

# South Carolina *Opioid Epidemic*

What are we doing about it?



Arnold Alier



# Prescription & Opioid Abuse



- Drug overdose is currently the **leading** cause of accidental death in the U.S., with **70,467\*** lethal drug overdoses in **2017** or an average of one life every **7½** minutes
- In **2017** there were **4.7** million opioid prescriptions dispensed in South Carolina (population **5,024,369\*\*\***)
- In **2016** there were **426\*\*** homicides in South Carolina but **616\*\*\*\*** confirmed opioid related deaths

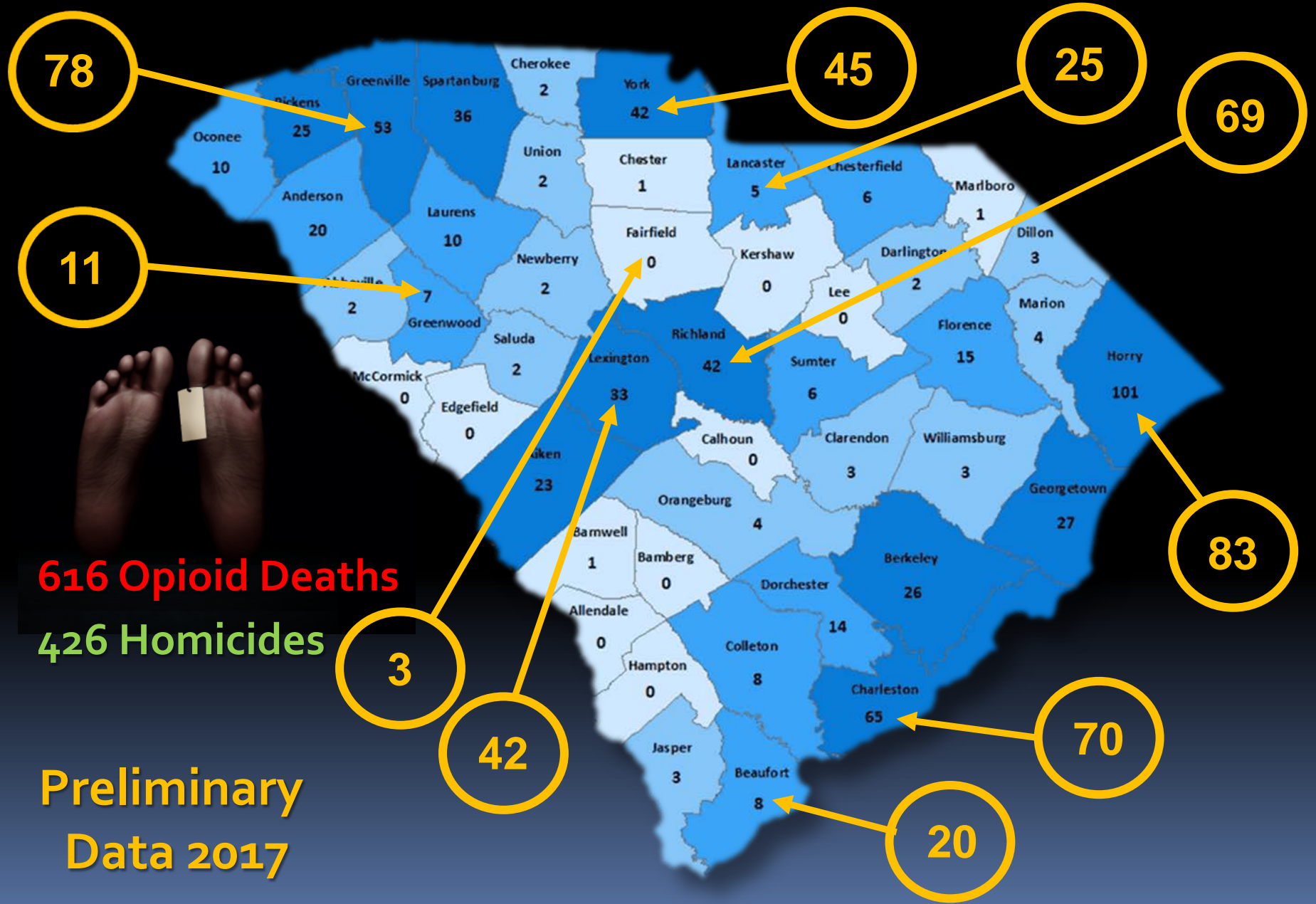
\* CDC, 7/11/2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/drug-overdose-data.htm>

\*\* CDC 4/9/2018, <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/pressroom/states/southcarolina/southcarolina.htm>

