Funeral Directors Network Quarterly Report Summer 2026

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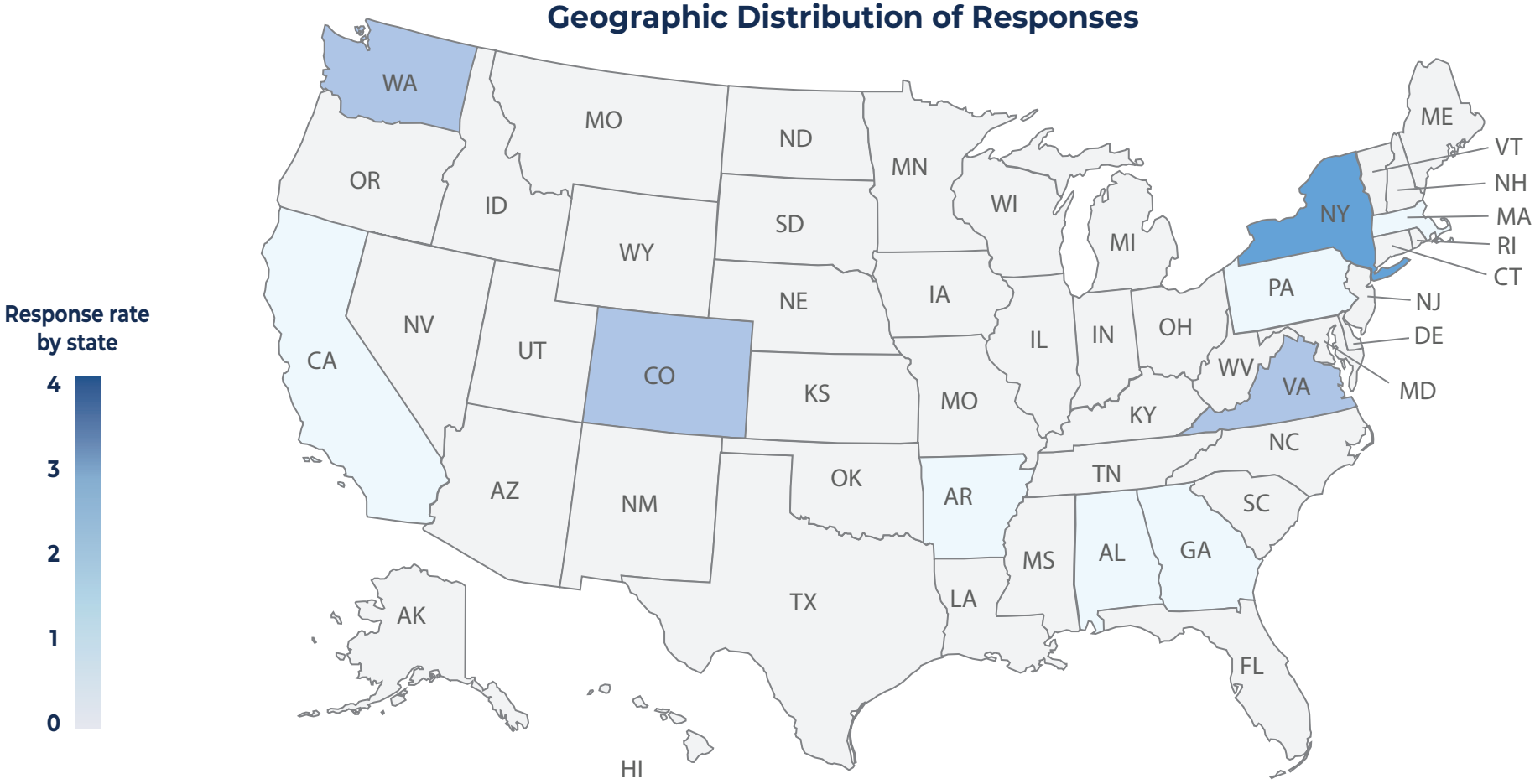
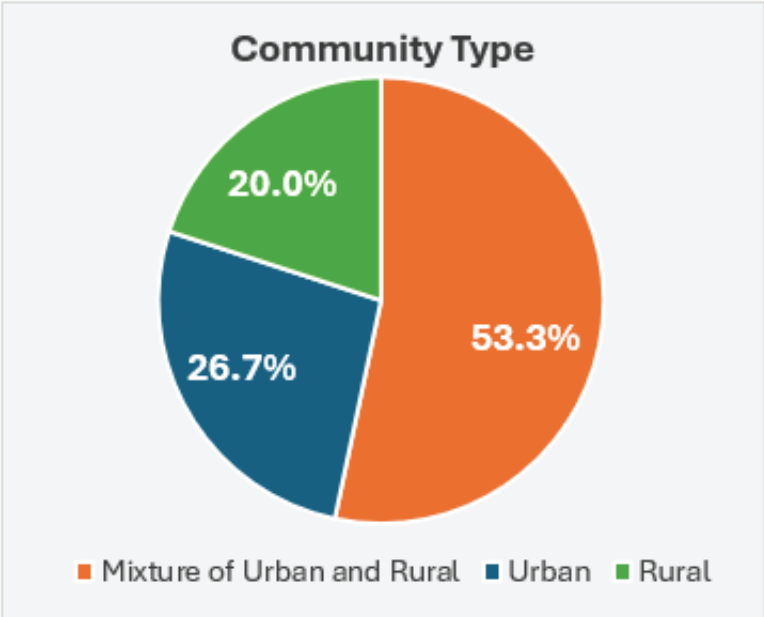
For this Summer 2026 quarterly survey, we received 15 responses from 10 states.
We collected information on observed shifts in overdose deaths over the past 6 months.
Responses are anonymous and aggregated by reporting location.

