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# **Opioid Crisis – California Fire Service Impact and Response**

**League of California Cities**

**Kristin Thompson, RN, EMS Division Chief**

**Newport Beach Fire Department**

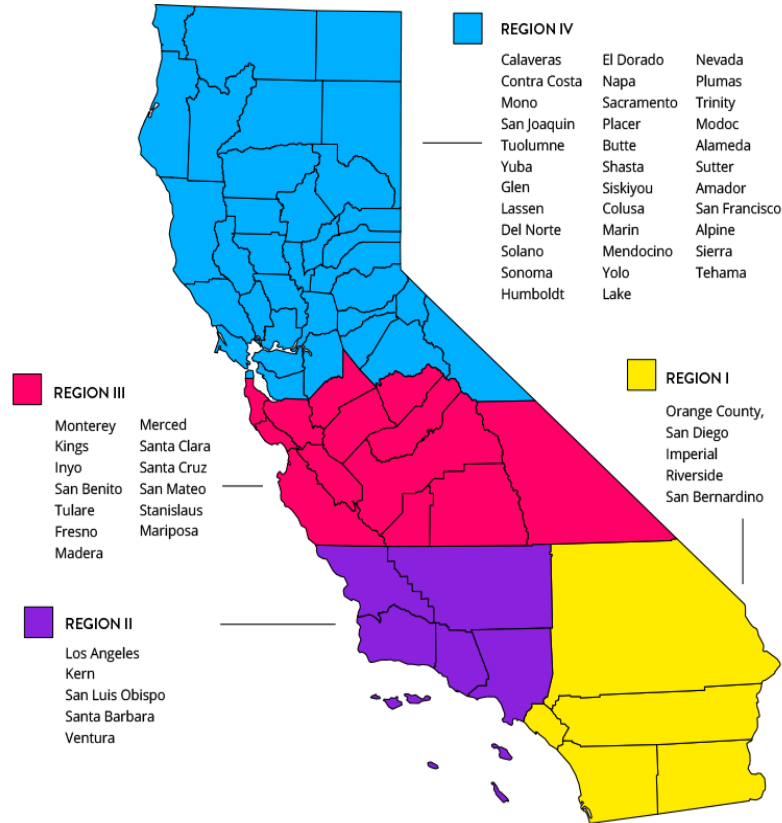


# California Fire Service: Opiate Crisis Survey

45 Responses

Region 3 – #2

Region 2 – #3

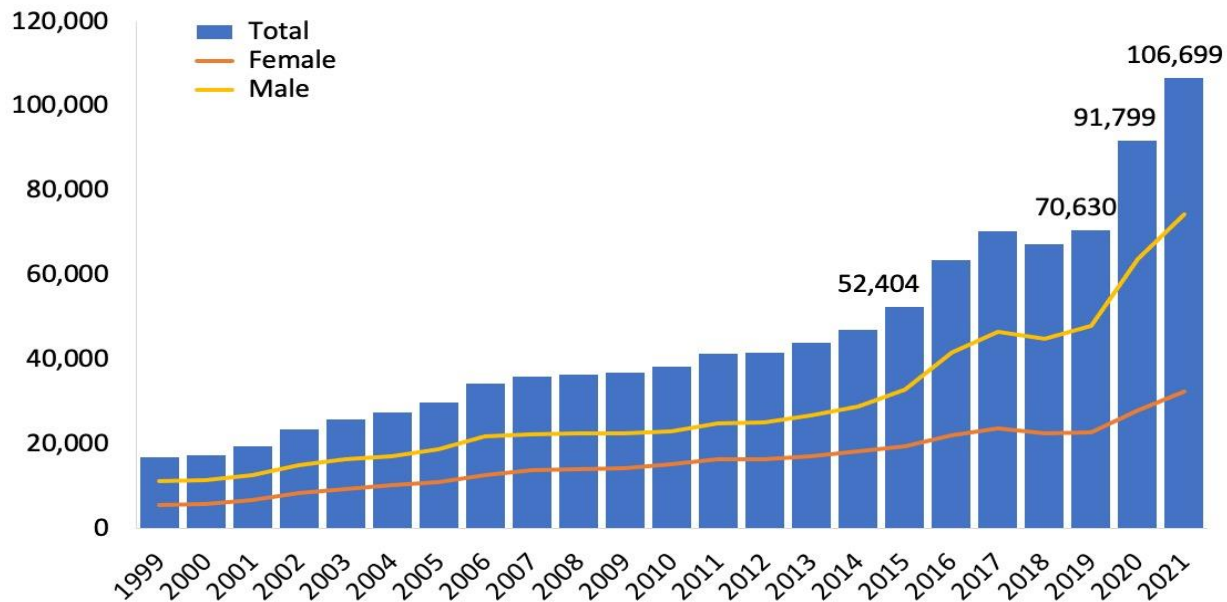


Region 2-  
#20

Region 1-  
#20

# Opiate Overdoses: Deaths

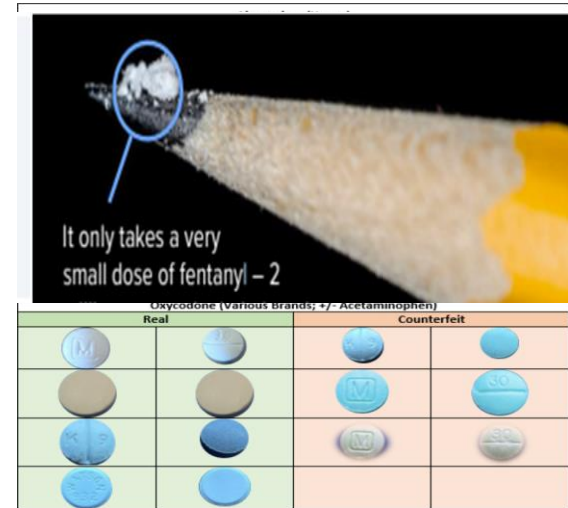
Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths\*, Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021



\*Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2021 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 1/2023.

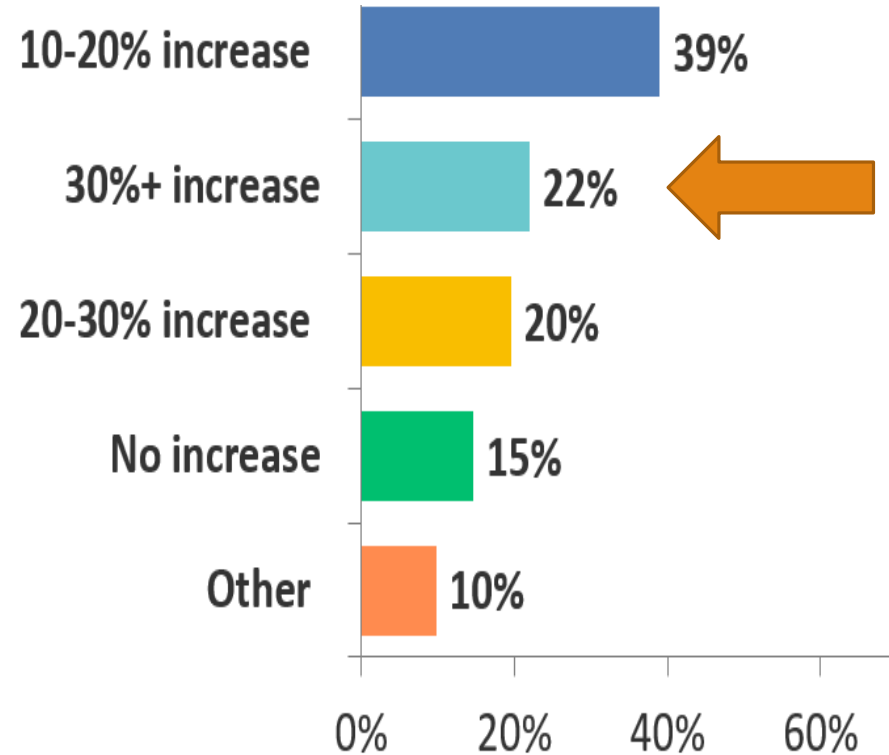
# Poisonings: Counterfeit/fakes

- \$\$, every state, online accessibility, Mexico
- Look alike/false marketing
- One pill can be lethal: 6/10
  - Not legitimate medicine - lethal amount of fentanyl, carfentanyl
  - Mixed into other drugs



