

# HOMELESS POLICY DEPUTIES MEETING AGENDA

**MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE IN PERSON WITH A VIRTUAL OPTION**

**Date:** Thursday, May 9, 2024  
**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Location:** Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple St.,  
Room 374-A  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

For members of the public who wish to join virtually or over the phone, please see below:

**Microsoft Teams Link:** [Click here to join the meeting](#)  
**Teleconference Number:** [+1 323-776-6996,,562027719#](#)

**For Spanish Interpretation, the Public should send emails within 48 hours in advance of the meeting to [ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:ClusterAccommodationRequest@bos.lacounty.gov)**

	AGENDA ITEM	LEAD
I.	Welcome and Introductions	Amy Perkins, Third District
II.	Homelessness Emergency Response Update	Cheri Todoroff Executive Director, CEO-Homeless Initiative
III.	Mortality Rates and Causes of Death among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County: 2014-2022	William Nicholas, PhD, MPH Director, Center for Health Impact Evaluation Los Angeles County Department of Public Health
IV.	Items Recommended for Future Discussion	
V.	Public Comment*	

\* Public Comment is limited to one minute. Those joining virtually interested in speaking should raise their hand on Microsoft Teams and unmute once called upon by the Chair. Those on their phones should press \*5 to raise their hand and \*6 to unmute.

**NEXT MEETING: MAY 23, 2024**



Chief  
Executive  
Office.



County of Los Angeles  
Homeless  
Initiative

# Homeless Initiative

LA County Homeless Emergency Response Update

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May 9, 2024

# Fast-Tracking Housing Opportunities: Los Angeles County Homekey Awards

## Awards from the California Department of Housing and Community Development

Homekey	Amount Awarded (Approx.)	Total Buildings	Total Units	Unit Housing Type
Round 1 (2021-2022)	\$108,442,640	10	771	771 Permanent
Round 2 (2022-2023)	\$243,432,192	14	720	421 Interim 299 Permanent
Round 3 (2023-2024)	\$171,830,572	8	562	186 Interim 376 Permanent

# Los Angeles County's Newest Homekey Project: The Sierra's

**CEO-HI and nonprofit partner, Hope the Mission, recently celebrated the grand opening of The Sierra's, a new interim housing site for families experiencing homelessness in Lancaster.**

CEO-HI braided Homekey and ARPA funding in partnership with Hope the Mission to convert **two motels** into a facility with **38 rooms**, each outfitted with four beds (**152 beds total**) for **families**. Measure H funds have also been committed to support operations at the site.

At The Sierra's, residents receive resources and supports to help enable them to ultimately move into permanent housing. These include:

- Case management and access to Housing Navigation
- Referrals for medical and mental health care
- Parenting classes
- Support in seeking out childcare and employment





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# More Housing is Coming to the Antelope Valley

In total, LA County has been awarded Homekey grants to acquire **32 properties**, mostly hotels and motels, with a combined **2,053 units** to convert into **interim or permanent housing** for people experiencing homelessness.

1. The Sierra's, Lancaster  
**38 units of interim housing for families**
2. Americas Best Value Inn and Suites, Lancaster  
**102 units of interim housing** for participants of the LA County Pathway Home encampment resolution program
3. Sierra Highway PSH Portfolio, Lancaster  
**60 units of permanent supportive housing**
4. Former Knights Inn, Palmdale  
**100 units of permanent supportive housing**



# Thank You



County of Los Angeles

**Homeless  
Initiative**



# Mortality Rates and Causes of Death among People Experiencing Homelessness in Los Angeles County: 2014-2022

**Homeless Policy Board Deputies Meeting  
May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**Will Nicholas PhD, MPH**

**Director, Center for Health Impact Evaluation**

**Los Angeles County Department of Public Health**





## Today's Agenda

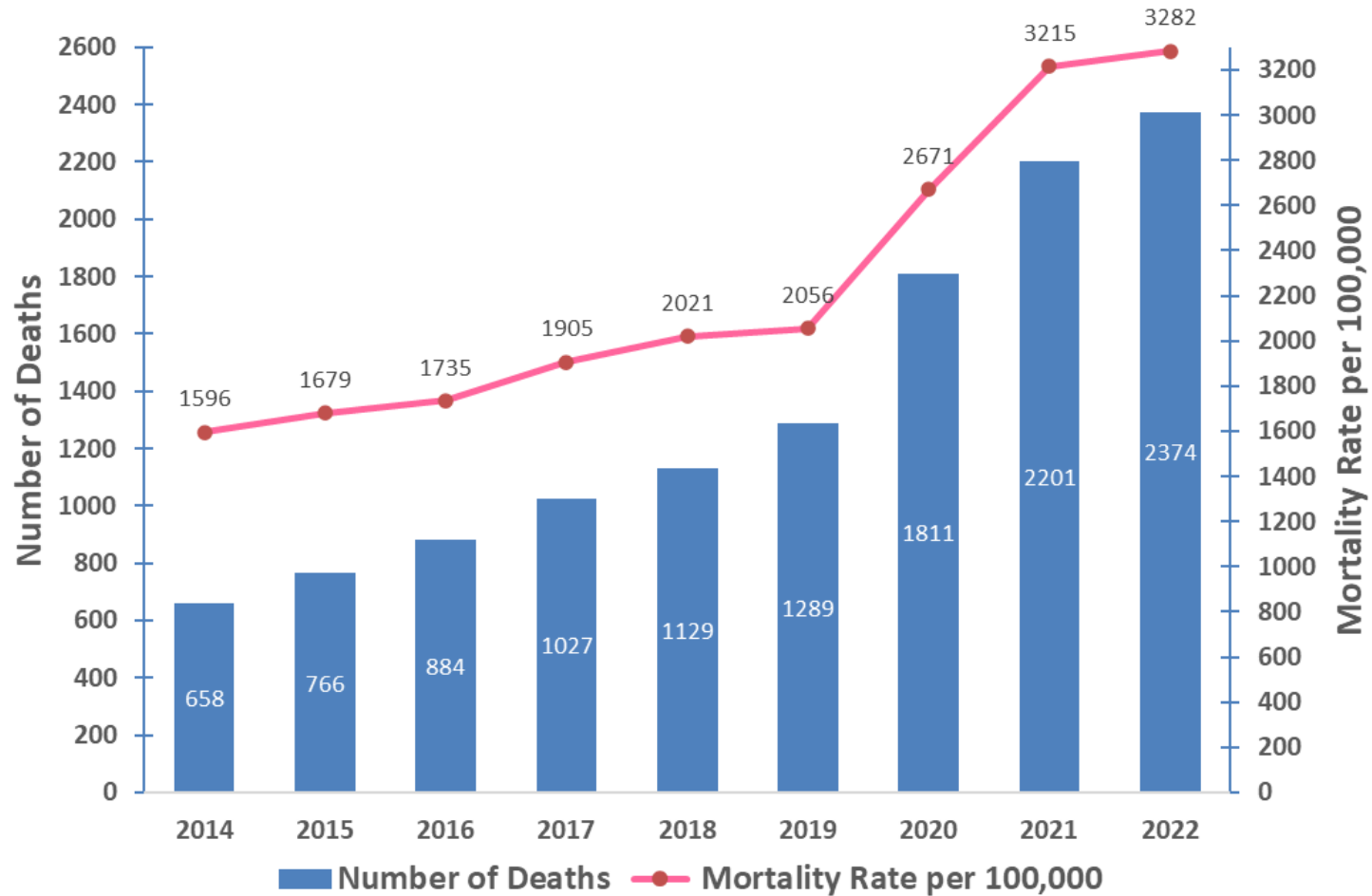
1. Summarize the report's findings and recommendations
2. Respond to any questions about the findings
3. Discuss the implications of the findings and recommendations