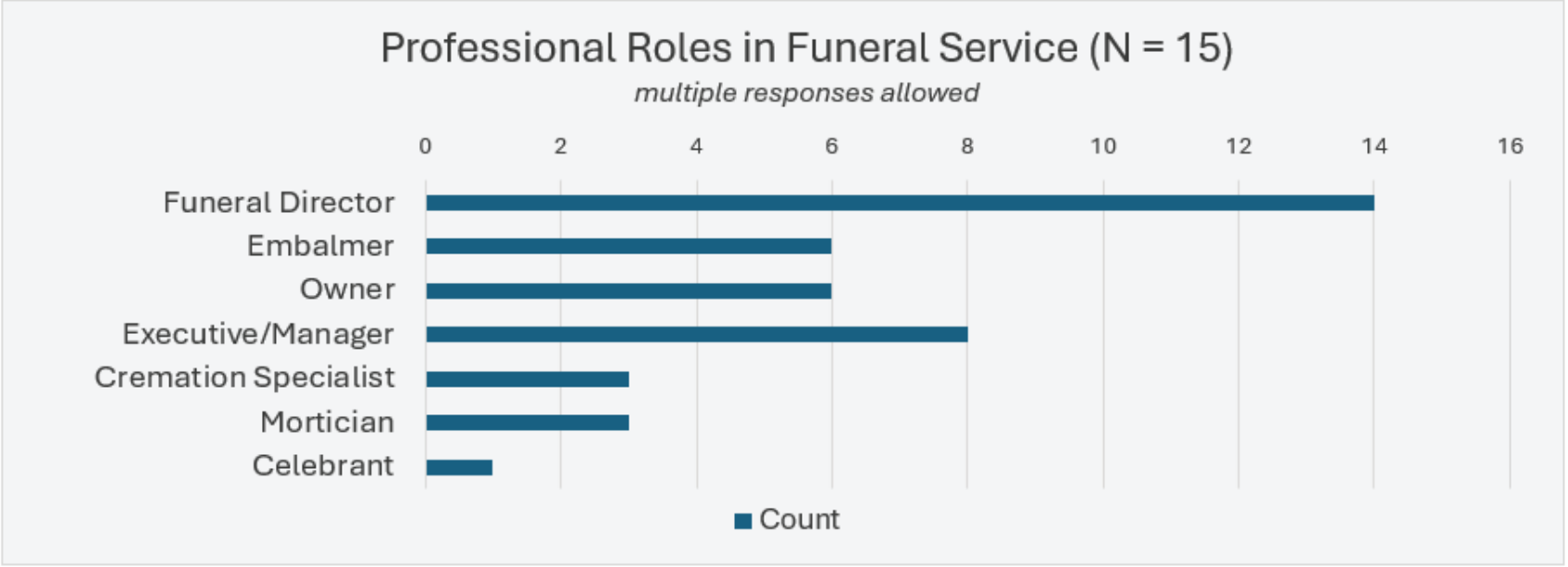
Geographic Distribution of Responses

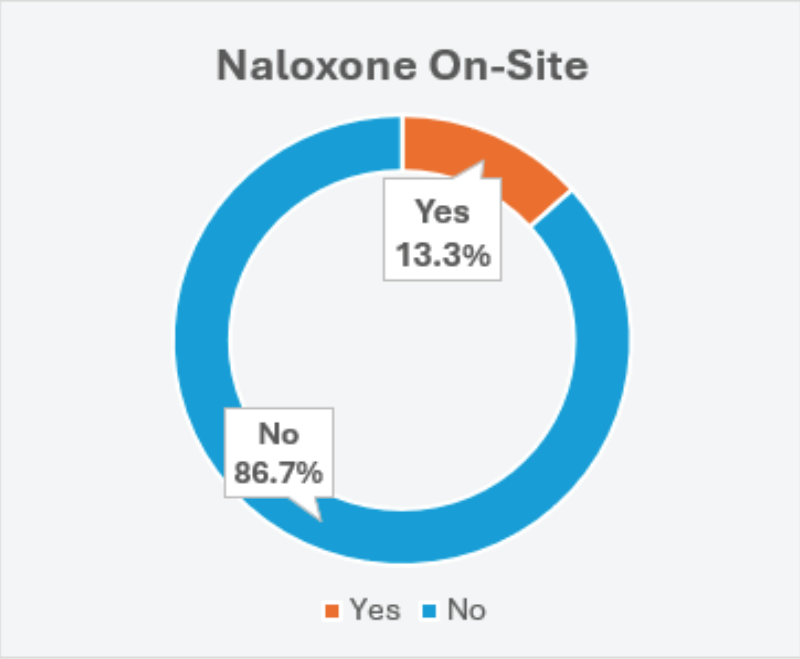


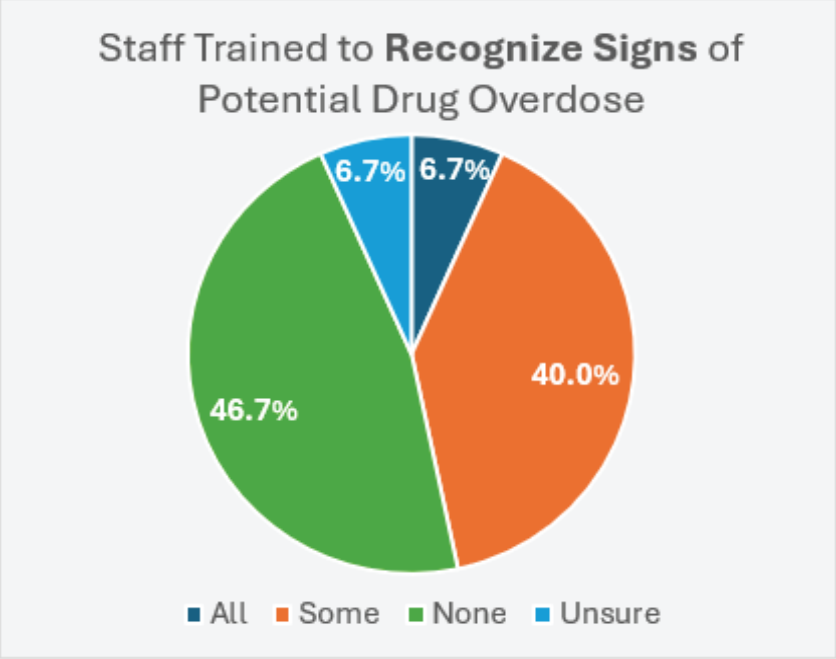
NDEWS is funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse to the University of Florida (MPI: Cottler (contact), Co-Is: Goldberger, Nixon, Striley), NYU Langone Health (MPI: Palamar), and Florida Atlantic University (Co-I: Barenholtz).
Recommended citation: National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Funeral Directors Network Report (Summer 2026). Retrieved from https://ndews.org.

