



**Spread the Tests,
It's for the Best!**



Increasing Access to Fentanyl Test Strips Throughout Cincinnati

Presented by LC 10

Overview of Social Determinant of Health Addressed



Social Determinant of Health: Access to healthcare



Focus on harm reduction for people who use drugs



Reduce fentanyl related overdoses (and thereby reduce cost to healthcare)

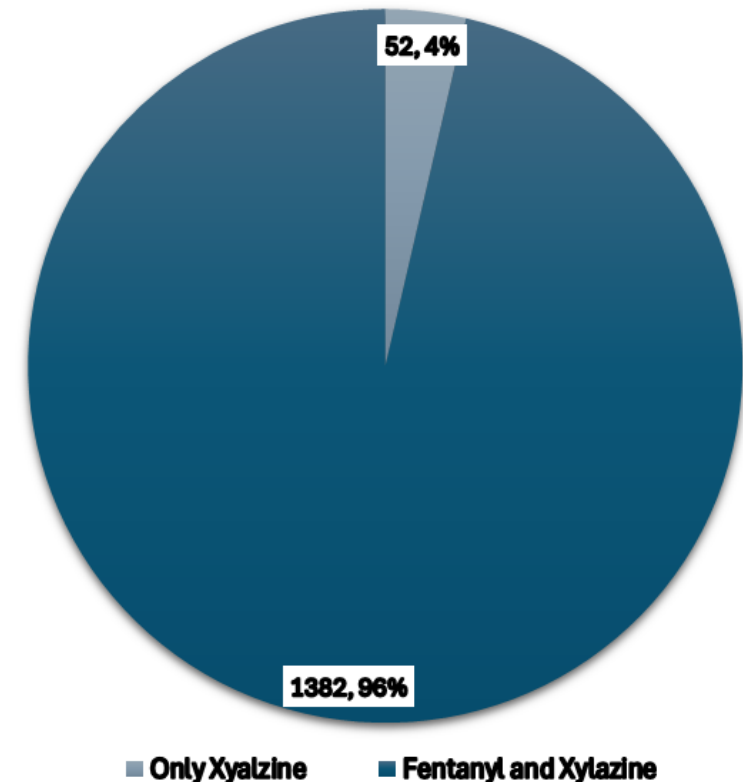


Target population is homeless and other at-risk populations (have higher incidences of opioid overdose)

Data Analysis and Community Impact

- Studies found that after receiving a positive result when testing drugs for fentanyl, people were more likely to reduce overall drug use behavior compared to those who received a negative result¹
- Xylazine almost always found with Fentanyl²
- Xylazine test strips are currently illegal in Ohio³

Drug Samples Tested in Ohio March 2023-November 2023



Policy Status



Fentanyl test strips are available to Ohioans with a mailing address⁴



Hamilton County Public Health Department has partnership with local bars, restaurants, music venues, and businesses to supply fentanyl test strips to patrons⁵



Within Cincinnati, overdoses most likely to occur in public areas including parks and commercial zones⁶



Current distribution methods do not increase testing availability to at-risk populations or locations where overdoses are likely to occur

Rationale for Policy Modification



- Current testing strip distribution not accessible for at-risk populations - need to have test strips sent to your home address (not accessible to target population)
- Similarly, naloxone distribution in Ohio is restricted primarily to university campuses and areas where transportation is necessarily⁴
- Thus – there is a need for increased test strips in public spaces, especially places with high rates of drug overdose

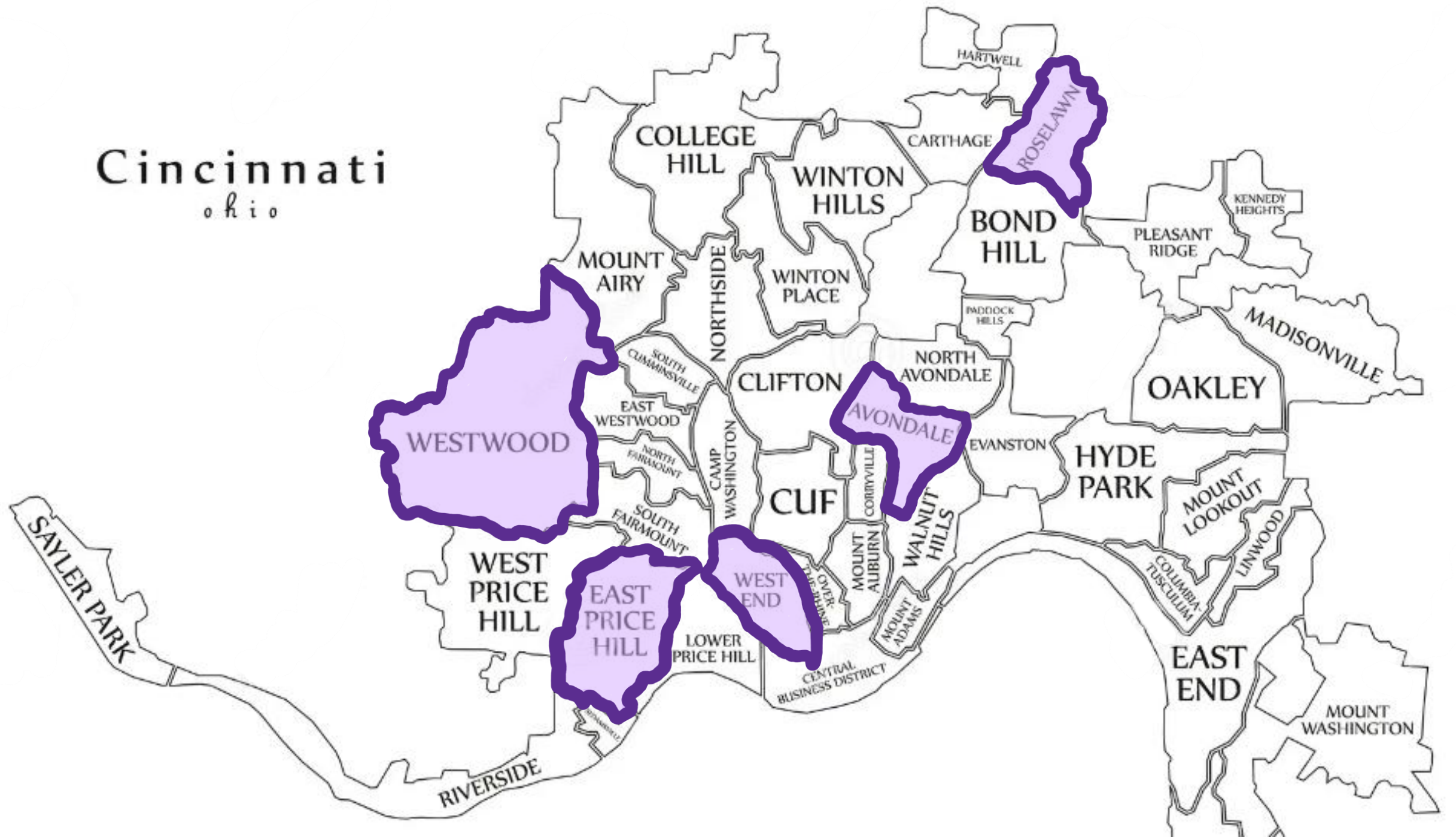
Advocacy Strategy

- 5 fentanyl test strip distributing boxes
- Boxes installed in public spaces around Cincinnati neighborhoods with high rates of fentanyl overdose⁷
 - East Price Hill, Westwood, Avondale, Roselawn, the West End
- Collaborate with local health and harm reduction organizations to determine neighborhood spots for installation



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References

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