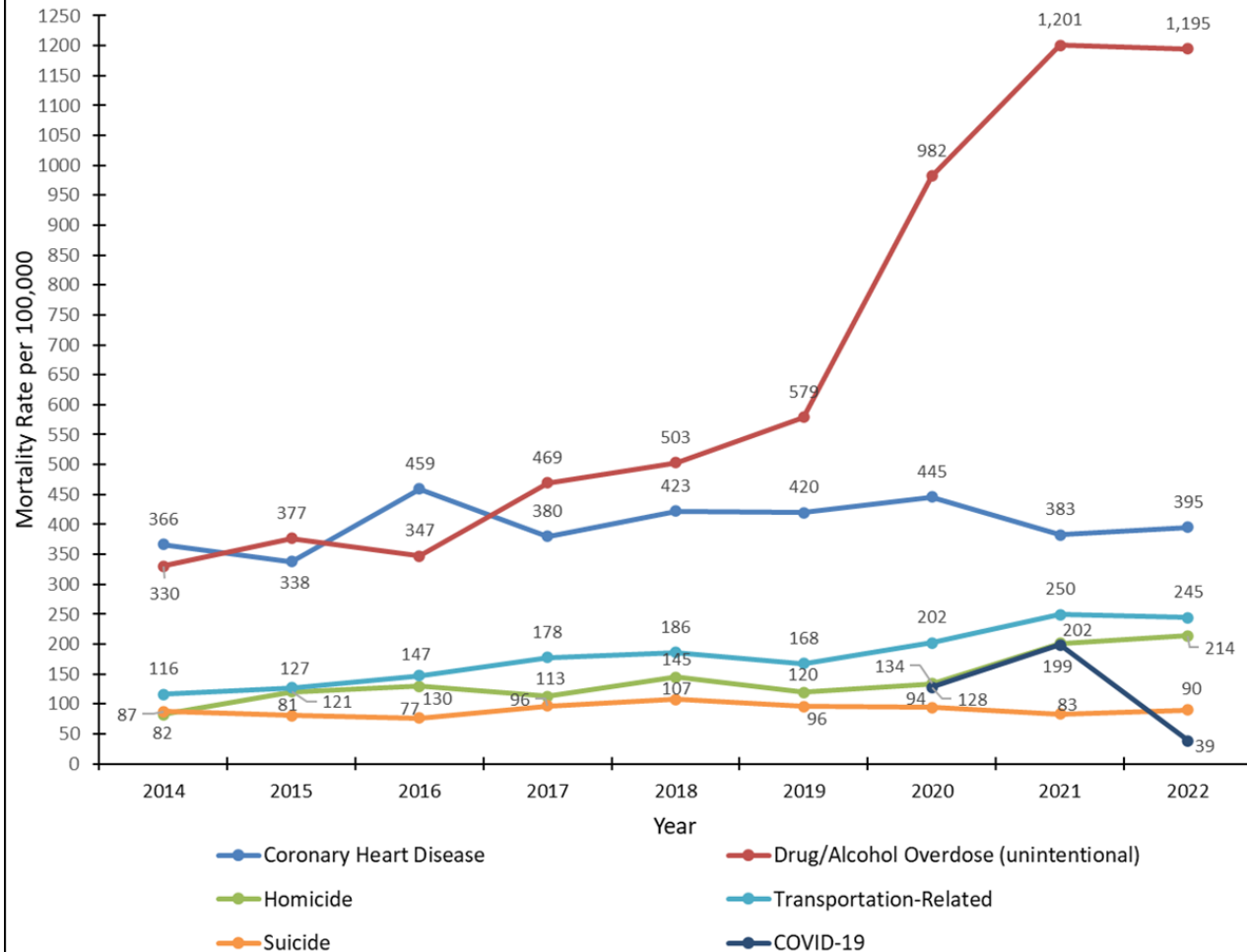
## Methods

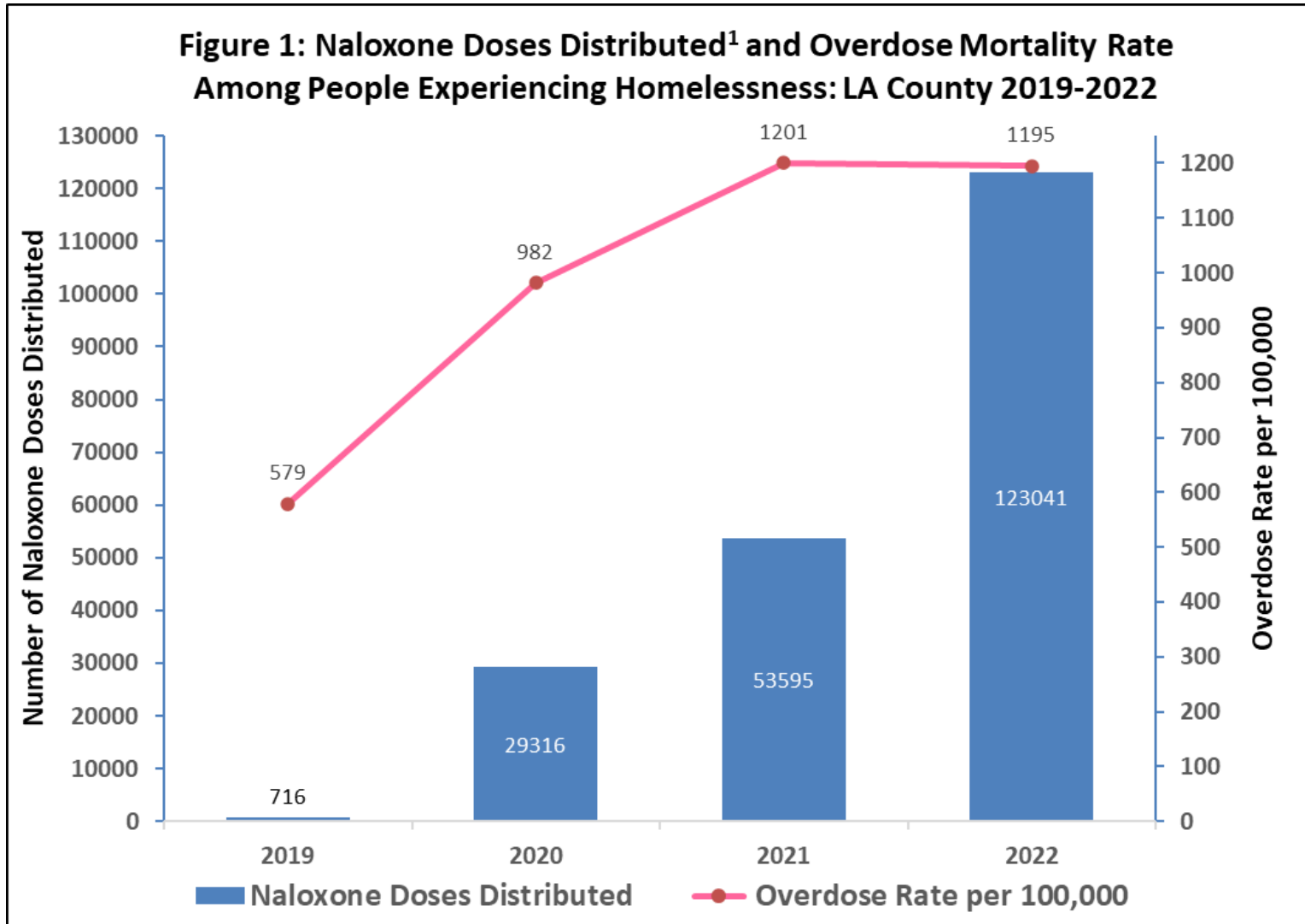
- **Crude Mortality Rate = # of Deaths in year/Total mid-year population x 100,000**
- **Identifying deaths among PEH**
  - Medical Examiner data
  - California death certificate data
- **PEH Population**
  - Annual point-in-time count and demographic survey
    - No count conducted in 2021 so average of 2020 and 2022 was used as a proxy for 2021
    - Demographics data allows for age-adjusted comparisons of mortality by race/ethnicity and gender; and age/gender adjusted comparisons of PEH mortality to LA County mortality.