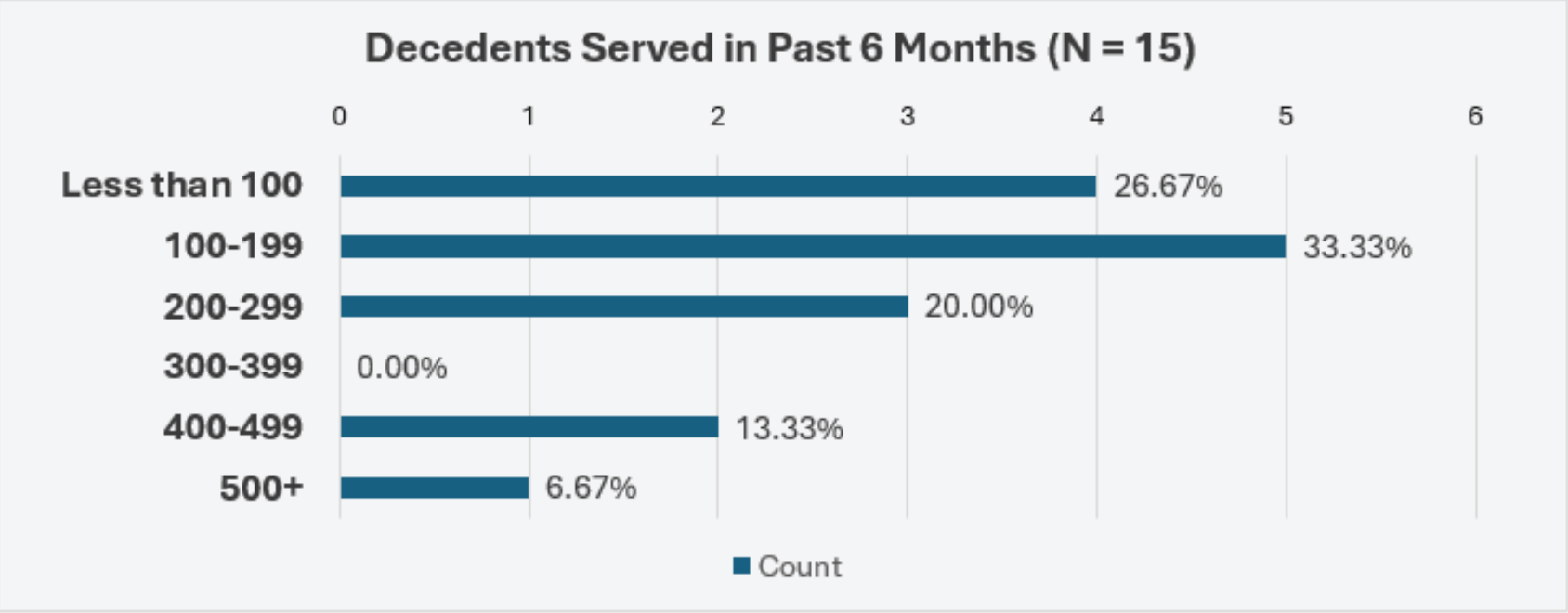


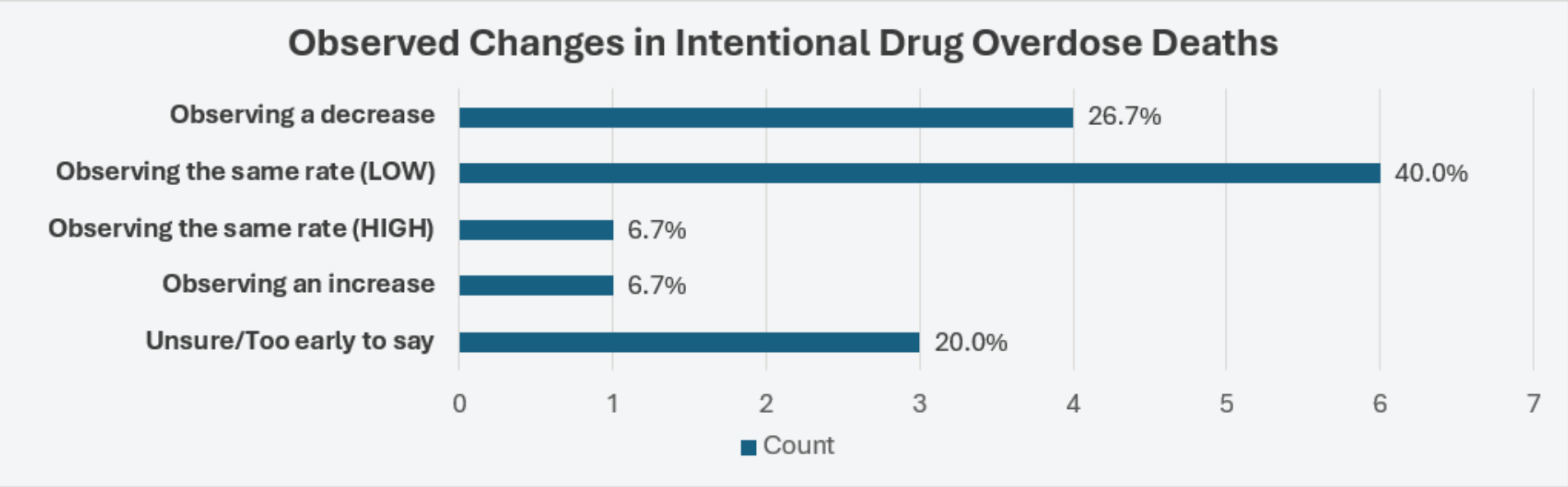
Business Type *Multiple selections allowed*	Respondents (N=15)	% of Respondents
Family-owned	11	73.3%
Independent	9	60.0%
Corporate/large-firm-owned	2	13.3%
Non-profit	1	6.7%
Multiple-location/chain	1	6.7%

