

# Tactical Collaboration for Policy Results: Case Study of Naloxone from State to Street

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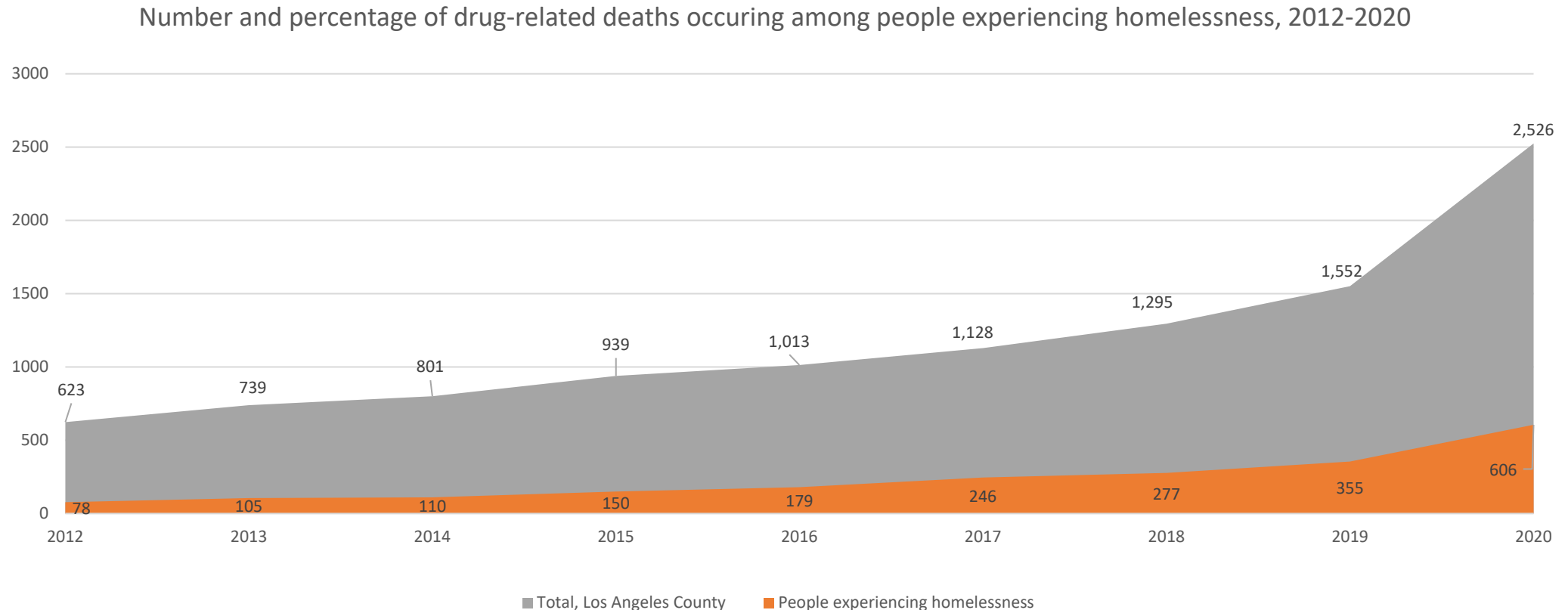
May 11, 2022

National Health Care for the Homeless Conference

Story time...