**Figure 1: LA County PEH Deaths and Crude Mortality Rates, 2014-2022**



**Figure 2: Cause-Specific Crude Mortality Rates Among LA County PEH, 2014 -2022**



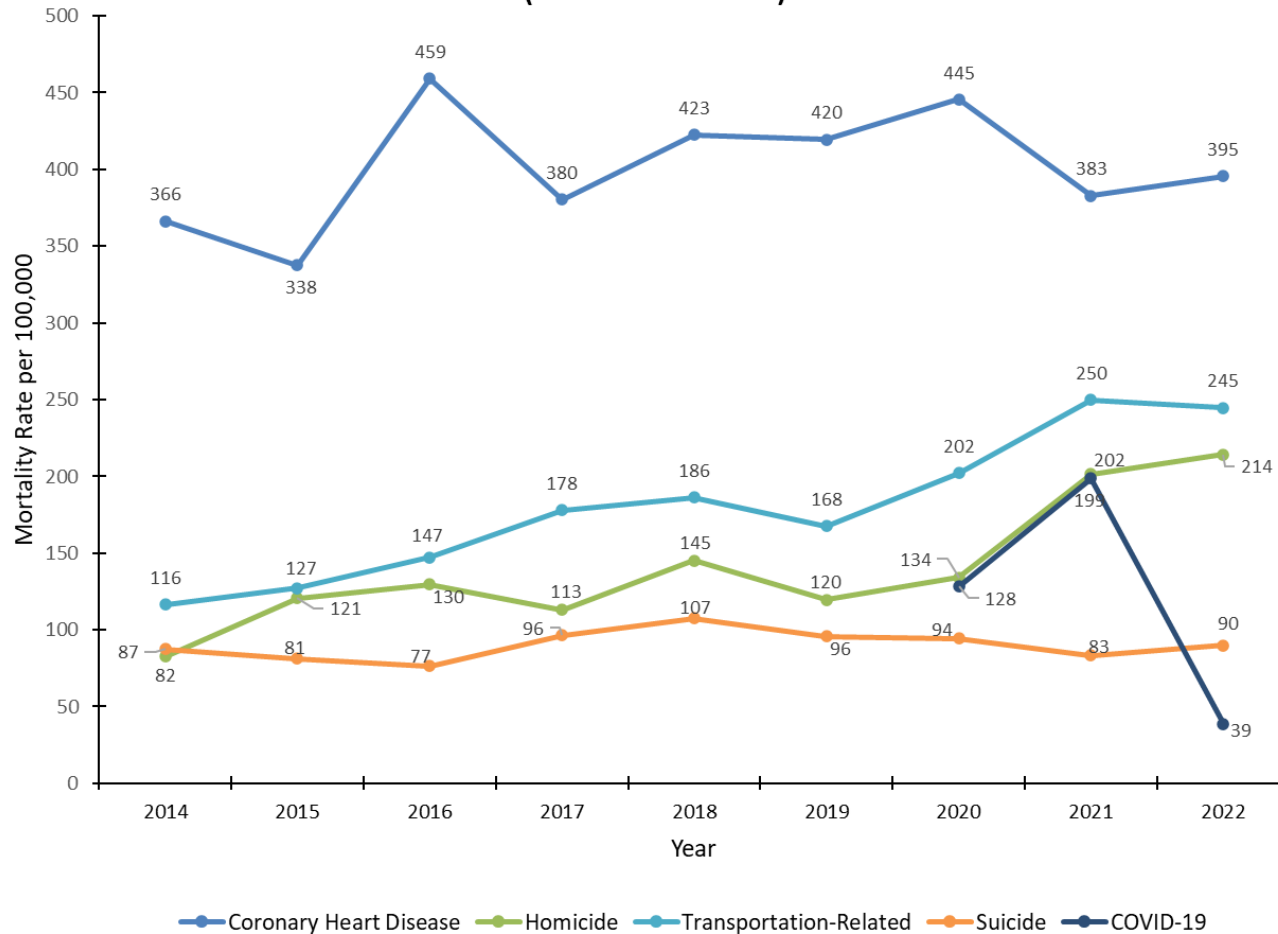


1. By DHS's Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution Program.

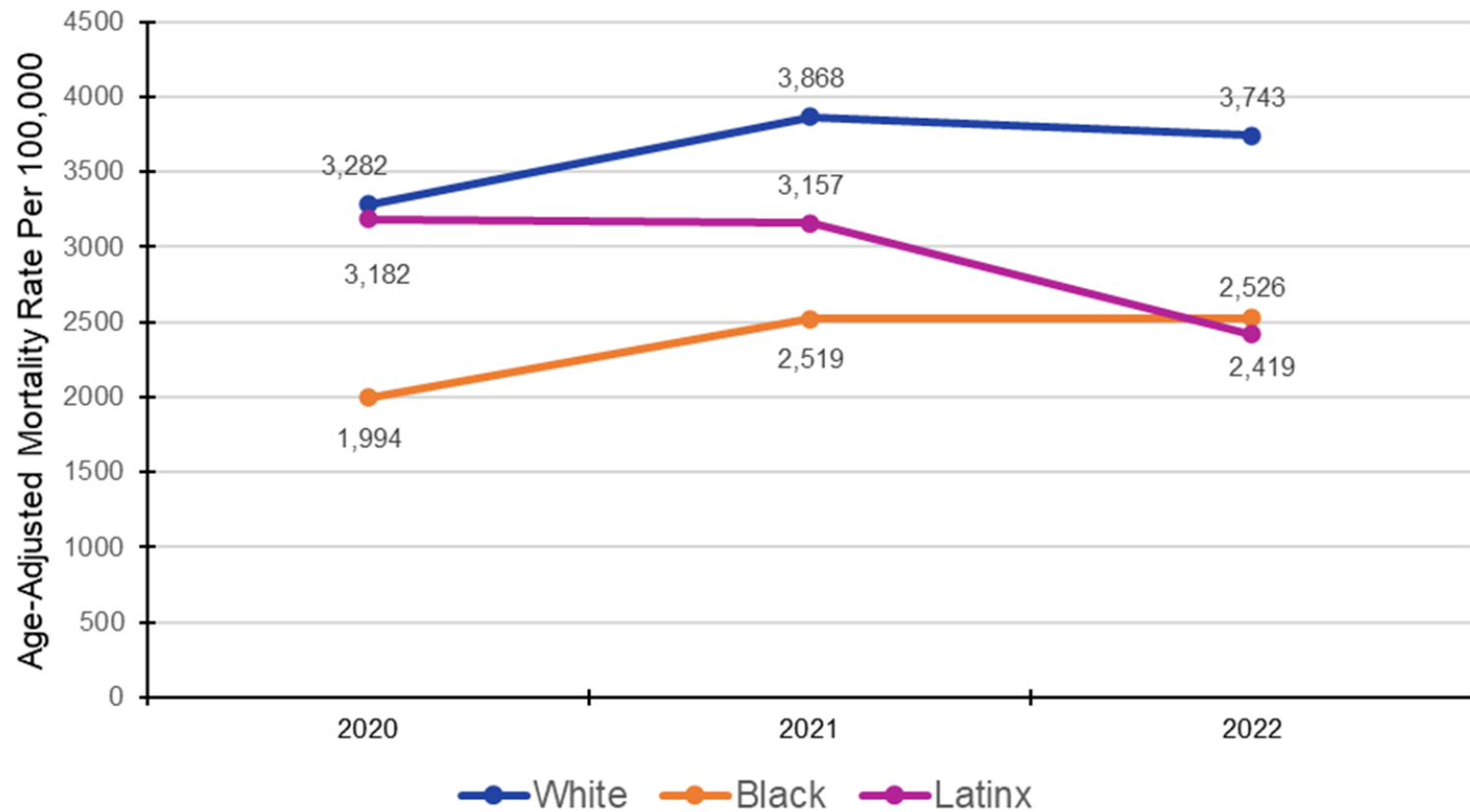




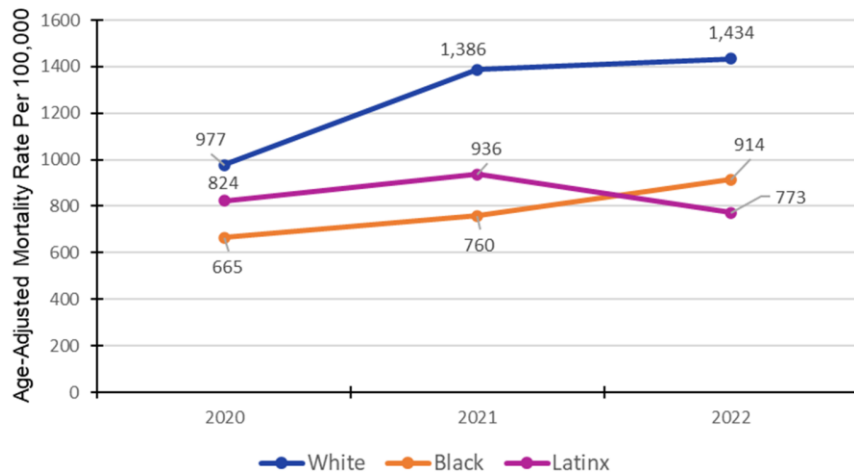
**Figure 2: Cause-Specific Mortality Rates Among LA County PEH, 2014 -2022  
(Overdose Excluded)**



