



An Independent Licensee of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association

Opioid and Substance Use Disorder in Arizona: Addressing a Public Health Crisis from a Funder's Perspective

CHRISTINE BRACAMONTE WIGGS, PhD, MPH, MS

**Staff Vice President, Community and Health Advancement, Blue
Cross Blue Shield of Arizona**

**President, Blue Cross Blue Shield of Arizona Foundation for
Community & Health Advancement**



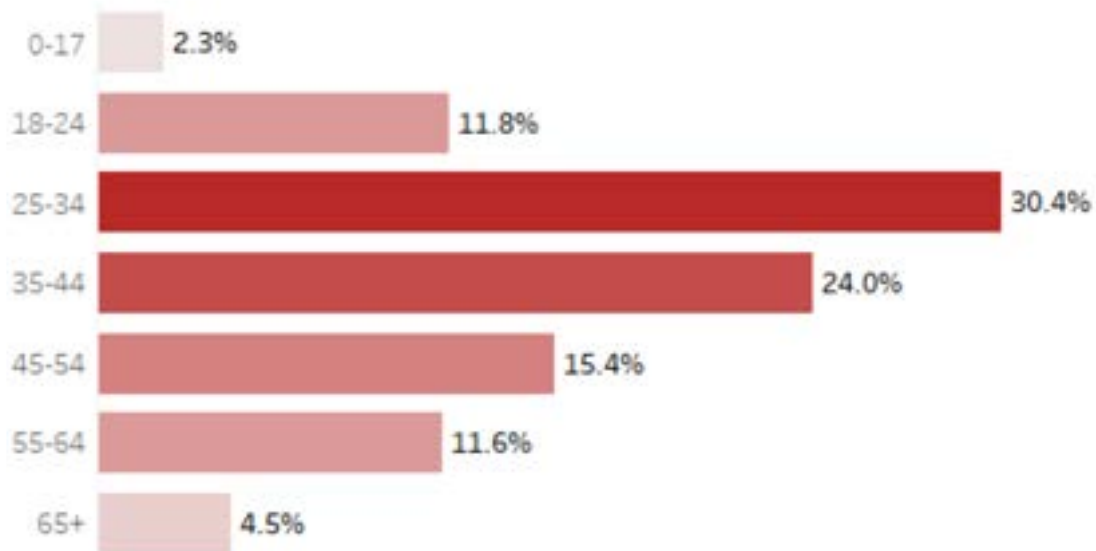


More than **5 Arizonans**
a day died from opioids
in 2021

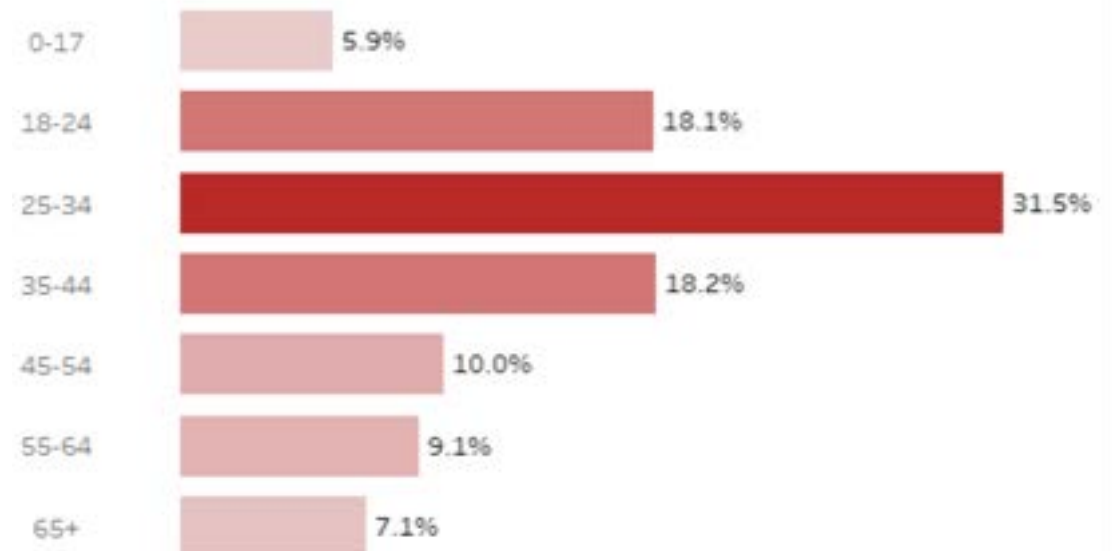
Overdose Trends in Arizona

In 2021 ...

