

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE
MAYOR'S OPIOID TASK FORCE
131 NORTH MAIN STREET
JANUARY 9, 2023 @ 6:00 p.m.**

ATTENDEES:

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Karen Kiley
Sam Wilson
Sandy Kamens
Karen Barron
Chris Beausoleil
Mark Jenkins
Angie
Christie Ganavage
Lisa Coates
Alyssa Marin
Chad Layton
Courtney Dollar
Mike Tingley
Matt Norton
Karen Carbonell
Noelle Bates – Recording Secretary

ITEM #1 – CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS

Mayor Caggiano called the meeting to order at 6:03 followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #2 – ACCEPTANCE OF SEPTEMBER 20, 2022 MINUTES

A **Motion** was made by Sandy Kamens and **Seconded** by Chad Layton to approve the minutes of the September 20, 2022 Minutes. All in favor.

A Motion was made by Sandy Kamens and **Seconded** by Chief Gould to amend the above motion to approve the September 20, 2022 minutes with corrections. All in favor.

ITEM #3 – UPDATE ITEMS

ITEM #3A – COBRA & BRISTOL POLICE PARTNERSHIP

Chief Gould gave an update of the COBRA and stated that 6 people had taken advantage of the program in 2022. He gave an example of a person shoplifting over \$200 in merchandise at a local business. The police were called and the person opted to accept the diversionary program and the owner didn't press charges.

ITEM # 3B - B.E.S.T

Mike Tingley introduced himself as the new drug free community program coordinator for BEST. He discussed his educational and employment background and is eager to work with community members. He stated that he has been passing out fliers around town to get people to join the coalition. The next BEST meeting is this Thursday.

Chief Gould gave a report on Narcan use. He stated that all officers are equipped with Narcan and they are tracking its usage. From January 2022 through December 2022 there were 52 occurrences. In 2021 there were approximately 60 occurrences and in 2020 there were 58 occurrences. In 2022 there were 50 saves and 2 deceased. We can see that the numbers are going down.

Angie Karwowski explained the ODMAP and provided charts for the committee. A copy of this material is attached hereto. She stated that there were less overdoses but more deaths. She attributed it to the possibility of marijuana being laced with Fentanyl.

Courtney Dollar spoke on behalf of the CT Har Reduction Alliance. She stated that she doesn't believe the narrative that marijuana is being laced. Benzodiazepines and tranquilizers (xylazine is a tranq) are being found in our drug supply (heroin, fentanyl, crack and powder cocaine) and causes complex overdoses - Narcan works on opioid overdoses, not benzos or tranqs, so if someone has those in their system, their response is going to look different from just an opioid overdose because Narcan will work on the opioid but does not counter the effects of benzo/tranq which cause sedation, unresponsiveness, slow heart rate, and decreased breathing. We believe the increase in OD deaths are due to the increased presence of benzos/tranq in the drug supply (NOT marijuana, but other drugs, including heroin, fentanyl, crack and powder cocaine.) If someone is opioid naive and uses a drug like crack cocaine that contains fentanyl, they are at an increased risk of overdose because they are not used to consuming opioids.

The Chief stated that this is consistent with what he is experiencing in the field. The 2 out of the 50 deaths that didn't respond to narcan were most likely because the individuals had other drugs in their system.

The Mayor addressed the Committee saying that as we speak of this, tomorrow, adult use recreational marijuana will be available at 10:00a in Connecticut. It will not be available in Bristol as the dispensary is still waiting for the Department of Consumer Protection's approval. The closest one to Bristol is Meriden, Torrington and Newington. The one positive aspect is that

it will be highly regulated, pharmaceutical grade type of marijuana. There will be no question as to whether it is laced with anything.

He further stated that the City has the capability to have 2 hybrid sale (recreational use and medicinal use) dispensaries. We will not allow a straight use recreational use facility. We have a medical use currently operational on East Main Street in Forestville. They will be attending the January City Council meeting to request a change of location to Farmington Avenue.

ITEM #4 - NEW BUSINESS

ITEM #4A – COMMUNITY RESOURCE OFFICER

The Mayor stated that he, Chief Gould and Park and Rec, Youth and Community Services were talking about bringing forward a Community Resource Officer. This Officer would be an advocate to get people the services they could benefit from. They have a draft job description put together. The City has received money from opioid settlements so there's a pool of money for this. Also, 3% of the recreational sales comes back to the City. He feels any money the City receives should be used to combat any kind of substance abuse. But the Council will decide that as a whole.