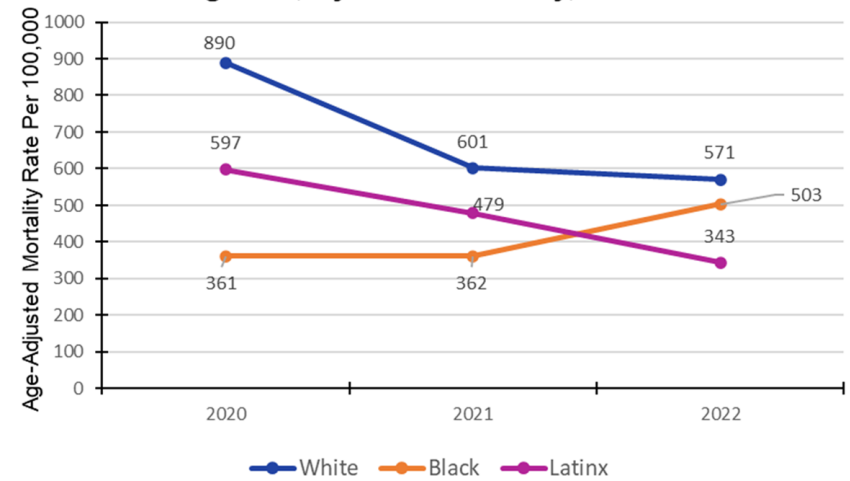
### Figure 3: Age-Adjusted All-Cause PEH Mortality Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2022



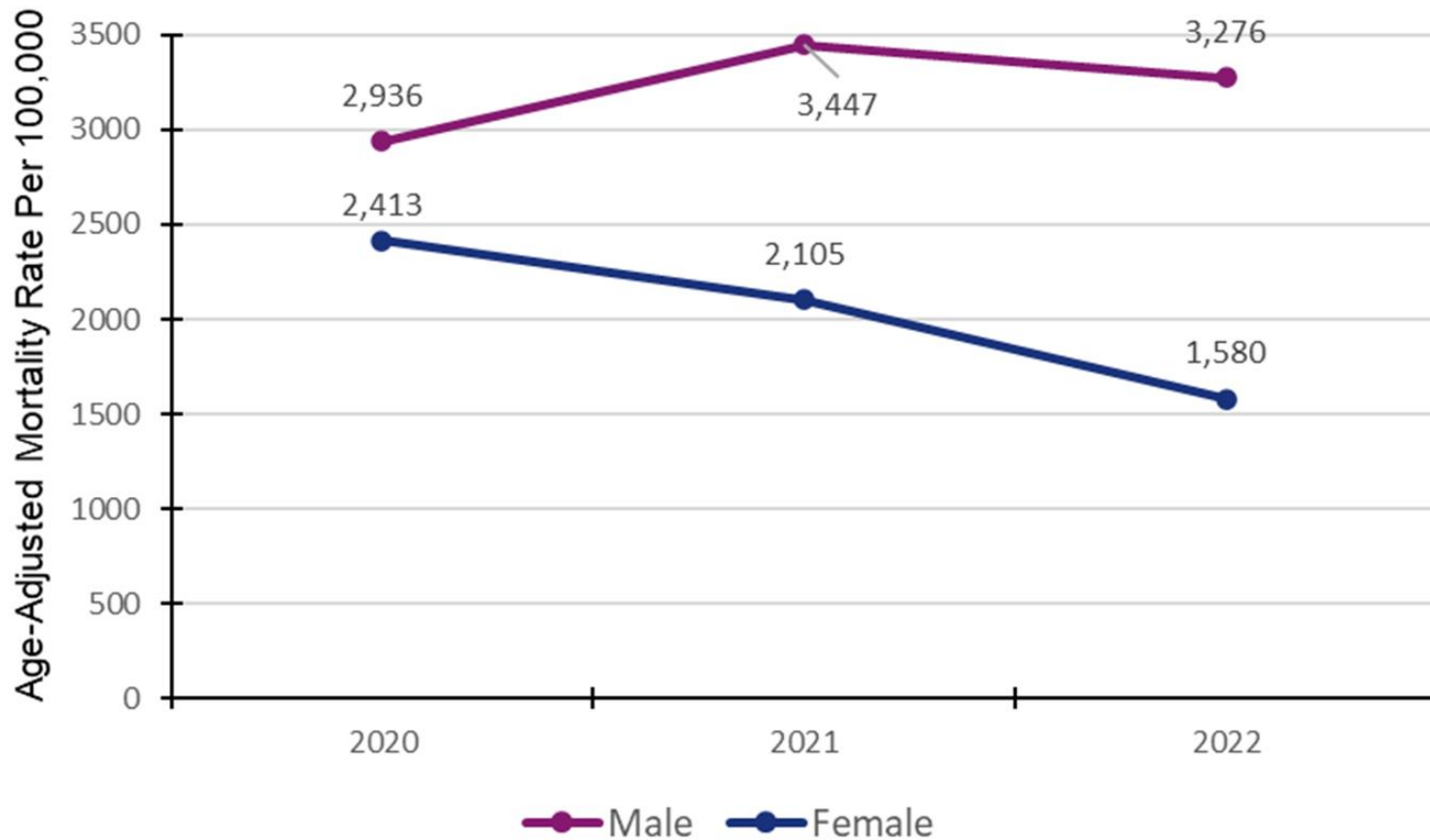
**Figure 4: Age-Adjusted AOD Overdose Mortality Rates Among PEH, by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2022**