\*\*\* U.S. Census Bureau, <https://www.census.gov/quickfacts/fact/table/sc/AGE295217#viewtop>

\*\*\*\* DHEC Vital Statistics, 7/28/2018, <http://justplainkillers.com/data/>

# 2016 Opioid Related Deaths



616 Opioid Deaths

426 Homicides

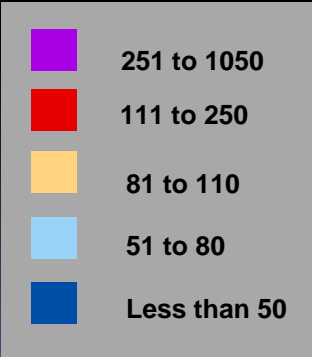
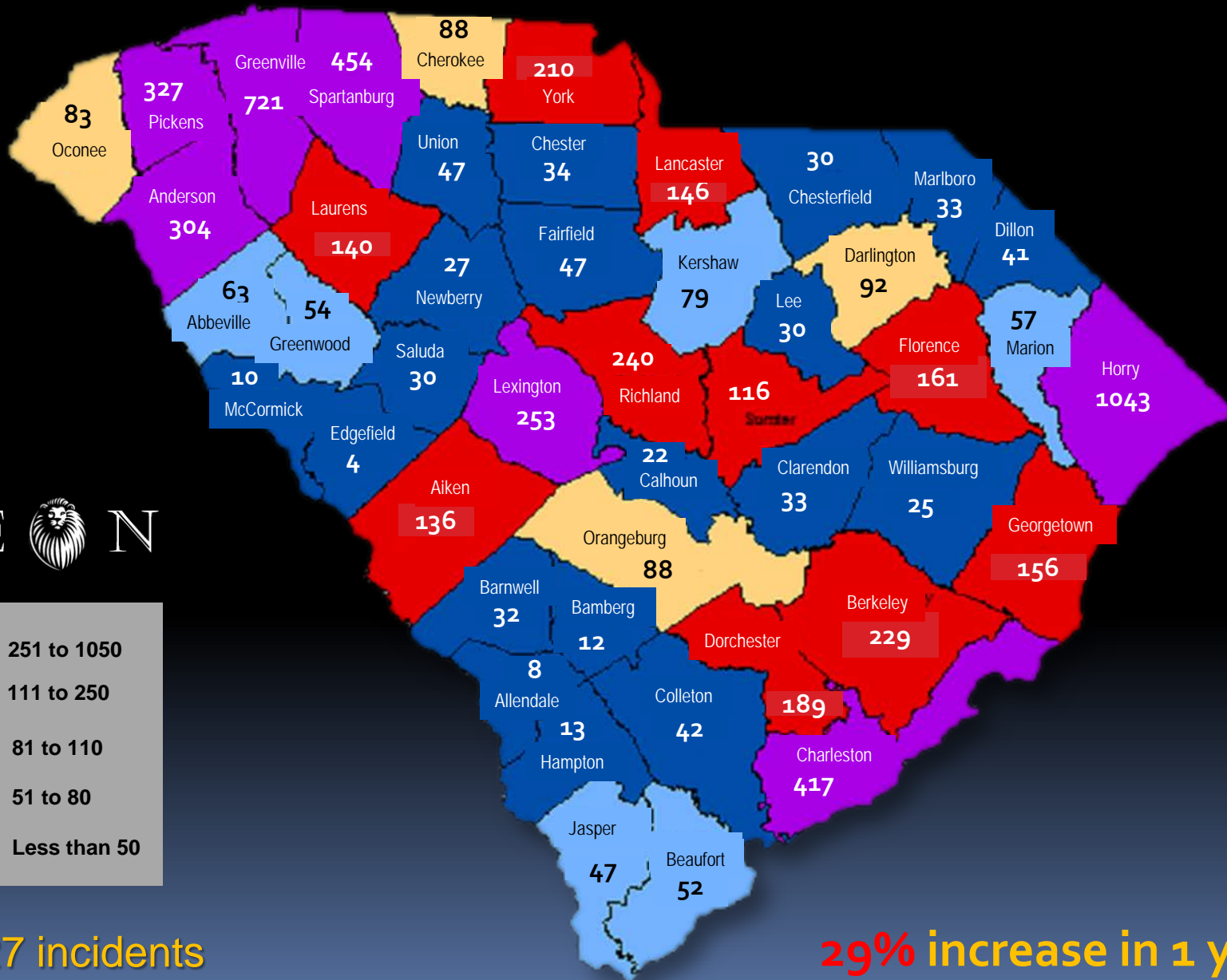
Preliminary  
Data 2017







