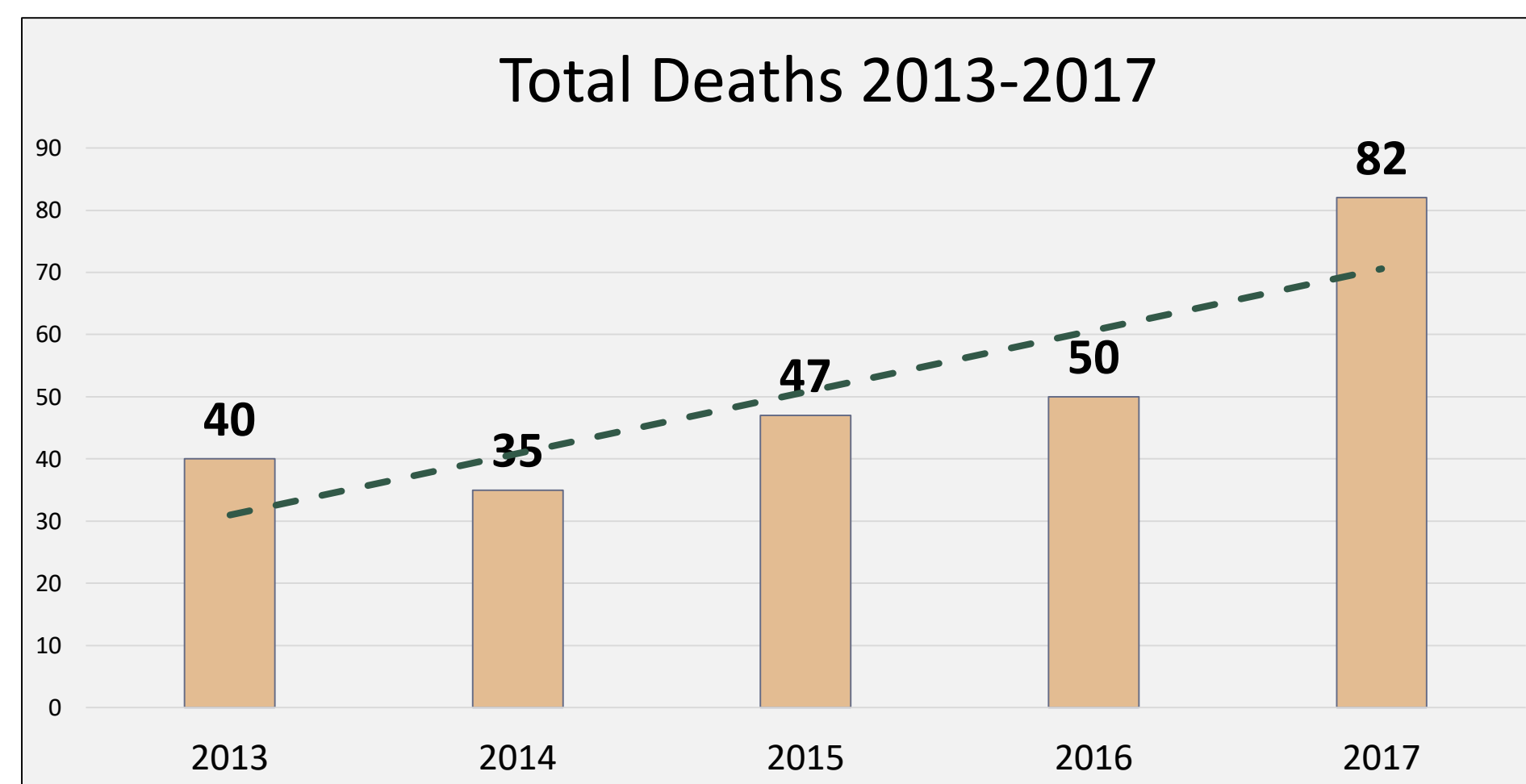


# Implementing a Multidisciplinary, Community-Based Overdose Fatality Review Team

Charissa Schuetz MHA; Lynn Herr RN, BSN, CPN; Dr. R. Kenneth Spear MD; Mikelle Rabuck

