



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DFS
DEPARTMENT OF
FORENSIC SCIENCES

Forensic Science Laboratory | Public Health Laboratory | Crime Scene Sciences

DFS OPIOID UPDATE

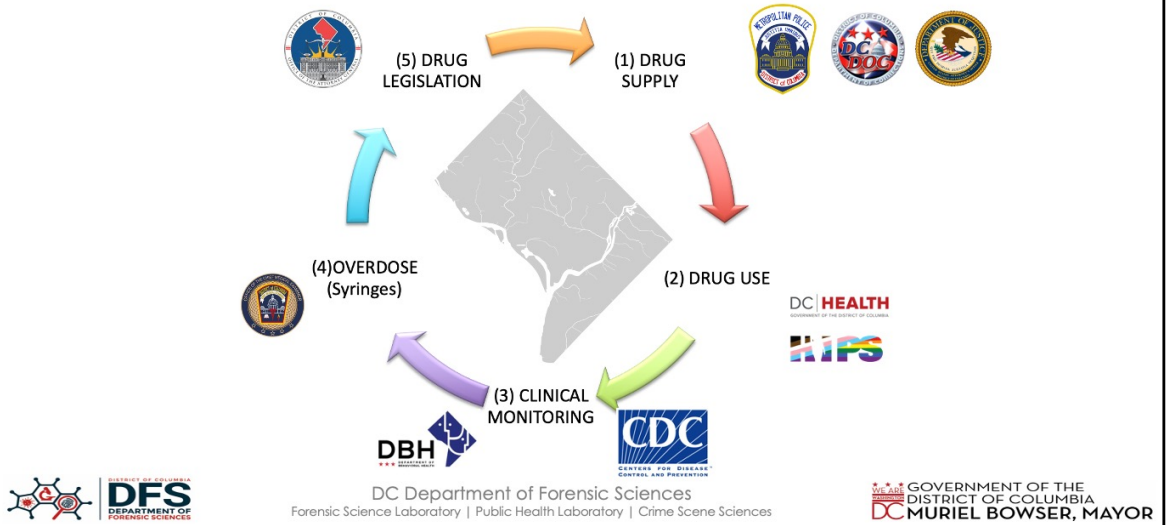
OCTOBER 27th, 2021



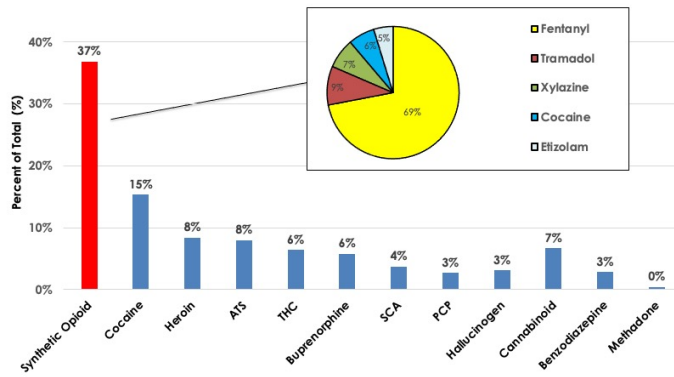
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GOVERNMENT OF THE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

OPIOID SURVEILLANCE IN DC



1. DRUG SUPPLY (2021)



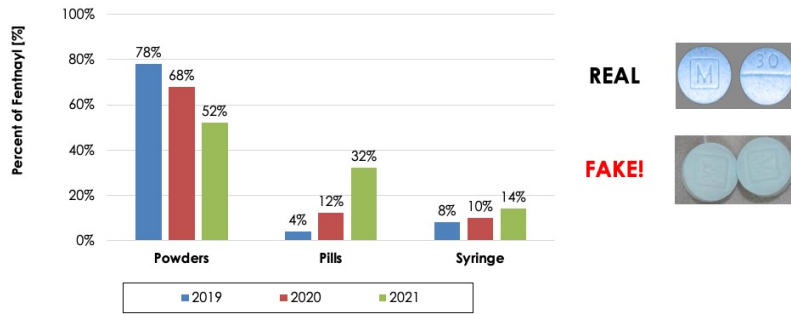
- **Syn Opioids are major component of all drugs tested at DFS-PHL.**
- **Most of the Syn Opioids contain fentanyl.**



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1. FORMS OF FENTANYL



- Pills are increasingly laced with fentanyl
- Syringe use of fentanyl is also increasing (for OCME syringes)



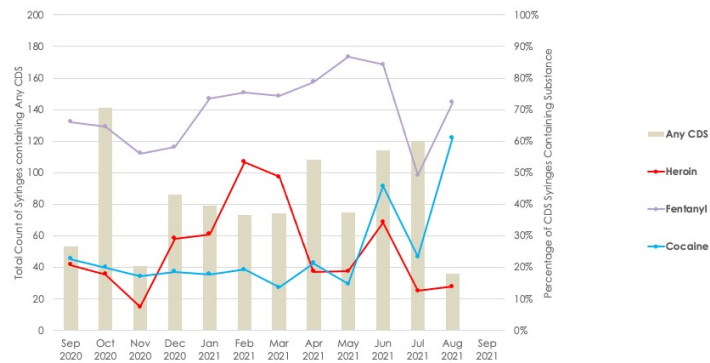
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DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

