

Paul A. Allen  
San Francisco, CA  
June 1, 2024

(via email)

**San Francisco Police Commissioners:**

Cindy Elias, President [cindy.elias@sfgov.org](mailto:cindy.elias@sfgov.org)  
Max Carter-Oberstone, Vice President [max.carter-orberstone@sfgov.org](mailto:max.carter-orberstone@sfgov.org)  
Kevin Benedicto, Commissioner [kevin.benedicto@sfgov.org](mailto:kevin.benedicto@sfgov.org)  
Debra Walker, Commissioner [debra.walker@sfgov.org](mailto:debra.walker@sfgov.org)  
Jesus Yanez, Commissioner, [jesus.g.yanez@sfgov.org](mailto:jesus.g.yanez@sfgov.org)  
Larry Yee, Commissioner [lawrence.yee1@sfgov.org](mailto:lawrence.yee1@sfgov.org)

Copy: Chief William Scott [SFPDchief@sfgov.org](mailto:SFPDchief@sfgov.org)  
Stacy Youngblood [stacy.a.youngblood@sfgov.org](mailto:stacy.a.youngblood@sfgov.org)

Re: Drug Arrests and Overdose Death Data

Dear Commissioners:

This letter and attached chart supplement my most recent May 24 filing regarding accidental drug overdose deaths.

On May 29, just a few days ago, SFPD activated the Drug Market Agency Coordination Center dashboard<sup>1</sup> where one can see, among other things, data for weekly arrests of drug users and dealers, this in connection with a year of increased drug related law enforcement efforts in the Tenderloin and South of Market. To my May 29 chart of 16 months of death data, I have now added this just-published 12 months of data for dealer and user arrests, plotting them separately. (The dashboard reported this data by week but I chart it by month in accordance with the Medical Examiner's deaths data.) All of the above is in furtherance of the periodic Commission (and surely public) dialogue on the efficacy of these law enforcement efforts, by whatever metric they are measured — overdose deaths being only one.

On the narrow question of the effect of dealer and user arrests on drug overdose deaths, and lacking knowledge of many other facts relevant to that sad statistic, no doubt the viewer will make his or her own conclusions. Still, one can make at least two observations from the chart. First, monthly deaths peaked last August, two months into the launch of last summer's program and in the shadow of a July and August spike in dealer and user arrests; and deaths continued to decline, reaching a low in September and then again in December, the latter in the aftermath of supercharged APEC-related law enforcement. Second, there seemed to be another spike of dealer and user arrests in January, followed by a now-four month decline in overdose deaths.

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.sanfranciscopolice.org/drug-market-agency-coordination-center>

I hasten to add that I have no idea if the decline in overdose deaths was caused by the increased arrests of dealers and users.

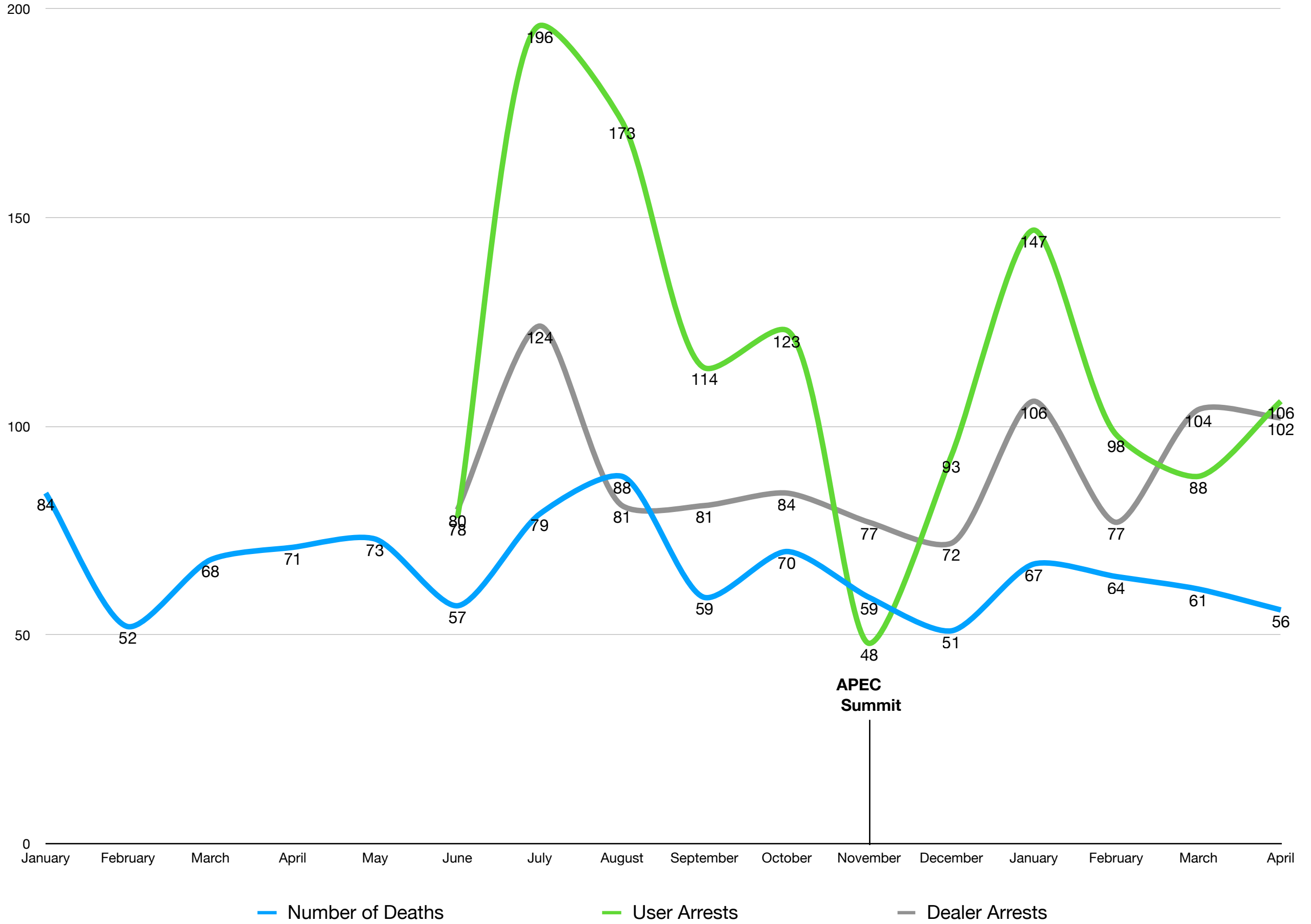
It is also worth noting that the DMACC data is apparently only from the Tenderloin and SOMA, whereas the accidental drugs overdose deaths plotted in the chart are City-wide. On average, about one-third of City deaths are from locales other than the Tenderloin, SOMA, and Lower Polk/Russian Hill.

Sincerely,

Paul Allen

Attached: Chart of Number of City-Wide Overdose Deaths and Arrests per Month, January 2023-April 2024

### Number of City-Wide Overdose Deaths and Arrests Per Month, January 2023-April 2024



Sources: 1. SF Medical Examiner Reports for Deaths Data.  
2. SFPD DMACC Dashboard for Arrest Data.