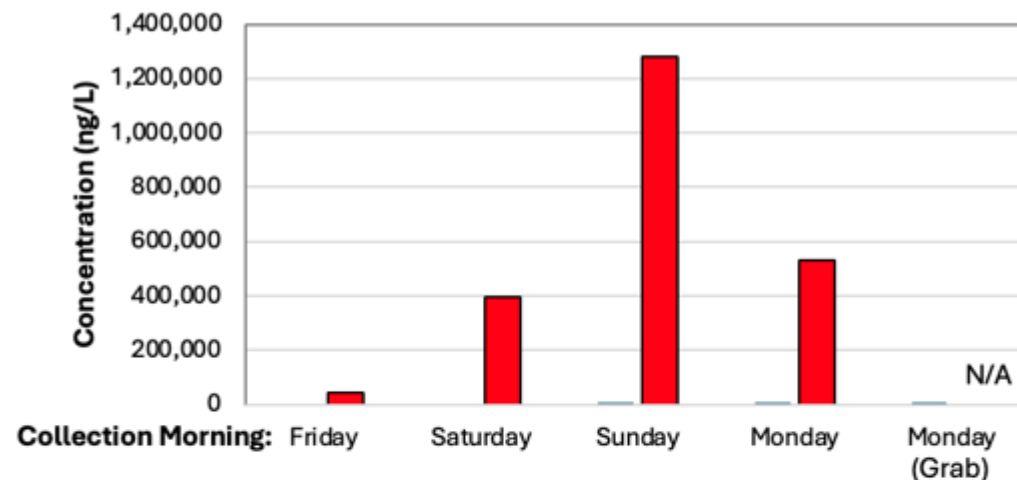
- No detections of fentanyl, norfentanyl, or xylazine so far
- Heroin or its major metabolite detected in two separate weeks at the student housing complex manhole
- Composite sampling picks up signals that grab samples might otherwise miss

Electric Daisy Carnival (EDC) 2024

MDMA (Ecstasy) Concentration

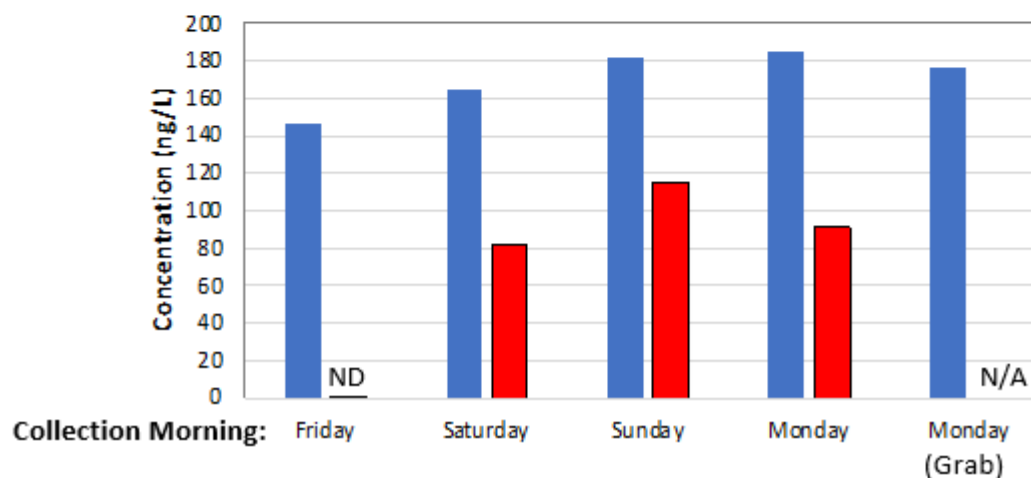


MDMA (Ecstasy) Concentration



Sampling repeated in 2025
(data are pending)

Norfentanyl Concentration



References

Overdose Data :

- Southern Nevada Community Health Assessment Report (2025): <https://www.healthysouthernnevada.org/tiles/index/display?id=356966798698245621>
- CDC National Vital Statistics System (2025): <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

High Risk Substance Wastewater Surveillance Data:

- Biobot/NIDA (2024): <https://biobot.io/press-release/biobot-analytics-awarded-nida-funding-for-nationwide-wastewater-based-monitoring-program-for-high-risk-substances-and-others-associated-with-health-risks/>.
- Gerrity, D., Crank, K., Oh, E.C., Quinones, O., Trenholm, R.A., Vanderford, B.J., 2024. Wastewater surveillance of high risk substances in Southern Nevada: Sucralose normalization to translate data for potential public health action. Sci. Tot. Environ. 908, 168369. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168369>.
- Zhuang, X, Moshi, M.A., Quinones, O, Trenholm, R.A., Chang, C-L., Cordes, D., Vanderford, B.J., Vo, V., Gerrity, D., Oh, E.C., 2024. Spatial and temporal drug use patterns in wastewater correlate with socioeconomic and demographic indicators in Southern Nevada. JAMA Network Open. In press. Preprint: <https://doi.org/10.1101/2024.02.02.24302241>.