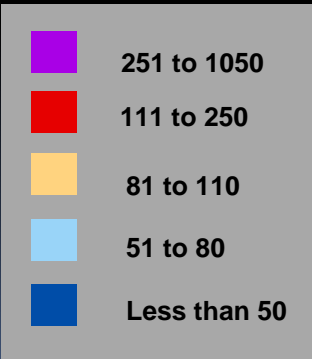
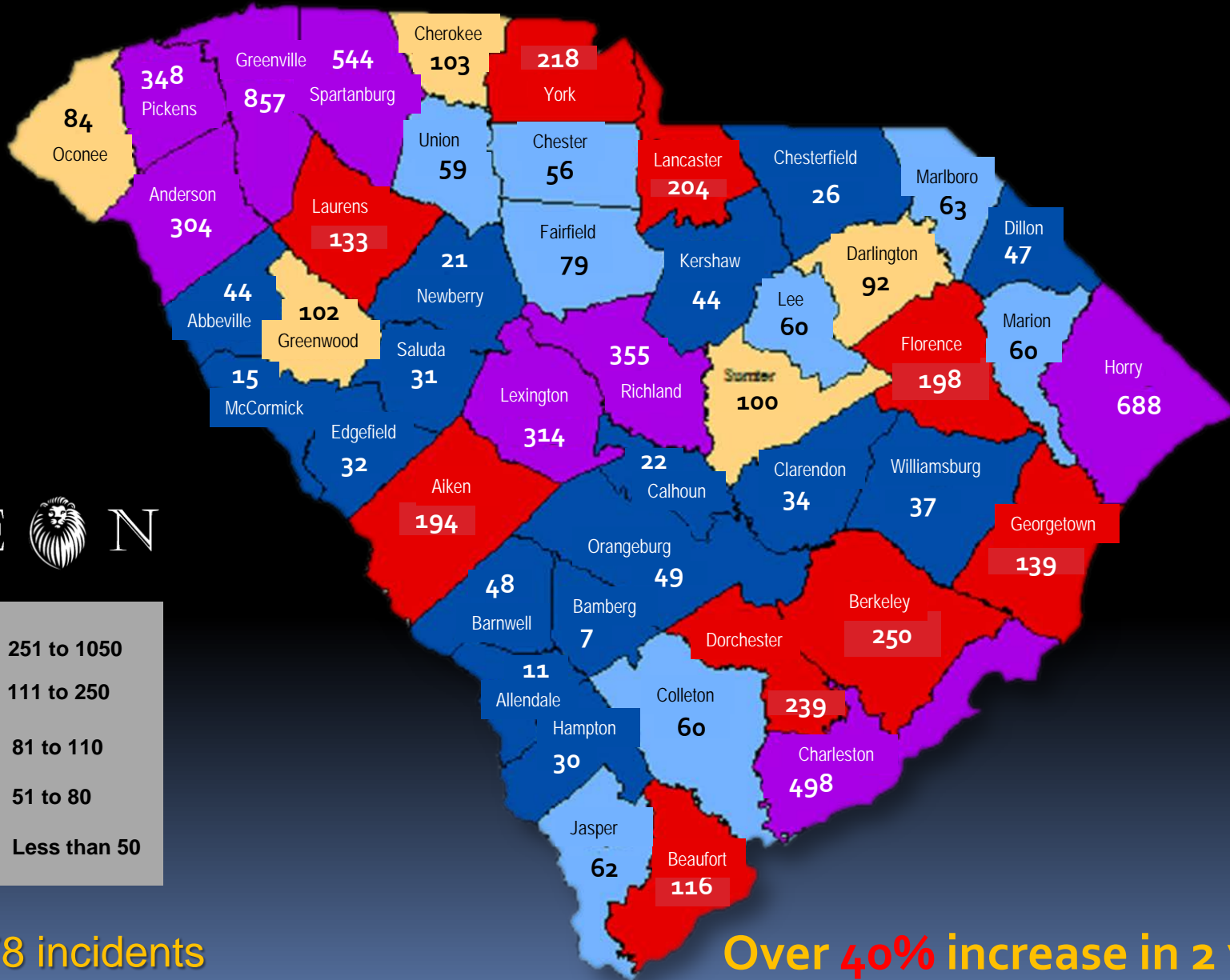
# 2016 Narcan Usage by EMS in S.C



6,427 incidents

29% increase in 1 year

# 2017 Narcan Usage by EMS in S.C



7,278 incidents

Over 40% increase in 2 years!