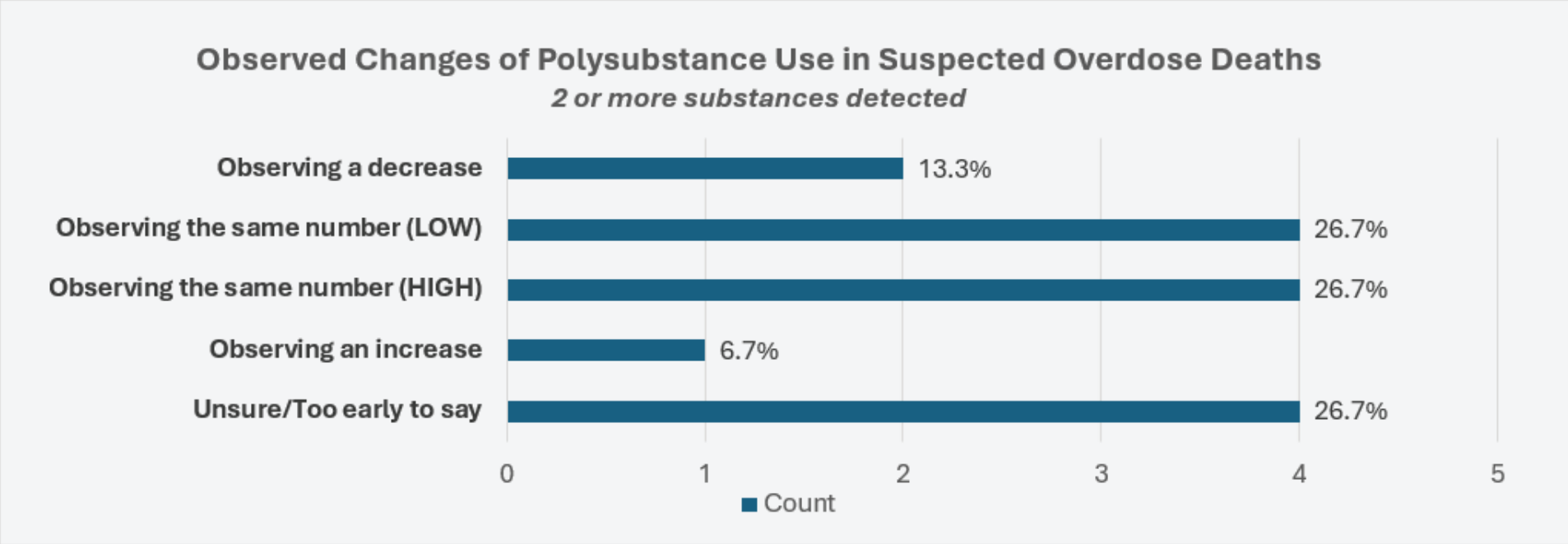



Naloxone On-Site
Yes
13.3%
No
86.7%
Yes
No


Staff Trained to Recognize Signs of Potential Drug Overdose
6.7%
6.7%
40.0%
46.7%
All
Some
None
Unsure


Decedents Served in Past 6 Months (N = 15)
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
Less than 100
26.67%
100-199
33.33%
200-299
20.00%
300-399
0.00%
400-499
13.33%
500+
6.67%
Count


Observed Changes in Intentional Drug Overdose Deaths
Observing a decrease
Observing the same rate (LOW)
Observing the same rate (HIGH)
Observing an increase
Unsure/Too early to say
26.7%
40.0%
6.7%
6.7%
20.0%
0
1
2
3
4
5
6
7
Count


Observed Changes of Polysubstance Use in Suspected Overdose Deaths
2 or more substances detected
Observing a decrease
Observing the same number (LOW)
Observing the same number (HIGH)
Observing an increase
Unsure/Too early to say
13.3%
26.7%
26.7%
6.7%
26.7%
0
1
2
3
4
5
Count

