

Live Long DC – Opioid Stakeholders Summit

1-26-

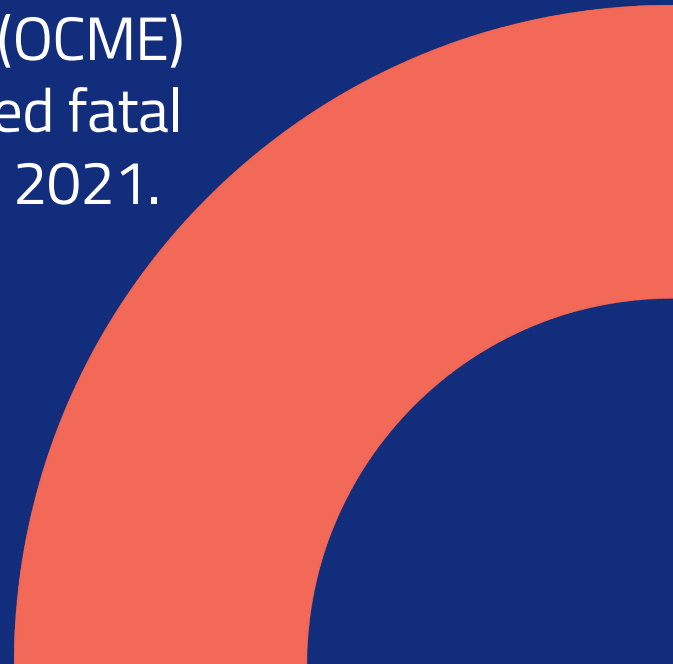
22



Office of the Chief Medical Examiner



The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has investigated a total of **1763** opioid-related fatal overdose from January 2016 to October 31, 2021.



Demographic Figures

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

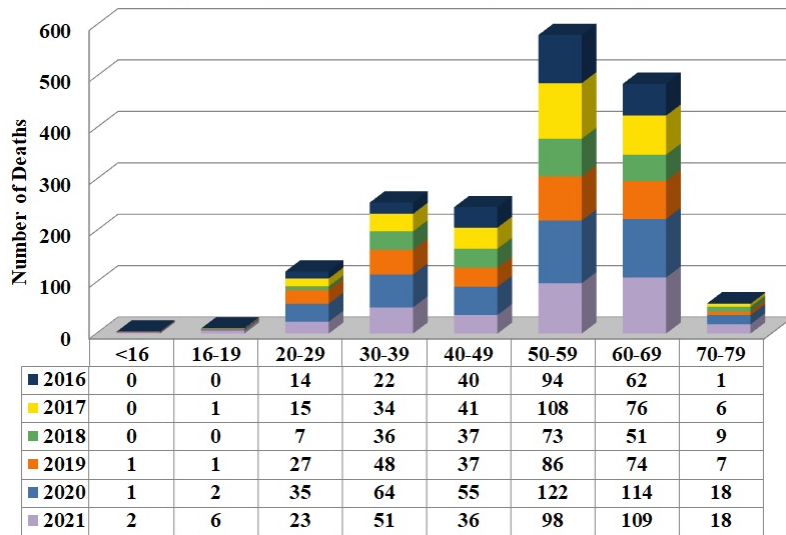


Figure 7: Percentage of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Gender and Year

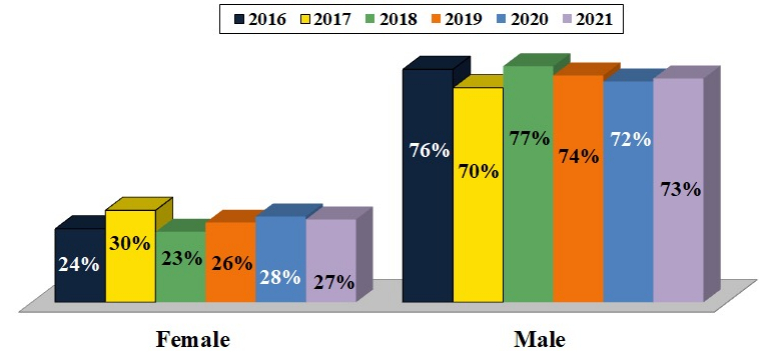
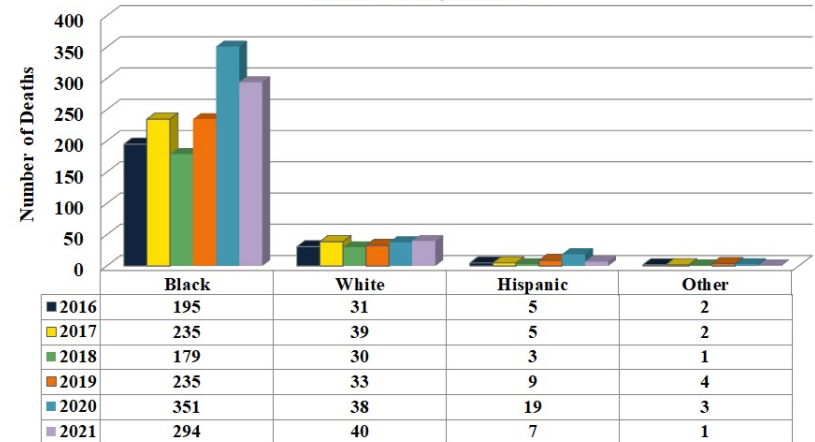