# Fire Service - Impacts

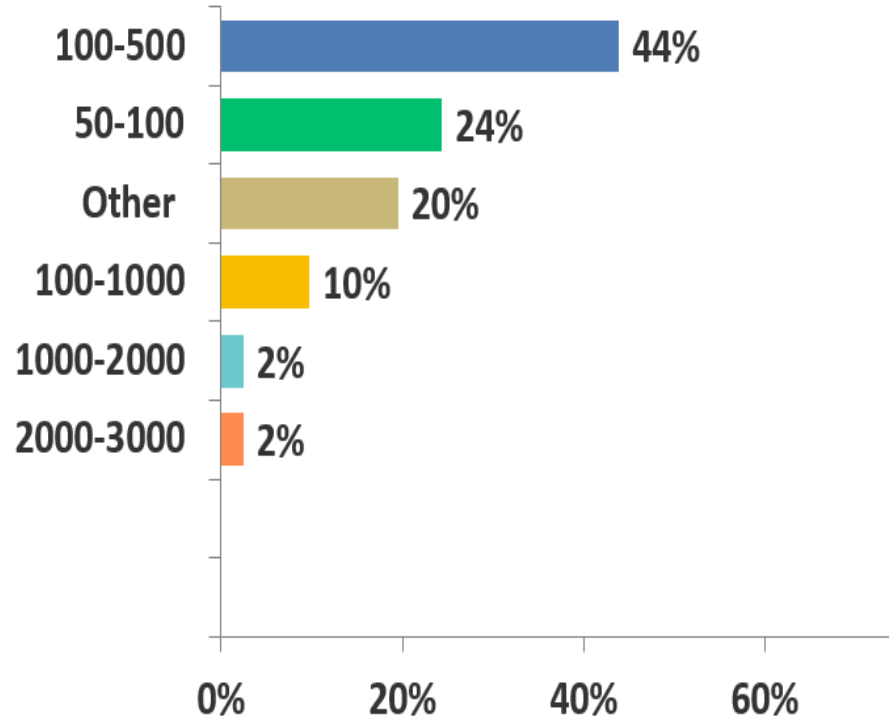
- Fire-Based EMS
- Increased call volume
- Increased opioid overdoses