From *all* exhibits
Syringes are from OCME DI
(no syringe exchange)

2. SYRINGE EXCHANGE PROGRAM (SEP)

Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing CDS
and Percentages by Substance
Sep 2020 - Sep 2021



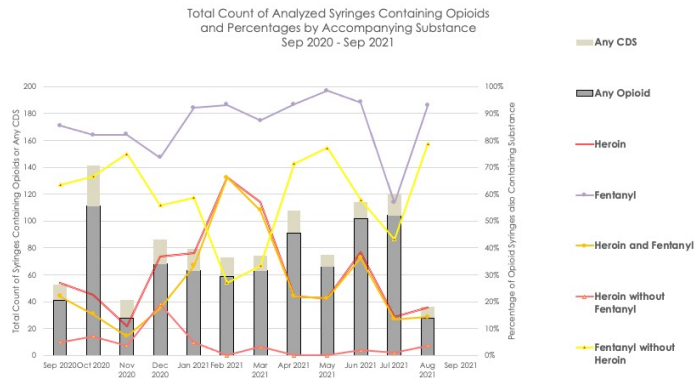
• Cocaine on steady rise



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2. SEP - OPIOID OVERVIEW



- **Fentanyl alone is increasing in use**
- **Mixed Fentanyl/Heroin is declining**

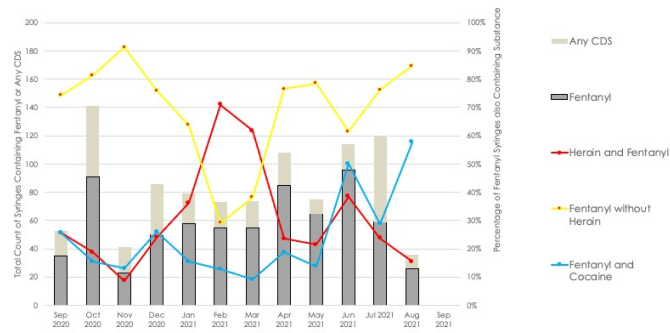


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2. SEP - COCAINE OVERVIEW

Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing Fentanyl and Percentages by Accompanying Substance
Sep 2020 - Sep 2021



- **Fentanyl alone on steady rise (since Feb 2021)**
- **60% of fentanyl syringes contain cocaine**
- **Heroin resurgence is not returning**

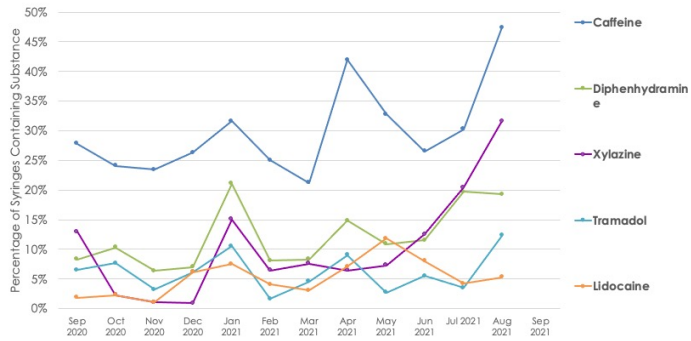


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2. SEP – OTHER SUBSTANCES

Percentages by Substance out of All Analyzed Syringes
Sep 2020 - Sep 2021



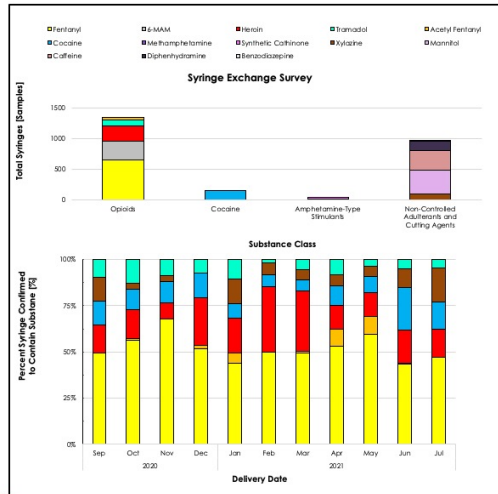
- Xylazine on slow rise (often with cocaine)
- Tramadol stable level



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2. SEP – FENTANYL ANALOGS



TOTAL FENTANYL BREAKDOWN Values	
Sum of fentanyl	649
Sum of 4-ANPP	256
Sum of acetyl fentanyl	38
Sum of para-fluorofentanyl	26
Sum of benzyl fentanyl	3
Sum of 3-methyl acetyl fentanyl	1

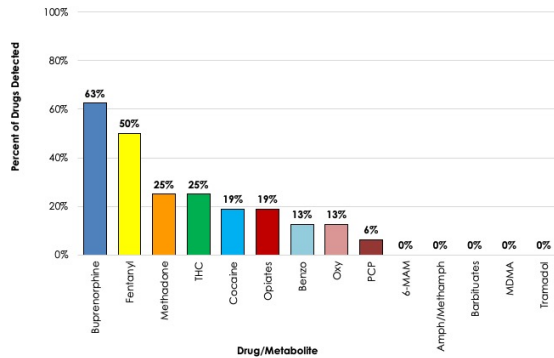


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3. TOXICOLOGY (URINE)