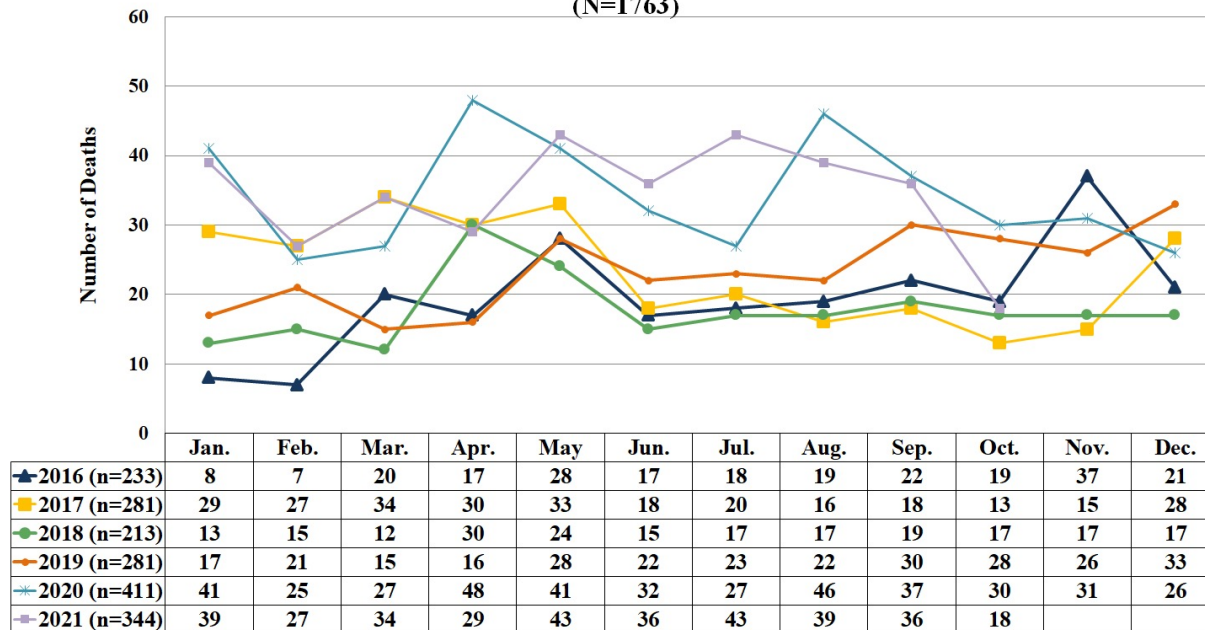
Fig. 6: Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Race/Ethnicity and Year



AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHLY FATAL OVERDOSES DUE TO OPIOID USE

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

Fig. 1(b): Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Month and Year
(N=1763)

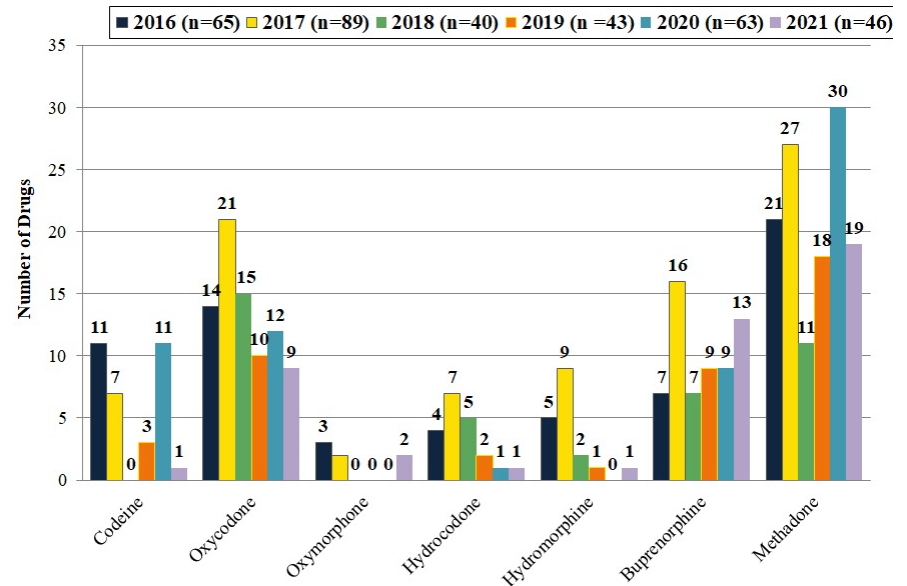


TRENDS IN PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS IN FATAL OVERDOSES

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.

