October 17, 2023

The Honorable London N. Breed, Mayor
City and County of San Francisco

The Honorable Aaron Peskin, President
Board of Supervisors

Grant Colfax, M.D., Director
Department of Public Health

Subject: Report on Accidental Overdose Deaths

Dear Mayor Breed, President Peskin, and Director Colfax:

The enclosed report includes preliminary data of accidental overdose deaths in the City and County of San Francisco from the recent four months of June 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023. This report satisfies the ordinance’s reporting criteria. For your reference, reports of preliminary data for accidental overdose deaths from January 1, 2023, to September 30, 2023, are enclosed. The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths in September 2023 is 54.

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 October 10, 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. MRACI CChem
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 September 2023
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report for January 2023 through September 2023
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to October 10, 2023

JAN-SEP 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).

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"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.

PLEASE NOTE THIS DATA IS PRELIMINARY INFORMATION AND SUSCEPTIBLE TO CHANGE.
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to October 10, 2023

JANUARY 2023

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to October 10, 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
- <15 0%
- 15-24 13%
- 25-34 22%
- 35-44 22%
- 45-54 26%
- 55-64 25%
- >=65 10%

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

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

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

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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as of testing to October 10, 2023

Gender
- Female: 14%
- Male: 86%
- Non-Binary: 0%

Race
- Asian: 3%
- Black: 21%
- Latinx: 20%
- Native American: 0%
- White: 51%
- Other/Unknown: 6%

Age
- <15: 0%
- 15-24: 11%
- 25-34: 24%
- 35-44: 27%
- 45-54: 13%
- >=65: 24%

Fixed Address
- Yes*: 73%
- No: 24%
- Unknown: 3%

Fixed Address Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 17%
- SOMA (94103): 23%
- Potrero Hill (94107): 8%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 17%
- Others (SF Location): 31%
- Others (non-SF Location): 4%

Death Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 18%
- SOMA (94103): 25%
- Potrero Hill (94107): 8%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 17%
- Others: 31%

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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

*See Fixed Address Location

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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.

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JUNE 2023

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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JULY 2023

Gender
- 13 Female
- 65 Male
- 0 Non-Binary

Race
- 9 Asian
- 31 Black
- 18 Latinx
- 0 Native American
- 35 White
- 8 Other/Unknown

Age
- 0 <15
- 14 15-24
- 25 25-34
- 35 34-44
- 45 45-54
- 55 54-54
- 66 >65

Fixed Address
- 65% Yes*
- 32% No
- 3% Unknown

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

Acc. Overdoses Open 1.28%
Acc. Overdoses Closed 98.72%

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Gender

- 12% Female
- 86% Male
- 2% Non-Binary

Race

- 14% Asian
- 28% Black
- 22% Latinx
- 7% Native American
- 39% White
- 4% Other/Unknown

Age

- 2% <15
- 16% 15-24
- 23% 25-34
- 45-54
- 55-64
- 8% >=65

Fixed Address

- 73% Yes*
- 27% No
- 0% Unknown

Fixed Address Location

- 20% Tenderloin (94102)
- 18% SOMA (94103)
- 5% Potrero Hill (94107)
- 21% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 25% Others (SF Location)
- 11% Others (non-SF Location)

Death Location

- 18% Tenderloin (94102)
- 23% SOMA (94103)
- 7% Potrero Hill (94107)
- 25% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 27% Others

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

Acc. Overdoses Open: 63.86%
Acc. Overdoses Closed: 36.14%

Age Group

- <15: 15
- 15-24: 32
- 25-34: 32
- 35-44: 24
- 45-54: 13
- 55-64: 6
- >=65: 7

Race

- Asian: 12
- Black: 11
- Latinx: 3
- Native American: 13
- White: 15
- Other/Unknown: 7

Gender

- Female: 12
- Male: 71
- Non-Binary: 0

Fixed Address

- Yes: 53
- No: 22
- Unknown: 61

Acc. Overdoses Open: 63.86%
Acc. Overdoses Closed: 36.14%

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as of testing to October 10, 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023

Gender
- 15% Female
- 83% Male
- 2% Non-Binary

Race
- 7% Asian
- 33% Black
- 19% Latinx
- 4% Native American
- 35% White
- 2% Other/Unknown

Age
- 0% <15
- 17% 15-24
- 26% 25-34
- 35% 35-44
- 15% 45-54
- 15% 55-64
- 22% >=65
- 0% Unknown

Fixed Address
- 72% Yes*
- 28% No
- 0% Unknown

Fixed Address Location
- 28% Tenderloin (94102)
- 26% SOMA (94103)
- 13% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 5% Bayview-Hunter’s Point (94124)
- 26% Others (SF Location)
- 3% Others (non-SF Location)

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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