Drugs Detected (Urine Tox Screen)
OCTOBER 2021



- Total Positives: 64%
- Total Negative: 32.0%
- Total Rejected: 4%

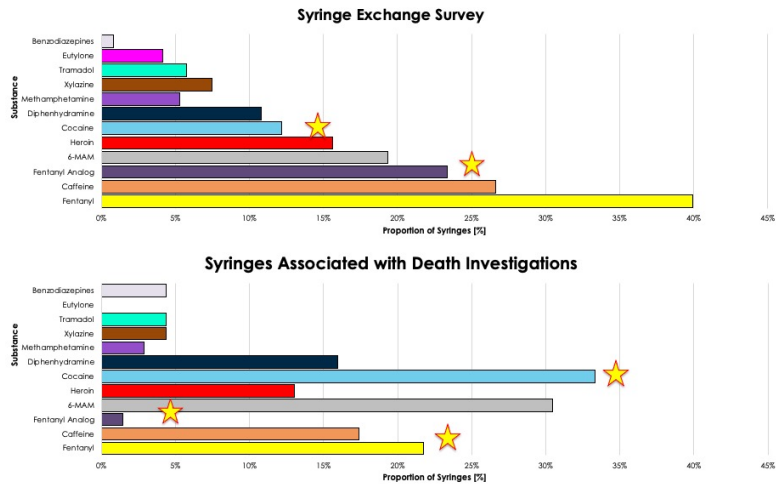
Drug Combinations Observed	Percent % (out of positives)
FENTANYL + COCAINE	19%
FENTANYL + METHADONE	19%
FENTANYL + BENZOS	13%



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4. SEP VS OCME SYRINGES



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SUMMARY (2021)

Level	Syn Opioid (%)	Fentanyl (%)	Cocaine (%)	Buprenorphine (%)	Methadone (%)
1. Drug Supply	36%	28%	16%	5%	0%
2. Drug Use (Syringes)*	81%	67%	23%	0%	5%
3. Drug Use (Tox)**	48%	32%	12%	40%	16%
4. Drug Overdose (OCME Syringes)	51%	22%	33%	0%	0%

*Calculated from all syringes that have a controlled substance present

**Results from individuals on/going into treatment for opioid addiction

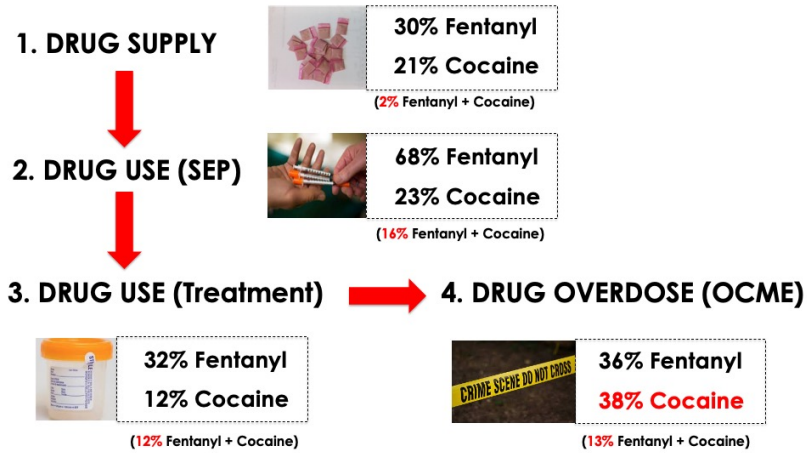


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For Tox data, percent of all

SUMMARY (2021)



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From Oct 2020-Oct 2021
For drug evidence, out of CDS exhibits

For Tox data, percent of all

1. People appear to be mixing fentanyl and cocaine by choice (premix is rare)
2. Cocaine as a stand-alone syringe appears to be associated with Death Investigations

THANK YOU!

I AM
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LIVE.LONG.DC. - Opioid Stakeholders Summit

10-19-21



Type your notes

Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has investigated a total of **1653** opioid-related fatal overdose from January 2016 to July 31, 2021.



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Demographic Figures

Fig. 5: Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Age

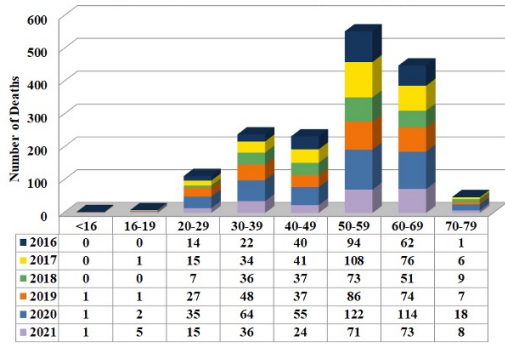


Figure 7: Percentage of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Gender and Year

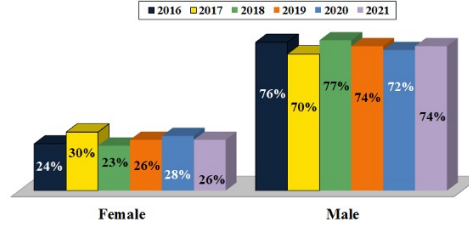
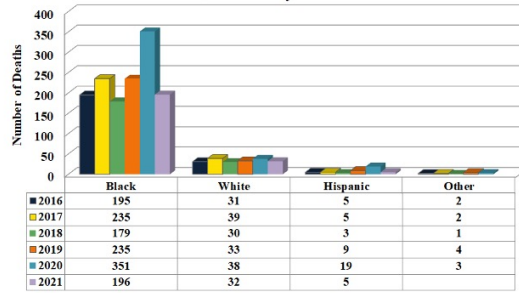