The Chief stated that his staffing levels are at a critical low and he is working on trying to get those back up. Dr. Medeiros has created a job description for the Community Resource Officer and he is looking forward to filling that position(s).

ITEM #5 - ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sam Wilson of Confidant Health stated that they are an out-care patient provider and they are seeing an increase in people with cannabis use disorder. This disorder is associated with the higher potency of the recreational marijuana. She would like to create an awareness of this and let people know that they can reach out to them for help. They Mayor stated that we could get this information out on All Heart and with B.E.S.T. and asked her to reach out to Mike.

Lisa Coates of Bristol Health stated that the hospital is creating a Behavioral Health Navigator to better navigate the health services at Bristol Health.

Mark Jenkins, Executive Director of Connecticut Harm Reduction Alliance introduced himself to the Mayor. He was looking at the numbers that were presented in the meeting and offered to be a part of the conversation and offer services. The Mayor asked him to contact his office so they could meet separately.

Chad Layton, Elk had a question as to the homeless count in Bristol. The Mayor wasn't sure of an exact number but he had numbers that escalated higher than they had anticipated this year. Homelessness now includes a growing senior population who would not normally be homeless

except for the fact that they can't afford heat and housing costs with inflation. Many are disabled as well. He stated that they were able to open up a second warming shelter in town but doesn't think the second one has been utilized yet because of the warmer weather. But from the organizations he has talked with, Bristol has a higher than normal homeless population. A lot is also due to the after COVID evictions.

DRAFT

ITEM # 6 – ADJOURNMENT

A **Motion** was made by Chief Gould and **Seconded** by Mayor Caggiano to adjourn the meeting at 6:40pm. All in favor.