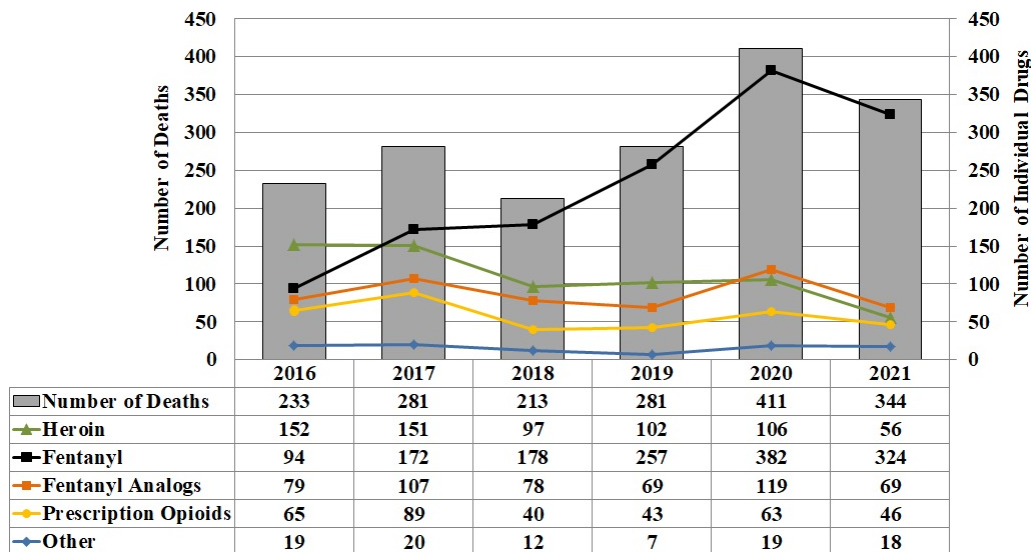


Fig. 4: Number of Prescription Opioids Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (n=344)



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)

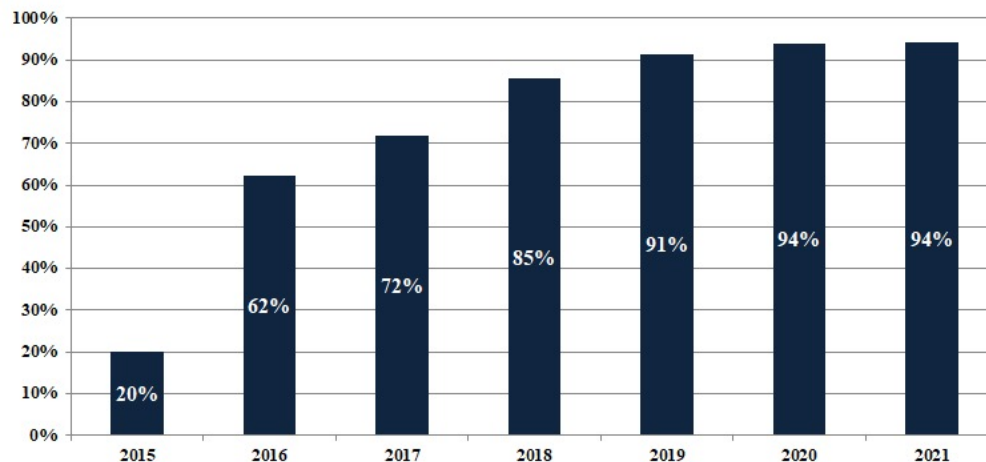


Overall, the most prevalent opioid drugs identified were **fentanyl** followed by heroin and **fentanyl analogs**.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>
Fentanyl	94%	94%
Heroin	26%	16%
FA's	29%	20%

FATAL OVERDOSES CONTAINING FENTANYL/FENTANYL ANALOGS

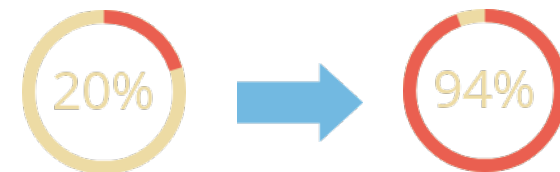
Figure 3: Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl 2015-2021



40 cases in 2021 contained Fluorofentanyl in the cause of death

The percentage of cases containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog:

2015: 20% → 2020: 94%



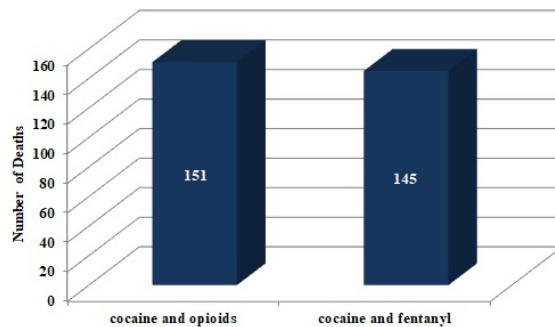
Thus far in 2021, fentanyl has been involved in **94%** of the fatal overdoses.