**Figure 5: Age-Adjusted CHD Mortality Rates Among PEH, by Race/Ethnicity, 2020-2022**

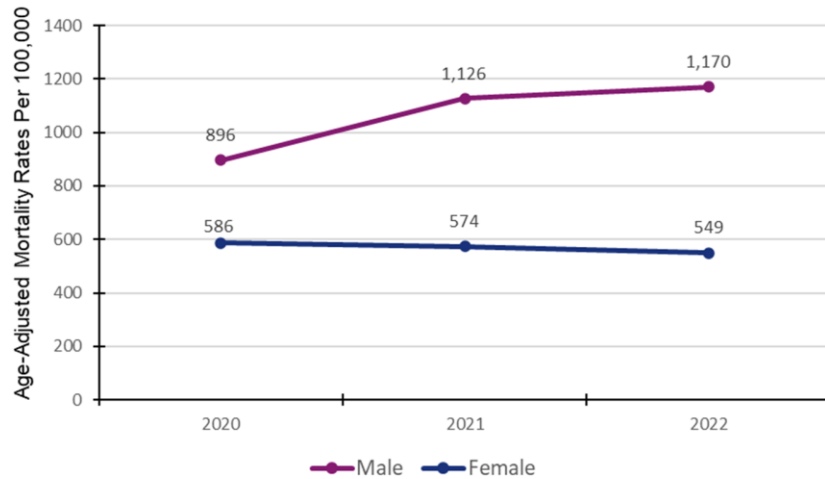


### Figure 6: Age-Adjusted All-Cause Mortality Rates Among PEH, by Gender, 2020-2022

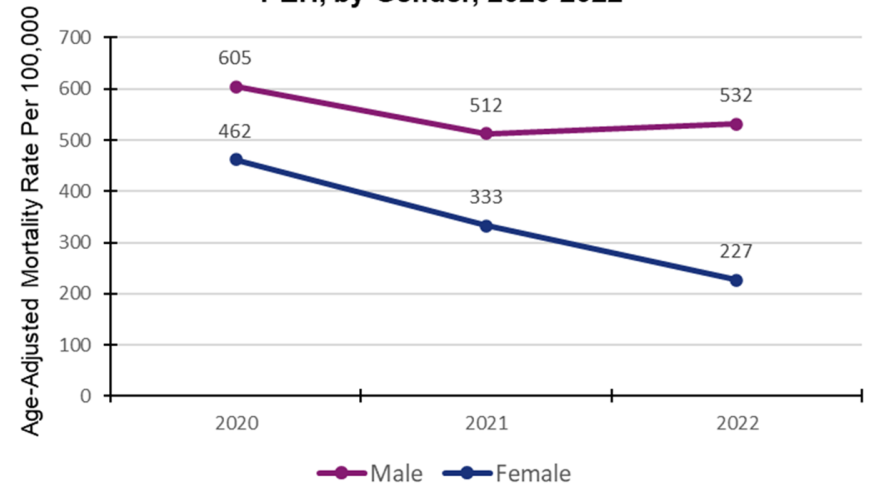




**Figure 7: Age-Adjusted AOD Overdose Mortality Rates Among PEH, by Gender, 2020-2022**



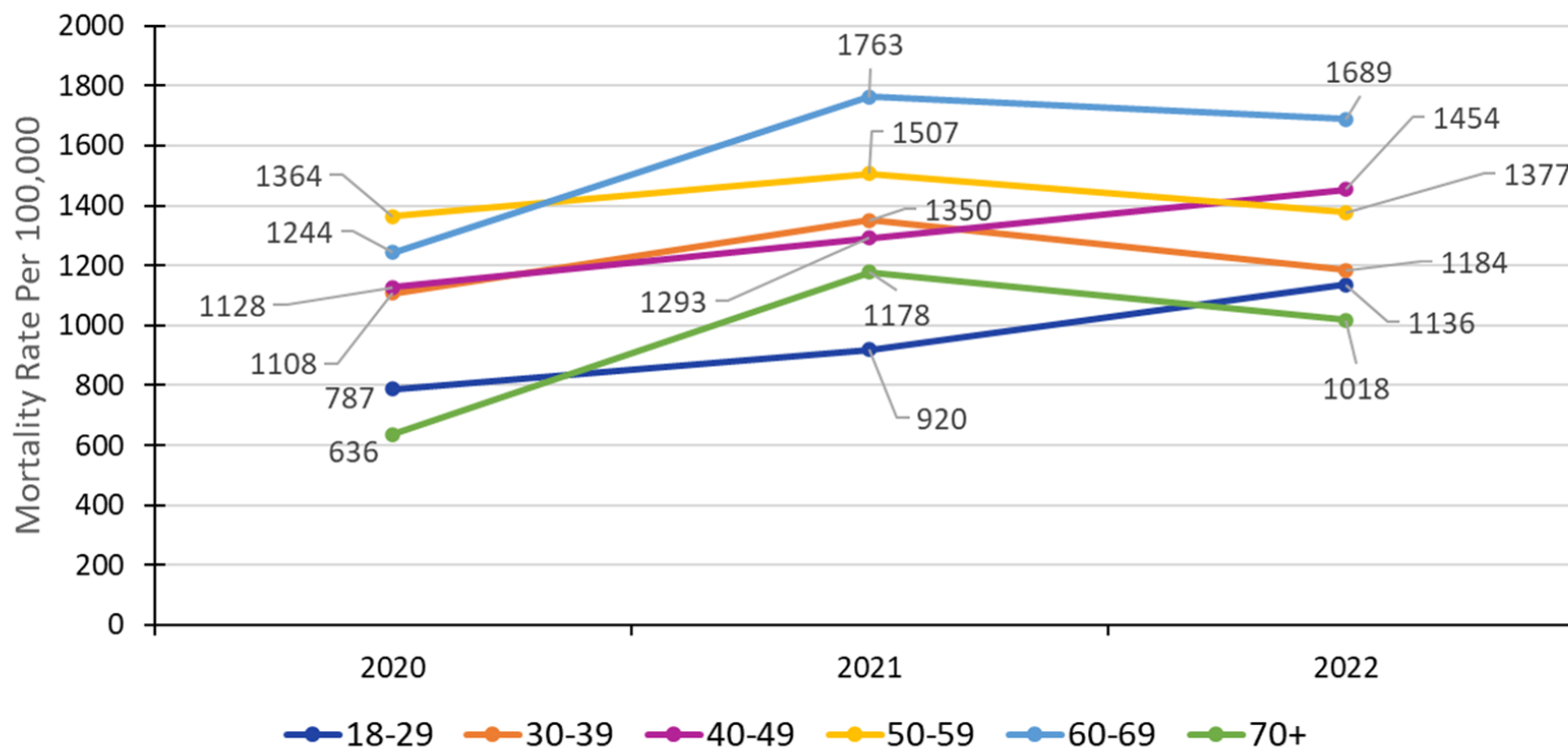
**Figure 8: Age-Adjusted CHD Mortality Rates Among PEH, by Gender, 2020-2022**



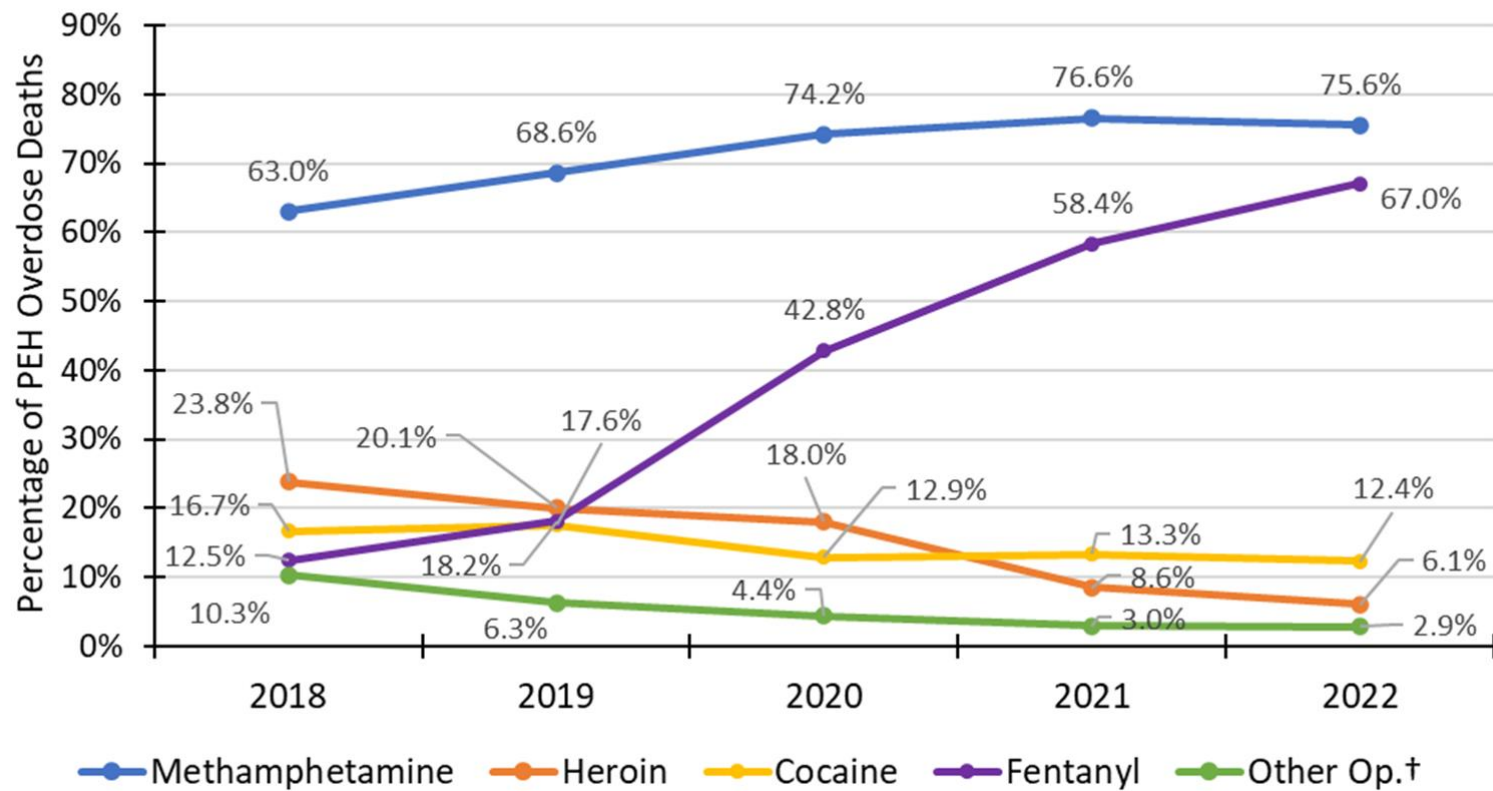




**Figure 9: Trends in AOD Overdose Mortality Rates among PEH, by Age Group, 2020-22**



**Figure 10: Percentage of AOD Overdose Deaths among PEH Involving Specific Drug Types\*, 2018-2022**





**Table 2: Age- and Gender-Adjusted Mortality Rate Ratios (MRRs)\*:  
PEH Compared to LA County Population (2021 and 2022 Combined)**

