



UPDATES FROM THE CENTER ON SUBSTANCE USE AND HEALTH

Phillip Coffin MD
October 2026



POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Agenda

- How research from a health department informs public health and clinical care:

Development of a systematic approach to addressing methamphetamine

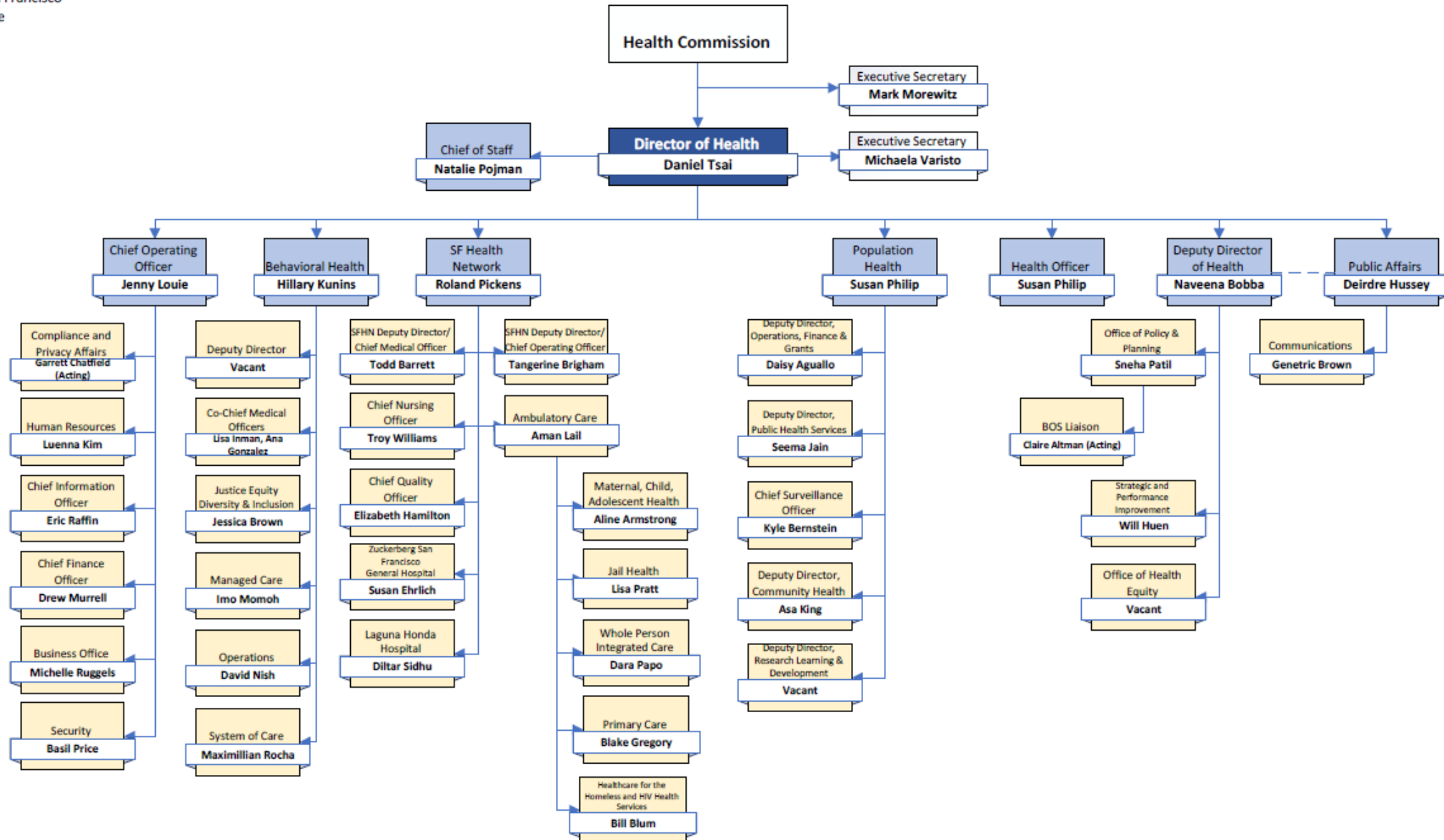


POPULATION HEALTH DIVISION
SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



