

Wayne County (Detroit Area)
Sentinel Community Site (SCS)
Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2019

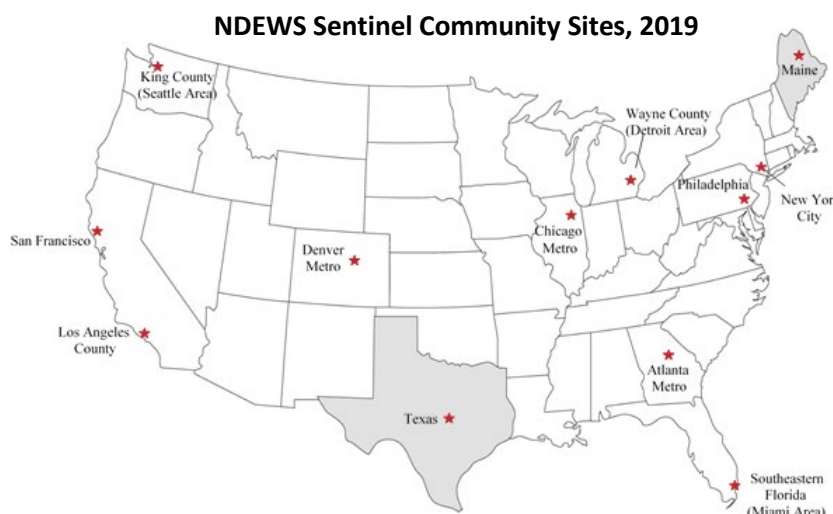
November 2019

NDEWS Coordinating Center

NDEWS *National Drug Early Warning System*

Funded at the Center for Substance Abuse Research by the National Institute on Drug Abuse

A unique feature of NDEWS is its capability to describe and compare drug use patterns and trends in selected communities across the United States. The NDEWS Coordinating Center works closely with Sentinel Community Epidemiologists (SCEs) in 12 Sentinel Community Sites (SCSs) across the U.S. Emerging drugs and changing drug trends are monitored by each local SCE utilizing indicators such as drug overdose deaths, treatment admissions, hospital cases, poison center exposure calls, and law enforcement seizures. **In May 2019, each SCE was asked to review available indicators and identify up to five drugs they considered most important to summarize for their site and include in their 2019 annual *Drug Use Patterns and Trends Report*.**



Sentinel Community Epidemiologists (SCEs)

Atlanta Metro

Brian J. Dew, PhD
Dept of Counseling and Psychological Svcs
Georgia State University
Phone: 404-413-8168
bdew@gsu.edu

Chicago Metro

Lawrence J. Ouellet, PhD
School of Public Health
University of Illinois at Chicago
Phone: 312-355-0145
ljo@uic.edu

Denver Metro

Marion Rorke, MPH
Dept of Public Health and Environment
City and County of Denver
Phone: 720-865-5453
marion.rorke@denvergov.org

Wayne County (Detroit Area)

Cynthia L. Arfken, PhD
Dept of Psychiatry and Behavioral
Neurosciences
Wayne State University
Phone: 313-993-3490
cynthia.arfken@wayne.edu

Los Angeles County

Mary-Lynn Brecht, PhD
Integrated Substance Abuse Programs
University of California at Los Angeles
Phone: 310-983-1196
lbrecht@ucla.edu

Maine

Marcella H. Sorg, PhD, RN
Rural Drug and Alcohol Research Program
University of Maine
Phone: 207-581-2596
mhsorg@maine.edu

Southeastern Florida (Miami Area)

Ben Hackworth, MPH
Commission on Behavioral Health & Drug
Prevention
United Way of Broward County
Phone: 954-453-3740
bhackworth@unitedwaybroward.org

New York City

Denise Paone, EdD
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use
Prevention, Care and Treatment
New York City Dept of Health & Mental
Hygiene
Phone: 347-396-7015
dpaone@health.nyc.gov

Philadelphia

Suet T. Lim, PhD
City of Philadelphia
Dept of Behavioral Health and Intellectual
disAbility Services
Community Behavioral Health
Phone: 215-413-7165
suet.lim@phila.gov