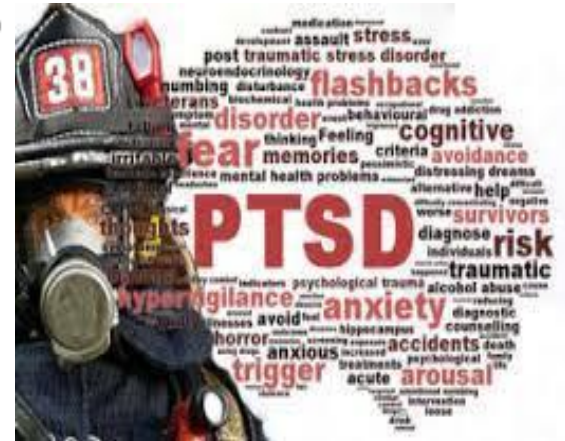
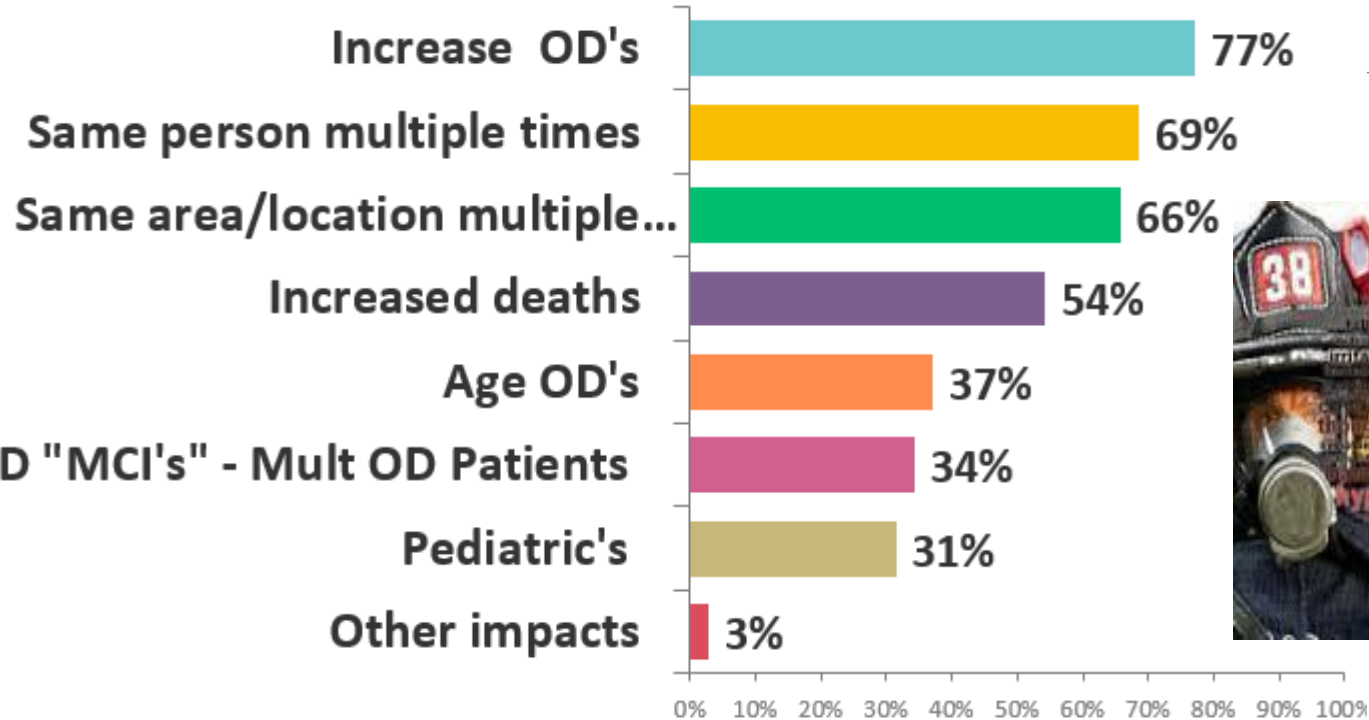
# Fire Service - Impacts

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