City and County of San Francisco
Daniel L. Lurie
Mayor

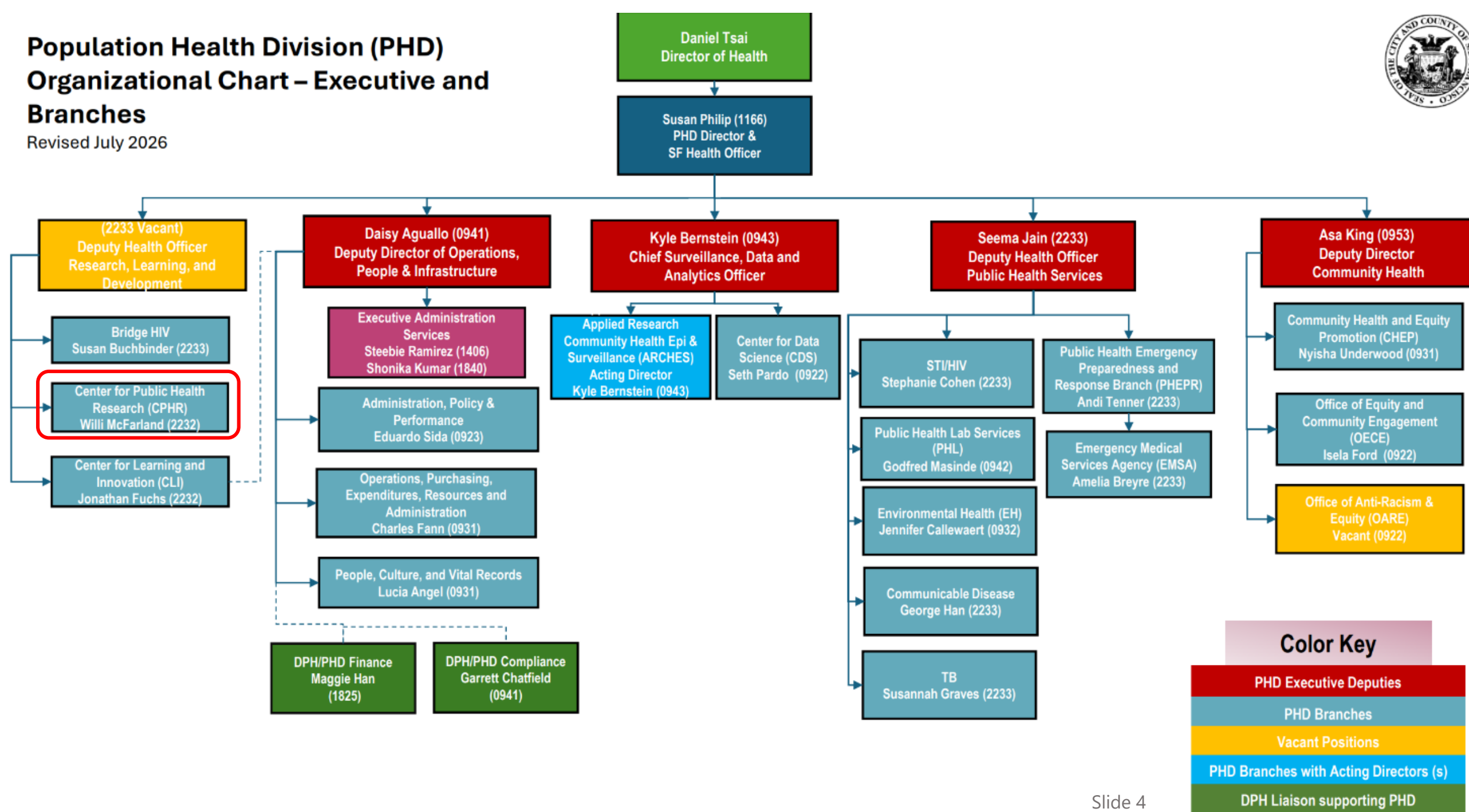
San Francisco Department of Public Health
Daniel Tsai
Director of Health





Population Health Division (PHD) Organizational Chart – Executive and Branches

Revised July 2026



Creating better health outcomes for all people who use substances

We study and support pharmacologic, behavioral, and system interventions addressing substance use and related health outcomes.