San Francisco

Phillip O. Coffin, MD, MIA
San Francisco Dept of Public Health
Phone: 415-437-6282
phillip.coffin@sfdph.org

King County (Seattle Area)

Caleb Banta-Green, PhD, MSW, MPH
Alcohol and Drug Abuse Institute
University of Washington
Phone: 206-685-3919
calebbg@u.washington.edu

Texas

Jane C. Maxwell, PhD
School of Social Work
The University of Texas at Austin
Phone: 512-656-3361
jcmaxwell@austin.utexas.edu

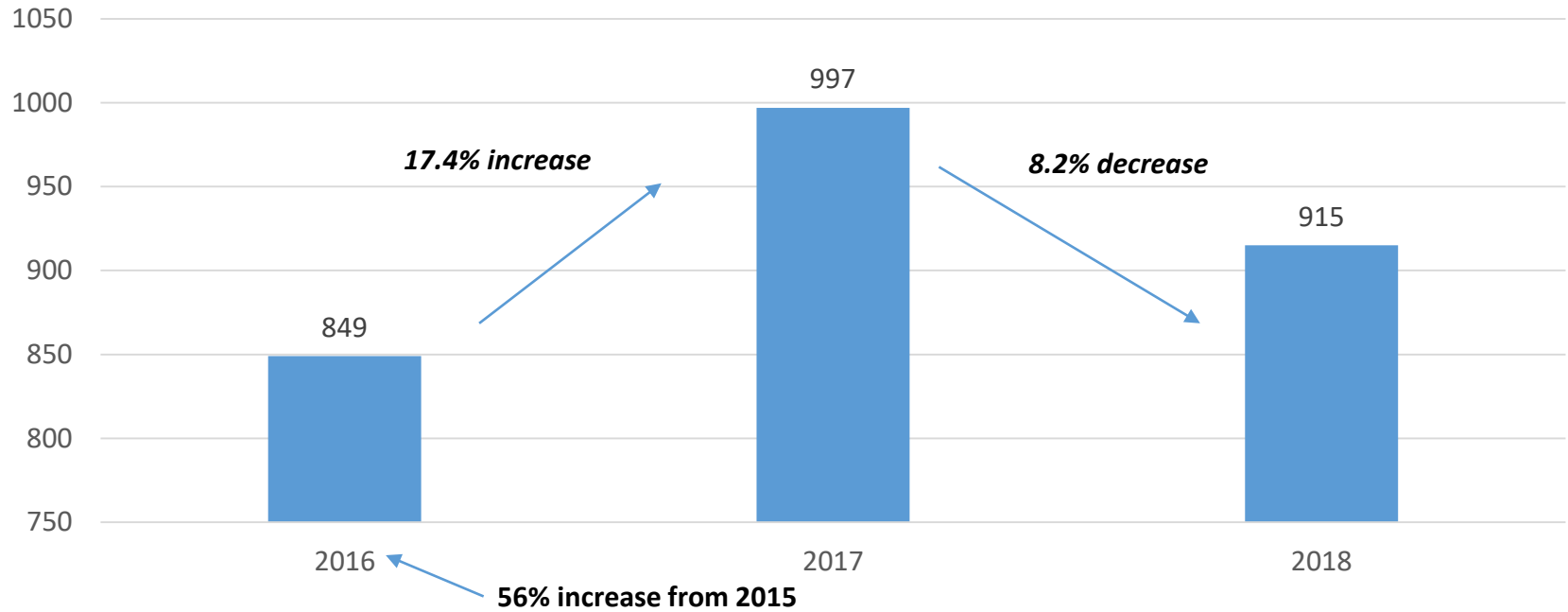
National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Wayne County (Detroit Area) Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2019