Trends in Cocaine and Opioid Fatal

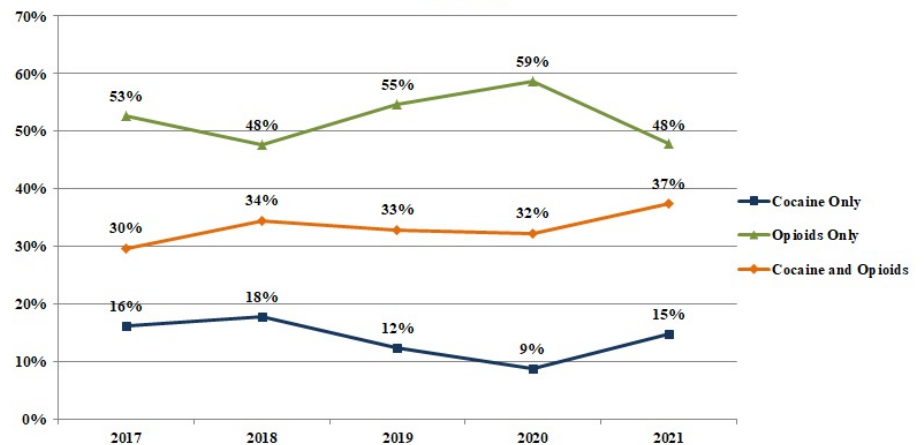
In 2021: - **opioid-only** fatal overdose have **decreased**
 - **cocaine-only** fatal overdoses have **increased**
 - **cocaine and opioid** overdoses have also **increased**, but significantly **increased in Black Males**

Breakdown of Cocaine and Opioid Overdoses by Year, Race and Gender 2017- Oct 2021					
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Black					
Male	55	61	62	75	100
Female	32	17	31	50	42
White					
Male	5	6	4	10	7
Female	5	6	4	2	1
Other					
Male	2	1	4	8	1
Female	2	0	1	1	0

Breakdown of Opioid and Cocaine Involved Deaths (Jan-Oct 2021)



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



Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019 - 2021)

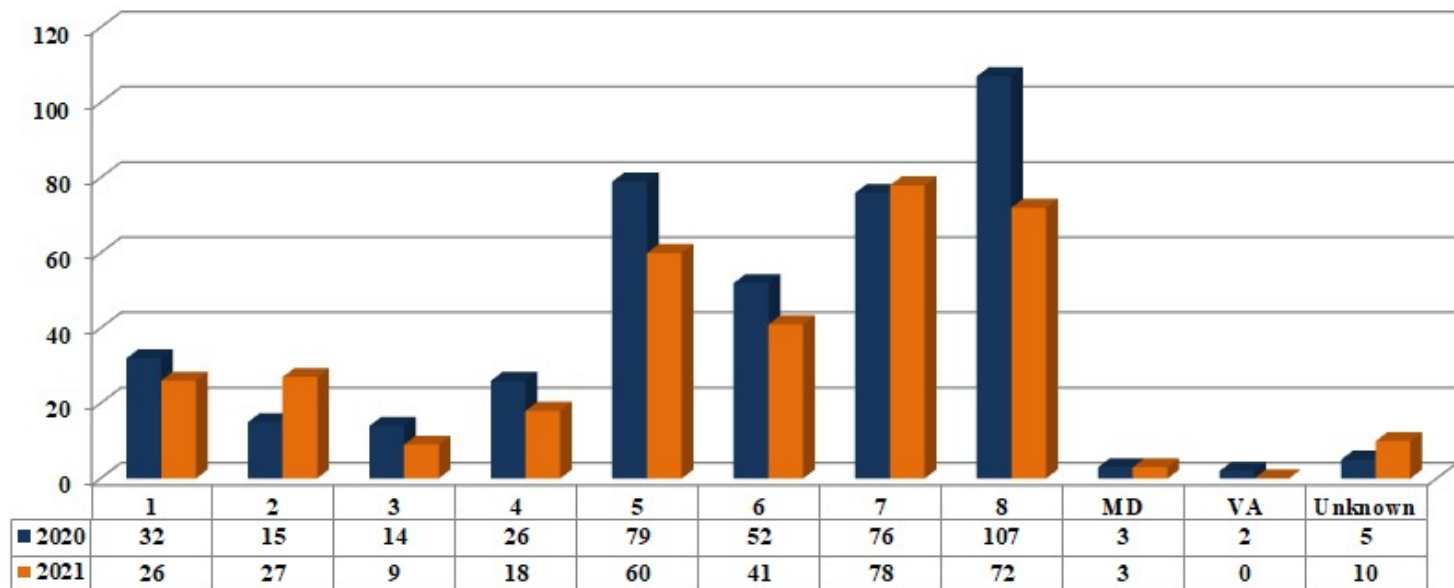
	Within a Residence	Within the Decedent's Household
2019	76%	71%
2020	78%	67%
2021	82%	73%