## 1. Problem:

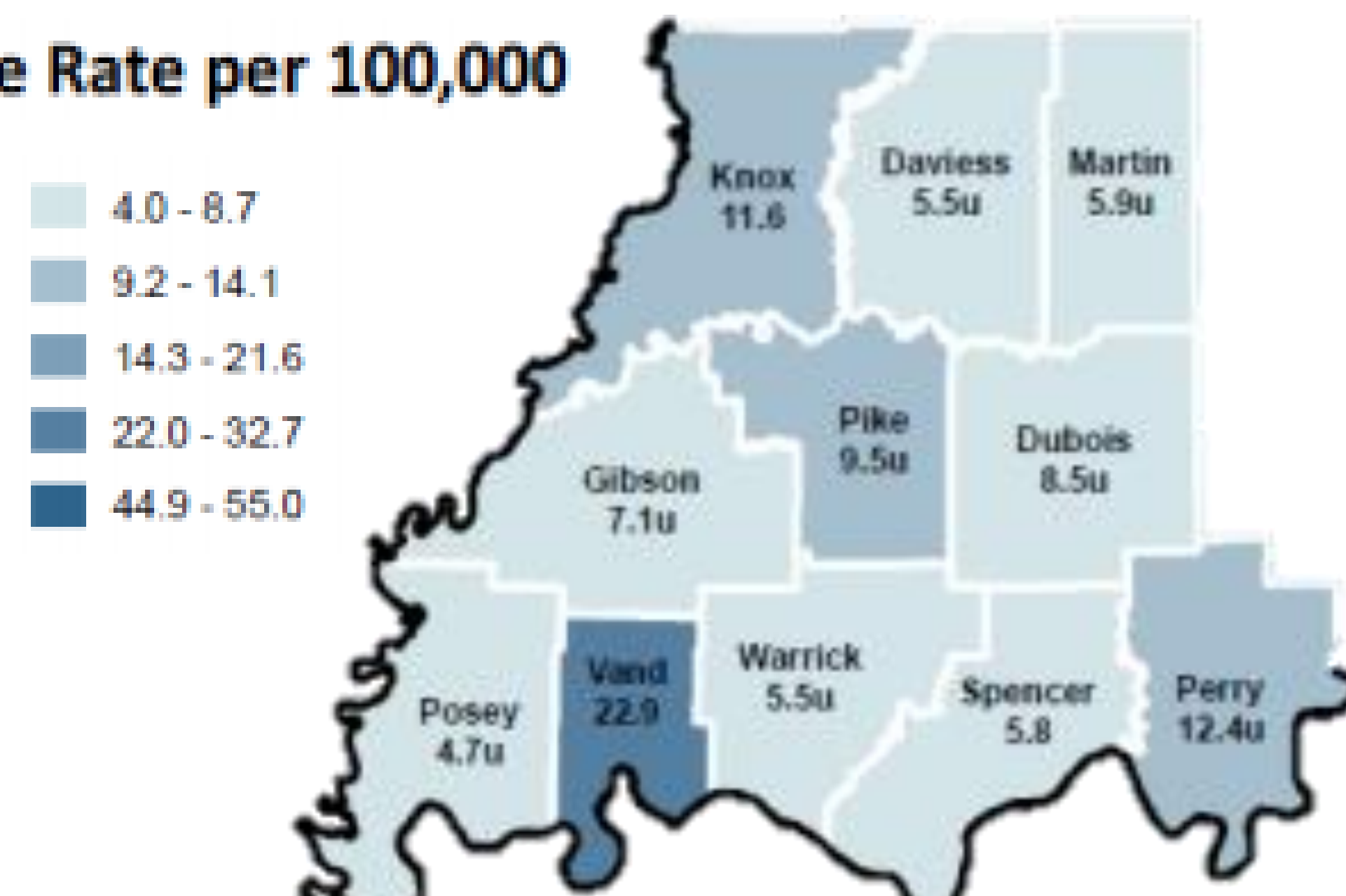
Historically, the concern of overdose deaths in Vanderburgh County has been a large issue. In the past five years, the rate of overdose deaths has steadily increased with the 5-year rate being 22.9 per 100,000 population<sup>1</sup>. This places Vanderburgh County with the highest rate in Indiana Region 10 by significant values. Large amounts of the overdose deaths in Vanderburgh County involve opioid pain relievers and heroin. The Vanderburgh County Health Department decided that implementing an Overdose Fatality Review team in collaboration with Indiana State Department of Health (ISDH) and Fairbanks School of Public Health would help address the increasing deaths due to overdose.



## 2. Process:

A **Community-Based Approach** was chosen as the method for the Overdose Fatality Review. This multi-disciplinary approach maximizes effectiveness in reaching widespread goals through the collaborative efforts of the community. A community-based approach seeks collaboration between public health agencies and communities through reciprocal learning and the challenges of translating and sustaining interventions within specific community contexts to improve health<sup>2</sup>.

### Crude Rate per 100,000



## 3. Objectives:

The goals of the Overdose Fatality Review include:

1. Bring awareness to overdose fatality in our area
2. Collaborate with a multi-disciplinary team to collect various points-of-view
3. Discuss and implement interventions that positively impact overdose death rates
4. Reduce the number of overdose related deaths

## 4. Methodology:

### Program Notification/Organization

- The Vanderburgh County Health Department was notified of the Overdose Fatality Review pilot program by the Indiana State Department of Health
- The Vanderburgh County Health Department developed a small internal team consisting of a Data Analyst, the Clinical and Outreach Director, and a Health Officer to coordinate the Review