Cynthia L. Arfken, Ph.D.
Wayne State University

Highlights

- Drug overdose deaths may be decreasing but they are still too high.
- Fentanyl is increasingly ruled as a cause of death and seizures are up, but there are fewer different analogues appearing (only four this year).
- Heroin appears stable for treatment admissions and as a cause of death.
- Cocaine is increasingly ruled as a cause of death and present at admission albeit not as primary drug of abuse.
- Kratom and ketamine have been detected in decedents for first time.
- Other opioids appear stable.
- Marijuana is becoming less prominent in indicators but no one believes that it is less prevalent.
- Few cases of synthetic cannabinoids and synthetic cathinones in seizures or poison control calls.
- *Polysubstance is the rule for drug overdose deaths and treatment admissions.*

Number of Drug Overdose Deaths Over Past 3 Years



Were the declines in drug overdose deaths across race/ethnicities?

- **DECREASE**

- Whites had a decrease of 17.6%.

- **INCREASE**

- African Americans had an increase of 4%.
- Arab Americans had an increase of 6 deaths (200%).
- Asian Americans had an increase of 2 to 3.
- Latinos had an increase of 9.5%.

Fentanyl

- Listed as a cause of **74.6% of 2018 drug overdose deaths** (preliminary numbers)
 - Higher than last 2 years: 57.3% (2017) and 50.4% (2016)
 - Fentanyl deaths were **younger** than other deaths
 - **In 2017** fentanyl deaths were more likely **white** and males; no racial or gender differences observed in 2018
 - **4** analogues compared to **9** analogues in 2017
- From NFLIS, one of the few substances seeing increase in percentage of total items **seized** (0.1% - 3%)

Heroin

- Heroin is one of the **3 most commonly listed cause of death**
 - 33.0% in 2018
 - 40.8% in 2017
 - 38.2% in 2016
- Heroin is the **most common primary drug of abuse** for treatment admission but **declining**
 - 38.8 % in 2018
 - 40.1% in 2017
 - 42.9% in 2016
- From NFLIS, heroin is the **third most common item identified in seizures** but declining as a percentage of total items
 - From 14.1% in 2014 to 10.1% in latest report

Cocaine

- Cocaine is one of the **3 most commonly listed cause of death**
 - 41.1% in 2018
 - 35.2% in 2017
 - 36.2% in 2016
- Cocaine is the **third most common primary drug of abuse** for treatment admission but **increasing** – it is **second** to alcohol for **any drug** of abuse
 - 12.9 % in 2018
 - 11.8% in 2017
 - 10.8% in 2016
- From NFLIS, cocaine is the **second most common item identified in seizures**
 - 18% in 2014 and 18% in latest report

Kratom and Ketamine

- 2018 was the first year that kratom (mitragynine) and ketamine were listed as causing deaths
 - ***All had multiple causes of death***
 - 10 decedents with mitragynine as a cause of death
 - 1 with carfentanil
 - 1 with alcohol and hydrocodone
 - 1 with fentanyl, heroin and oxycodone
 - 7 with fentanyl
 - 1 decedent with ketamine as a cause of death also had fentanyl and heroin as causes of death

Policy Changes

- Marijuana legalized in Michigan and Canada.
- Gabapentin scheduled in January 2019.
- Naloxone distribution continues but there are problems at pharmacies.
- Fentanyl strips are starting to be used.

Treatment Tables

Table 1: Trends in Admissions* to Programs Treating Substance Use Disorders, Wayne County (Detroit Area) Residents, 2014-2018

Number of Admissions and Percentage of Admissions with Selected Substances Cited as Primary Substance at Admission, by Year and Substance