Two-thirds of **opioid deaths** were among people aged 25-54, with the highest rate in 25-34-year-olds.



Two-thirds of **non-fatal opioid overdoses** were among people aged 18-44, with the highest rate in 25-34-year-olds.



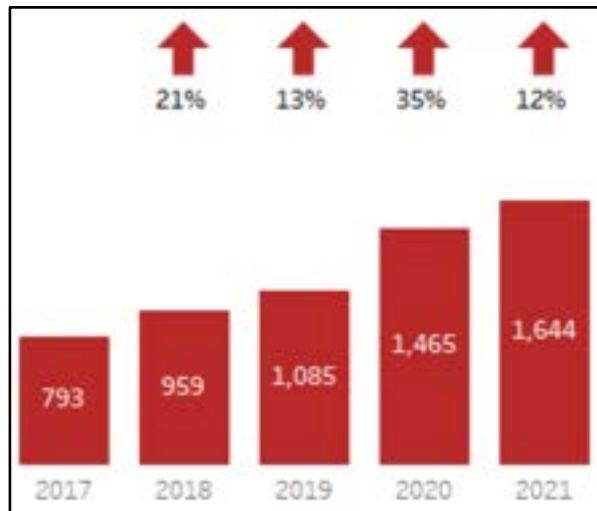
Source: ADHS Vital Statistics

Overdose Trends in Arizona

In 2022 ...

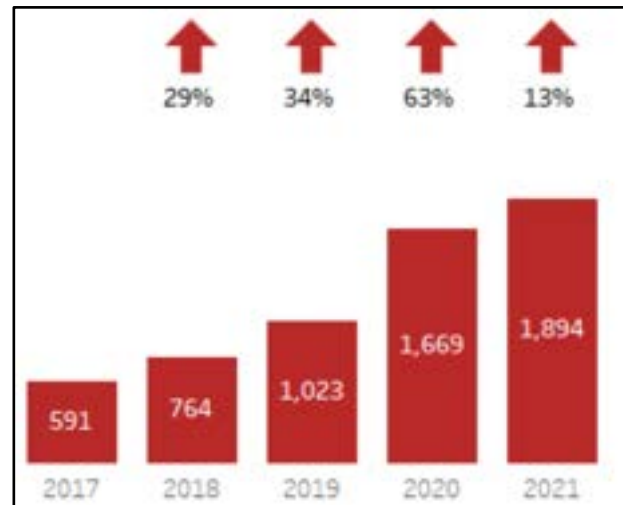
81% of opioid deaths involved multiple drugs

Increasing trend



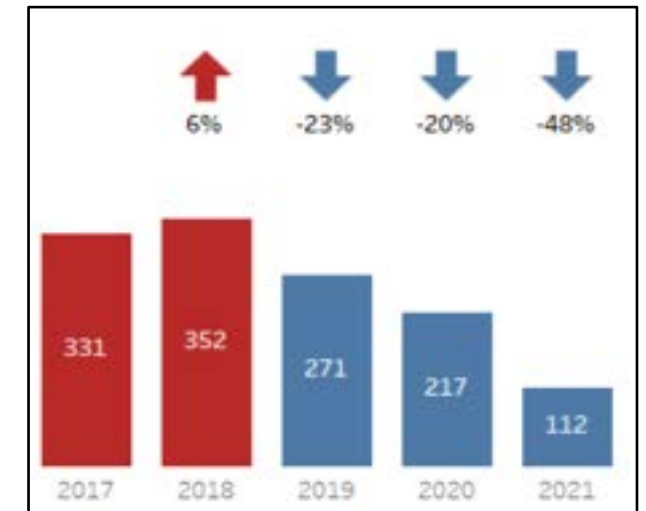
96% of opioid deaths involved Rx or synthetic drugs

