FINDING THE NARRATIVE IN THE DATA:
Carroll and Owen Counties

Valerie Gray Hardcastle
Vice President for Health Innovation
St. Elizabeth Healthcare Executive Director for the Institute for Health Innovation
Northern Kentucky University
Overdose Deaths Decreasing

Kentucky
Reported cases, April 2019: 1,328
Reported cases, April 2018: 1,418
Percent change: -6.3
* Underreported due to incomplete data.

(CDC 2019)
Kentucky vs. Owen and Carroll Counties

- Overdose deaths in Kentucky DECREASED 2017-2018
  - 33.9% decrease in opioid related deaths
  - 28.9% decrease in fentanyl and fentanyl analog related deaths
- Overdose deaths DOUBLED in Owen County 2017-2018
- Overdose deaths INCREASED in Carroll County
  - Primarily due to fentanyl
  - Has an ED

(K-SURE 2019, KPRIC 2018)
Hospitalizations

- 113 overdose hospitalizations in 2017
- 78 in 2018
  
  BUT

- 235 acute care for drug dependence or abuse in 2017
- 248 in 2018

Naloxone is being utilized but rate of substance misuse has not decreased

(KIPRC, 2019)
Youth

- Males 18-34 have greatest number of overdose deaths
- Males 18-34 have greatest number of EMS calls for overdose
  - Shift from previous trend of highest incidence in 45-54 yo
- Majority of Substance Use Disorder now being initiated in adolescence
  - No longer middle-aged deaths of despair
Social Determinants of Health

• 31% of youth live in poverty in Carroll County; 25.4% do in Owen County

• Over 50% of youth are on public health insurance

• Rate of children living in out of home care:
  • 78.4/1000 for Carroll County
  • 72.6/1000 for Owen County
  • (Kentucky’s rate is 43.7/1000)

• 84% of the documented cases of child abuse or neglect in Carroll County had substance abuse involvement
  • 62% of those in Owen County did

• Less than 10% of adults have a bachelor’s degree

• Unemployment is 4% BUT
  • 41.7% of those over age 16 in Carroll County are disengaged from the workforce
  • 50.4% in Owen County are

(Kids Count Data Center, 2019; U.S. Census Quickfacts, 2019)