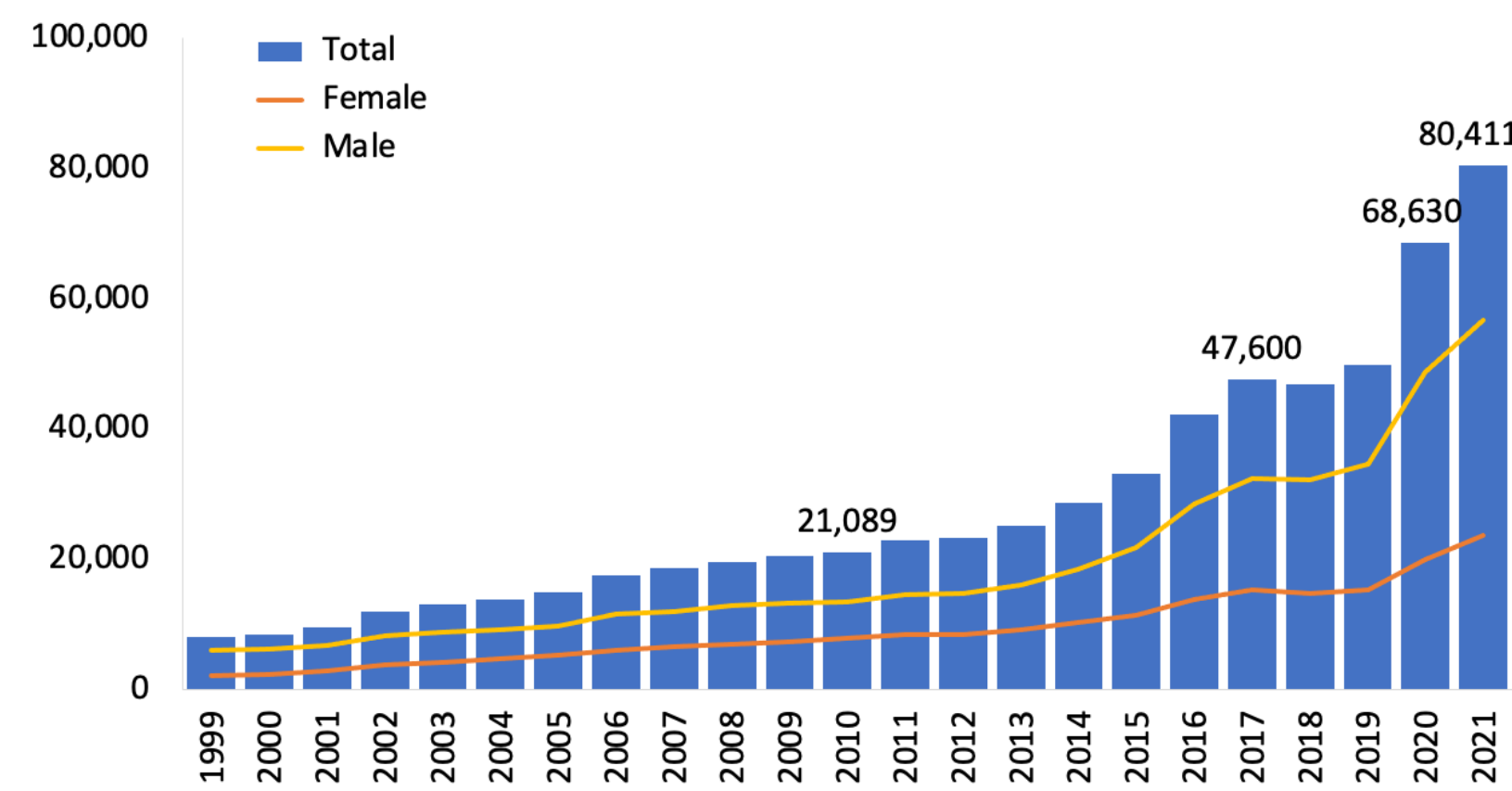


Introduction

- Drug overdose-related deaths have increased fivefold in the last 2 decades¹
- Opioids have been a major player in this uptick, resulting in increasing calls to EMS
- This study looks to see how this has impacted those workers

National Overdose Deaths Involving Any Opioid²
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2021

