

Wayne County (Detroit Area)
Sentinel Community Site (SCS)
Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020

August 2020

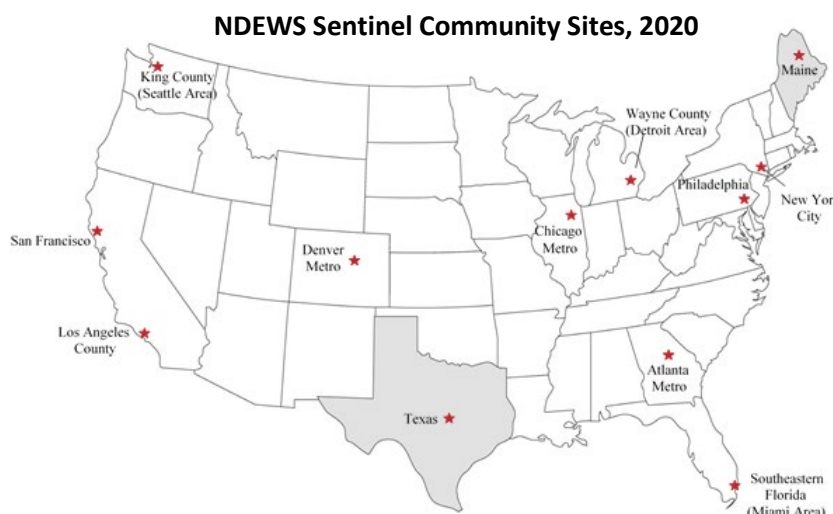
NDEWS Coordinating Center

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 2020, 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 2020 annual *Drug Use Patterns and Trends Report*.**



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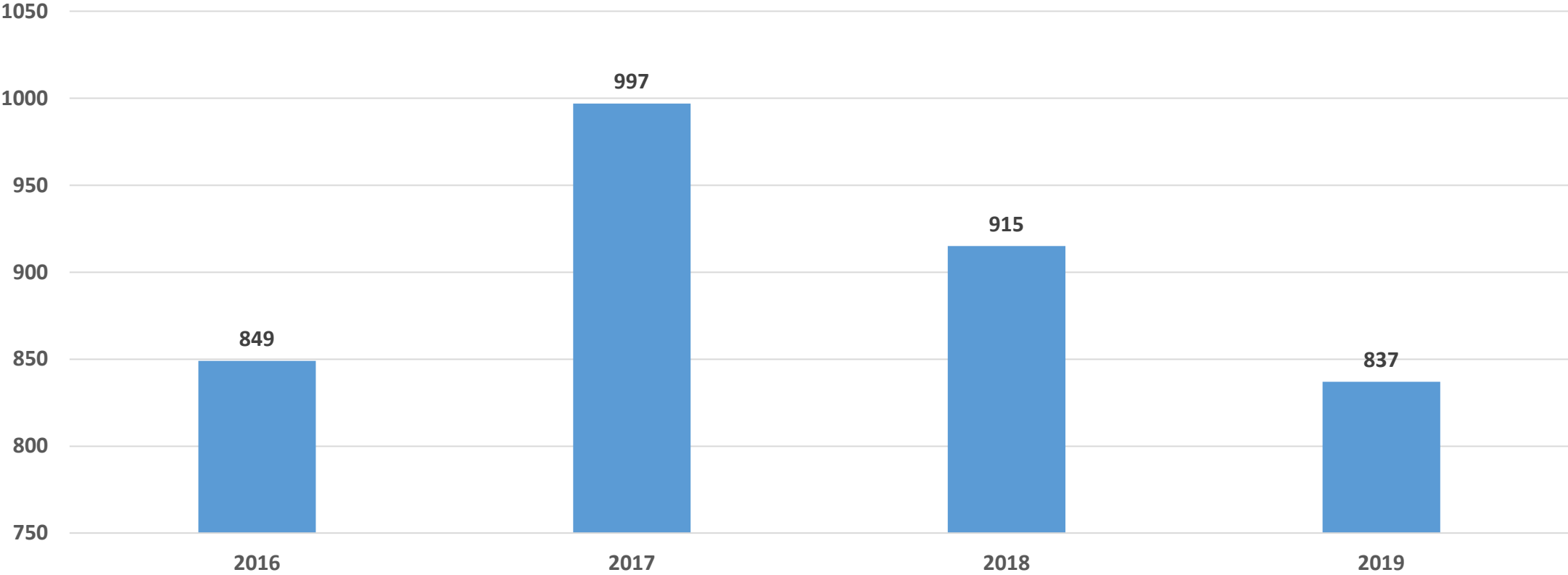
National Drug Early Warning System (NDEWS) Wayne County (Detroit Area) Sentinel Community Site (SCS) Drug Use Patterns and Trends, 2020