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Oct 2021)	
Residence	282
Decedents residence	206
Family members residence	7
Friend/acquaintance residence	27
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	13
Unspecified residence	12
Shelter/Halfway house	12
Vacant residence	4
Non-Residence*	55
Unknown	7
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Oct 2021)	
Residence	82%
Decedents residence	73%
Family members residence	2%
Friend/aquaintance residence	10%
Hospital/Nursing Home	0%
Hotel/Motel	5%
Unspecified residence	4%
Shelter/Halfway house	4%
Vacant residence	1%
Non-Residence*	16%
Unknown	3%
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Ward (2020-2021)

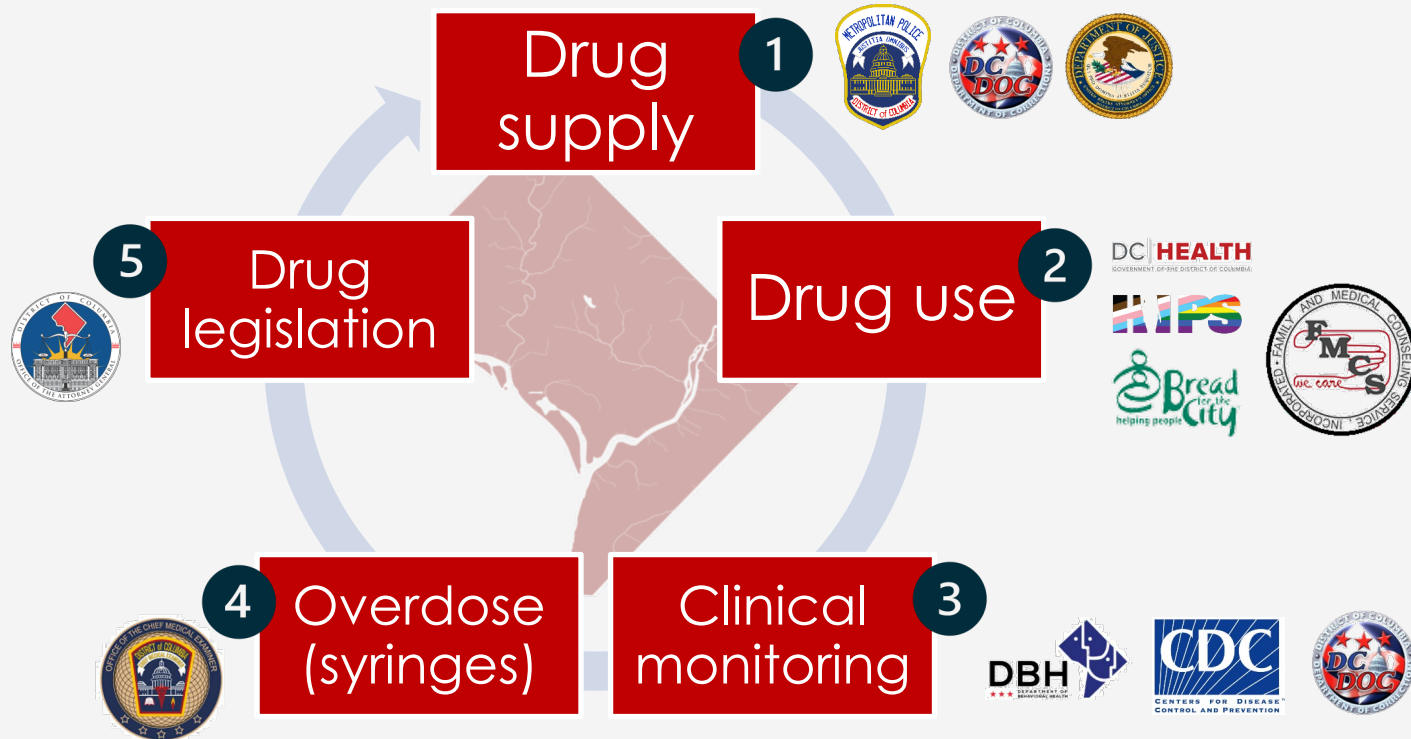
**Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Ward
(2020- Oct 2021)**



WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT OPIOIDS

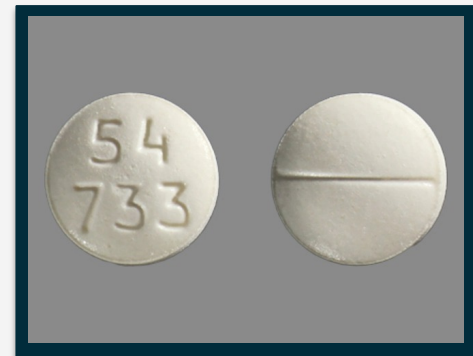
Alexandra Evans, Chemist, Clinical Toxicology Unit, DC Department of
Forensic Sciences