Fig. 6: Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Race/Ethnicity and Year

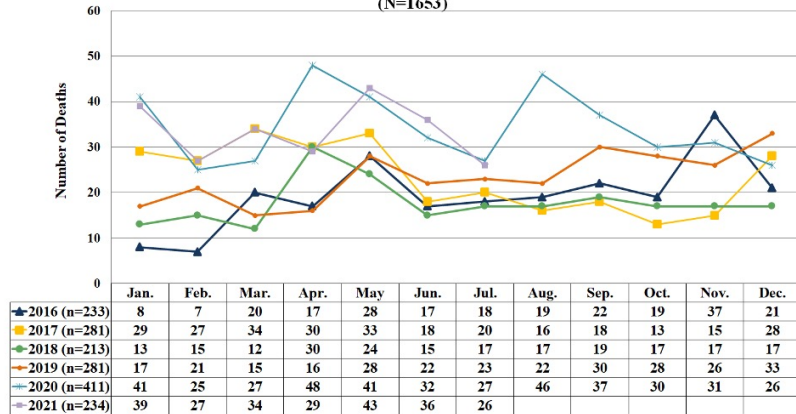


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AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHLY FATAL OVERDOSES DUE TO OPIOID USE

2017: 23 2018: 18 2019: 23 2020: 34 2021: 33

Fig. 1(b): Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Month and Year (N=1653)



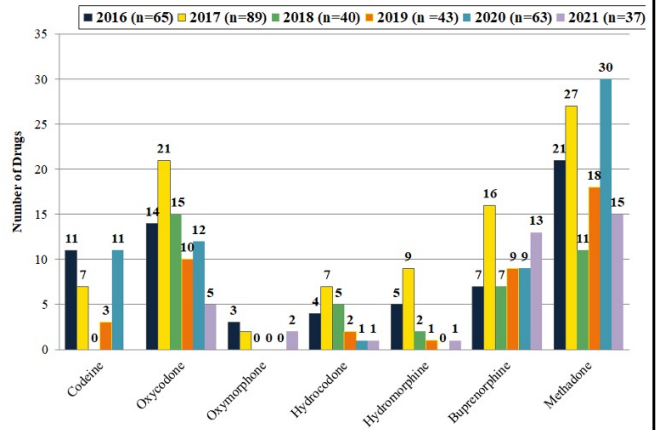
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TRENDS IN PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS IN FATAL OVERDOSES

The number of prescription opioids found in opioid related overdoses has varied over the years of data collection, however **methadone** and **buprenorphine** are currently the most prevalent prescription opioids identified.



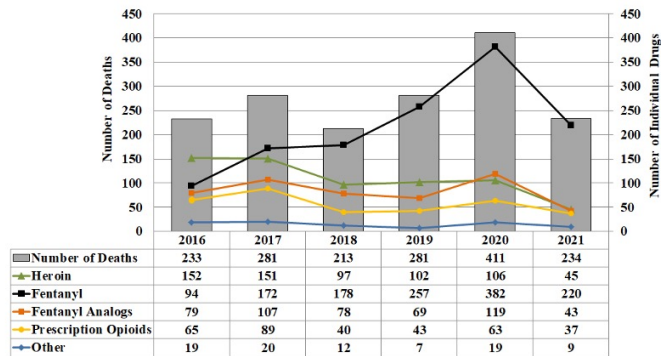
Fig. 4: Number of Prescription Opioids Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (n=337)



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TRENDS IN THE NUMBERS OF OPIOID DRUGS CONTRIBUTING TO FATAL OVERDOSES

Fig. 2: Total Number of Opioid Drugs Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (All Opioids)



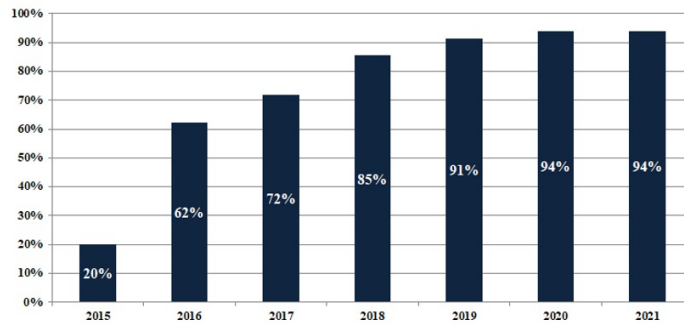
Overall, the most prevalent opioid drugs identified were **fentanyl** followed by heroin and **fentanyl analogs**.

	2020	2021
Fentanyl	94%	94%
Heroin	26%	19%
FAs	29%	18%

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FATAL OVERDOSES CONTAINING FENTANYL/FENTANYL ANALOGS

Figure 3: Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl 2015-2021



18 cases in 2021 contained Fluorofentanyl in the cause of death

The percentage of cases containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog:
2015: 20% → 2020: 94%



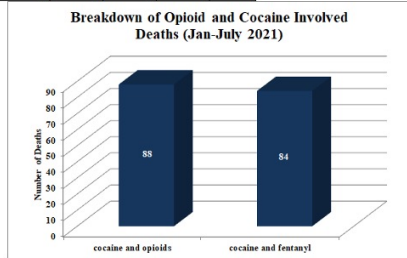
Thus far in 2021, fentanyl has been involved in 94% of the fatal overdoses.