# EMS Administration of Narcan

## YEARLY TOTAL







# Opioids

1. Opioids are a class of drugs chemically similar to opium poppies.
2. These drugs act on the Central Nervous System as a depressant:
  - decrease the perception of pain
  - decrease the reaction to pain
  - increase pain tolerance
3. Prescribed for acute, debilitating, or chronic pain (as part of palliative care (e.g., hospice, cancer))
4. May be abused to induce euphoria or “high”





# How Narcan Works?

# OOD Treatment: Narcan

- AKA "Naloxone"
- Approved by FDA in 1971
- It is the medication of choice in the emergency care of opioid overdoses
- **Effective** only **opioid drugs/medications**
- **Not Effective** on benzodiazepines (Valium, Xanax, etc.), cocaine, alcohol, or meth
- It has little to no side effects other than the reversal of opioids



# Narcan Nasal Spray

Needleless Narcan Administration





# Nasal Narcan Administration

- Place in subject's nostril
- Squeeze entire contents
- If no response (subject doesn't wake up with first dose) within 2 minutes, repeat administration



# Facts on EMS Narcan

- In 2016: **6,427** EMS administrations to **5,554** individuals
- Of these **5,554** – only **166** were “repeaters” or **3%**
- In 2016 we had confirmed **616** opioid fatalities
- 2017 administrations of Narcan = **7,278**
- Well over **6,578** administrations by EMS already in 2018

# WHY Equip Law Enforcement with Narcan

- For many reasons, EMS is usually not the first emergency responder of the scene of medical emergencies.
- 2016 average response time for EMS to all 9-1-1 calls in S.C. is **11:54 minutes** (675,514 calls)
- 2016 average response time for FD's running medical first response **6:41 minutes** (40,775 calls)
- Average law enforcement response is usually **3-5 minutes** depending on setting (rural / urban / suburban).



# Addressing the Problem in South Carolina

- To date LEON has trained **6,205** officers in **180** agencies in **43** counties with **409** deployments and **366** of **376** lives saved.
- The program offers for **free** the training, the online reporting portal, access to DHEC pharmacies, statewide standing orders by a physician to carry and administer the Narcan.
- LEON was awarded a federal SAMHSA grant to continue the program and to purchase Narcan for the program
- Unless a LEO agency chooses another Narcan product from the one we provide, **there is no other cost**
- Your next steps: Memo of Agreement (MOA), scheduling 2 hours for training, and officer list with ACADIS numbers



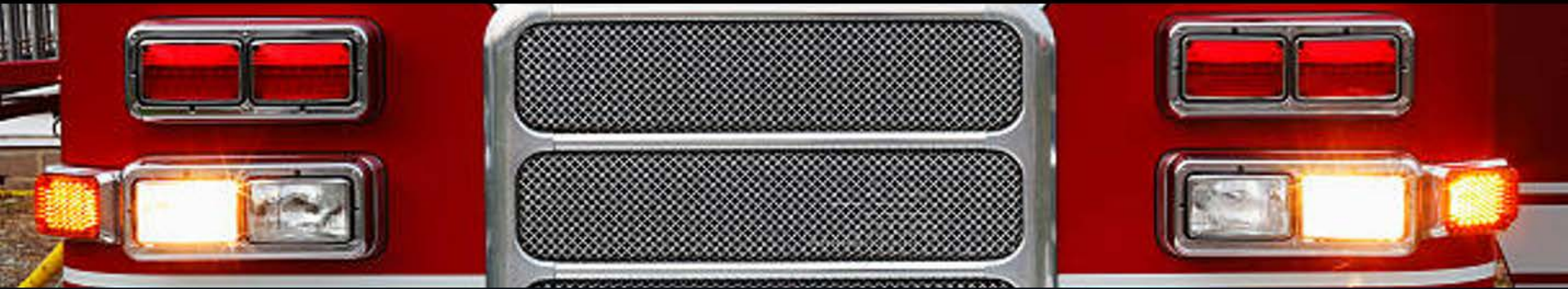
## Lessons from LEON (SC Experience)

- Age range of the **409** administrations: 8 months to 65 years
- Heroin is involved at least **66%** vs. **9%** Rx Opioids
- **69%** Male, **31%** Female; **93%** Caucasian, **5%** African-American; Median Age **32** y.o., Most Common Age **24** y.o.
- **25%** (72) required CPR, **45%** (133) required at least a second dose of Narcan 4 mg IN (many 3 or 3+)
- Officers were successfully trained to recognize indicators
- Nasal Narcan administration has been a very positive experience for our law enforcement agencies and the community

Coming Soon!



## Reducing Opioid Loss of Life *for Firefighters*



R  L L

*Starting September 1, 2018*

# Questions?



South Carolina  
**DAODAS**



<https://www.facebook.com/SCLEONprogram>



<http://justplainkillers.com/>