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Highlights

- **Drug overdose deaths** are decreasing for second year but still too high. **Fentanyl** dominates as the cause of death.
- **Heroin** is declining as the primary drug in treatment admissions and cause of death.
- **Cocaine** is increasingly appearing as the primary drug in treatment admissions and cause of death.
- **Kratom** has been detected in decedents for two years.
- **Retail marijuana** sales began in 2019 and increased in 2020.
- No cases of **synthetic cannabinoids** and **synthetic cathinones** in deaths.
- **Polysubstance** is the rule for drug overdose deaths and treatment admissions.

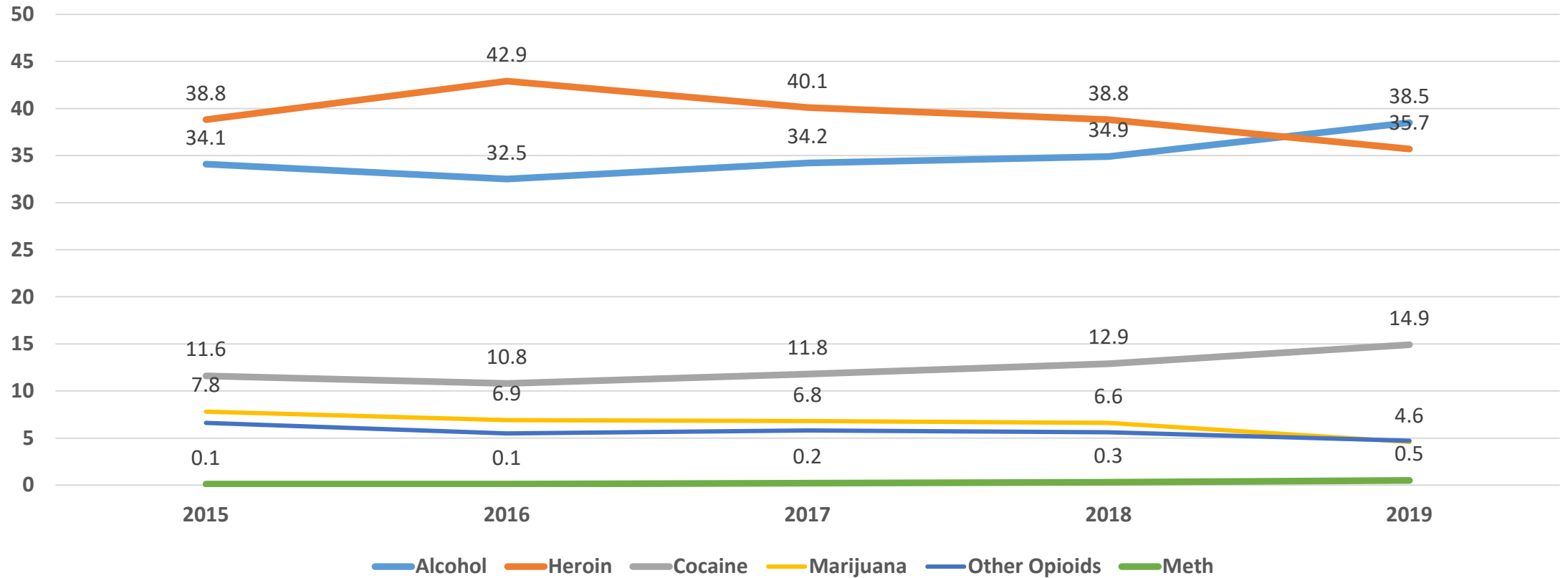
Number of Drug Overdose Deaths Over Past 4 Years