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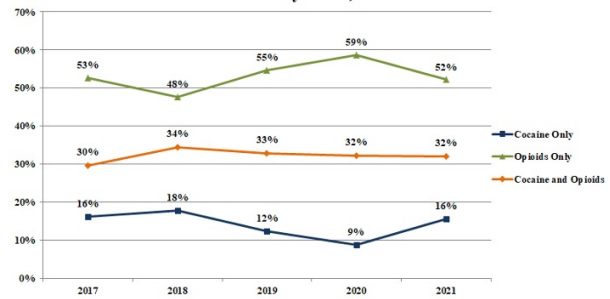
Trends in Cocaine and Opioid Fatal Overdoses

- Since 2018:
- opioid-only fatal overdoses have steadily increased
 - cocaine-only fatal overdoses have decreased
 - cocaine and opioid overdoses have remained steady but have significant increased in Black Males and Black Females

Breakdown of Cocaine and Opioid Overdoses by Year, Race and Gender 2017- July 2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black					
Male	55	61	62	75	61
Female	32	17	31	50	20
White					
Male	5	6	4	10	6
Female	5	6	4	2	0
Other					
Male	2	1	4	8	1
Female	2	0	1	1	0



Percent of Deaths due to Cocaine and Opioids (2017- July 2021)



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Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses

**78% of 2020 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.
67% of those cases were within the decedent's household.**

This may be driven by the pandemic and lock-down protocols, but also impacts the affect of the push for Naloxone availability to counter opioid abuse.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Dec 2020)	
Residence	320
Decedents residence	214
Family members residence	10
Friend/acquaintance residence	52
Hospital/Nursing Home	2
Hotel/Motel	7
Unspecified residence	5
Shelter/Halfway house	20
Vacant residence	10
Non-Residence*	86
Unknown	5
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Dec 2020)	
Residence	78%
Decedents residence	67%
Family members residence	3%
Friend/acquaintance residence	16%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	2%
Unspecified residence	2%
Shelter/Halfway house	6%
Vacant residence	3%
Non-Residence*	21%
Unknown	1%
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

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2019

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019)	
Residence	213
Decedents residence	152
Family members residence	13
Friend/acquaintance residence	31
Hospital/Nursing Home	2
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	5
Shelter/Halfway house	7
Vacant residence	3
Non-Residence*	66
Unknown	2

* non-residence includes street, bus/train stop, car, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, homeless camp

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019)	
Residence	76%
Decedents residence	71%
Family members residence	6%
Friend/aquaintance residence	15%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	0%
Unspecified residence	2%
Shelter/Halfway house	3%
Vacant residence	1%
Non-Residence*	23%
Unknown	1%

* non-residence includes street, bus/train stop, car, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, homeless camp

2021

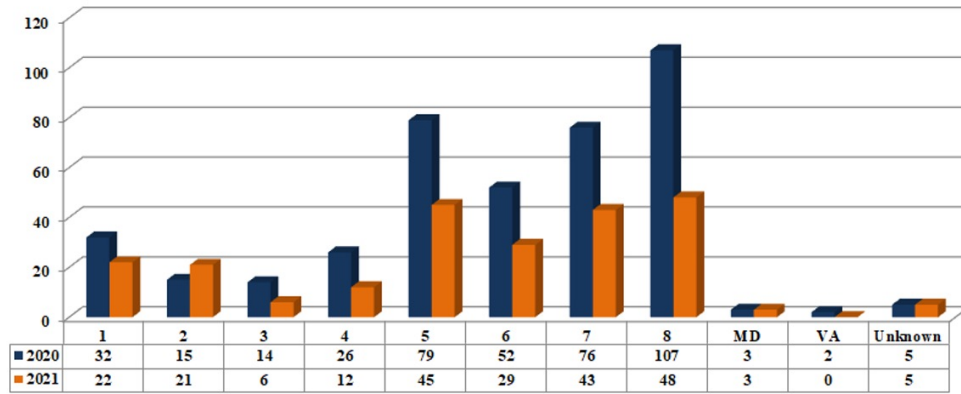
Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	189
Decedents residence	139
Family members residence	6
Friend/acquaintance residence	14
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	10
Unspecified residence	10
Shelter/Halfway house	7
Vacant residence	2
Non-Residence*	39
Unknown	6

* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-July 2021)	
Residence	81%
Decedents residence	74%
Family members residence	3%
Friend/aquaintance residence	7%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	5%
Unspecified residence	5%
Shelter/Halfway house	4%
Vacant residence	1%
Non-Residence*	17%
Unknown	3%

* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Ward (2020- July 2021)