Increasing trend



4% of opioid deaths involved heroin

Decreasing trend



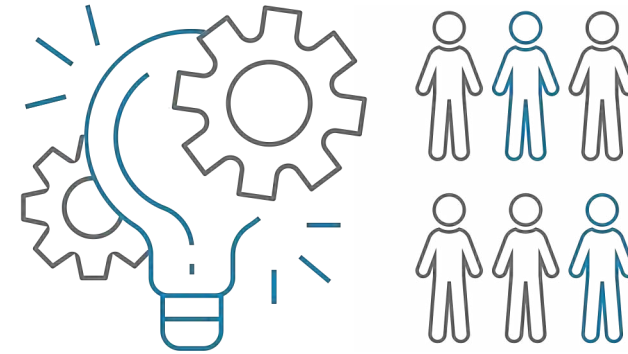
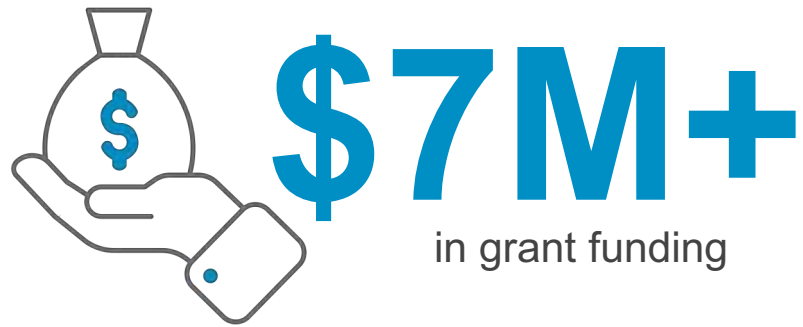
Source: ADHS Vital Statistics, 2017-February 2022 (2021 & 2022 data is provisional)

Mobilize AZ

BCBSAZ Public health initiative: 2018-2021



Mobilize AZ Grant Program



of grants also address social determinants of health

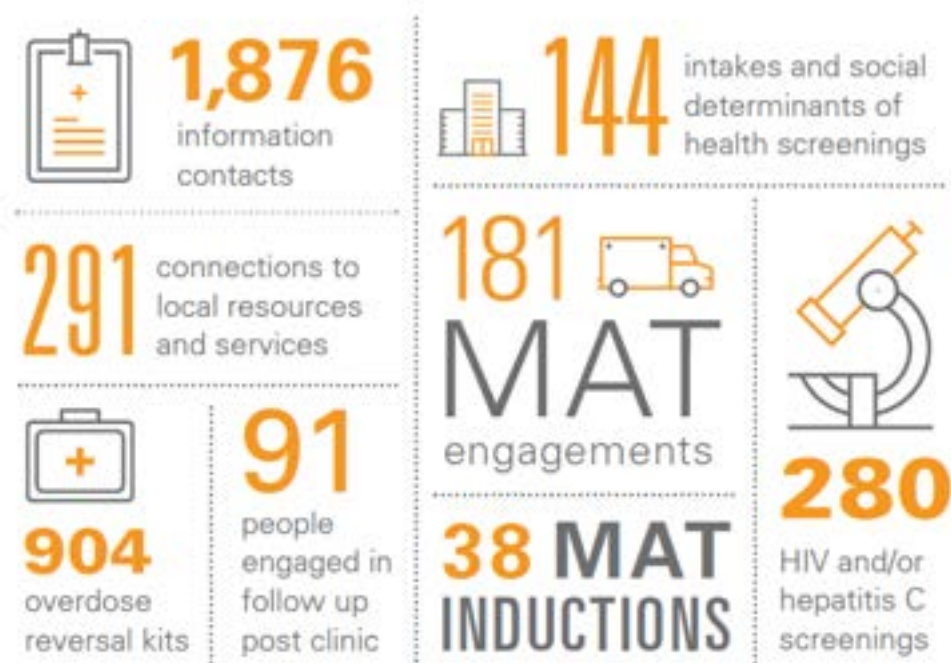


individuals served by our first two cohorts of grantees and community support programs

Impact Highlight: Mobile MAT Clinic

Year One (2019-2020)

69 clinics across all 15 Arizona counties

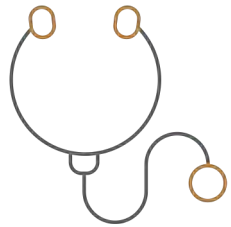


Year Two (2020-2021)

- 4 communities targeted: Guadalupe, Kingman, Douglas, Human Services Campus (Phoenix)
- 55 clinics hosted; repeat clinic visits to amplify impact
- Array of services address substance use, food insecurity, primary prevention, harm reduction, HIV/AIDS and Hepatitis C testing
- 1,474 people served