DFS-PHL DRUG SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM



DRUG OVERVIEW - OPIOIDS

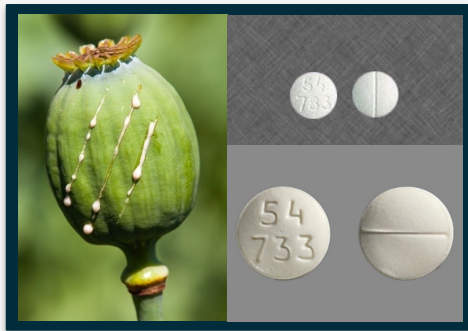
- Opioids are a class of drugs that are used to reduce pain by attaching to nerve cells/receptors around the body and blocking pain signals
- All opioids, whether they are prescribed or not, can cause these symptoms:
 - Pain relief (analgesia)
 - Decreased respiratory rate
 - Drowsiness



Morphine Pill (www.drugs.com)

DRUG OVERVIEW - OPIOIDS

- Opioids come in many different forms that vary in potency, physical appearance, and method of delivery



Natural Opioids

morphine, codeine, thebaine



Semi-synthetic Opioids

heroin, oxycodone,
hydrocodone, hydromorphone



Synthetic Opioids

fentanyl, fentanyl analogs,
nitazenes, tramadol,
methadone

DRUG OVERVIEW – SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS

Top Row: Genuine prescription tablets (images from www.drugs.com) **Bottom Row:** Counterfeit tablets (lab captured images)

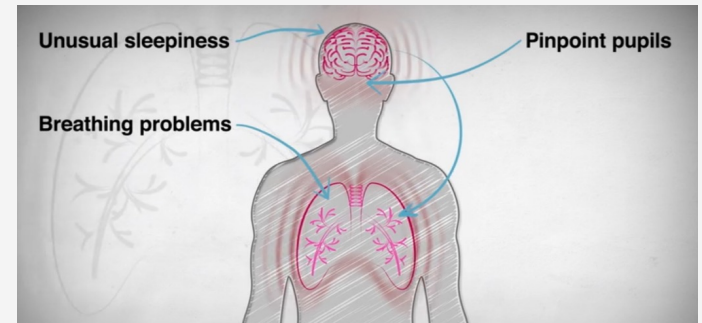


○ Counterfeit Pills

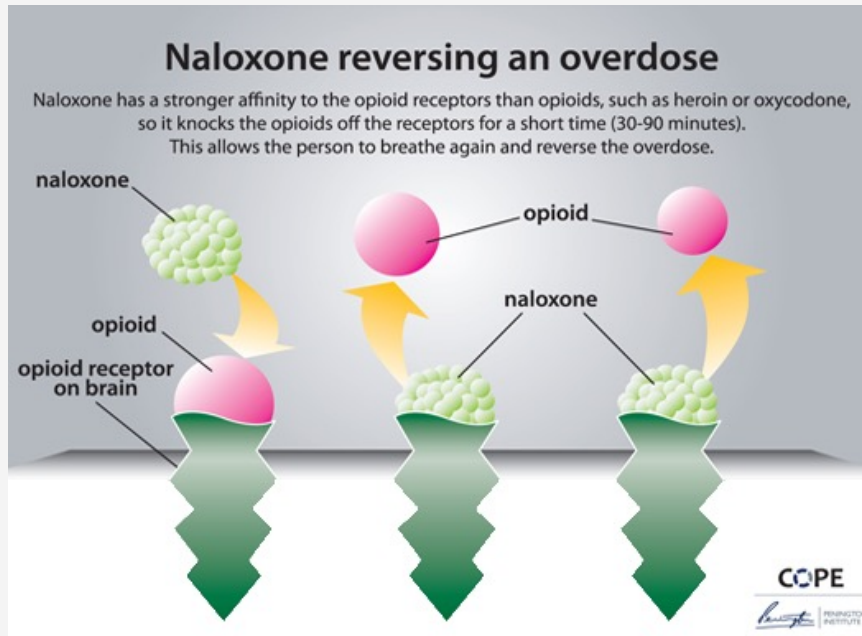
- Pills that present prescription medication
- Most counterfeit pills in our lab present as oxycodone, but actually contain Fentanyl

DRUG OVERVIEW - OPIOIDS

- When someone takes too many opioids, or takes them too quickly, they can experience an overdose
- All types of opioids can cause an overdose if taken incorrectly
- Symptoms of an opioid overdose include:
 - No breathing (face/fingernails are pale or blue, gurgling noise)
 - Unresponsive (loss of consciousness)
 - Pinpoint pupils



DRUG OVERVIEW - NALOXONE



- More than one dose of Naloxone may be necessary to revive an overdose victim.
- Opioid overdose can only be reversed by the use of an opioid antagonist, such as naloxone.
- Naloxone works for all opioids.