<b>Cause of Death</b>	<b>MMR</b>
<b>All Causes of Death</b>	<b>3.9</b>
Drug and Alcohol Overdose	40.5
Coronary Heart Disease	4.3
Transportation-Related Injury	18.3
Homicide	17.7
Suicide	8.4
COVID-19	1.7

\*The MRR is the mortality rate among PEH divided by the mortality rate in the total LA County population



## Process for Revising this Year's Recommendations

- Conducted by DPH in partnership with CEO-Homeless Initiative
- **March 11<sup>th</sup>**: Met with relevant LA County departments (plus LAHSA and CEO-HI) to share new findings and initiate discussion of new recommendations
- **March 18<sup>th</sup>** : Met with over 150 community stakeholders to share new findings and get input on new recommendations
  - Shared summary of feedback with participants
- **March 26<sup>th</sup>**: Reconvened LA County departments to discuss revisions to recommendations.
  - Sub-group of department staff updated recommendations based on community input
- Final set of recommendations reviewed by DPH leadership



## Highlights from Community Input

- Contribution of naloxone distribution to overdose mortality reduction
- Connection between Black/White disparity in PSH placement and retention, and heart disease mortality
- Contribution of efforts targeting women experiencing homelessness to reduction in female mortality rate
- Need for better chronic disease management services for PEH
- Need for more tolerance for drug use in non-abstinence-based housing models
- Expansion of peer-led models for homeless services
- Safe drop-in spaces with access to a range of physical health, mental health and substance use/harm reduction services





## Recommendations

### Ensure Rapid Access to Housing and Shelter that are Responsive to the Needs of LA County Residents Experiencing Homelessness

- All physical health, mental health, substance use, and social service providers are trained to facilitate linkages to housing and shelter options (e.g., through VI-SPDAT).
- The supply of permanent supportive housing and interim housing options is sustained and expanded.
- People who use drugs do not lose their housing due to substance use; recovery-oriented housing is available to residents who benefit from abstinence-focused living environments; and all congregate living settings have readily available overdose prevention services.



## Expand Harm Reduction and Overdose Prevention Outreach, Engagement and Response, Prioritizing Los Angeles County Residents Experiencing Homelessness at Highest Risk for Overdose

- Advance legislation, regulation, and local engagement and advocacy to establish safer consumption spaces.
- Sustain and expand:
  - harm reduction and overdose prevention services in jails, hospitals, and residential settings, and through street-based outreach and engagement;
  - welcoming drop-in spaces with access to harm reduction services and linkages to substance use treatment and other needed physical and mental health services; and
  - telehealth and mobile physical health, mental health and substance use services.
- Integrate peer-led services to ensure that people with lived experience have a direct role in shaping and delivering services.
- Expand outreach and engagement, harm reduction, overdose prevention, and substance use field- and facility-based services for Black, Indigenous, and people of color, and for transgender, gender non-conforming, and intersex residents experiencing homelessness.



## **Ensure that Physical Health, Mental Health, and Substance Use Treatment Services are Available and Responsive to the Needs of LA County Residents Experiencing Homelessness**

- Train medical providers to better understand and accommodate the special needs of LA County residents experiencing homelessness when they deliver chronic disease management services.
- Sustain and expand comprehensive primary and preventive care services, targeting those with heart disease and other chronic conditions, through street medicine and mobile clinics with links to facility-based medical care.
- Expedite and facilitate patient access to cardiac testing, procedures and specialty medications, along with recuperative care and other interim housing settings to facilitate management of cardiac disease.
- Ensure best practices for the implementation of infectious disease protocols—including facility and person-level protocols around cleaning, ventilation, temperature screening and cohorting—are deployed in settings that serve or house residents experiencing homelessness.



- Sustain and expand:
  - Mental health services, including the full range of outreach and engagement, and community and congregate setting-based services for those who may also be experiencing serious mental illness;
  - LA County’s Reaching the 95% initiative, which lowers the eligibility threshold for initiation of substance use treatment, lengthens the time of engagement in these services, and increases the presence of community-based outreach and engagement teams to help people engage in these service; and
  - FDA-approved opioid addiction medication services, with minimal barriers to access, across all physical health, mental health, and substance use treatment providers.

## **Reduce Traffic Deaths among Los Angeles County Residents Experiencing Homelessness**

- Collaborate with municipalities and unincorporated communities to identify concentrations of fatal injury collisions to inform community planning and strengthen local infrastructure and policy interventions.



***THANK YOU!***  
***QUESTIONS?***

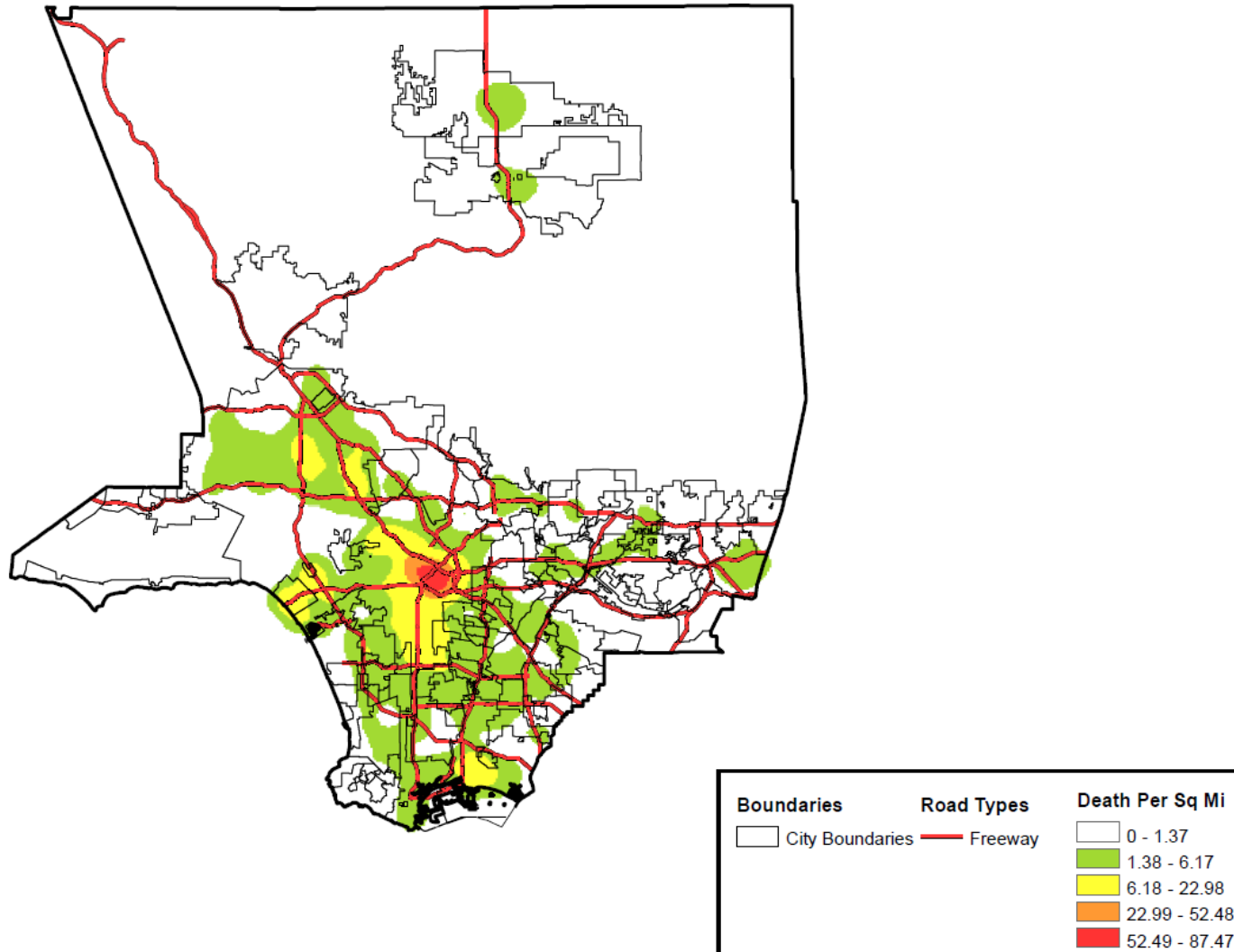


**For more information or additional questions please contact:**

E-Mail: [CHIE@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:CHIE@ph.lacounty.gov)