Location of Injury by Ward

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 1 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	17
Decedents residence	12
Family members residence	1
Friend/acquaintance residence	2
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	1
Shelter/Halfway house	1
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	5
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 5 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	36
Decedents residence	23
Family members residence	2
Friend/acquaintance residence	3
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	4
Unspecified residence	2
Shelter/Halfway house	1
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	9
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 2 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	16
Decedents residence	9
Family members residence	1
Friend/acquaintance residence	0
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	4
Unspecified residence	0
Shelter/Halfway house	2
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	5
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 6 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	16
Decedents residence	13
Family members residence	0
Friend/acquaintance residence	2
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	1
Unspecified residence	0
Shelter/Halfway house	0
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	13
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 3 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	5
Decedents residence	5
Family members residence	0
Friend/acquaintance residence	0
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	0
Shelter/Halfway house	0
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	1
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 7 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	40
Decedents residence	32
Family members residence	0
Friend/acquaintance residence	5
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	2
Shelter/Halfway house	1
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	3
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 4 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	12
Decedents residence	9
Family members residence	0
Friend/acquaintance residence	0
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	1
Unspecified residence	2
Shelter/Halfway house	0
Vacant residence	0
Non-Residence*	0
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses in Ward 8 (Jan- July 2021)	
Residence	45
Decedents residence	33
Family members residence	2
Friend/acquaintance residence	2
Hospital/Nursing Home	0
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	3
Shelter/Halfway house	3
Vacant residence	2
Non-Residence*	3
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop	

Non-Fatal FEMS Overdoses

Sari Frankel, MPH – DBH State Opioid Response

sari.frankel@dc.gov

LIVE.LONG.DC. FY22 Q1 Summit – October 27, 2021

Date range of analyzed data: 4/26/2021-10/18/2021

- Total Overdoses Recorded: N = 789
- Presumed deceased on arrival*: N = 6
- Suspected non-overdoses**: N = 13
- **Total number of overdoses in analysis: N = 770**

*Most PDOAs are routed to MPD, and FEMS does not respond if the person is known to be deceased prior to emergency services arriving. A 911 call will be routed to FEMS if there is uncertainty as to whether the decedent is still alive.

**It took us a little while with of working with FEMS and the DBH data team to revise the filters on what data was being provided to us at DBH. There were some case records in the first few weeks that made no mention of overdose in the narrative and were therefore excluded from the analysis (e.g. a diabetic emergency, assistance after a fall, etc.) The total number of unique individuals is impossible to discern accurately due to incomplete data, but the range of unique individuals is estimated at 612-695.

Full list of filters used as of October, 2021

Meet **ALL** of the following: (excluded conditions)

- [Response: Unit Call Sign does not contain FEMSIT](#)
- [Response: Unit Call Sign does not contain TEST](#)
- [Response: Unit Call Sign does not contain TRAIN](#)
- [Case: PCR Status is equal to Closed](#)
- [Medication: Medication is equal to Narcan \(Naloxone\)](#)
- [Medication: Medication is not in the list Fentanyl ~ Fentanyl 100mcg/2cc ~](#)

Morphine

• Disposition: Disposition is in the list Dead at Scene - No Resus - Not Transported ~ Dead at Scene - No Resus - Transported ~ Dead at Scene - Resus Attempted - No Transport ~ Dead at Scene - Resus Attempted - Susp Drug Use - No Transport ~ Dead at Scene - Susp Drug Use - Resus Attempted - No Transport ~ Eval Only (No Tx, No Transport) ~ NTL - Non - ED Health Facility ~ NTL - Self Care ~ Refused Eval/Tx - No Transport ~ Refused Eval/Tx - Transported ~ Treated, Released (AMA) ~ Treated, Released (per protocol) ~ Treated, Transferred to Other EMS ~ Treated, Transported by EMS ~ Treated, Transported by Law Enforcement ~ Treated, Transported by Private Vehicle

Meet **ANY** of the following: (one or more condition is included)

- Situation: Primary Impression is in the list Opioid related disorders ~ Suspected EXP: Heroin/Opioid/Fentanyl ~ Suspected USE: Heroin/Opioid/Fentanyl
- Situation: Secondary Impressions is in the list Opioid related disorders ~ Suspected EXP: Heroin/Opioid/Fentanyl ~ Suspected USE: Heroin/Opioid/Fentanyl
- Narrative: Narrative contains fentan
- Narrative: Narrative contains heroin
- Narrative: Narrative contains opiate
- Narrative: Narrative contains opioid
- Complaints: Complaint contains fentan
- Complaints: Complaint contains heroin
- Complaints: Complaint contains opiate
- Complaints: Complaint contains opioid

Overdoses by Month

Month of OD	Count	Percent
April (26 th -30 th)	22	2.86%
May	148	19.22%
June	145	18.83%
July	143	18.57%
August	141	18.31%
September	124	16.10%
October (1 st -17 th)	47	6.10%
Grand Total	770	100.00%

Race Breakdown

Race	Count	Percent
Asian	3	0.39%
Black or African American	702	91.17%
Hispanic or Latino	11	1.43%
Unknown	15	1.95%
White	39	5.06%
Grand Total	770	100.00%