Disclosures

- These efforts were supported by the following:
 - **U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (NH75OT000057-01-00)**
 - **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (Traveler Health)**
 - **Nevada Department of Health and Human Services (Fund for a Resilient Nevada)**
- We would like to acknowledge the collaborating wastewater agencies for their assistance with sample logistics and the following individuals for their contributions: Casey Barber, Isabelle Bastien, Andrew Black, Ching-Lan Chang, Eric Dickenson, Rick Donahue, Dan Fischer, Kimberly Franich, Gregory Halstead, Janie Holady, Frank Licari, Cassius Lockett, Anil Mangla, Devon Morgan, Michael Moshi, Oscar Quinones, Jessica Steigerwald, Brittney Stipanov, Rebecca Trenholm, Brett Vanderford, and Phillip Wang.

Contact Information

Name	Daniel Gerrity, Ph.D., P.E.
Title	Principal Research Microbiologist, Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA)
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Name	Edwin Oh, Ph.D.
Title	Professor, University of Nevada Las Vegas (UNLV)
Phone	702-895-0509
Email	Edwin.Oh@unlv.edu

7. DISCUSS PROPOSED 2025 RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Chair Kerns

Recommendation #1

Submitted by: Dr. Shayla Holmes

Description: Prohibit the sale of all psychoactive substances, including hemp-derived cannabinoids and psychoactive mushrooms, to individuals under 21 years of age, aligning with existing cannabis regulations.

Implement Clear Labeling Standards: Mandate that all products containing psychoactive compounds have standardized labeling, including clear warnings about potential health risks and age restrictions.

Restrict Sales Locations: Limit the sale of these substances to licensed establishments that can verify the age of purchasers and prohibit sales near schools and other youth-centered facilities.

Enhance Enforcement Mechanisms: Provide regulatory agencies with authority and resources to monitor compliance, conduct inspections, and enforce penalties for violations.

Recommendation #1 (cont.)

Justification: In Nevada, it is illegal for individuals under 21 to purchase or possess cannabis products, including Delta-9 THC, unless they are medical marijuana cardholders. Additionally, over-the-counter (OTC) medications containing dextromethorphan (DXM) cannot be sold to minors under 18 without a prescription.

However, certain substances, such as hemp-derived Delta-9 THC products (containing less than 0.3% THC by dry weight) and psychoactive mushrooms, may be legally accessible due to their specific chemical compositions and lack of comprehensive regulation. This creates potential loopholes that could allow minors to obtain and misuse these substances.

Action Step: Bill Draft Request (BDR), Regulatory or Licensing Board

Recommendation #2

Submitted by: Dr. Terry Kerns

Description: Revise this recommendation to also include desistance: Recommend state agencies under the legislative, judicial, and executive branches involved with deflection and diversion programs have a comprehensive definition of recidivism, and policies related to measuring and reporting recidivism.

Justification: Desistance is potentially a more accurate way to measure program impact.

Action Step: State agencies that support diversion and deflection programs have a definition of recidivism. Also have a working group to address this.

8. REVIEW 2025 RESPONSE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING TOPICS

Chair Kerns

Planning for 2025 Response Subcommittee Meetings

Current Topic and Presenter Suggestions for Upcoming Response Meetings:

- Workforce - Dr. Sara Hunt, Behavioral Health Education, Retention, and Expansion Network of Nevada (BeHERE NV), UNLV
- Defining Recidivism – Washoe County Sheriff's Department
- Drug and Alcohol Prevention, Education, and Enforcement - Officer Jermaine Galloway

Please email Subcommittee staff with any speaker recommendations.

Response Subcommittee Meeting Dates:

- August 5, September 2, November 4 from 11:00 am - 12:30 pm

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public Comment

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9. ADJOURNMENT

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, RESOURCES & UPDATES AVAILABLE AT:

[https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance
_Use_Response_Working_Group_\(SURG\)/](https://ag.nv.gov/About/Administration/Substance_Use_Response_Working_Group_(SURG)/)



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