Mayor Jeffrey Caggiano
Mayor's Opioid Task Force

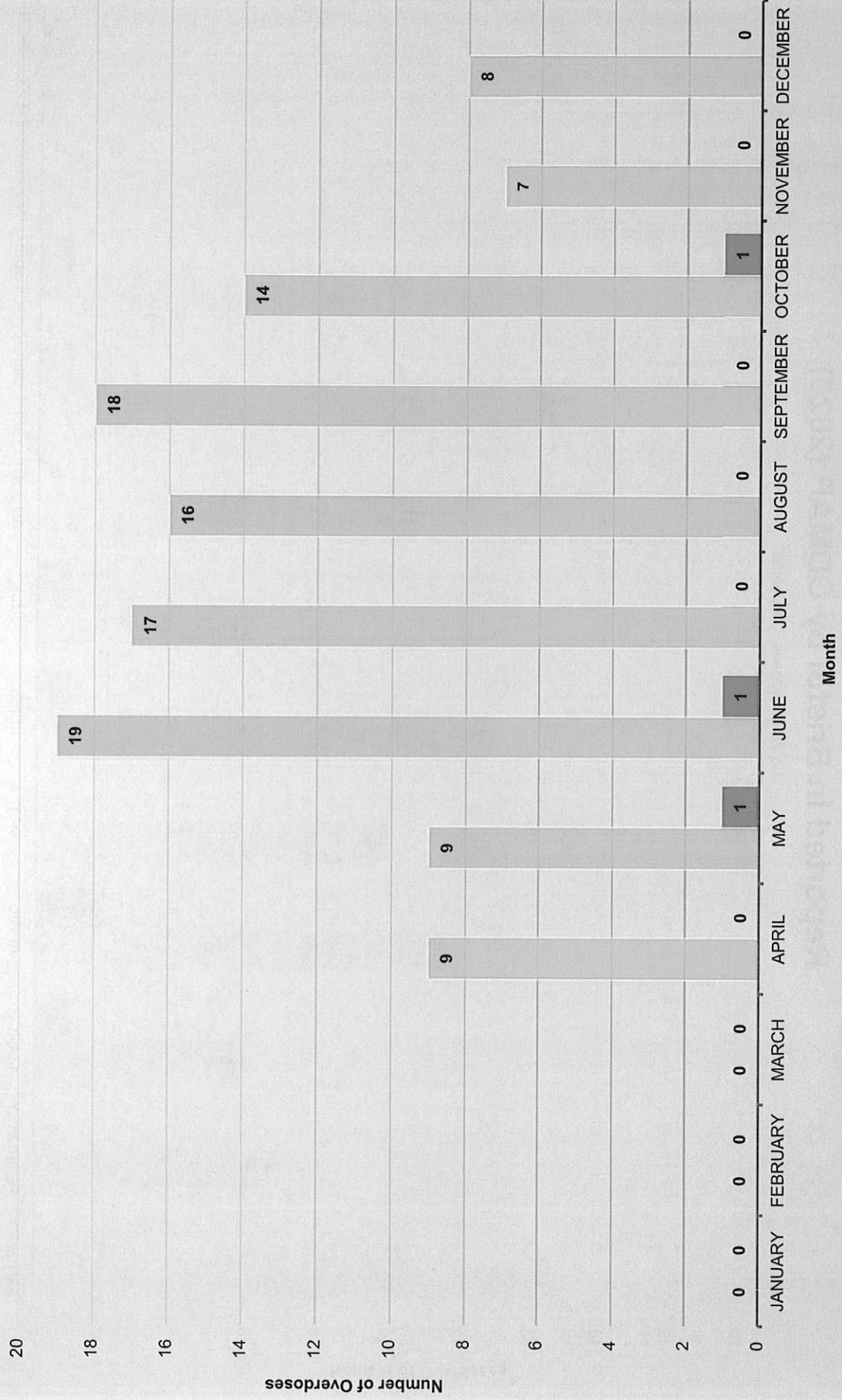
DRAFT

1875
The following is a list of the names of the persons who have been elected to the office of Justice of the Peace for the year 1875.

John A. Smith
James B. Jones
William C. Brown

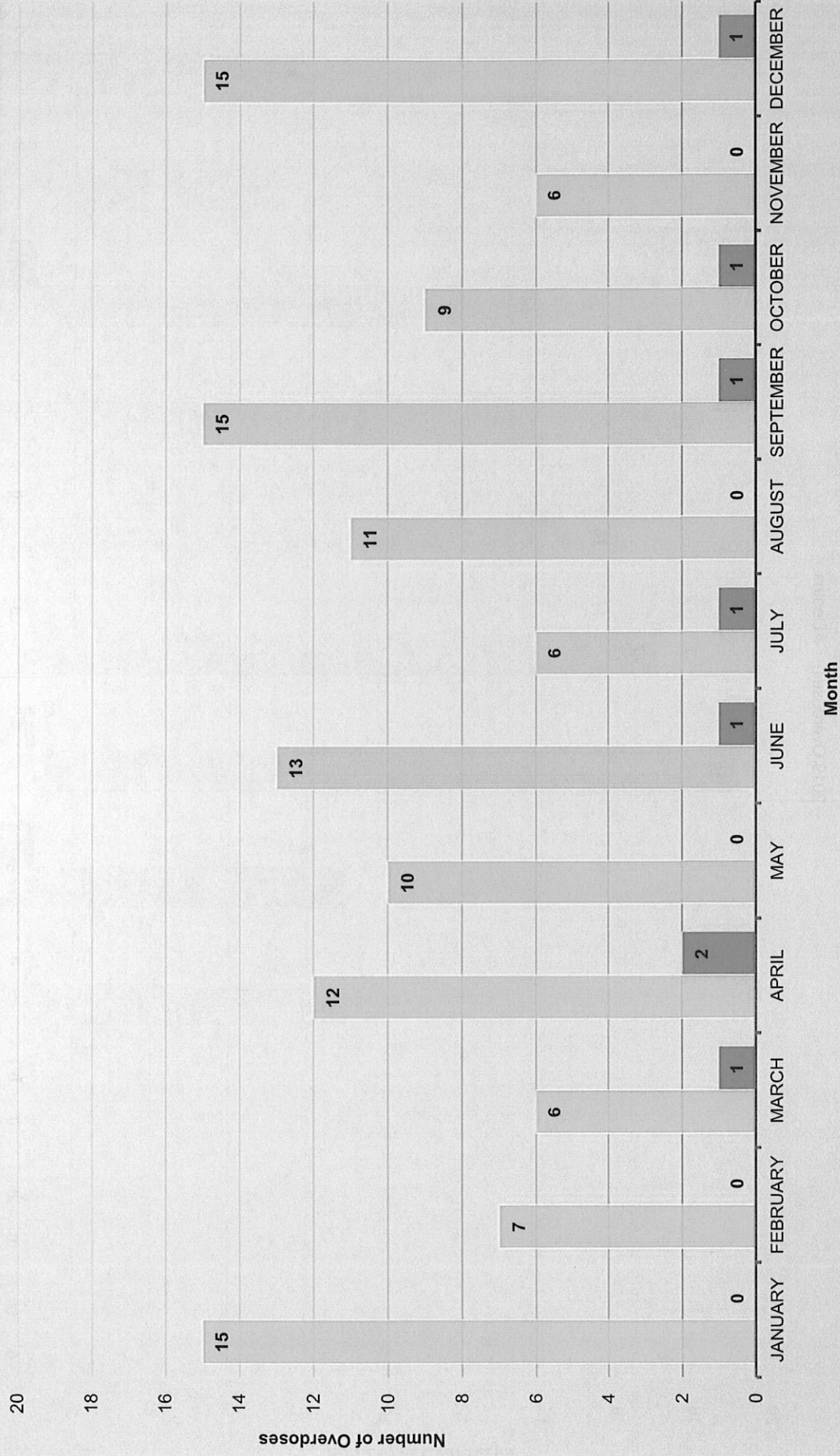
Number of Overdoses and Overdose-Related Deaths Reported in Bristol by ODMAP (2019)