Impact Highlight: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

Built capacity for and worked to support MAT prescribing



618

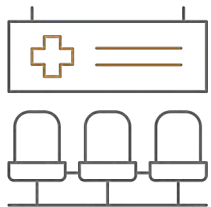
newly certified providers



MAT ECHO



Opioid Assistance & Referral (OAR) line



18,540

more treatment spots created



Chat About MAT podcast



MAT Technical Assistance



Impact Highlight: Overdose Prevention and Awareness



BCBSAZ-facing

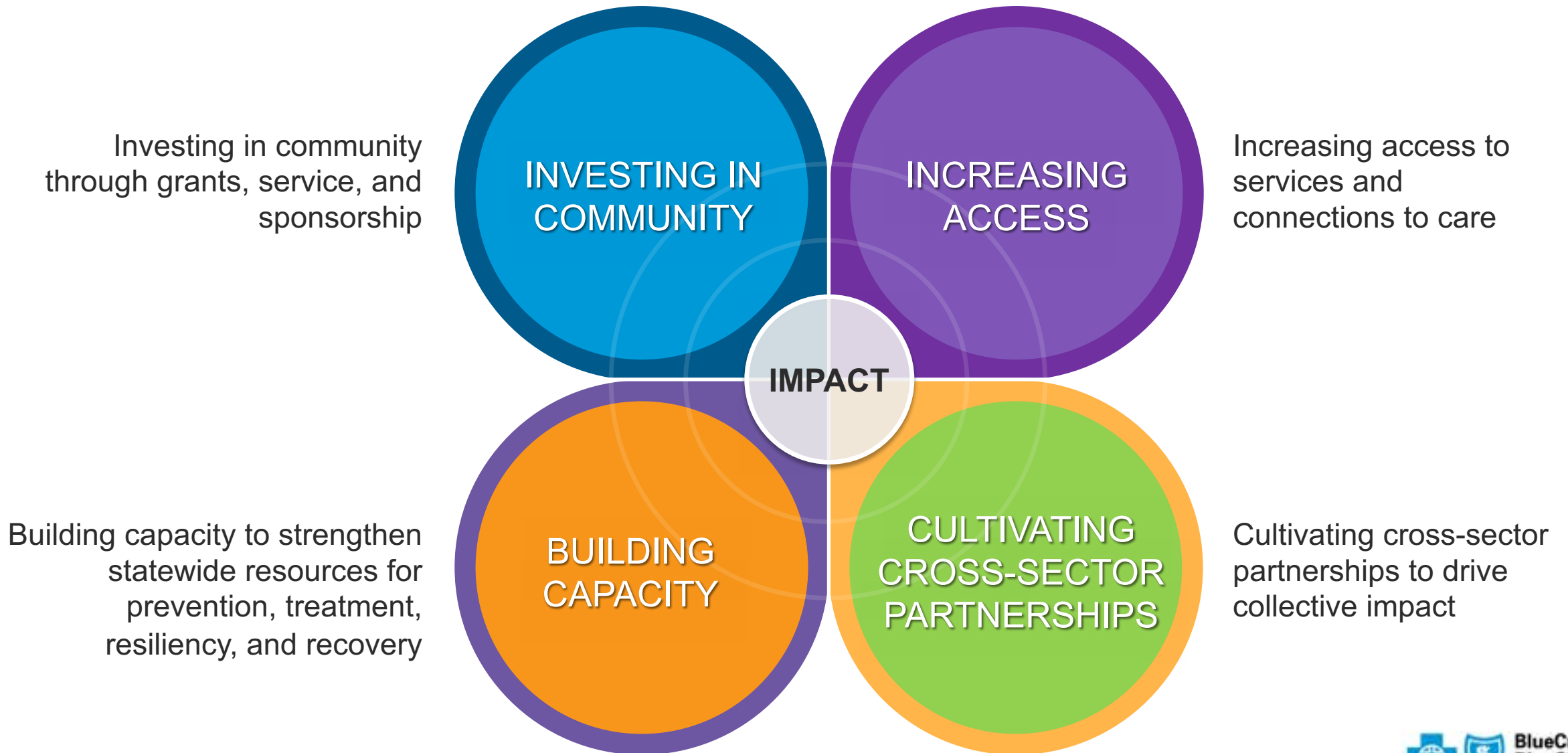
- 50+ Blue Gives Back sessions through 2022 focused on opioids, overdose prevention, and naloxone training
- 1,600+ BCBSAZ employees trained to administer naloxone