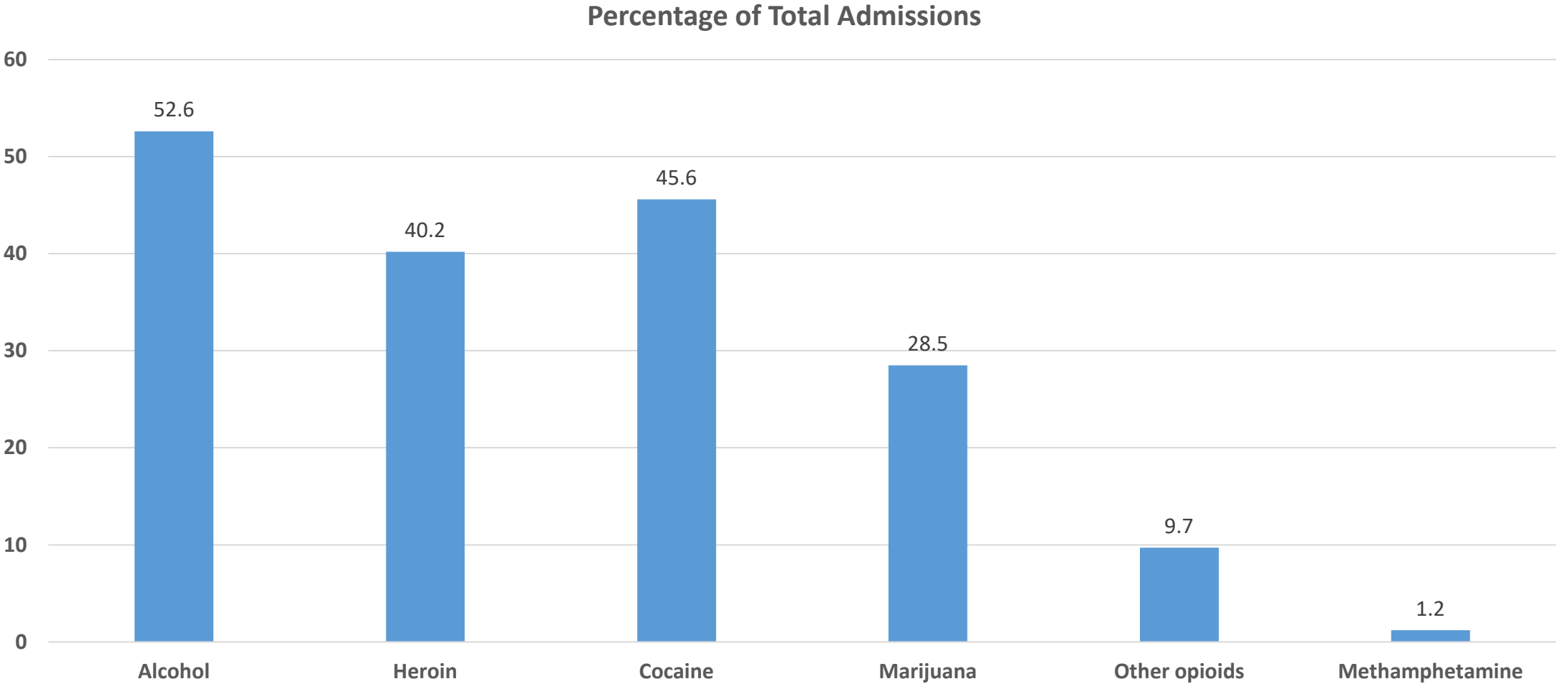
Note: 5.1% decline from 2018 to 2019 for accidental drug overdose deaths