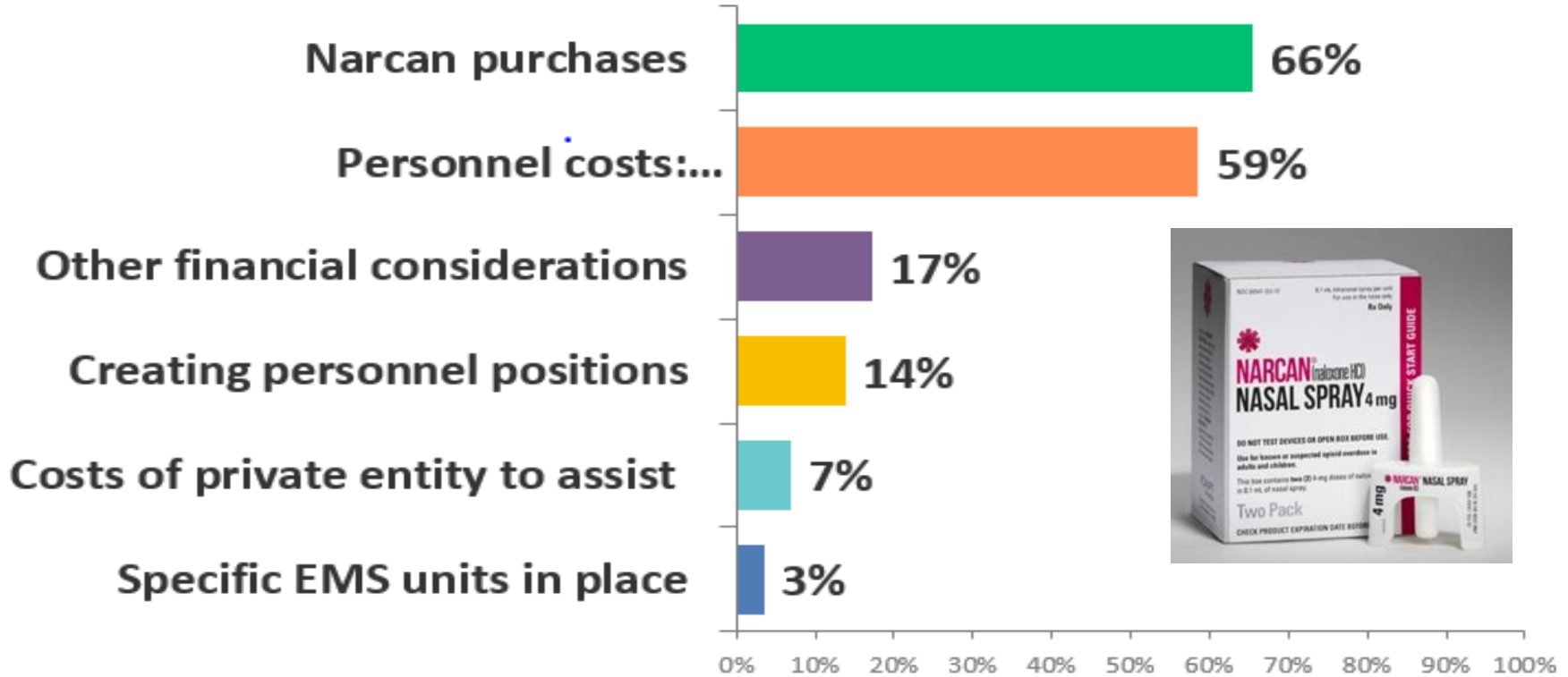
- **Opiate Overdose Responses - Community Served**
  - **Annually/last 2 years**