West Region

Past 6-Month			
Decedents Served	**State Location**	**Intentional Overdose Deaths**	**Total Overdose Deaths**
Less Than 100	CO	Unsure	**15**
	WA	1	2
100-199	CA	3	4
400-499	CO	Unsure	Unsure
500+	WA	Unsure	Unsure

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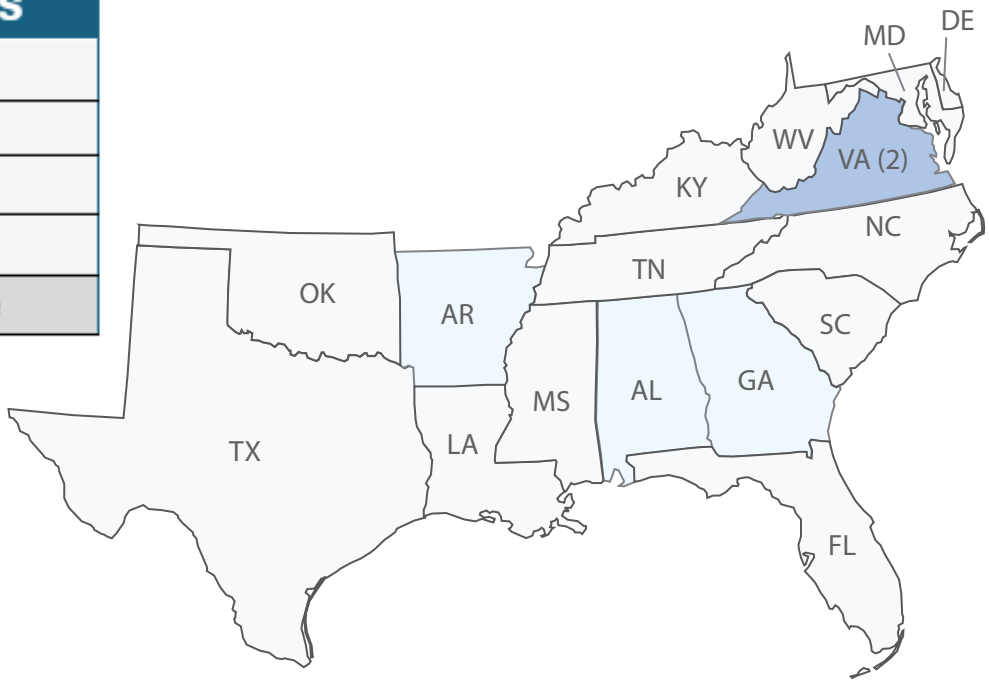
South Region

Past 6-Month			
Decedents Served	**State Location**	**Intentional Overdose Deaths**	**Total Overdose Deaths**
Less Than 100	VA	0	0
	VA	0	2
200-299	AL	0	10
	AR	Unsure	6
	GA	Unsure	Unsure



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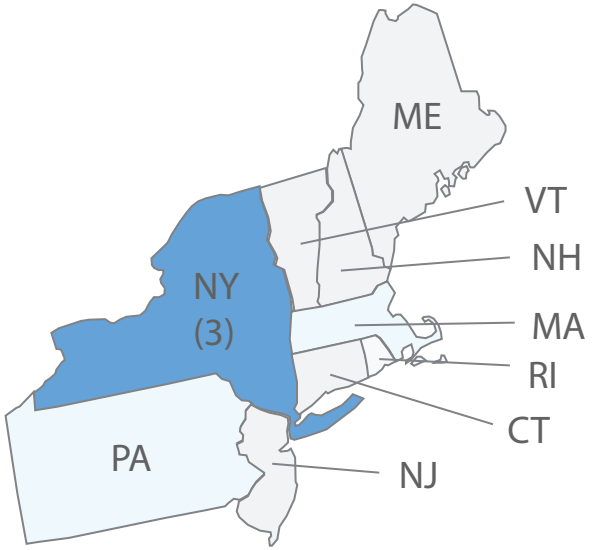
Northeast Region

Past 6-Month			
Decedents Served	**State Location**	**Intentional Overdose Deaths**	**Total Overdose Deaths**
100-199	MA	3	7
	NY	Unsure	**25+**
	NY	Unsure	5
	NY	Unsure	Unsure
400-499	PA	Unsure	Unsure



There were no responses from funeral directors in the Midwest Region.