■ 2019 Overdoses ■ Deaths

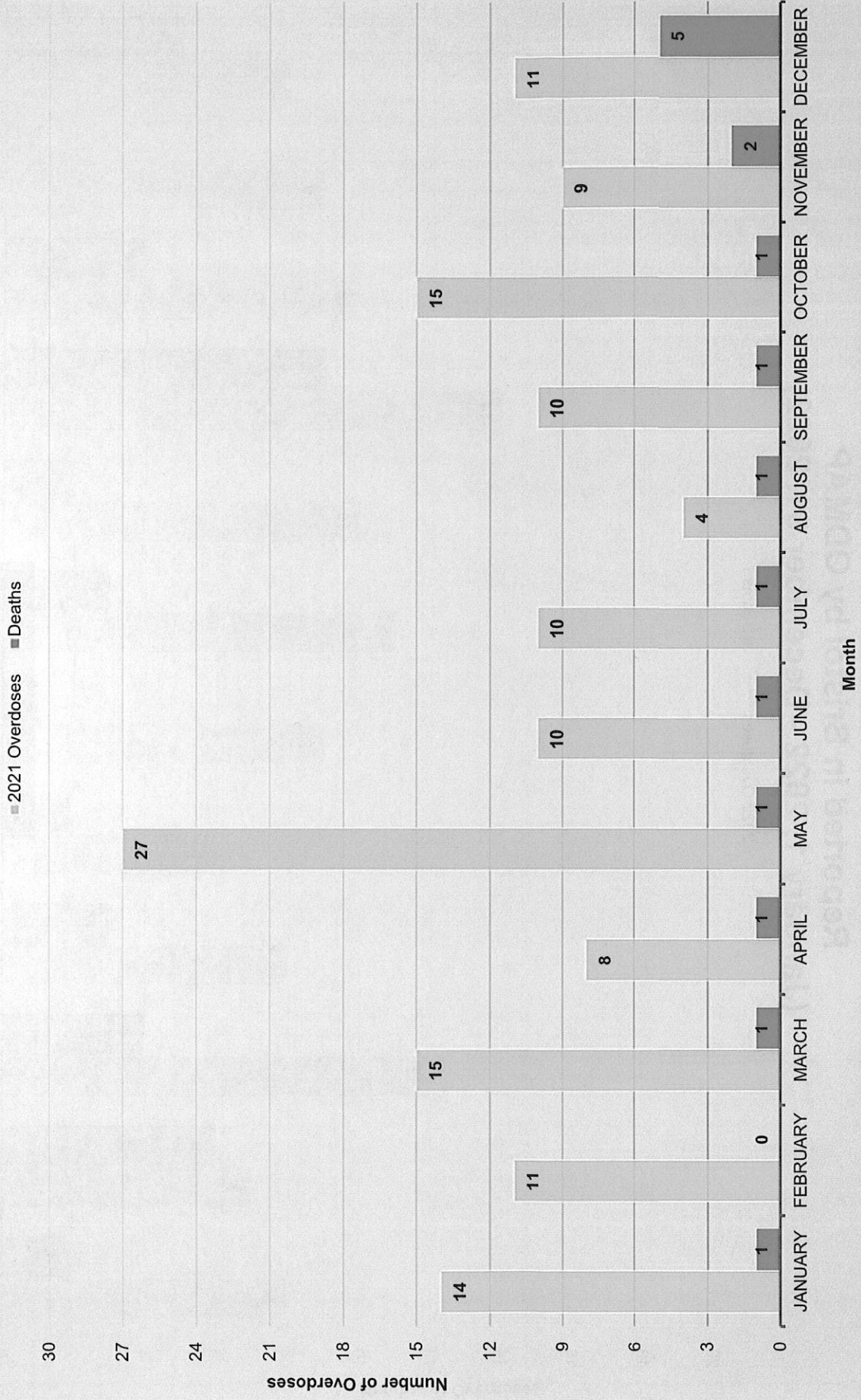


Number of Overdoses and Overdose-Related Deaths Reported in Bristol by ODMAP (2020)

