

# Unintentional Opioid Overdoses in SUDORS

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Southern Nevada Health District

Southern Nevada Opioid Advisory Council

July 11, 2019



# State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System

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- CDC-funded surveillance of fatal opioid overdoses through ESOOS
- Started in Nevada in 2017
- Statewide project
  - **Washoe County**
    - Washoe County Office of the Medical Examiner
  - **Clark County**
    - Clark County Office of the Coroner/Medical Examiner
    - Southern Nevada Health District
  - **State Department of Health and Human Services**
    - Office of Public Health Investigation and Epidemiology

# Data Sources



Death  
Investigation

Toxicology

Death  
Certificate

2017  
Findings  
for  
Clark County

Demographics (N=132)

Age	
• Average	45 years
• Range	17-68 years
Sex	
• Male	71 (54%)
• Female	61 (46%)
Race	
• White	114 (86%)
• Black	16 (12%)
• Asian	1 (1%)
• American Indian/Alaskan Native	1 (1%)
Ethnicity	
• Hispanic	22 (17%)

\* Data are preliminary and subject to change

2017  
Findings  
for  
Clark County

Top Drugs in Cause of Death (N=132)

OPIOIDS

#1 Prescription	80 (61%)
• Oxycodone	33
• Morphine	32
• Hydrocodone	30
#2 Heroin	34 (26%)
#3 Fentanyl	15 (11%)
#4 Methadone	15 (11%)

NON-OPIOIDS

#1 Benzodiazepines	35 (27%)
#2 Methamphetamine	31 (23%)
#3 Cocaine	14 (11%)
#4 Alcohol	14 (11%)
#5 Gabapentin	9 (7%)

Note: NOT mutually exclusive

\* Data are preliminary and subject to change

2017  
Findings  
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Clark County

Overdose due to Polysubstance Use (N=132)

Number of substances listed in cause of death

1	35 (27%)
2	56 (42%)
3	27 (20%)
4	9 (7%)
5	5 (4%)

\*73% of deaths had more than one substance in cause of death

\* Data are preliminary and subject to change

2017  
Findings  
for  
Clark County

## Circumstances Preceding Death (N=132)

### Mental Health History

- History of Mental Illness Treatment 42 (32%)
- Current Mental Illness Treatment 22 (17%)
- Mental Health Problem 43 (33%)

### Recently Institutionalized (within previous 30 days)

- Jail/Prison/Detention Facility 9 (7%)
- Hospital 16 (12%)

### Substance Abuse

- Past Substance Abuse Treatment 13 (10%)
- Previous Overdose 20 (15%)
- Alcohol Problem 28 (21%)

Note: NOT mutually exclusive

\* Data are preliminary and subject to change



## What else does SUDORS track?

- Naloxone administration and by whom
- Route of drug administration
- Death scene paraphernalia
- Pain management history: Prescribed opioids, undergoing pain treatment, past injury
- Other circumstances: Crisis, abuse, school problems, financial problems, relationship problems
- Homeless status
- Expanded demographics: education, occupation



# LIMITATIONS

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## DATA LAG

Detailed abstraction takes time

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## MISSING DATA

Completeness is dependent on information available/collected at time of death

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## WITNESS REPORT

Some information is subject to recall bias

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