Primary Drug at Treatment Admission: Wayne County 2016-2019

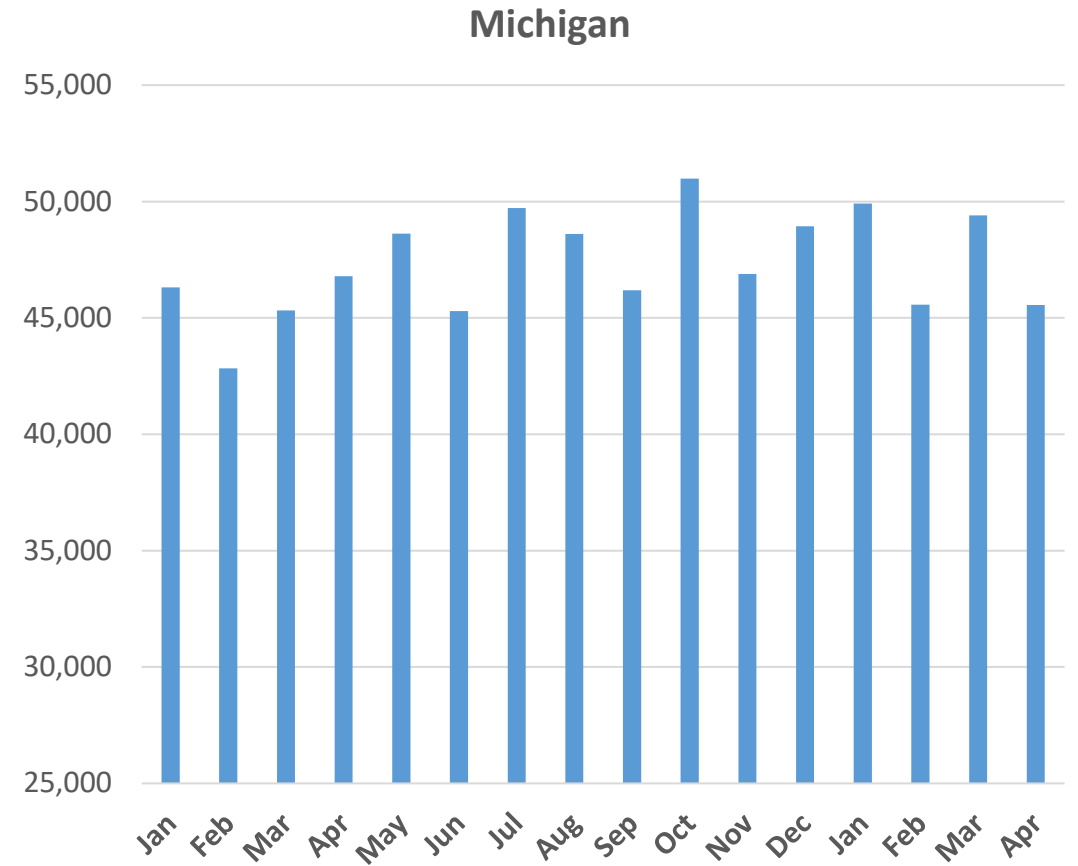
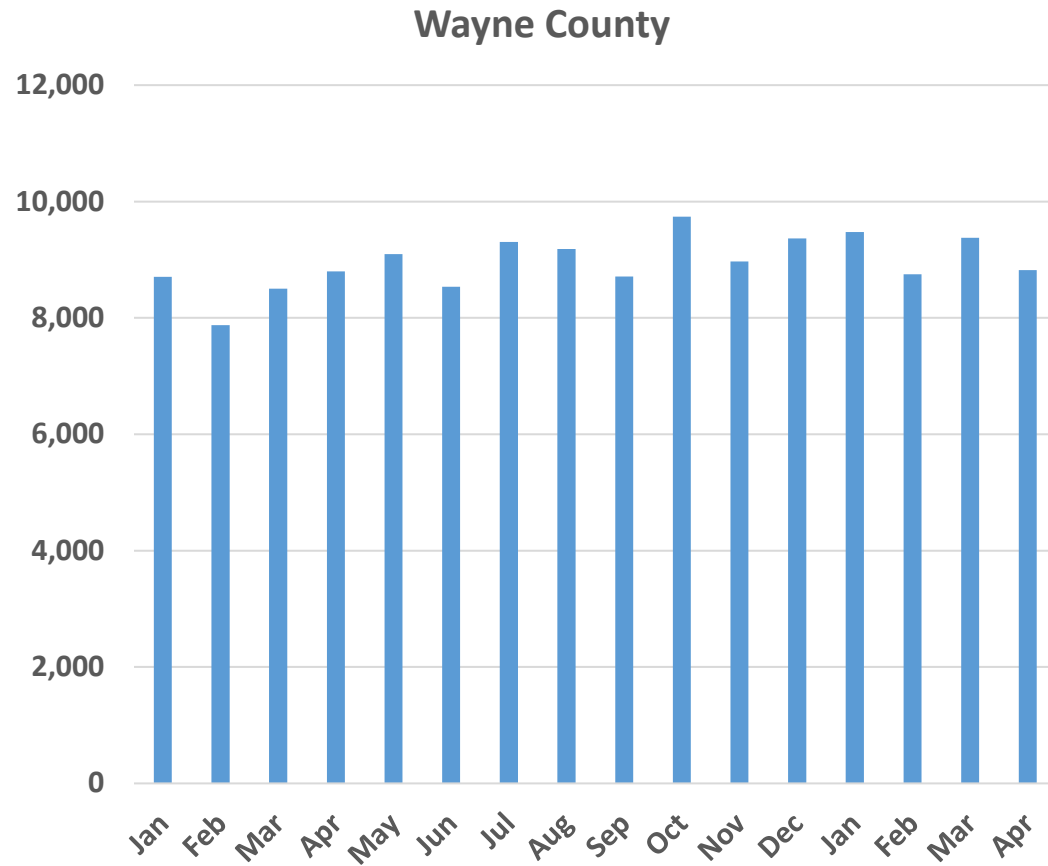
Percentage of Total Admissions



