August 15, 2023

Subject: Report on Accidental Overdose Deaths

The enclosed report provides preliminary data of accidental overdose deaths in the City and County of San Francisco from January 1, 2023, to July 31, 2023. The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths in July 2023 is 71.

The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths involving Xylazine from January 1, 2023 to July 31, 2023, is 16.

The reports are published by the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME), Forensic Laboratory Division, to comply with local and state reporting guidelines and further OCME’s mission to provide neutral data to inform policymakers. Please note, these results are preliminary as of testing to August 8, 2023, and are subject to change as the OCME finalizes the manner and cause of each death.

Pertinent for accurate use of these reports is understanding the source of the data and its subsequent summarization process. Decedent demographic and case information were 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, fixed address location, and death location.

Due to their significance in accidental overdose deaths, the reported drugs for open cases were specific to fentanyl, heroin, medicinal opioids, methamphetamine and cocaine. Their detection in blood was captured to best determine relevance in each case. Medicinal opioid-positive cases required the presence of codeine, hydrocodone, oxycodone, morphine, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, buprenorphine, tramadol, and/or methadone. Heroin-like 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. Closed casework included any drug-involved accidental overdose where the death has been certified.

Sincerely,

Luke N. Rodda, Ph.D.
Chief Forensic Toxicologist and Director, Forensic Laboratory Division

cc: Office of the City Administrator
enclosures: Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Reports for January 2023 through July 2023
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report for January 2023 through July 2023
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER  
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report  
as of testing to August 8, 2023

JAN-JUL 2023

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.

“Fixed Address” denotes a verifiable address associated with the decedent, which may indicate their residence; it is not intended to verify a decedent’s legal domicile, which is a broader legal concept, pertaining to a person’s permanent and primary residence for various legal matters.

“No Fixed Address” denotes a verifiable address associated with the decedent was unable to be determined (e.g., housing insecurity, multiple addresses in a short timeframe).

“Unknown Address” denotes the inability to identify any reliable address associated with the decedent, or information source.

“Death Location” denotes the specific location to which the relevant agencies were called upon to locate the decedent.

For “Fixed Address Location” and “Death Location”, the 4 most affected neighborhoods are represented; the “Others (non-SF)” category refers to all out county addresses, and the “Others (SF)” category refers to all other zip codes within the City and County of San Francisco.

“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 testing to August 8, 2023

JANUARY 2023

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CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to August 8, 2023

FEBRUARY
2023

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

Acc. Overdoses Open 0.00%
Acc. Overdoses Closed 100.00%

Gender
12% Female
88% Male
0% Non-Binary

Race
2% Asian
35% Black
15% Latinx
2% Native American
40% White
6% Other/Unknown

Age
0% <15
10% 15-24
25-34
13% 35-44
45-54
13% 45-54
55-64
4% >=65
Unknown 2%

Fixed Address
60% Yes*
35% No
6% Unknown

*See Fixed Address Location

Death Location
13% Tenderloin (94102)
19% Inner Mission (94110)
17% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
17% SOMA (94103)
33% Others

Fixed Address Location
19% Tenderloin (94102)
13% SOMA (94103)
6% Haight-Ashbury (94117)
23% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
35% Others (SF Location)
3% Others (non-SF Location)

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

Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to August 8, 2023

MARCH
2023

Gender
- Female: 21%
- Male: 79%
- Non-Binary: 0%

Race
- Asian: 6%
- Black: 29%
- Latinx: 18%
- Native American: 11%
- White: 38%
- Other/Unknown: 9%

Age
- <15: 0%
- 15-24: 16%
- 25-34: 13%
- 35-44: 22%
- 45-54: 45%
- 55-64: 26%
- >=65: 25%

Fixed Address
- Yes*: 57%
- No: 35%
- Unknown: 7%

Fixed Address Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 38%
- Inner Mission (94110): 10%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 5%
- SOMA (94103): 5%
- Others (SF Location): 31%
- Others (non-SF Location): 10%

Death Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 29%
- Inner Mission (94110): 19%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 22%
- SOMA (94103): 10%
- Others: 19%

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

0 10 20 30 40 50 60 70 80
1-Mar 31-Mar

Total Deaths
- Fentanyl
- Heroin
- Medicinal Opioids
- Methamphetamine
- Cocaine

Acc. Overdoses Open: 0.00%
Acc. Overdoses Closed: 100.00%

*See Fixed Address Location

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report  
as of testing to August 8, 2023

APRIL  
2023

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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MAY 2023

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

Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to August 8, 2023

JUNE 2023

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report  
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**JULY 2023**

1. **Gender**
   - 13% Female
   - 82% Male
   - 0% Non-Binary

2. **Race**
   - 8% Asian
   - 32% Black
   - 17% Latinx
   - 0% Native American
   - 37% White
   - 6% Other/Unknown

3. **Age**
   - <15
   - 15-24
   - 25-34
   - 35-44
   - 45-54
   - 55-64
   - >=65
   - Unknown

4. **Fixed Address**
   - 63% Yes*
   - 34% No
   - 3% Unknown
   - *See Fixed Address Location

5. **Fixed Address Location**
   - 20% Tenderloin (94102)
   - 27% SOMA (94103)
   - 7% Bayview-Hunters Point (94124)
   - 9% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
   - 33% Others (SF Location)
   - 4% Others (non-SF Location)

6. **Death Location**
   - 17% Tenderloin (94102)
   - 8% Inner Mission (94110)
   - 21% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
   - 30% SOMA (94103)
   - 24% Others

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**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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Acc. Overdoses Open 100.00%
Acc. Overdoses Closed 0.00%
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