

**NEWS RELEASE** | **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** | June 6, 2022

## **Minot Area Opioid Roundtable Discussion**

### **NARRATIVE:**

On June 1, 2022, the North Dakota Highway Patrol and Minot Police Department hosted a roundtable discussion about the opioid crisis in Minot and surrounding areas. The goal was to reignite the conversation about opioids and related overdoses and strengthen relationships between public and private entities working toward positive outcomes.

The topics included drug trafficking trends, overdose statistics, prevention efforts, and treatment and recovery services. During the meeting, the Health Statistics and Performance (HSP) Section within the North Dakota Department of Health shared preliminary overdose data. Their data indicates there were 126 drug overdose deaths statewide in 2021 which is an increase from 76 in 2019. Nineteen of those deaths occurred in Ward County which is a 58% increase from twelve deaths in 2019.

Toxicology reports showed that the most common drugs present during overdose deaths were opiates and amphetamines. North Dakota Highway Patrol Colonel Brandon Solberg stated, "Fentanyl is 50 to 100 times more potent than morphine, and even a small amount can be deadly without proper medical intervention." Minot Police Chief John Klug stated, "The Minot Police Department has seen an increase of overdose deaths in the city. They went from three overdose deaths in 2019 to eighteen in 2021. Collaborating with multiple entities is the best response to addressing this growing issue."

Twenty-two public and private entities ranging from criminal justice, health and human services, elected offices, and local, state, and tribal governments attended the meeting. Those entities are listed below:

First District Health Unit - Minot

Minot Police Department

Minot City Mayor

Minot City Council

Minot Community Medical Services

Minot Area Recovery Community Organization



Upper Great Plains Transportation Institute  
Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation Division of Drug Enforcement  
North Central Human Service Center - Minot  
North Dakota Department of Water Resources  
North Dakota Department of Health  
North Dakota Bureau of Criminal Investigation  
North Dakota Department of Human Services  
North Dakota Highway Patrol  
North Dakota Senate, District 40  
North Dakota State and Local Intelligence Center  
North Dakota Office of the Governor  
North Dakota Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation  
North Dakota Workforce Safety & Insurance  
Project Bee – Minot, ND  
Ward County Sheriff's Office and Detention Center  
Ward County State's Attorney's Office  
Youth Works of North Dakota

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