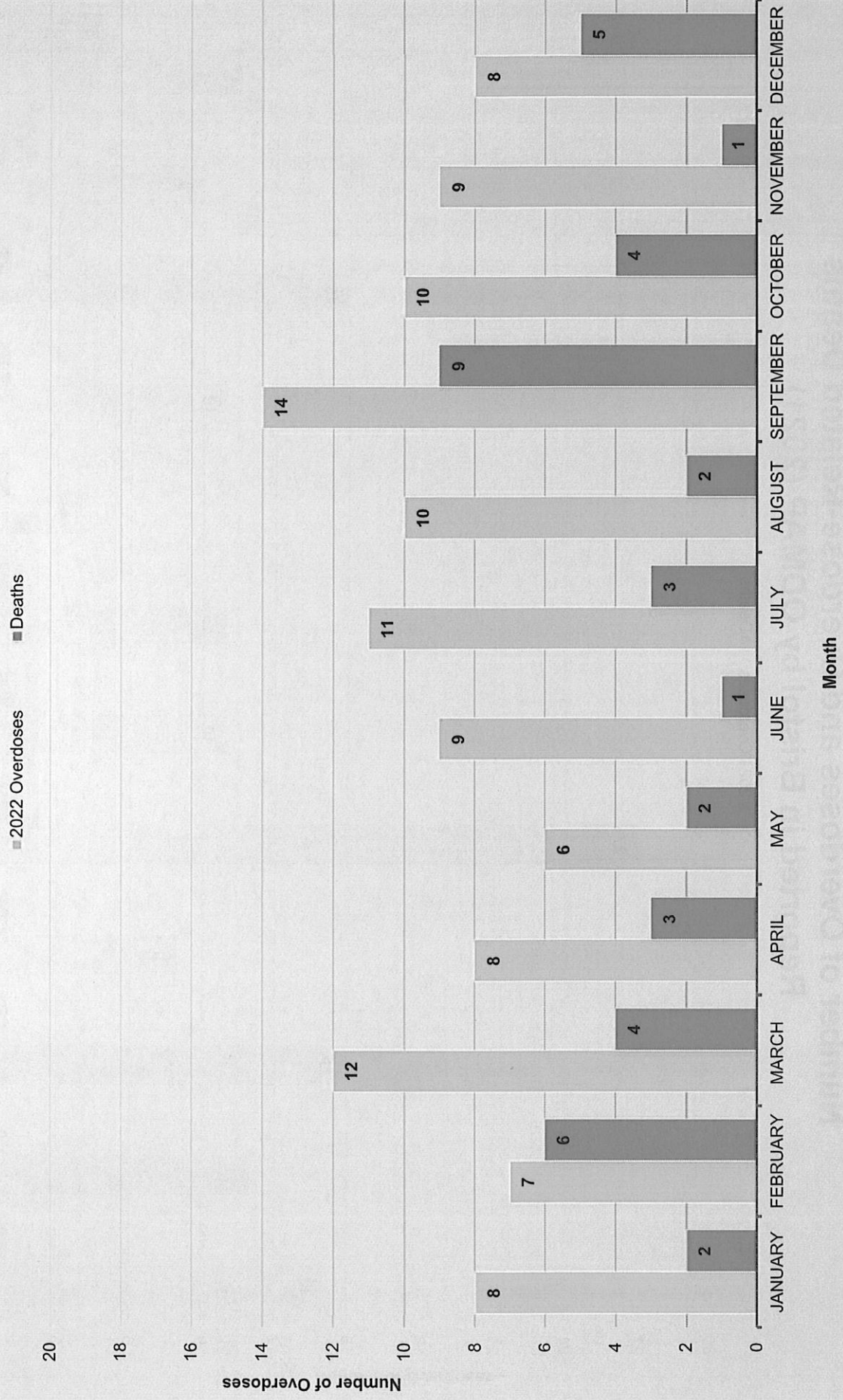
■ 2020 Overdoses ■ Deaths



Number of Overdoses and Overdose-Related Deaths Reported in Bristol by ODMAP (2021)



Number of Overdoses and Overdose-Related Deaths Reported in Bristol by ODMAP (January 1, 2022 - December 31, 2022)



There have been two overdoses in January so far.