DRUG OVERVIEW - STIMULANTS

- Stimulants work by speeding up activity in the brain and spinal cord
- Common stimulants:
 - Cocaine
 - Methamphetamine
 - Amphetamine (Adderall)
 - Synthetic cathinones
 - MDMA/MDA



Methamphetamine
Crystals



Eutylone (Synthetic Cathinone)

DRUG OVERVIEW - HALLUCINOGENICS

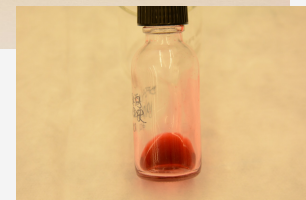
- Hallucinogens are a broad class of compounds that alter a person's perception of reality
- Common hallucinogens:
 - PCP (phencyclidine)
 - Ketamine
 - LSD
 - Mushrooms (psilocybin)
 - 2C-series drugs



Mushrooms



PCP



PCP

DRUG OVERVIEW - MARIJUANA

Marijuana



- Produced by *cannabis sativa* plant
- Contains delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol (THC)

Synthetic Cannabinoids



- Man-made powders dissolved in solvents then sprayed on plant material (contains no THC)
- Over 280 synthetic cannabinoid compounds identified
- Street names: K2, spice

DRUG OVERVIEW – MIXING DRUGS

Common mixtures observed:

- **Fentanyl** + **cocaine**
- **Fentanyl** + **sedatives** (i.e., xylazine, benzodiazepines)
- **Fentanyl** + **other opioids** (i.e., heroin, tramadol)



Homemade capsule with white powder

DRUG OVERVIEW – MIXING DRUGS

Mixtures are made at every level of the drug pipeline – meaning most users are unaware of what they are actually taking.

OPIOIDS + Other respiratory suppressant drugs (i.e., xylazine, benzos, barbiturates, ketamine, other opioids, and *many more*) = **INCREASED RISK OF OVERDOSE**

OPIOIDS + Stimulants that disguise the effects of opioids (i.e., caffeine, cocaine, Adderall, methamphetamine, etc.) = **INCREASED RISK OF OVERDOSE**

SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE UPDATE

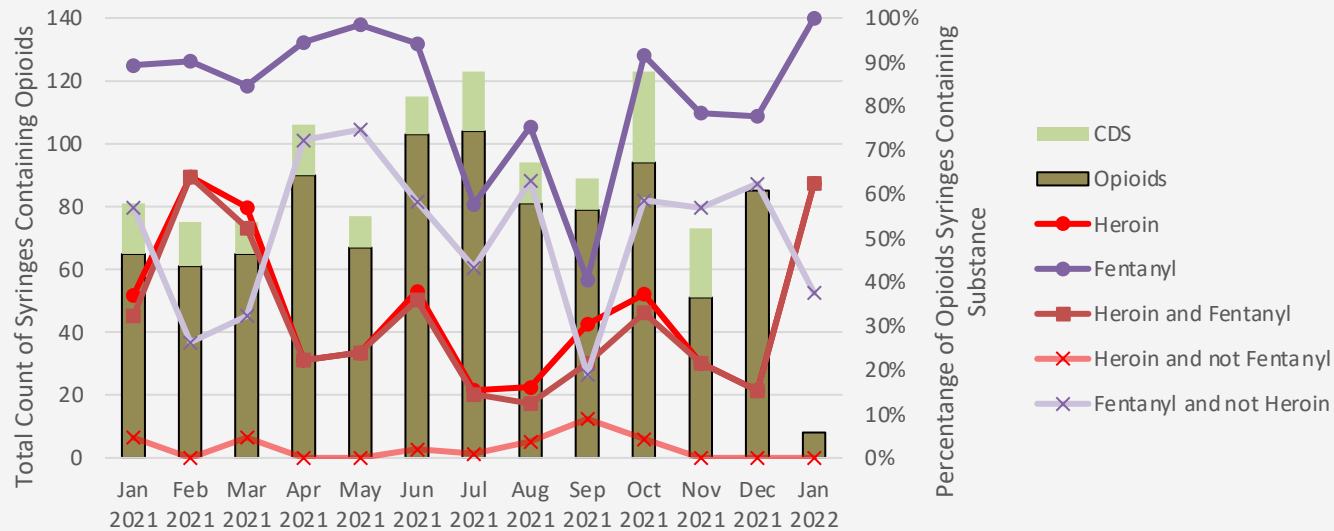
SYRINGES – OVERVIEW (2021)

- Tested: 2216 (51% had CDS)
- Total Opioids: 953
- Total Heroin: 292
- Total Fentanyl/Analogues: 769
- Total Cocaine: 97
- Total Xylazine: 98
- Total Tramadol: 133