Community-facing

Overdose fatality prevention campaign, engaging 36 organizations

- 435 participants completed on-demand video training by Arizona Poison & Drug Information Center
- 1,728 doses of Narcan distributed

Driving Collective Impact

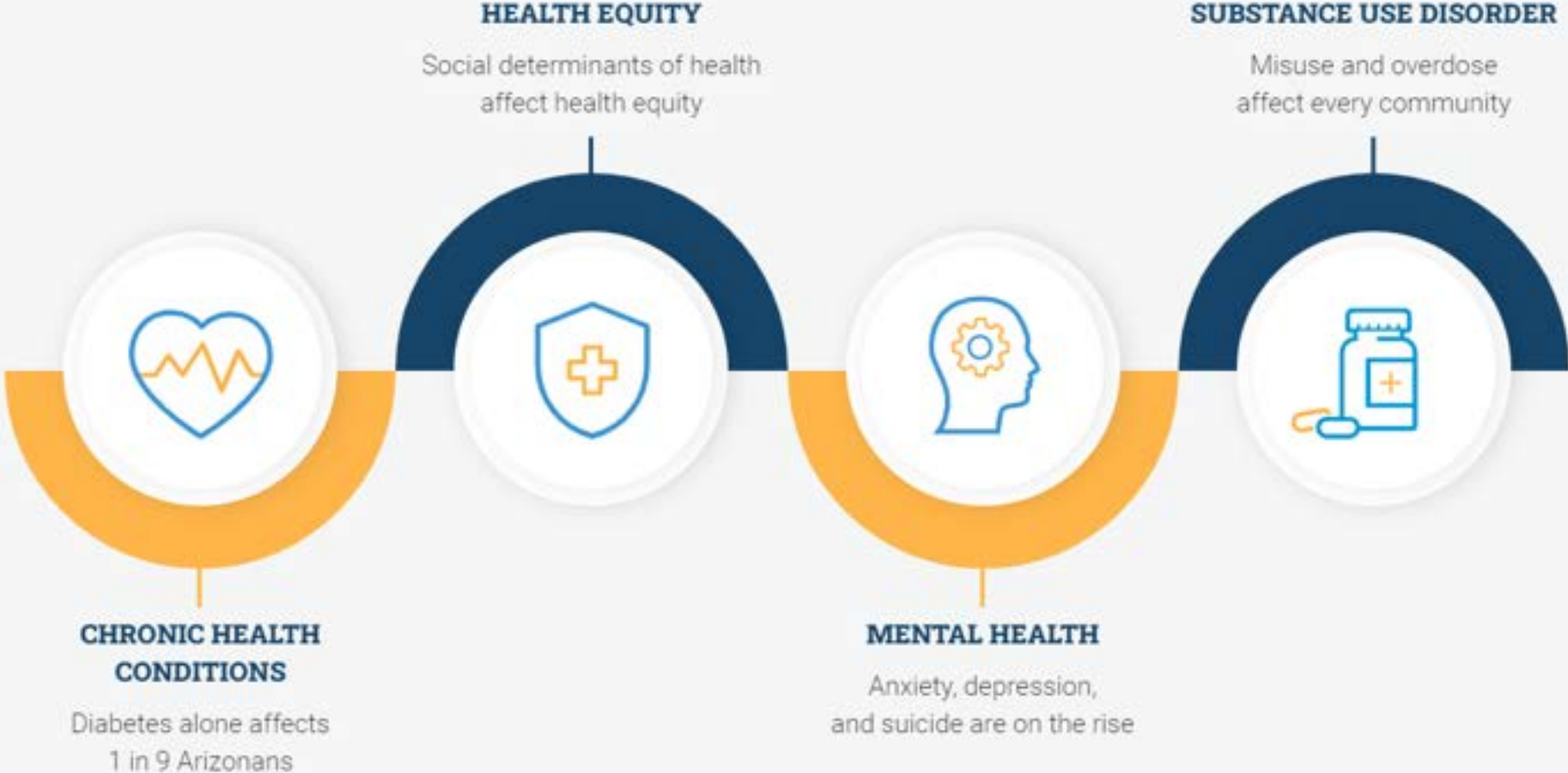


Inspiring Health in New Ways

Foundation for Community & Health Advancement

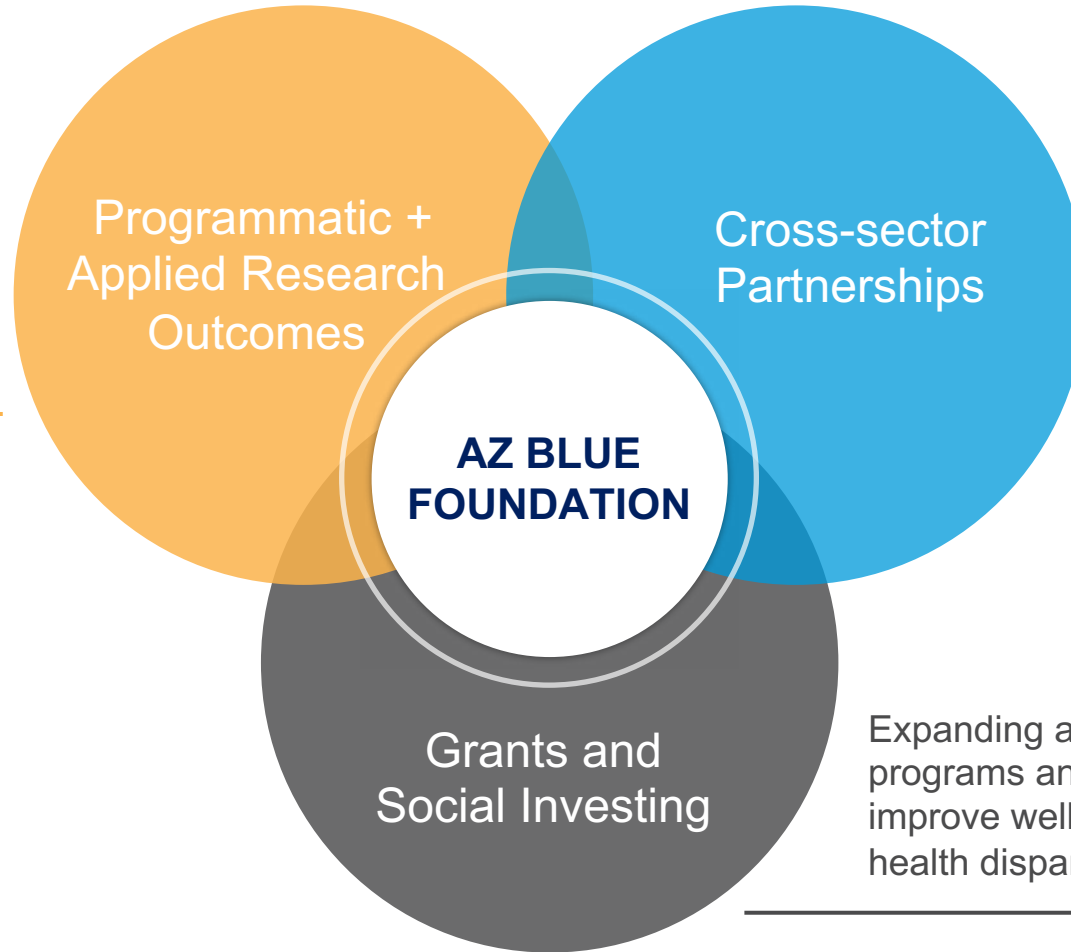


Foundation Health Focus Areas



Leveraging Collective Impact

Supporting programs and applied research that informs real solutions to making healthcare accessible and affordable for every Arizonan.



Joining forces with community partners, stakeholders, thought leaders, tribal communities and others to address the diverse needs of people throughout Arizona.

Expanding and accelerating programs and services that improve well-being and reduce health disparities in our state.

Behavioral Health Grants YTD

As of September 2022:

- \$1.7 million awarded for mental health-focused grants
 - 15 of 15 counties + 2 tribal communities served
 - 36 community partners
- \$162,983 awarded for SUD-focused grants
 - 15 of 15 counties served
 - 8 community partners

Learn more about the Foundation's grantees at: azbluefoundation.org/grants/grantees



Amplifying Impact: Top 5 Funder Takeaways

1. Find the “right” funder to optimize partnership opportunities
2. Drive overall health impacts by also addressing the social determinants of health
3. Emphasize the importance of data and evaluation while also being realistic
4. Cultivate partnerships across sectors to meet evolving community needs, expand reach, and achieve bold goals
5. Actively engage stakeholders and community partners

Thank you!

Visit us at www.azbluefoundation.org