~ 25 staff:

- Investigators
- Research Clinicians
- Research Analysts/Epidemiologist
- Study Managers
- Community/Recruitment Manager
- Research Associates
- Recruitment Staff
- Interns and Fellows



DSM-5



EKG



PPD Testing



STI Testing



**Pre-exposure
HIV Prophylaxis**



Pipes



vaccines



**ledipasvir-
sofosbuvir**



naloxone



dextroamphetamine



mirtazapine



bupropion



naltrexone



contingency management



smoking cessation



atorvastatin



sleep aid



chill packs



Assessment



General Prevention



Use Reduction



Toxicity Prevention / Management



Use Reduction

CSUH RESEARCH

BUMP
TREX

Aripiprazole
ADAPT-2

M 1.0, 2.0, 3.0

GEM

T-STEM

There may be a major flaw with decades of medication trials for methamphetamine use disorder

FAILURE

SSRIs

Imipramine

Antipsychotics

Topiramate

Varenicline

Atomoxetine

Ondansetron

Modafinil

Naltrexone (alone)

Bupropion (alone)

SR methylphenidate

SUCCESS

Mirtazapine

Bupropion + XR-NTX



But is abstinence
needed for
benefit?

Toxicity Prevention / Management

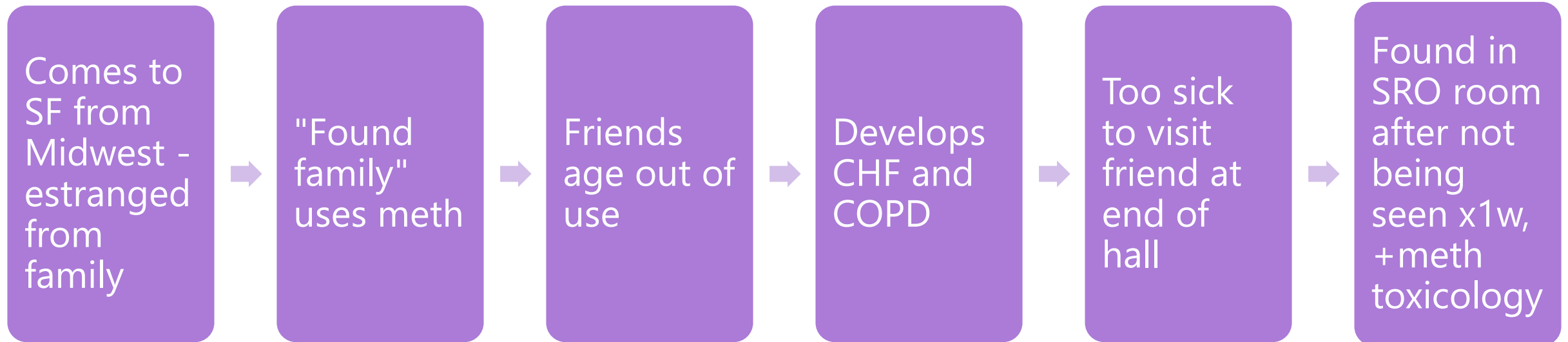
The background of the slide is a photograph of a wooden table. On the left, there is a white bowl filled with spaghetti topped with a red tomato sauce. To the right of the bowl is a small, round glass bottle containing red wine, with a few red chili peppers visible inside. The lighting is warm, creating a rustic atmosphere.