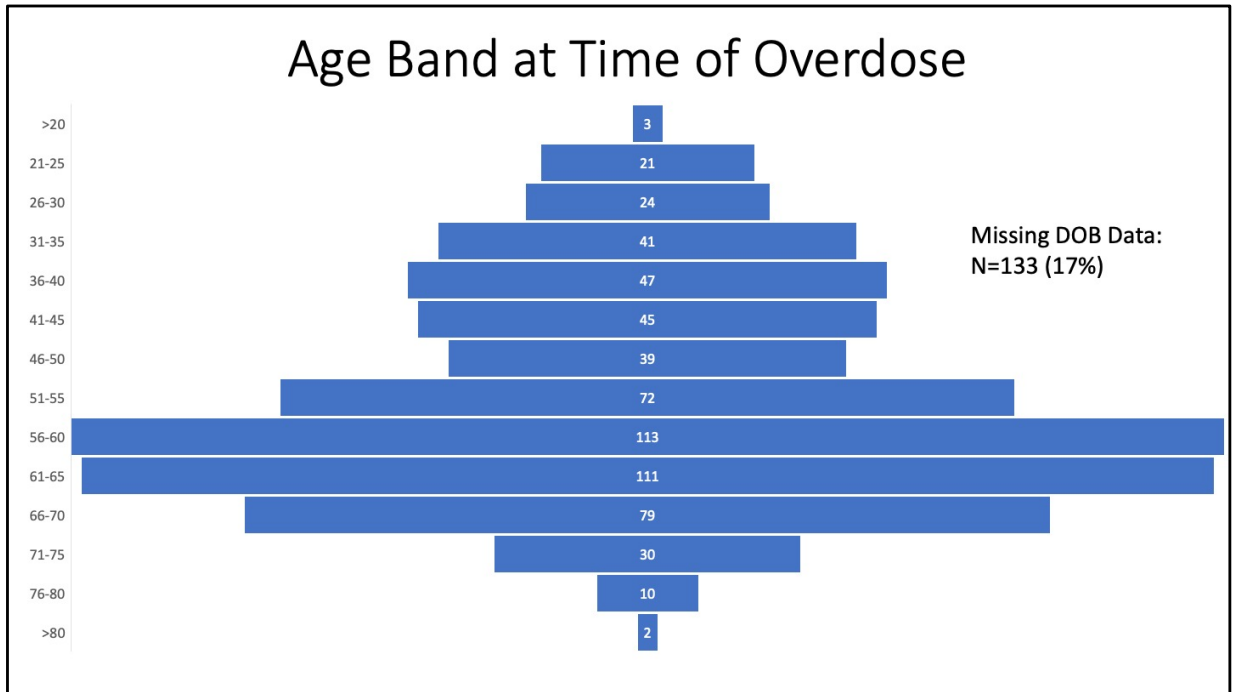
Higher % of ODs among African Americans than what we see among fatality data, which is closer to 84%

Gender Breakdown

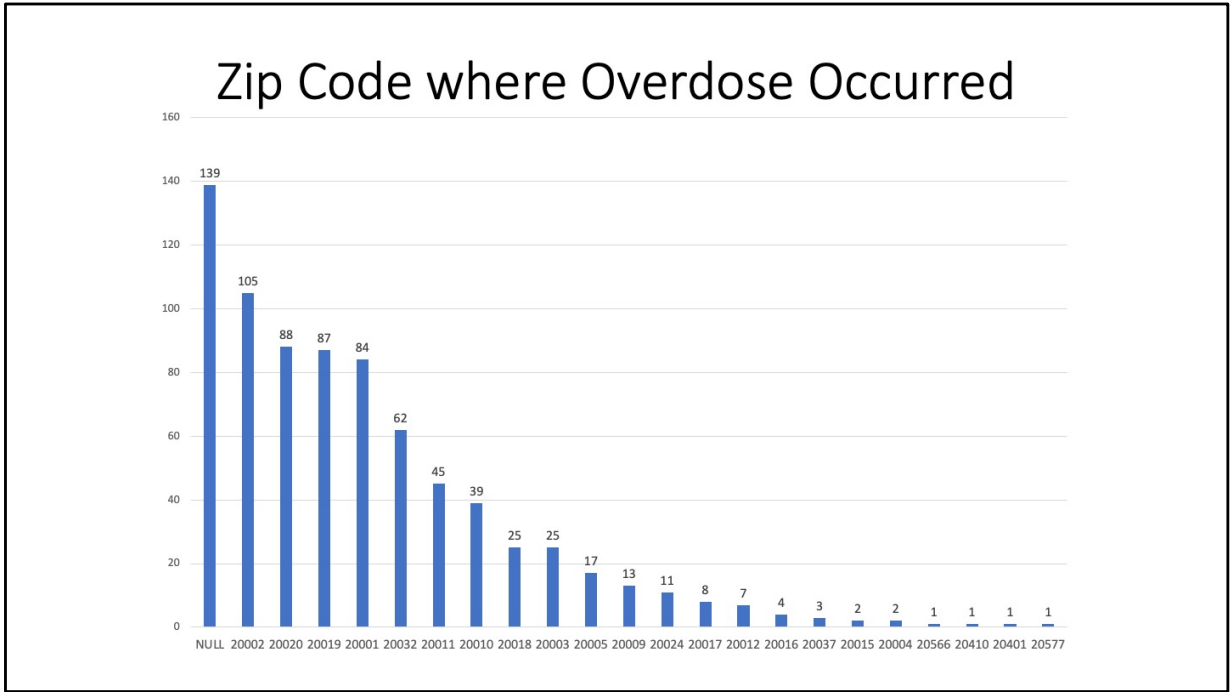
Gender	Count	Percent
Female	137	22.10%
Male	483	77.90%
Total*	620	100.00%

*Gender data not available for overdoses occurring 4/26/21-5/25/21 (N=133)

Missing gender data after 5/25: N=17



Age range at time of overdose does not necessarily reflect a person's current age. E.g. if someone was 50 when they overdoses in May, but turned 51 in July, they would be recorded on this graph in the 46-50 age band.