	Calendar Year									
	2014		2015		2016		2017		2018	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total Admissions (#)	11,976	100%	13,420	100%	18,005	100%	21,191	100%	18,293	100%
Primary Substance of Abuse (%)										
Alcohol	3,904	32.6%	4,582	34.1%	5,843	32.5%	7,254	34.2%	6,387	34.9%
Cocaine/Crack	1,220	10.2%	1,556	11.6%	1,938	10.8%	2,506	11.8%	2,353	12.9%
Heroin	4,867	40.6%	5,207	38.8%	7,726	42.9%	8,500	40.1%	7,091	38.8%
Prescription Opioids	746	6.2%	881	6.6%	992	5.5%	1,228	5.8%	1,021	5.6%
Methamphetamine	24	0.2%	12	0.1%	27	0.1%	34	0.2%	50	0.3%
Marijuana	1,049	8.8%	1,042	7.8%	1,242	6.9%	1,433	6.8%	1,199	6.6%
Benzodiazepines	96	0.8%	77	0.6%	165	0.9%	149	0.7%	100	0.5%
MDMA	8	0.1%	4	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Stimulants**	unavail	unavail	8	0.1%	21	0.1%	28	0.1%	32	0.2%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Other Drugs/Unknown	62	0.5%	51	0.4%	51	0.3%	59	0.3%	60	0.3%

NOTES:

***Admissions:** Admissions whose treatment was covered by Medicaid or Block Grant funds; excludes admissions covered by private insurance, treatment paid for in cash, and admissions funded by the Michigan Department of Corrections. Each admission does not necessarily represent a unique individual because some individuals are admitted to treatment more than once in a given period.

****Synthetic Stimulants:** Includes amphetamines and synthetic stimulants.

unavail/sup: Data suppressed to protect confidentiality; **unavail:** Data not available.

SOURCE: Data provided to the Wayne County (Detroit Area) NDEWS SCE by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Quality Management and Planning, Performance Measurement and Evaluation Section.

Table 2: Demographic and Drug Use Characteristics of Treatment Admissions* for Select Primary Substances, Wayne County (Detroit Area) Residents, 2018
Number of Admissions, by Primary Substance and Percentage of Admissions with Selected Demographic and Drug Use Characteristics

	Primary Substance																	
	Alcohol		Cocaine/Crack		Heroin		Prescription Opioids		Methamphetamine		Marijuana		Benzo-diazepines		Synthetic Stimulants**		Synthetic Cannabinoids	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Number of Admissions (#)	6,387	100%	2,353	100%	7,091	100%	1,021	100%	50	100%	1,199	100%	100	100%	32	100%	unavail	unavail
Sex (%)																		
Male	4,627	72.4%	792	33.7%	4,546	64.1%	573	56.1%	36	72.0%	769	64.1%	43	43.0%	14	43.8%	unavail	unavail
Female	1,760	27.6%	1,561	66.3%	2,545	35.9%	448	43.9%	14	28.0%	430	35.9%	57	57.0%	18	56.3%	unavail	unavail
Race/Ethnicity (%)																		
White, Non-Hisp.	2,179	34.1%	526	22.4%	3,784	53.4%	650	63.7%	36	72.0%	192	16.0%	69	69.0%	22	68.8%	unavail	unavail
African-Am/Black, Non-Hisp	3,848	60.2%	1,695	72.0%	2,874	40.5%	251	24.6%	11	22.0%	895	74.6%	16	16.0%	4	12.5%	unavail	unavail
Hispanic/Latino	142	2.2%	42	1.8%	185	2.6%	34	3.3%	0	0.0%	23	1.9%	7	7.0%	3	9.4%	unavail	unavail
Asian	20	0.3%	1	0.0%	10	0.1%	6	0.6%	0	0.0%	8	0.7%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail
Other	198	3.1%	89	3.8%	238	3.4%	80	7.8%	3	6.0%	87	7.3%	8	8.0%	3	9.4%	unavail	unavail
Age Group (%)																		
Under 18	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	90	7.5%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail
18-25	290	4.5%	131	5.6%	412	5.8%	76	7.4%	7	14.0%	436	36.4%	26	26.0%	5	15.6%	unavail	unavail
26-44	2,747	43.0%	830	35.3%	3,627	51.1%	680	66.6%	39	78.0%	550	45.9%	56	56.0%	27	84.4%	unavail	unavail
45+	3,350	52.5%	1,392	59.2%	3,052	43.0%	265	26.0%	4	8.0%	123	10.3%	17	17.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail
Route of Administration (%)																		
Smoked	14	0.2%	1,957	83.2%	79	1.1%	2	0.2%	28	56.0%	1,144	95.4%	0	0.0%	2	6.3%	unavail	unavail
Inhaled	6	0.1%	325	13.8%	3,326	46.9%	43	4.2%	5	10.0%	6	0.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail
Injected	1	0.0%	12	0.5%	3,644	51.4%	55	5.4%	11	22.0%	2	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	3.1%	unavail	unavail
Oral/Other/Unknown	6,366	99.7%	59	2.5%	42	0.6%	921	90.2%	6	12.0%	47	3.9%	100	#####	29	90.6%	unavail	unavail
Secondary Substance (%)																		
None	1,092	17.1%	235	10.0%	1,319	18.6%	148	14.5%	1	2.0%	233	19.4%	4	4.0%	2	6.3%	unavail	unavail
Alcohol	n/a	n/a	800	34.0%	647	9.1%	142	13.9%	3	6.0%	275	22.9%	12	12.0%	3	9.4%	unavail	unavail
Cocaine/Crack	1,616	25.3%	n/a	n/a	2,778	39.2%	119	11.7%	10	20.0%	163	13.6%	10	10.0%	5	15.6%	unavail	unavail
Heroin	208	3.3%	202	8.6%	n/a	n/a	74	7.2%	8	16.0%	17	1.4%	11	11.0%	1	3.1%	unavail	unavail
Prescription Opioids	207	3.2%	64	2.7%	398	5.6%	n/a	n/a	1	2.0%	31	2.6%	28	28.0%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail
Methamphetamine	12	0.2%	8	0.3%	22	0.3%	9	0.9%	n/a	n/a	3	0.3%	2	2.0%	1	3.1%	unavail	unavail
Marijuana	1,384	21.7%	446	19.0%	436	6.1%	112	11.0%	12	24.0%	n/a	n/a	14	14.0%	8	25.0%	unavail	unavail
Benzodiazepines	116	1.8%	15	0.6%	301	4.2%	148	14.5%	2	4.0%	10	0.8%	n/a	n/a	6	18.8%	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Stimulants**	20	0.3%	1	0.0%	14	0.2%	25	2.4%	4	8.0%	0	0.0%	5	5.0%	n/a	n/a	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Cannabinoids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail

NOTES:

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****Synthetic Stimulants:** Includes amphetamines and synthetic stimulants.

n/a: Not applicable; **unavail:** Data not available; **Percentages** may not sum to 100 due to missing data, rounding, and/or because not all possible categories are presented in the table. Category frequencies may not sum to drug total due to missing data and/or not all possible categories are presented in the table.

SOURCE: Data provided to the Wayne County (Detroit Area) NDEWS SCE by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, Division of Quality Management and Planning, Performance Measurement and Evaluation Section.

Sources

DATA FOR THIS REPORT WERE DRAWN FROM THE FOLLOWING SOURCES:

Treatment admissions data for 2018 from publicly-funded substance disorder treatment facilities were provided by Darlene Owens and Samy Ganesan of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority.

Data on drug reports among drug items seized in Wayne County and the state of Michigan and analyzed were provided by the National Forensic Laboratory Information System (NFLIS) for calendar years 2014-1H2018.

Numbers of drug-associated deaths for Wayne County were provided by Amanda Kogowski, Project Manager for the System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance, who receives the data from the Office of the Medical Examiner (Wayne County). 2018 data are subject to change as more cases are closed. Data reflect people who died in Wayne County, had cause of death indicating drug overdose death (7 removed from carbon monoxide poisoning, no drug or alcohol found). Almost all of these deaths were considered accidental (96.4%) but also included suicide (n=17) and those deemed natural (n=9).

Contact Information: For additional information about the drugs and drug use patterns discussed in this report, please contact Cynthia L. Arfken, Ph.D., Professor, Wayne State University, Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Neurosciences, 3901 Chrysler Service Drive, Tolan Park Medical Building, Detroit, MI 48207, Phone: 313-993-3490, E-mail: cynthia.arfken@wayne.edu.