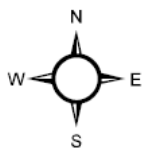
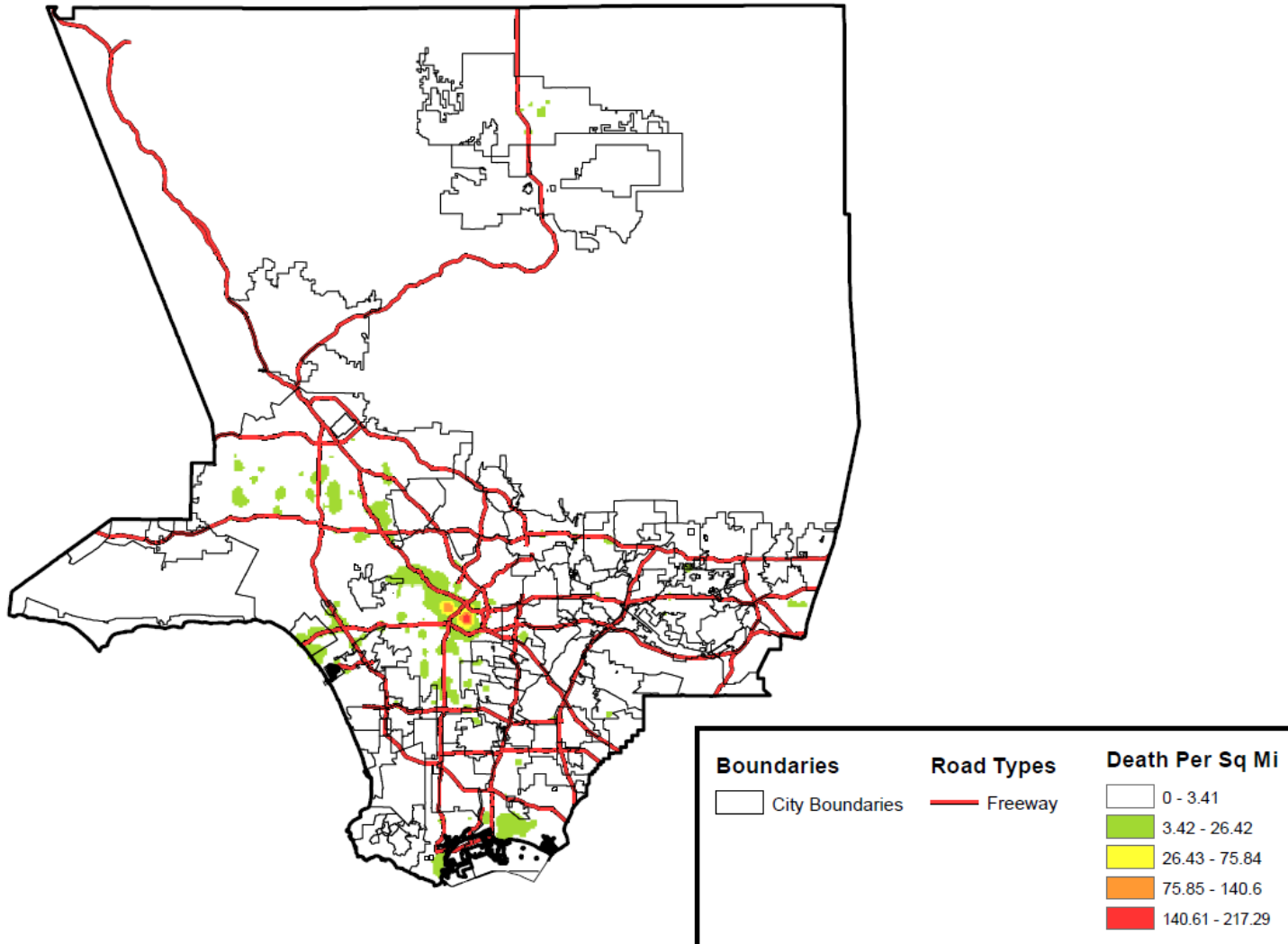
Website: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/chie/>

## Heat Map 1: Deaths from All Causes Among PEH, 2021 - 2022 Los Angeles County (n=3,669)\*



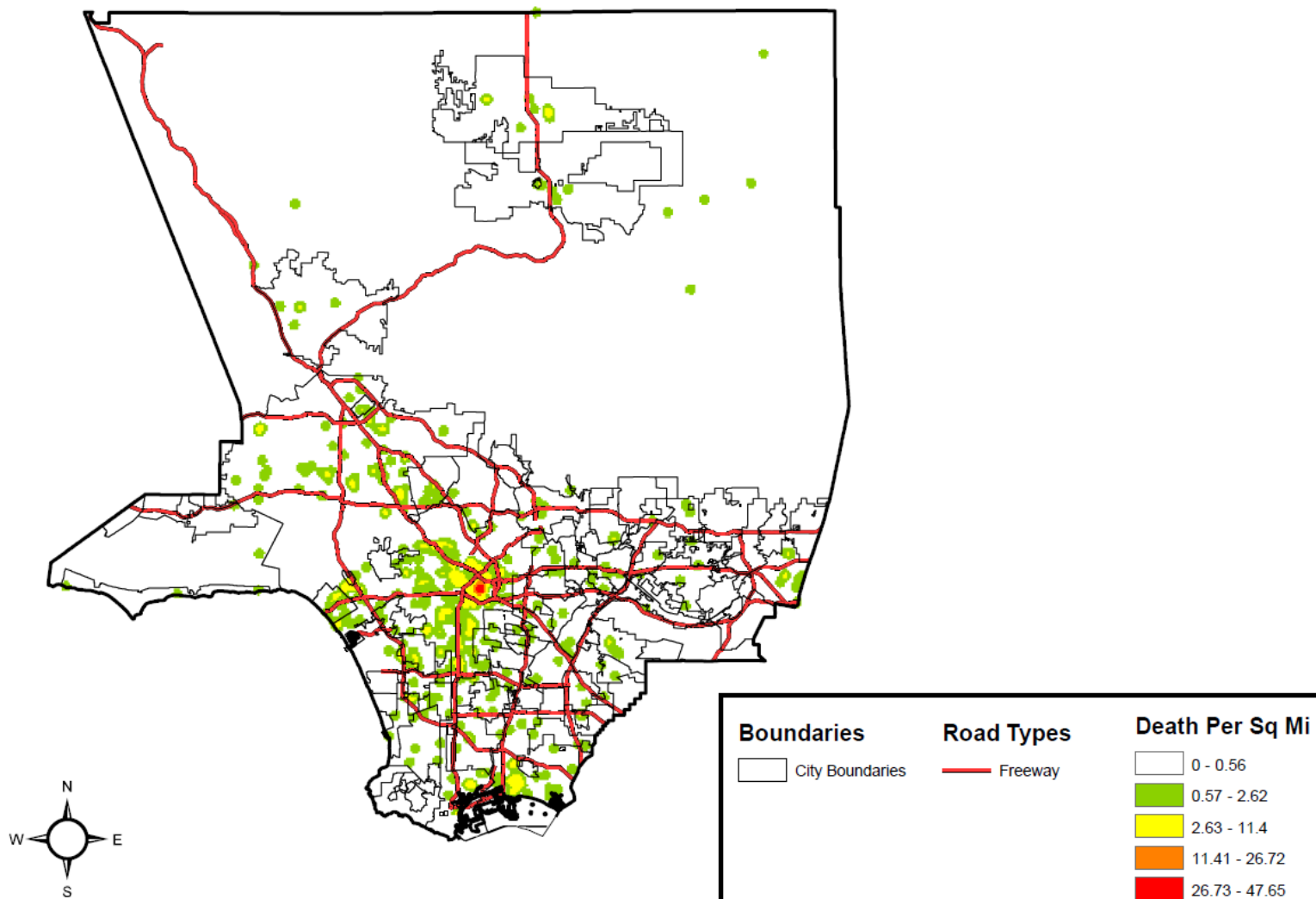
\*Out of 4,575 total deaths, 906 were not included in the map because they occurred in hospitals and an event location was not available (549), there was no address information (275), or there was no cause of death information (82).

## Heat Map 2: AOD Overdose Deaths Among PEH, 2021 - 2022 Los Angeles County (n=1,520)\*



\*Out of 1686 AOD Overdose deaths, 166 were not included in the map because they occurred in hospitals and an event location was not available (161), or there was no address information (5).