Overdose where zip code occurred is not necessarily the same as the zip code that the patient resides in.

NULL = not reported

20002 = NoMa, Trinidad, Carver Langston (Wards 5&6)

20020 = Anacostia, Douglass, Barry Farm, Naylor, Skyland, Buena Vista, Fort Davis Park (Wards 7&8)

20019 = Deanwood, Benning, Fort Dupont, Capitol View, Northeast Boundary (Ward 7)

20001 = Union Station, Judiciary Square, Mt Vernon, Bloomingdale, Truxton Circle (Wards 1, 2 &6)

20032 = Congress Heights, Washington Highlands, Douglass (Ward 8)

20011 = Petworth, Brightwood, Manor Park, Fort Totten (Wards 4&5)

20010 = Parkview, Cardozo, Columbia Heights, Pleasant Plains (Ward 1)

Geographic Hotspots

Public Spaces

- 7th/T/Florida Ave NW
- 16th St SE and Good Hope Rd SE
- 17th St SE and Minnesota Ave SE
- Clay Pl NE and Minnesota Ave NE
- Pennsylvania Ave SE and Minnesota Ave SE

~60% of overdoses are occurring within private residences

Shelter System

- CCNV Shelter
- PEP-V Hotel Arboretum
- PEP-V Holiday Inn
- New York Ave Men's Shelter
- 801 East Men's Shelter

Metro Stations

- Anacostia Metro Station
- Petworth Metro Station

All hotspots listed had >4 overdoses within the given timeframe. However, the majority of overdoses are occurring within private residences scattered across the city.

There are some residential buildings that have had multiple overdoses from different individuals. For privacy reasons, those buildings are not listed here, but DBH and affiliated outreach will work on targeted outreach to those buildings.

Domicile

- DC Resident – Housed: N = 427 (55.5%)
- Resides Out of District: N = 70 (9.0%)
- DC Resident – Homeless: N = 96 (12.5%)
 - Homeless – sheltered:* N = 59
 - Homeless – shelter status unknown:** N = 37
- Address not provided: N = 177 (23.0%)

~Location of overdose matches address of record: N = 241/593 (41%)~

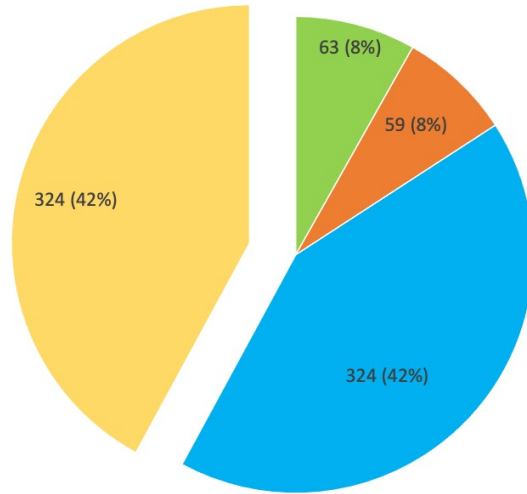
*Address of record reported as a shelter, transitional housing location, or Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) site

**Address of record recorded as “unfixed,” “homeless,” or the site of a social service organization was provided

For patients that provided their addresses, 41% overdosed at the site of the address provided (31% of total overdoses). An additional ~30% of total overdoses occurred at a private residence different from the address of record.

Outcome

~Only about 40% of people who overdose are receiving follow-up care in the hospital~



■ Evaluated/No Further Treatment Required ■ Refused EMS Evaluation ■ Treated/Refused Hospital Transport AMA ■ Treated/Transported to Hospital

Confirmed Repeat Overdoses: 52 individuals accounted for 127 overdoses

Individuals with Repeat Overdoses (confirmed*): N = 52 individuals

Range for Repeat Overdoses: N = 2-6

Mean = 2.4 overdoses

2 overdoses – N = 37

3 overdoses – N = 10

4 overdoses – N = 3

5 overdoses – N = 1

6 overdoses – N = 1

*Due to the high number of individuals who did not provide full names or DOB, this is likely an undercount of the true number of repeat overdoses in this dataset.

Prior Engagement with Mental Health and/or SUD Services is High

Prior Engagement in DBH Services

Row Labels	Count	Percent
MH/SUD Match	400	51.95%
No Match*	370	48.05%
Grand Total	770	100.00%

Data Quality is a Challenge

- N=83 (10.8%) did not provide first name
- N=94 (12.2%) did not provide last name
- N=133 (17.3%) did not provide DOB
- N=177 (23.0%) did not provide address

*Anyone who did not provide a first name, last name and DOB (and SSN) is automatically recorded as not being a match, as this information is needed to confirm prior enrollment in DBH services. The number of matches is therefore an undercount—there are people with confirmed repeat overdoses for example who have been recorded as both being a match and not being a match during in different patient records.