September 18, 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 August 31, 2023. The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths in August 2023 is 84.

The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths involving Xylazine from January 1, 2023 to August 31, 2023, is 19.

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 September 13, 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-likely 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 and alcohol-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 August 2023
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report for January 2023 through August 2023
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report  
as of testing to September 13, 2023

JAN-AUG 2023

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

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.

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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.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATA IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGE
JANUARY 2023

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FEBRUARY 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 September 13, 2023

**MARCH 2023**

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

**Race**
- 6% Asian
- 29% Black
- 18% Latinx
- 0% Native American
- 38% White
- 9% Other/Unknown

**Age**
- 0% <15
- 13% 15-24
- 22% 25-34
- 22% 35-44
- 25% 45-54
- 31% 55-64
- 19% 55-65
- 12% >65

**Fixed Address**
- 68 Yes*
- 48 No
- 7 Unknown

**Fixed Address Location**
- 39 Tenderloin (94102)
- 34 SOMA (94103)
- 24 Inner Mission (94110)
- 20 Polk/Russian Hill (94110)
- 13 Others (SF Location)
- 15 Others (non-SF Location)

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

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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APRIL 2023

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JUNE 2023

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**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

Accidental Overdoses

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

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AUGUST 2023

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