CSUH RESEARCH

Mortality data
LASSO
Project Chill

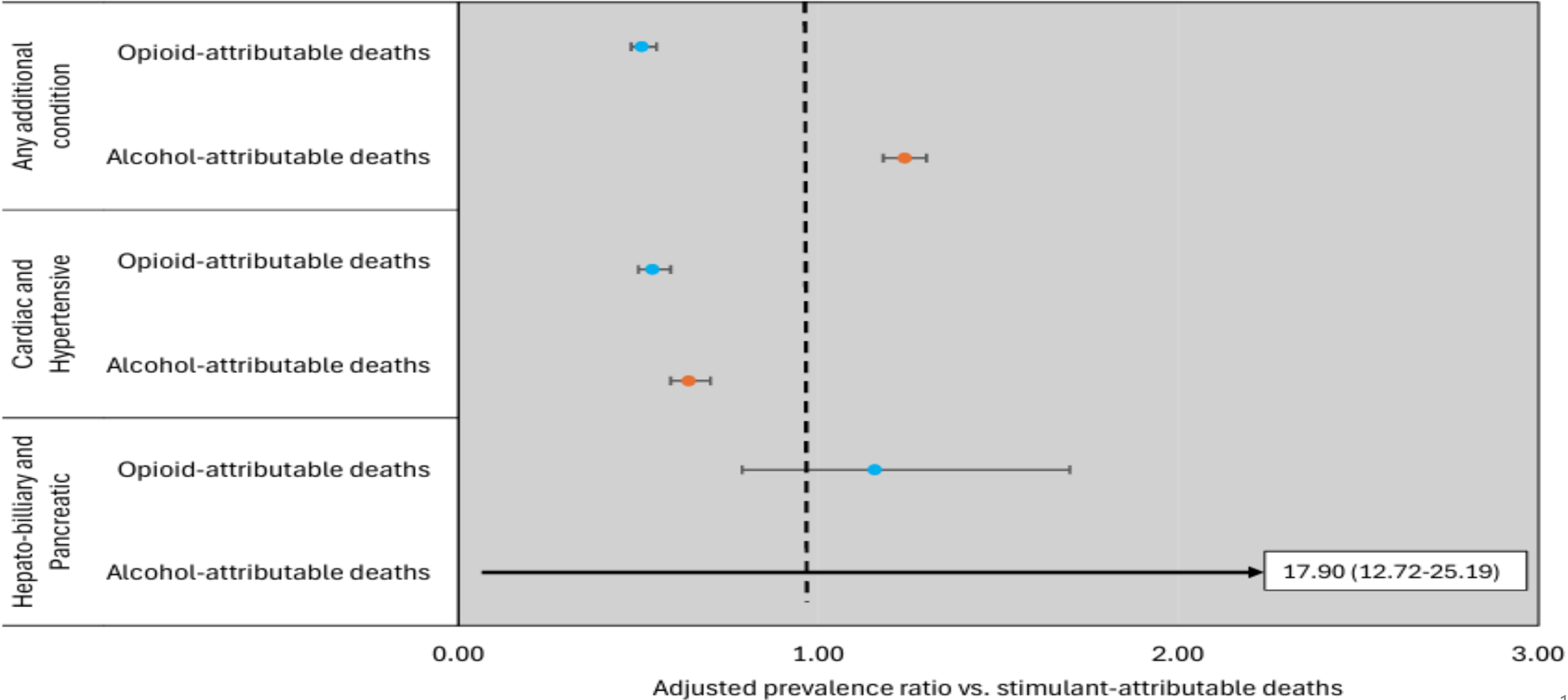
93% OF STIMULANT-NO-OPIOID DEATHS HAD EVIDENCE OF PREMORTEM CARDIOVASCULAR DISEASE AND MOST LACKED EVIDENCE OF SUBSTANCE USE PRECEDING DEATH

Example of death due to “acute methamphetamine toxicity”, age 56y



Coffin, P. O., McMahan, V. M., Chang, Y. G., Luna Marti, X., Antolin Muñiz, M., Chang, J. S., Knoll, J., & Rodda, L. N. (2026). Cardiovascular conditions and symptoms in deaths attributed to acute stimulant toxicity. *Circulation. Population Health and Outcomes*, 19(4), e012683; Black, F., McMahan, V. M., Chang, Y. G., Rodda, L. N., & Coffin, P. O. (2025). Thematic analysis of medical examiner narratives to understand the socio-spatial context, recency of drug use, and likely mechanism of stimulant toxicity deaths. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*, 272, 112700.

Stimulant deaths ... are more like alcohol deaths than they are like opioid deaths