# Fire Service – Impacts on Personnel



# Fire Service -Impacts on Budget



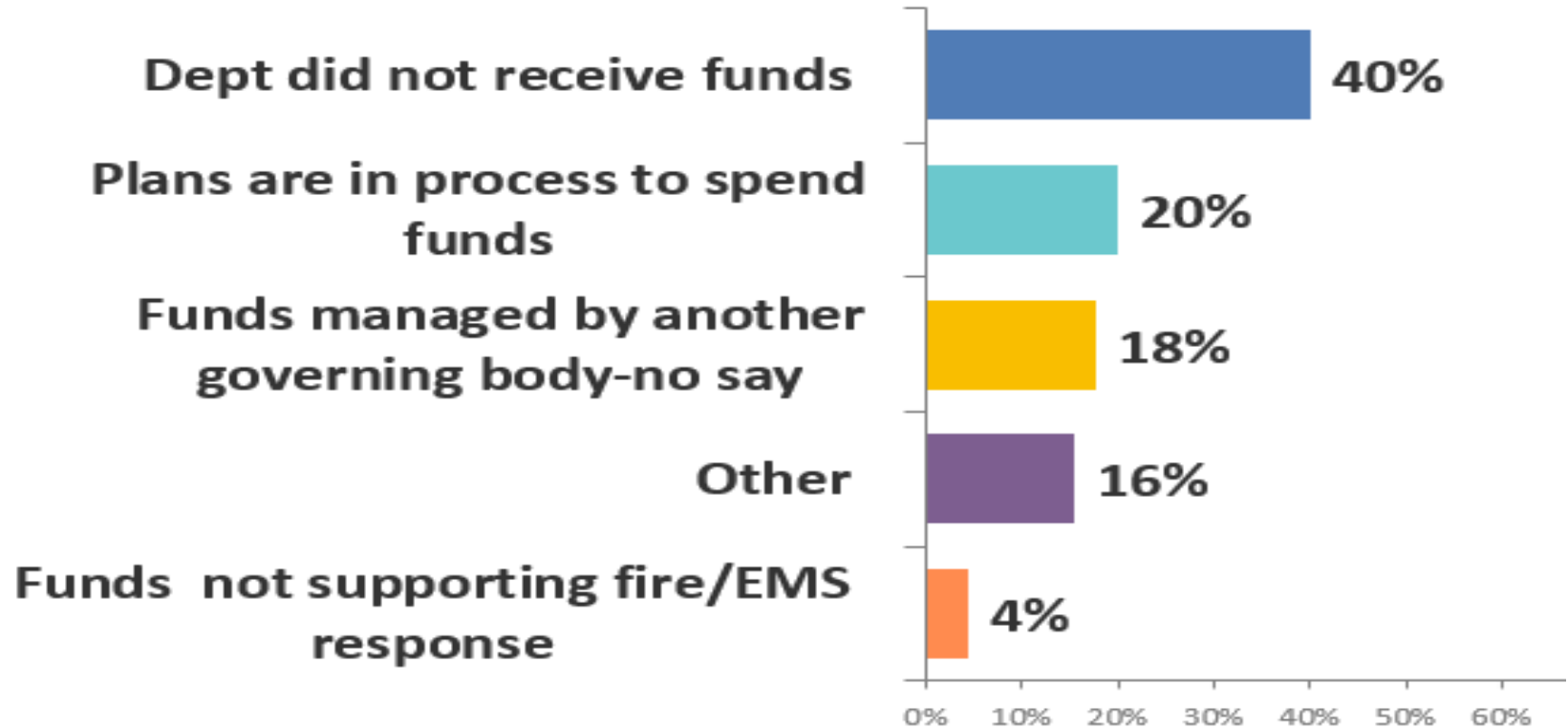


# Fire Service -Impacts on Budget

- **Equipment/supplies utilized on responses**
- **Training equipment**
- **PPE**
- **Resuscitations – not transported**
- **OT – off duty personnel training**
- **Newly created positions**
- **Creating/Upstaffing specific units**
- **Program materials/marketing**

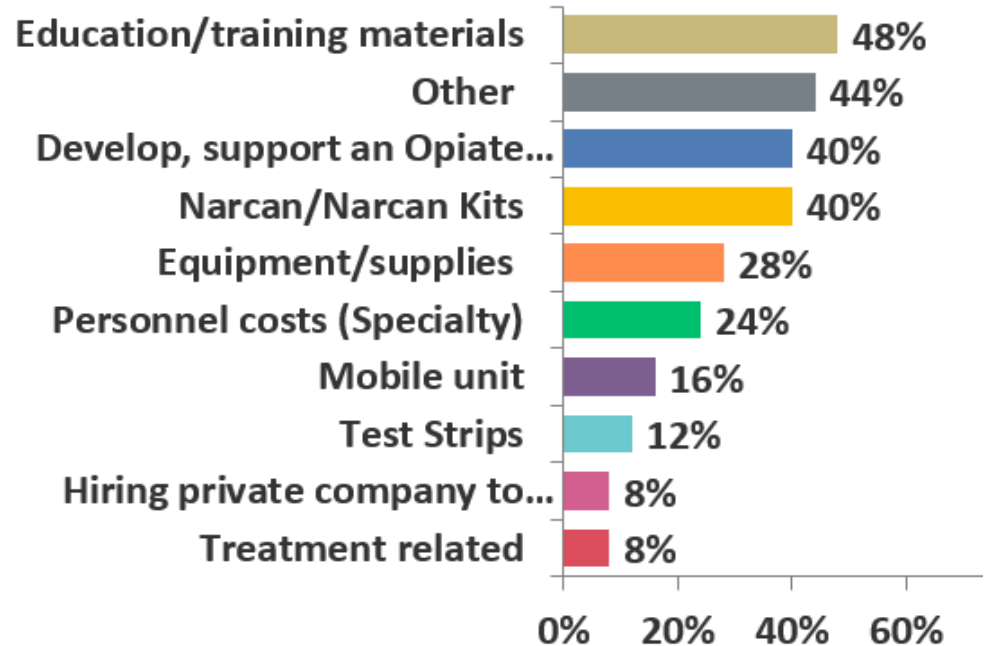


# Opioid Settlement Funds



# Opioid Settlement Fund Expenditures

- **Specific criteria**
- **Audits**
- **Limited info for Fire-Based EMS**



# Fire Service Response: Education/Training Provided To:

- **Community Events – 53%**
- **Employees of organization – 41%**
- **At-Risk populations – 41%**
- **Governing Bodies – 35%**
- **Businesses/Bars/Restaurants/Venues/hotels – 15%**
- **Jails/LE/Juvenile facilities**