Percentage of Admissions with Any Mention of Select Drugs: Wayne County 2019



Number of Buprenorphine Prescriptions by Month for Wayne County and State of Michigan: 2019 – April 2020



Fentanyl

- Listed as a cause of **80% of 2019 drug overdose deaths** (preliminary numbers)
 - Higher than last 3 years: 57.3% (2017), 50.4% (2016), 74.6% (2017)
 - Fentanyl deaths were **younger and more likely male** than other deaths
- Only 4 analogs detected
 - Acetylfentanyl
 - Valeryl fentanyl
 - Butrylfentanyl
 - Carfentanil

Heroin

- Heroin is one of the **3 most commonly listed cause of death and declining**
 - 28.1 in 2019
 - 33% in 2018
 - 40.8% in 2017
 - 38.2% in 2016
- Heroin is the **second common primary drug of abuse** for treatment admission but **declining**
 - 35.7% in 2019
 - 38.8 % in 2018
 - 40.1% in 2017
 - 42.9% in 2016

Cocaine

- Cocaine is one of the **3 most commonly listed cause of death and increasing**
 - 42.9% in 2019
 - 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
 - 14.9% in 2019
 - 12.9 % in 2018
 - 11.8% in 2017
 - 10.8% in 2016

Kratom and Ketamine

- 2019 was the second year that kratom (mitragynine) deaths increased.
 - *Only one death has only mitragynine (with no other drugs) listed as the cause of death.*
 - 16 decedents with mitragynine as a cause of death (10 last year)
 - 1 by itself
 - 1 with nortripyline
 - 1 with alcohol
 - 2 with fentanyl
 - 10 with 2 other drugs
 - 1 with 3 other drugs

Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths

- Number of African Americans *increased* by 4.0% over 2018 (they also increased from 2017 to 2018)
- Number of Whites decreased by 10.5%
- Number of Latinos decreased by 34.8%
- Number of Arab Americans decreased by 2

Drugs Coming into Wayne County

- From March 21 to May 16, officers seized **2,856 pounds of marijuana, 87 pounds of cocaine, 12 pounds of fentanyl**, and 12 guns at Detroit Metropolitan Airport, the Ambassador Bridge and Detroit-Windsor Tunnel in Detroit, the Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, and the International Bridge in Sault Ste. Marie.

Policy Changes

- Marijuana legalized in Michigan and Canada in 2018.
- Retail stores in Michigan in 2019.
- Gabapentin scheduled in January 2019.

Treatment Tables

Table 1: Trends in Admissions* to Programs Treating Substance Use Disorders, Wayne County (Detroit Area) Residents, 2015-2019