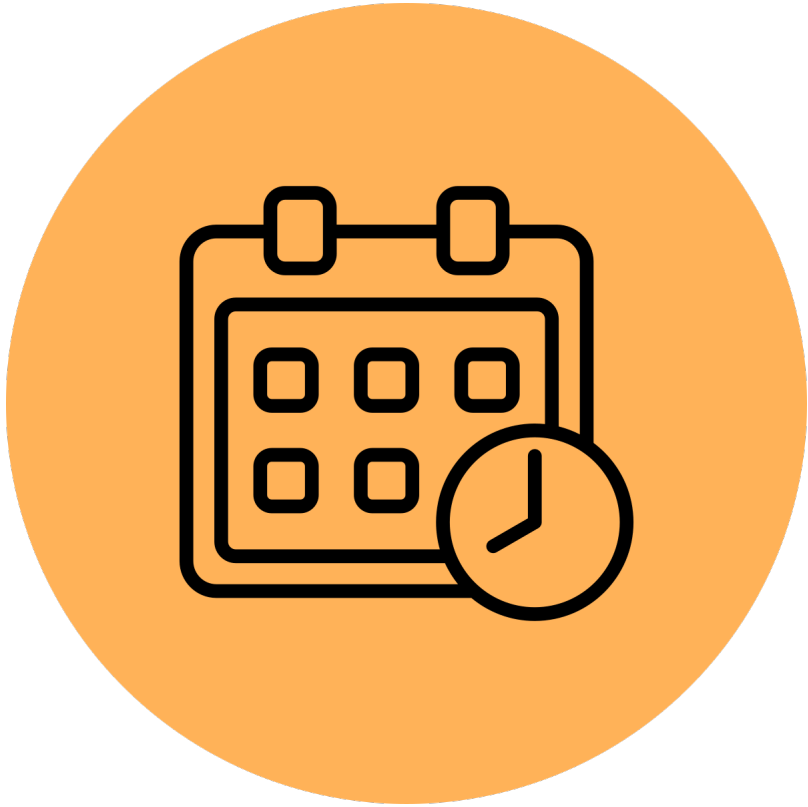


Assessment

CSUH Research

Project RESIN

GEM ...



Days of use

+

Amount per day?



Total
exposure?