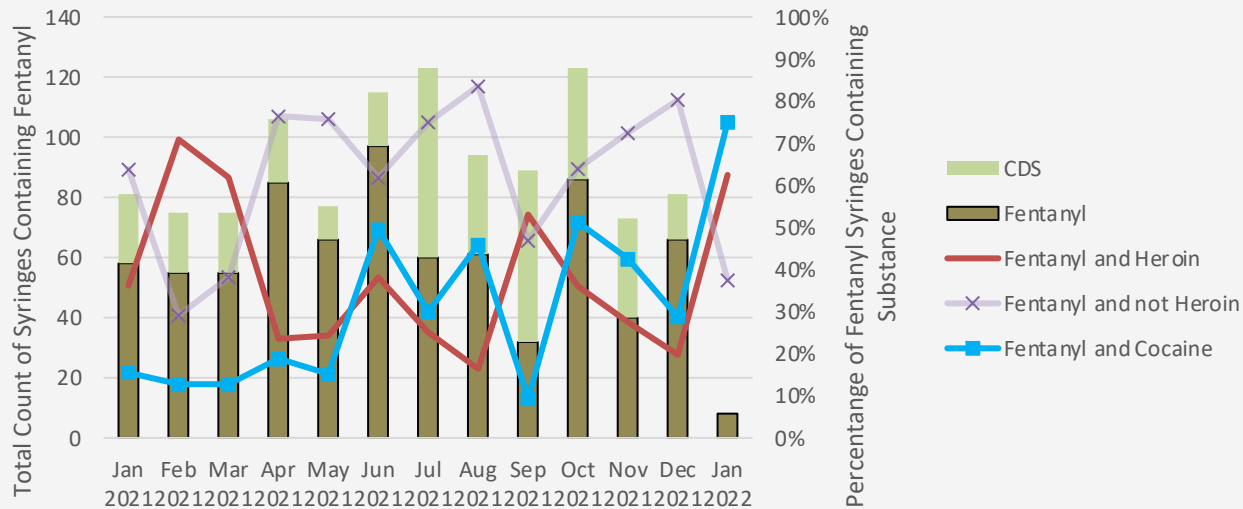
SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - OVERVIEW

Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing Opioids
and Percentages by Accompanying Substance
January 2021 - January 2022



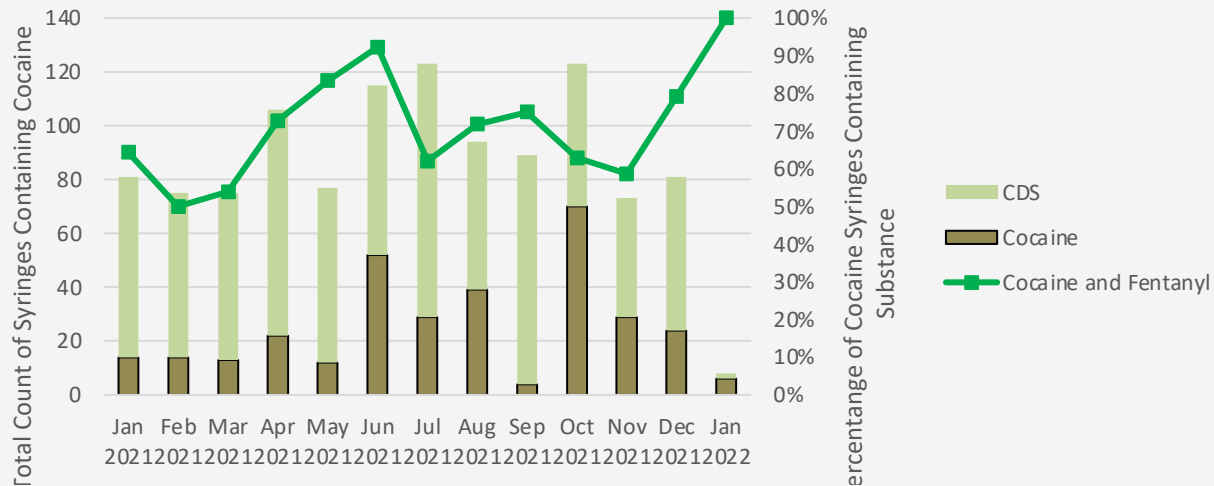
SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - FENTANYL

Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing Fentanyl
and Percentages by Accompanying Substance
January 2021 - January 2022



SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - COCAINE

Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing Cocaine
and Percentages by Accompanying Substance
January 2021 - January 2022



- Given the prevalence of drug mixing in the District, it is **always** a good idea to use naloxone if you suspect that someone has overdosed and stopped breathing
- Naloxone **will not harm someone** if they haven't taken opioids
- No matter what, you should **call 911 if you suspect an overdose** because the effects of naloxone can wear off

The Department of Behavioral Health and the Metropolitan Police Department want you, your family, and your friends to be safe.



**PLEASE CALL 9-1-1
IF SOMEONE IS
OVERDOSING**

**BE
READY
TO SAVE A LIFE**

AND ALWAYS CARRY NALOXONE
Text LiveLongDC
to 888-811
to find naloxone near you or
get it delivered.

Know your **rights**.

NO ID. NO COST. NO PRESCRIPTION.

You are **lawfully
protected** when
helping to save an
overdose victim.



LIVE LONG DC

is the District's effort to
prevent overdose deaths.

There are two important laws that make it safe for you to call 9-1-1 if you, a friend, or a family member is overdosing. These laws protect you from being arrested:



THE "GOOD SAMARITAN" LAW means MPD officers **WILL NOT** arrest you for any drugs or alcohol on the scene when you've sought health care or administered naloxone to help someone who has overdosed.



THE OPIOID OVERDOSE LAW means that **having a kit** (needles, spoons, pipes, or other paraphernalia) **is NO LONGER illegal**. You will not get in trouble when MPD officers arrive to help someone who has overdosed.