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

	Calendar Year									
	2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	
	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)	(#)	(%)
Total Admissions (#)	13,420	100%	18,005	100%	21,191	100%	18,293	100%	16,986	100%
Primary Substance of Abuse (%)										
Alcohol	4,582	34.1%	5,843	32.5%	7,254	34.2%	6,387	34.9%	6,539	38.5%
Cocaine/Crack	1,556	11.6%	1,938	10.8%	2,506	11.8%	2,353	12.9%	2,532	14.9%
Heroin	5,207	38.8%	7,726	42.9%	8,500	40.1%	7,091	38.8%	6,059	35.7%
Prescription Opioids	881	6.6%	992	5.5%	1,228	5.8%	1,021	5.6%	801	4.7%
Methamphetamine	12	0.1%	27	0.1%	34	0.2%	50	0.3%	89	0.5%
Marijuana	1,042	7.8%	1,242	6.9%	1,433	6.8%	1,199	6.6%	776	4.6%
Benzodiazepines	77	0.6%	165	0.9%	149	0.7%	100	0.5%	106	0.6%
MDMA	4	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	23	0.1%
Synthetic Stimulants**	8	0.1%	21	0.1%	28	0.1%	32	0.2%	3	0.0%
Synthetic Cannabinoids	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Other Drugs/Unknown	51	0.4%	51	0.3%	59	0.3%	60	0.3%	58	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: 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, 2019
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 (#)	6,539	100%	2,532	100%	6,059	100%	801	100%	89	100%	776	100%	106	100%	3	100%	unavail	unavail
Sex (%)																		
Male	4,660	71.3%	1,687	66.6%	3,881	64.1%	489	61.0%	56	62.9%	500	64.4%	45	42.5%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Female	1,879	28.7%	845	33.4%	2,178	35.9%	312	39.0%	33	37.1%	276	35.6%	61	57.5%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Race/Ethnicity (%)																		
White, Non-Hisp.	2,207	33.8%	537	21.2%	3,021	49.9%	447	55.8%	60	67.4%	126	16.2%	82	77.4%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
African-Am/Black, Non-Hisp	3,669	56.1%	1,738	68.6%	2,546	42.0%	249	31.1%	22	24.7%	537	69.2%	7	6.6%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Hispanic/Latino	271	4.1%	114	4.5%	252	4.2%	26	3.2%	0	0.0%	62	8.0%	4	3.8%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Asian	6	0.1%	1	0.0%	12	0.2%	5	0.6%	1	1.1%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Other	386	5.9%	142	5.6%	228	3.8%	74	9.2%	6	6.7%	49	6.3%	13	12.3%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Age Group (%)																		
Under 18	3	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	94	12.1%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
18-25	342	5.2%	126	5.0%	333	5.5%	56	7.0%	12	13.5%	221	28.5%	25	23.6%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
26-44	1,634	25.0%	428	16.9%	2,042	33.7%	364	45.4%	53	59.6%	237	30.5%	26	24.5%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
45+	4,560	69.7%	1,977	78.1%	3,683	60.8%	380	47.4%	24	27.0%	224	28.9%	55	51.9%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Route of Administration (%)																		
Smoked	0	0.0%	2,147	84.8%	59	1.0%	6	0.7%	46	51.7%	743	95.7%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Inhaled	0	0.0%	305	12.0%	3,067	50.6%	45	5.6%	12	13.5%	4	0.5%	1	0.9%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Injected	0	0.0%	12	0.5%	2,865	47.3%	57	7.1%	20	22.5%	0	0.0%	2	1.9%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Oral/Other/Unknown	6,539	100.0%	68	2.7%	68	1.1%	693	86.5%	11	12.4%	29	3.7%	103	97.2%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Secondary Substance (%)																		
None	2,749	42.0%	781	30.8%	1,984	32.7%	255	31.8%	29	32.6%	375	48.3%	20	18.9%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Alcohol	n/a	n/a	904	35.7%	530	8.7%	87	10.9%	12	13.5%	222	28.6%	18	17.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Cocaine/Crack	1,761	26.9%	n/a	n/a	2,477	40.9%	128	16.0%	11	12.4%	114	14.7%	16	15.1%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Heroin	220	3.4%	218	8.6%	n/a	n/a	75	9.4%	10	11.2%	9	1.2%	8	7.5%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Prescription Opioids	178	2.7%	46	1.8%	332	5.5%	4	0.5%	3	3.4%	30	3.9%	28	26.4%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Methamphetamine	12	0.2%	6	0.2%	31	0.5%	8	1.0%	n/a	n/a	4	0.5%	0	0.0%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Marijuana	1,450	22.2%	539	21.3%	450	7.4%	113	14.1%	16	18.0%	n/a	n/a	9	8.5%	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Benzodiazepines	109	1.7%	20	0.8%	227	3.7%	96	12.0%	4	4.5%	6	0.8%	n/a	n/a	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Stimulants**	6	0.1%	1	0.0%	3	0.0%	2	0.2%	2	2.2%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	n/a	n/a	unavail	unavail
Synthetic Cannabinoids	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	unavail	n/a	n/a

NOTES:

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

n/a: Not applicable; **unavail:** Data not available or suppressed to protect confidentiality; **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 2019 from publicly funded substance use disorder treatment facilities were provided by Darlene Owens and Samy Ganesan of the Detroit Wayne Mental Health Authority and from Phil Chvojka of the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services.

Numbers of **drug-associated deaths** for Wayne County were provided by Amanda Ballesteros, Project Manager for the System for Opioid Overdose Surveillance, who receives the data from the Office of the Medical Examiner (Wayne County). 2019 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 (9 had no specific drug or alcohol mentioned as the cause of death).

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.