# Fire Service Response: Education/Training Provided To:

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- **High Schools: Staff/Parents/Students**
- **Middle Schools: Staff/Parents/Students**
- **Elementary Schools: Staff/Parents/Students**
- **15%-38%**
  
- **High Risk - Poisonings**



# Fire Service Response: Education/Training Content

- Narcan use/access -70%
- Signs/symptoms-70%
- CPR/Recovery position/911 access-50%
- Fentanyl specifically-50%
- Counterfeit/Poisonings-40%
- Scope of crisis & prevention techniques-30%



## COUNTERFEIT DRUGS

OXYCODONE



REAL

FAKE

ADDERALL

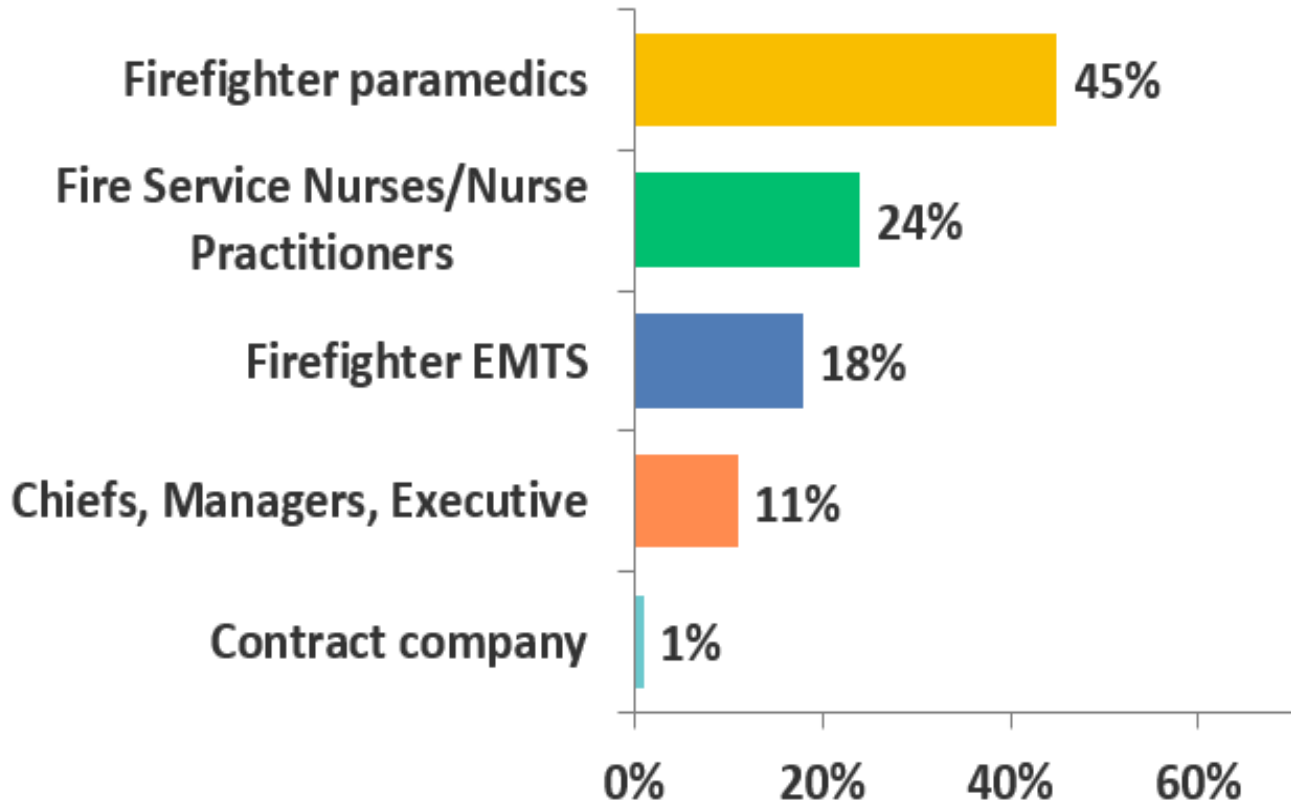


REAL

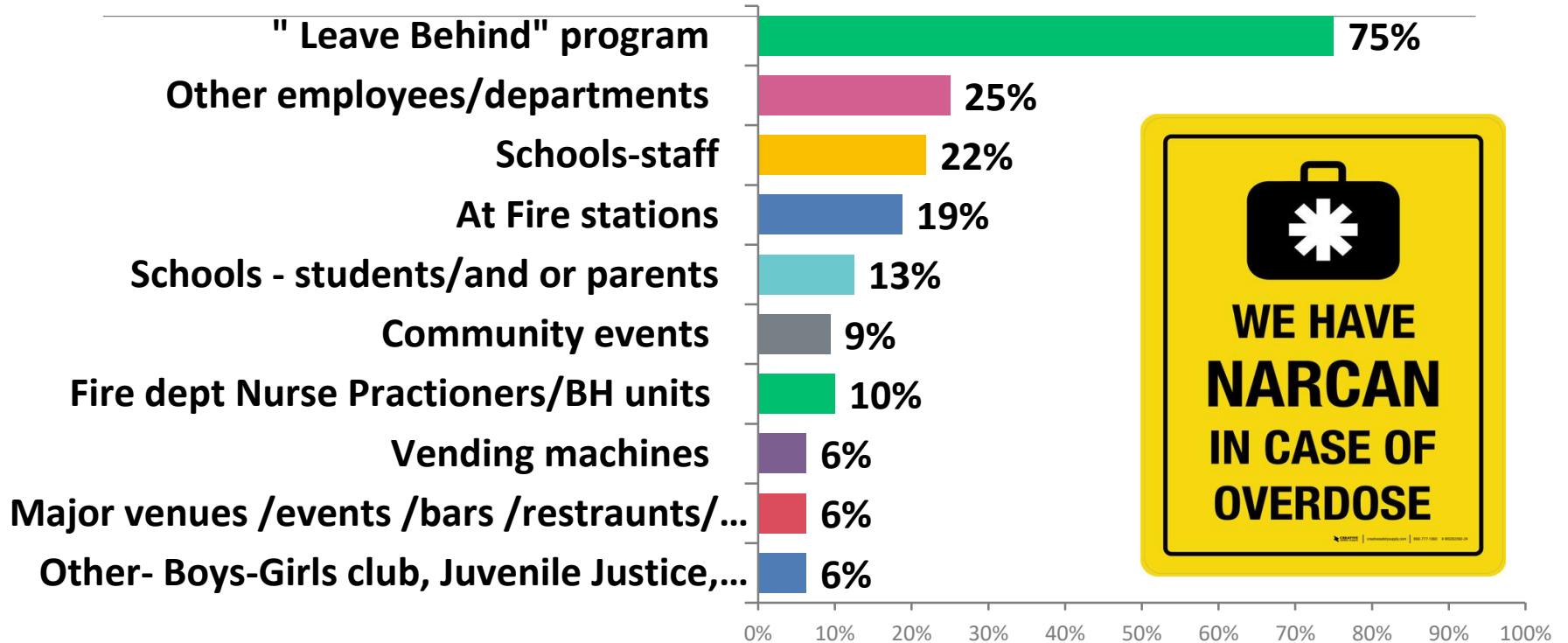
FAKE

SOURCE: DEA

# Education – Who is teaching?



# Fire Service Response: Narcan Distribution





# Fire Service Response: Treatment

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- Partner with sobering/addiction facilities – assist public
- Treatment assistance to firefighters with addiction
- EAP/Peer Support/Clinicians
- Social Services
- Medication (Buprenorphine) Pilot



# Fire Service Response: Partnerships

- **Law Enforcement – 75%**
- **County resources (Behavioral Health, Public Health, LEMSA, Social Services) – 40%**
- **Homeless outreach services – 37%**
- **Other fire departments – 29%**
- **Local Hospitals -29%**
- **State Entities-20%**
- **Narcan Distribution Project**
- **Private companies/vendors**
- **ODMAP-surveillance**



# California Fire Service: Impact and Response

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- **Complex issue**
- **Mitigating the effects**
- **Improving the health of our communities**
  
- **Q and A**