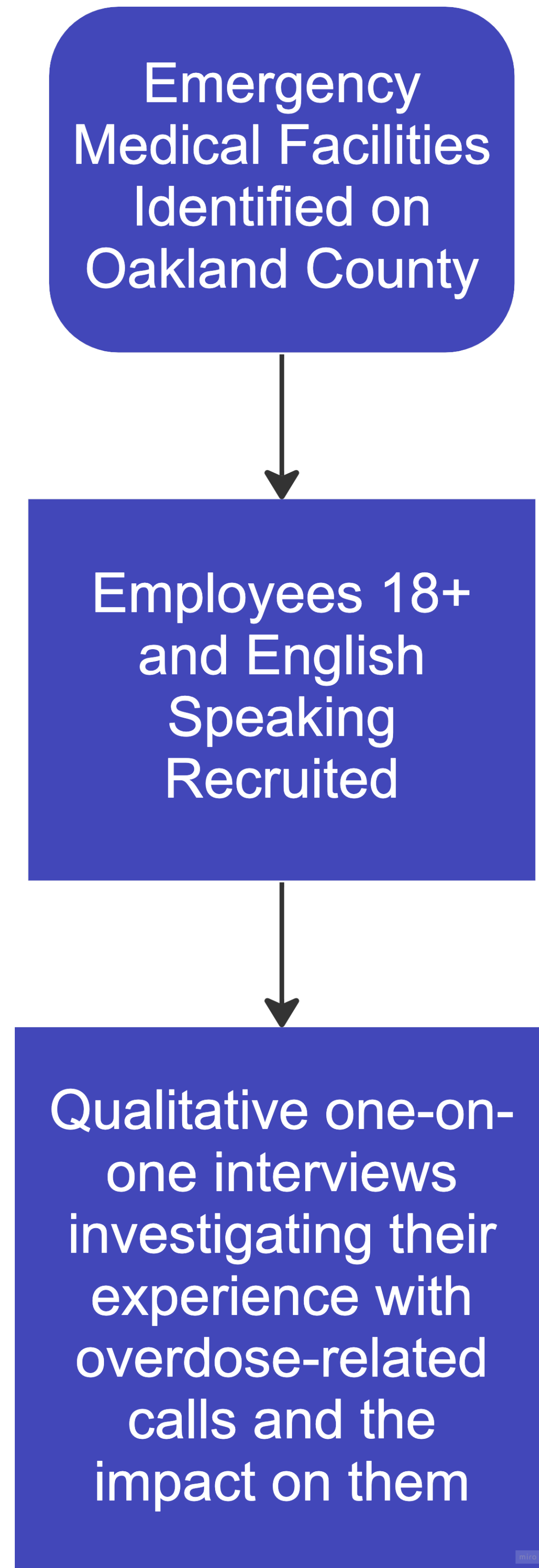


*Among deaths with drug overdose as the underlying cause, the "any opioid" subcategory was determined by the following ICD-10 multiple cause-of-death codes: natural and semi-synthetic opioids (T40.2), methadone (T40.3), other synthetic opioids (other than methadone) (T40.4), or heroin (T40.1). Source: 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.

Aims and Objectives

- To investigate common precursors to compassion fatigue in outpatient emergency medical service providers

Methods



“No amount of money or social status exempts you from addiction.”

Results

- 11 interviews (9 males, 2 females) were conducted
- Training well prepares you for the medical aspect of treating overdoses, but not the emotional
- Several accounts of becoming jaded due to high call volumes
- Higher income areas tend to see peaks and dips rather than consistent opioid emergencies seen in lower income areas
- While some reported it is not their job to prevent addiction, but to treat reported pain, others expressed concerns on contributing to a relapse

Conclusions

- Resources to offer patients after an overdose are not well known
 - Resources for emotional support to first responders is not often offered
 - By ensuring EMS providers know the resources available to both them and their patients, we can ensure adequate care as well as combat compassion fatigue
- *This study was limited by COVID-19 disrupting the ability to interview EMS providers

References

1. Spencer MR, Miniño AM, Warner M. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 2001–2021. NCHS Data Brief, no 457. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2022. DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.15620/cdc:122556>.
2. CDC Wonder

Acknowledgements

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