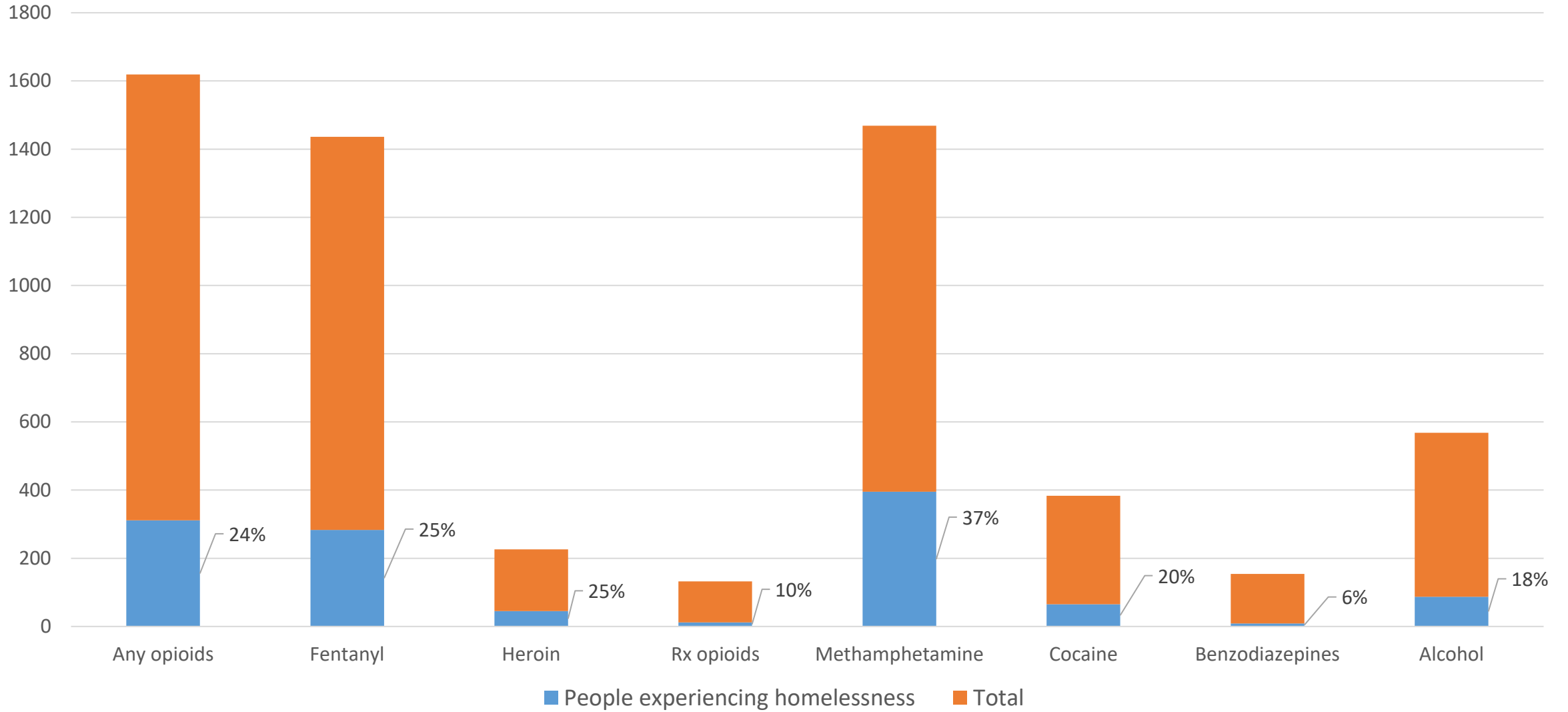
How did Los Angeles get 100K naloxone doses specifically for unhoused people?

# First, some data from Los Angeles County



Data from Los Angeles County Medical Examiner and Coroner. Drug-related deaths include deaths with one of the following in cause or contributing factor: any opioid (fentanyl, heroin, prescription opioids), methamphetamine, cocaine, alcohol, benzodiazepines, or other drugs/medications.

Share of drug-related deaths among people experiencing homelessness by substance, 2021



Data from Los Angeles County Medical Examiner and Coroner, Feb 2022. Some deaths are pending, particularly from end of 2021.

# Policy change process, in brief

- Fentanyl briefing to CA State legislature (Feb 2021)
- Data on demand
- Coordinated advocacy
- LOTS of follow-up

# This became LA50K Initiative

- Starting in June 2021, Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) distributed 54,128 units/108,256 doses of naloxone in under 10 months and collected reports of almost 6,000 reversals.



