OFFICE OF THE
CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER

November 20, 2020

Report on Accidental Overdose Deaths - January to October, 2020

The enclosed report provides preliminary data of accidental overdose deaths in San Francisco within the first ten months of 2020. This report is available in the spirit of providing timely information for drug harm strategies. These results are strictly preliminary as of testing to November 20, 2020, and are subject to change as the OCME finalizes the manner and cause of each death.

Pertinent for accurate use of this report is to understand the source of the data and its subsequent process of summarization. Decedent demographic and case information was obtained from the OCME case management system. Additionally, specific details from investigator narratives, forensic toxicology results and, where available, preliminary autopsy findings, were utilized. Collected demographic information included race, gender, age, fixed address status, zip code of residence, and zip code of death location.

Due to their significance in accidental overdose deaths, the reported drugs of interest were specific to fentanyl, heroin, medicinal opioids, methamphetamine and cocaine. Their detection in blood was captured to best determine their relevance in each respective case. Medicinal opioid positive cases required the presence of morphine, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, codeine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, buprenorphine, tramadol, and/or methadone. Heroin determination was more closely evaluated, requiring the presence of specific heroin markers in blood or urine, expected morphine to codeine ratios, and/or case details consistent with heroin use.

Subject to the nature of the preliminary reporting described above, this report is not intended to replace other death statistics within the City that consider finalized death certificates only.

Sincerely,

Luke N. Rodda, Ph.D.
Chief Forensic Toxicologist and Director, Forensic Laboratory Division
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

JAN-OCT 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (1340)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

*Acc. Overdoses Open* cases do not have a final cause and manner of death classification; *Acc. Overdoses Closed* cases have a final cause and manner of death classification.

*No fixed address* denotes community members who may be experiencing homelessness.

*Residence* denotes address where decedent lived; *Location of Death* denotes the location where death was declared. For *Residence* and *Location of Death*, the 4 most affected neighborhoods are represented, the "Others" category refers to all other zip codes within the City and County of San Francisco and any of out county residences.

*Gender* refers to gender at time of death.

*Total Deaths* denotes Accidental Overdoses where one or more drugs contribute to the cause of death; however, every point for each drug series is inclusive, but not necessarily exclusive, of that drug. *Total deaths* represents all accidental overdoses including ones for drugs not specified above.

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

JANUARY 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (126)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

FEBRUARY 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (113)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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**Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report**
as of November 20/20, 2020

**MARCH 2020**

**Gender**
- 18% Female
- 82% Male

**Race**
- 2% Asian
- 25% Black
- 18% Latinx
- 0% Native American
- 47% White
- 8% Other/Unknown

**Age**
- 0% <15
- 31% 25-34
- 16% 45-54
- 8% >=65

**Fixed Address**
- 71% Yes (see residence)
- 27% No
- 2% Unknown

**Residence**
- 17% Tenderloin (94102)
- 28% SOMA (94103)
- 8% Inner Mission (94110)
- 39% Others

**Location of Death**
- 25% Tenderloin (94102)
- 24% SOMA (94103)
- 12% Nob Hill (94109)
- 10% Inner Mission (94110)
- 29% Others

63.04% Other Causes
0.00% Acc. Overdoses Open
36.96% Acc. Overdoses Closed

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

APRIL 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (123)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

JUNE 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (140)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of November 20, 2020

JULY 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (150)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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AUGUST 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (144)

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SEPTEMBER 2020

Total Cases Received by OCME (131)

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**Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report**
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**OCTOBER 2020**

Total Cases Received by OCME (132)

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