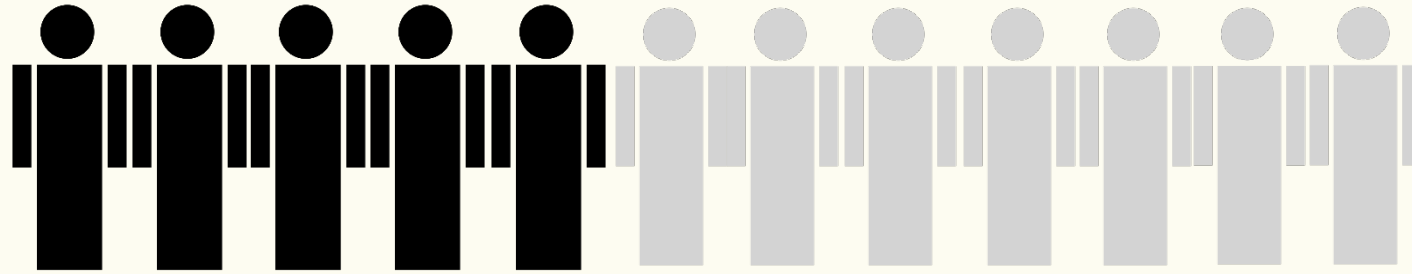
General Prevention

CSUH Research

BYE-C
PRIME
NOD
B-SAFE

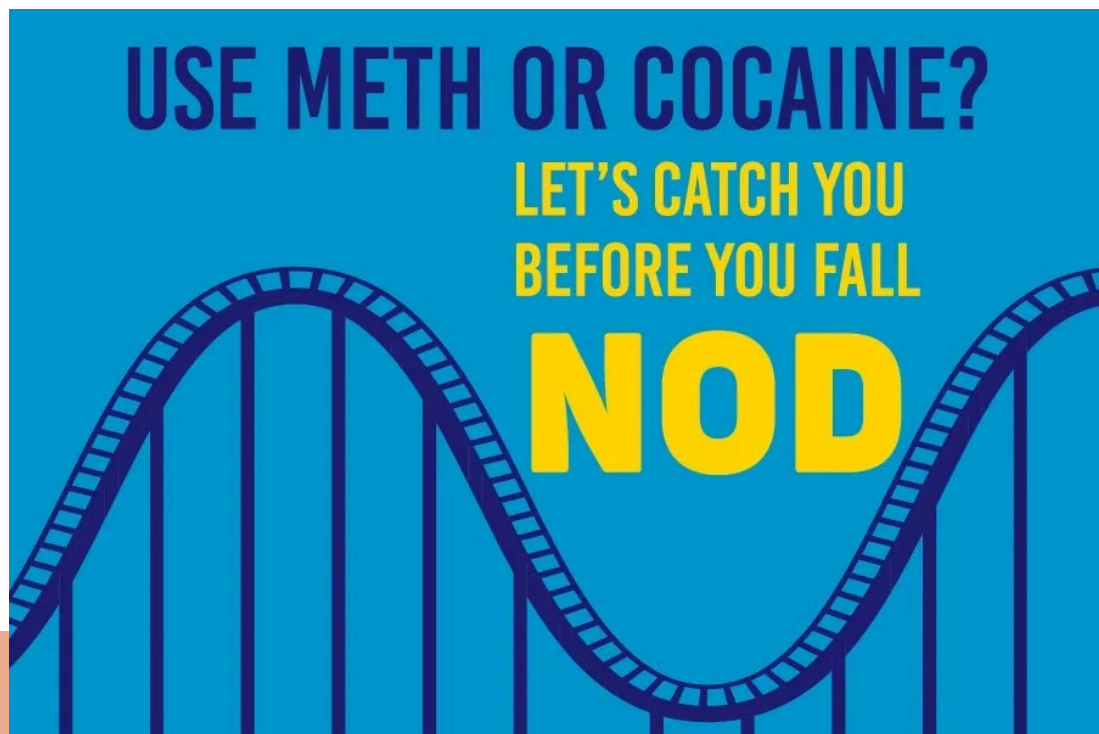
40%

of fentanyl overdose deaths lacked
evidence of regular fentanyl use



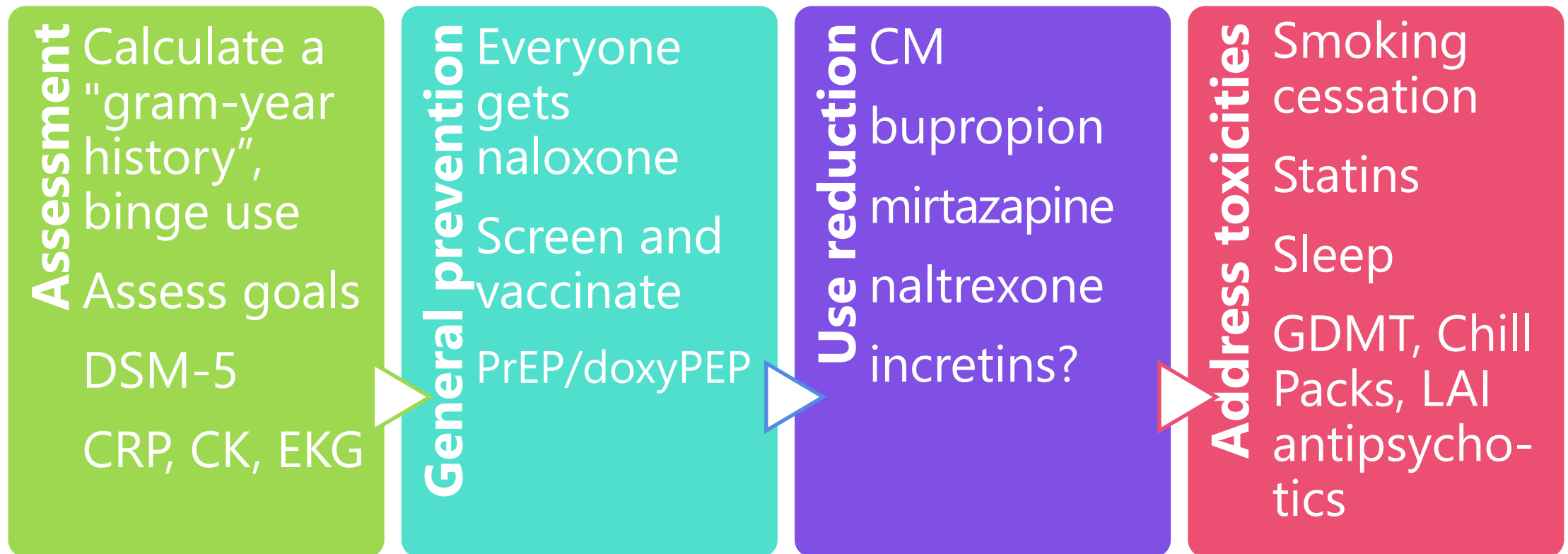
likely unintentional, intermittent,
or returned to use

NOT COVERED BY OPIOID USE DISORDER INTERVENTIONS



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An explicit 4-tier approach





THANK YOU!

Phillip Coffin MD

phillip.coffin@sfdph.org

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