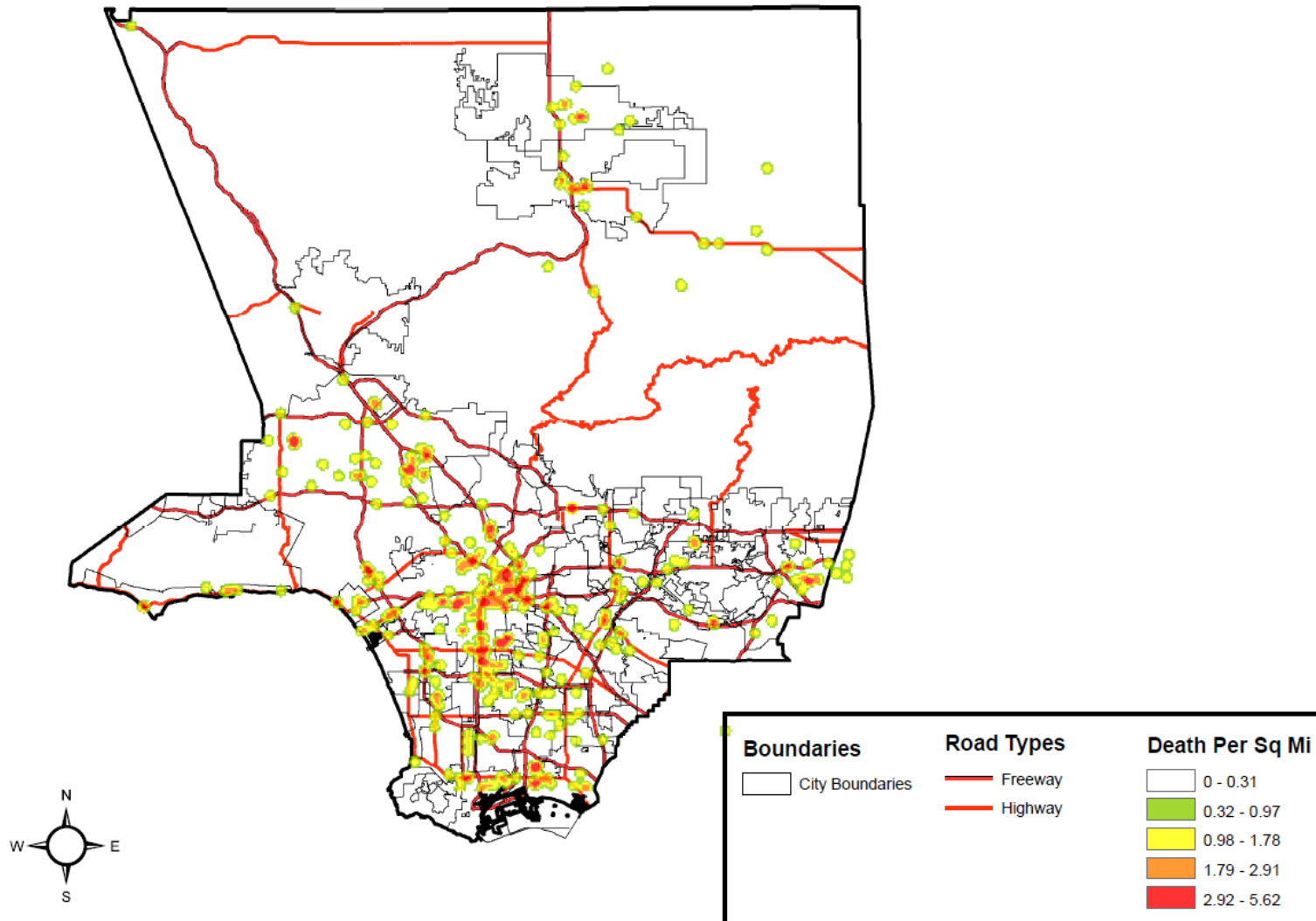
### Heat Map 3: Coronary Heart Disease Deaths Among PEH, 2021 - 2022 Los Angeles County (n=476)\*



\*Out of 548 Coronary Heart Disease deaths, 72 were not included in the map because they occurred in hospitals and an event location was not available (61), or there was no address information (11).

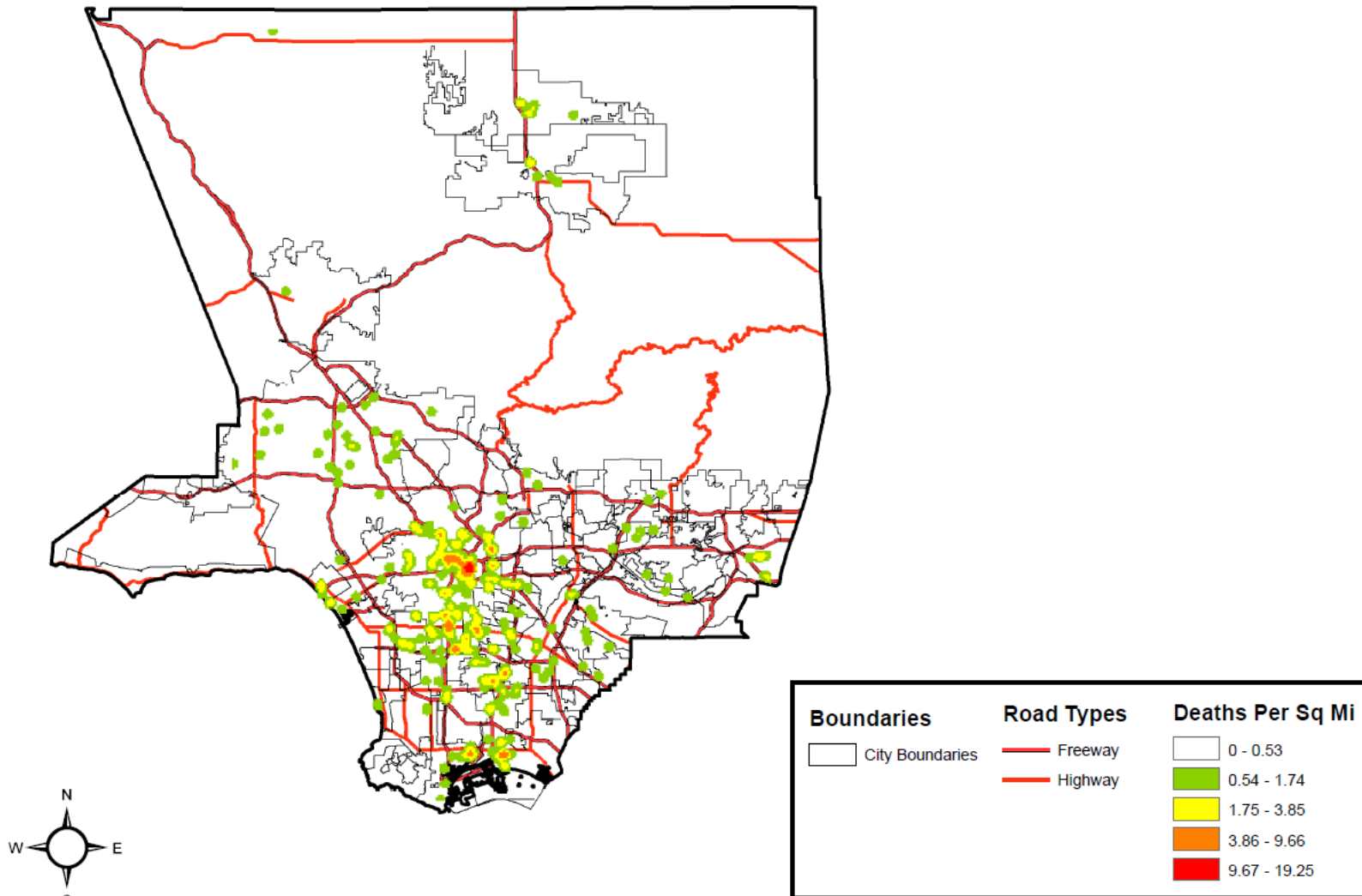


### Heat Map 4: Transportation-Related Deaths Among PEH, 2021 - 2022 Los Angeles County (n=337)\*



\*Out of 348 Transportation-Related deaths, 11 were not included in the map because they occurred in hospitals and an event location was not available (4), or there was no address information (7).

### Heat Map 5: Homicide Among PEH, 2021 - 2022 Los Angeles County (n=292)\*



\*Out of 293 Homicide deaths, 1 was not included in the map because there was no address information.