“What I really need is clean needles”

- To do COVID response, need harm reduction





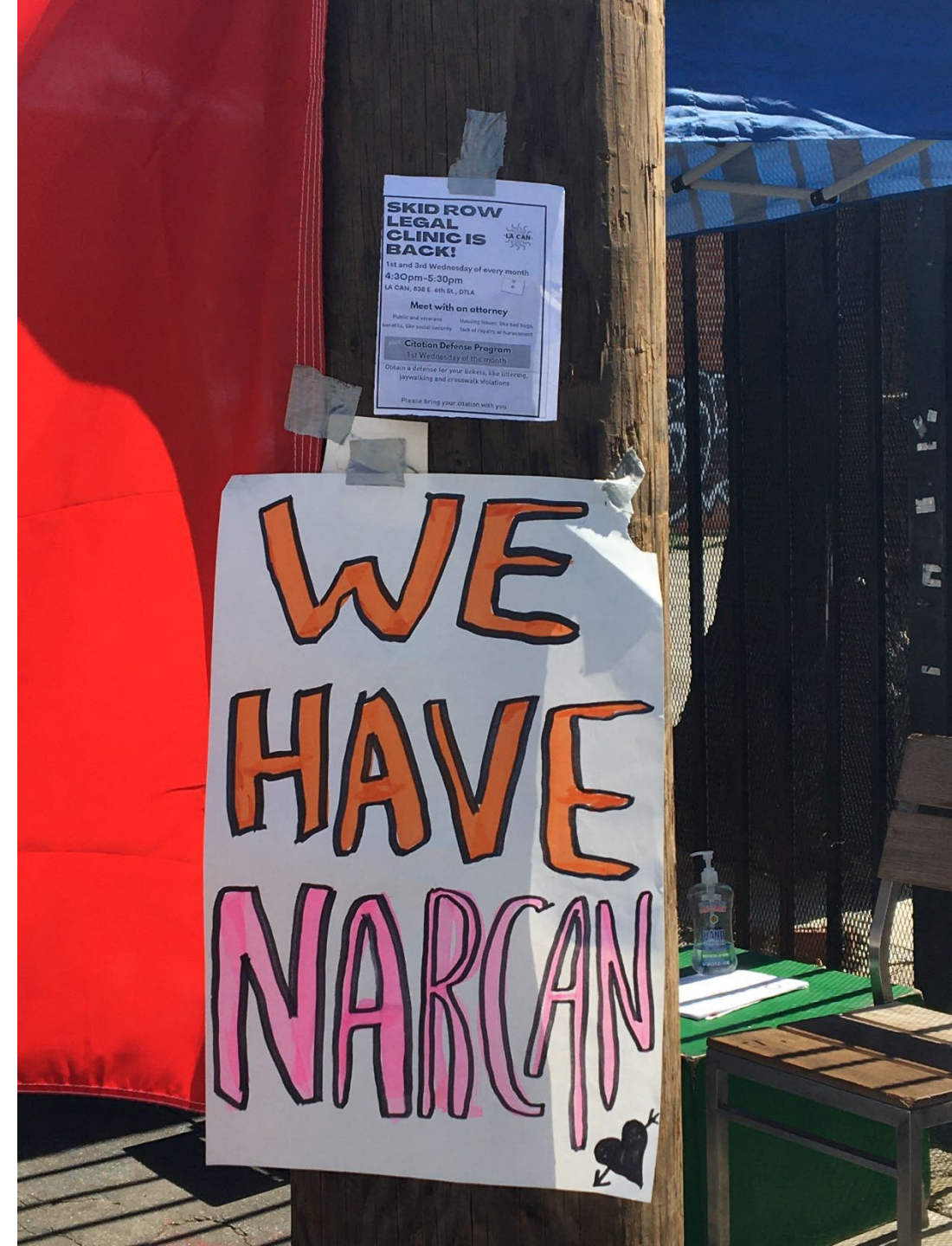
# Short-term strategies

- Started w/ donation of expired (but stable) doses of naloxone
- Philanthropy to purchase harm reduction supplies
- Flood gates open through LA50K



# Building relationships

- Community caretakers
- People who are the most marginalized in communities
- People in communities have been doing this as long as there have been overdoses
  - De facto safe consumption
  - Holding the Narcan



# Destigmatizing through conversations

- Narcan can be a good tool for destigmatizing
  - Even with people who use stimulants
  - Intro to medications for addiction treatment
- Normalize holding naloxone as community protection
- Offering other things people need: wound care, condoms, snacks, clothes
  - Opening the door to street medicine

Responding to an overdose

What is a problem that a  
policy change could help?

# Group exercise

- Get in groups, by region
- Aim for mix of service providers, community members, researchers
- Choose a policy to focus on
- Formulate and share an action step

Action steps

# Contact us!

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