### Multi-Disciplinary Team

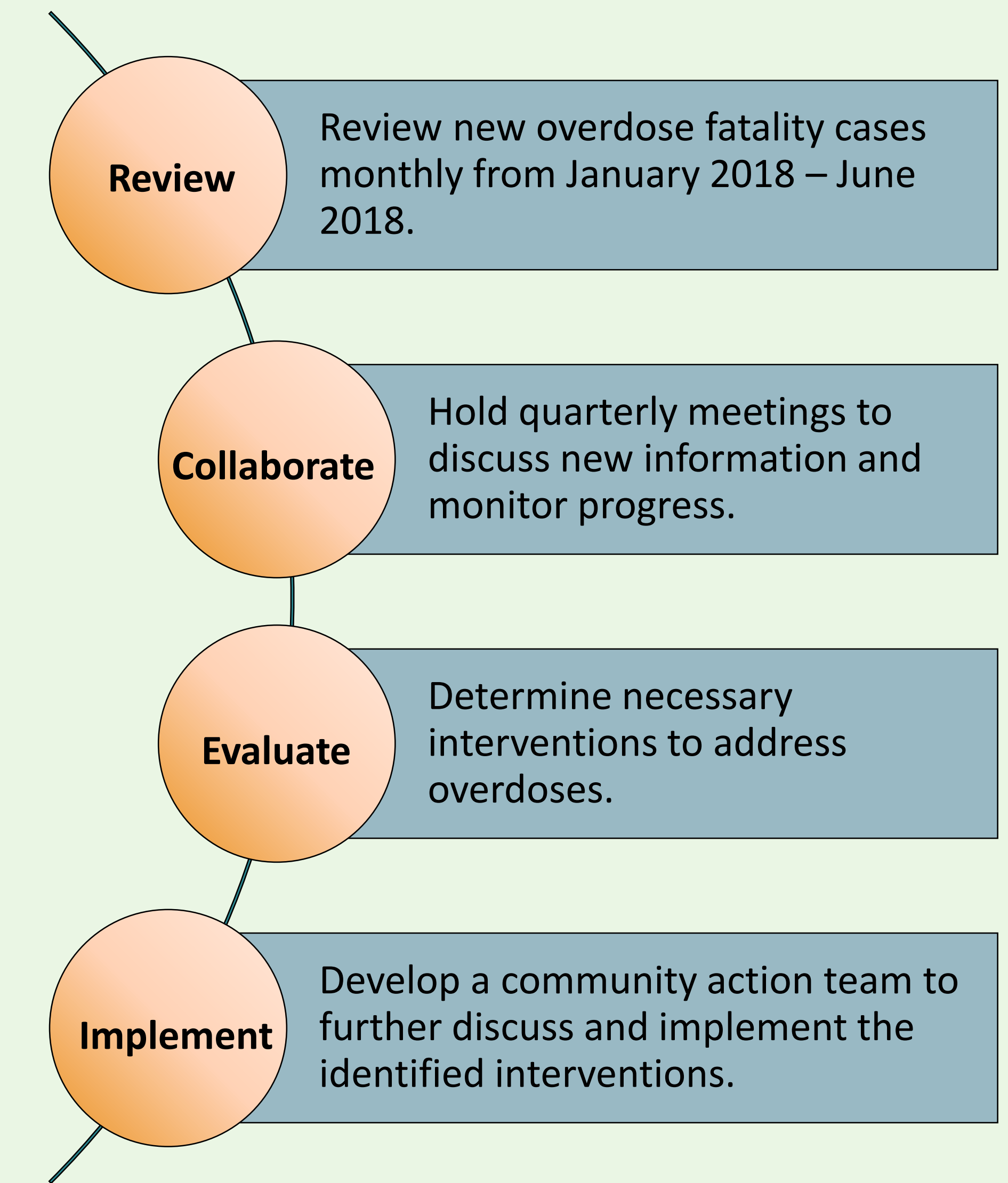
- The review team chose to implement a Community-Based Approach and compiled a list of community organizations to participate in the Review
- Data Collection from Vital Records, the Coroner's office, and other community organizations was compiled by a Data Analyst who identified trends (demographic, geographic, etc.)

### Case Review and Discussion

- The review team chose a specific case to review and obtained additional records (arrest, medical, rehabilitation efforts, etc.)
- All data and case information was compiled into a presentation to be shared at the Review
- During the Review, group discussion was encouraged to bring about thoughts, ideas, and concerns

## Key Goals:

In order for the Overdose Fatality Review (OFR) to begin to have an impact on the community, several goals were set. The goals include short-term plans to continue to meet with community partners as well as efforts toward long term goals of program proposals and implementation.



## References:

- 1) Indiana State Department of Health - <https://www.in.gov/isdh/>
- 2) Centers for Disease Control and Prevention - <https://www.cdc.gov/>

## Acknowledgments:

Indiana State Department of Health  
Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis  
Vanderburgh County Health Department Vital Records

## Contact information:

Vanderburgh County Health Department  
Charissa Schuetz, MHA  
cschuetz@vanderburghcounty.in.gov  
812-435-5426

