**DEATHS DUE TO DRUG INTOXICATION:**

In 2019, 628 deaths due to drug intoxication were reported to the State Medical Examiner. Previously, only accidental drug deaths were tracked, but MDILog allows for more comprehensive tracking. Going forward, all drug overdose deaths will be examined. The age range was 0 years old to 98 years old. The mean and median age was 46 years. The county distribution is as follows:

**COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF DRUG DEATHS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Total Cases |
| Baker | 1 |
| Benton | 8 |
| Clackamas | 30 |
| Clatsop | 5 |
| Columbia | 2 |
| Coos | 15 |
| Crook | 3 |
| Curry | 2 |
| Deschutes | 17 |
| Douglas | 20 |
| Gilliam | 0 |
| Grant | 0 |
| Harney | 0 |
| Hood River | 2 |
| Jackson | 30 |
| Jefferson | 0 |
| Josephine | 25 |
| Klamath | 9 |
| Lake | 0 |
| Lane | 84 |
| Lincoln | 11 |
| Linn | 20 |
| Malheur | 3 |
| Marion | 38 |
| Morrow | 1 |
| Multnomah | 226 |
| Polk | 7 |
| Sherman | 0 |
| Tillamook | 3 |
| Umatilla | 3 |
| Union | 3 |
| Wallowa | 0 |
| Wasco | 3 |
| Washington | 47 |
| Wheeler | 0 |
| Yamhill | 6 |

**EXAM TYPE IN SUSPECTED DRUG DEATHS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exam type | Number of cases |
| Autopsy | 230 (37%) |
| External Examination | 97 (15%) |
| No examination by a forensic pathologist | 301 (48%) |

A single substance was determined to be the cause of death in 327 cases (52%)\*. Of cases where a single substance was determined to cause death, the following substances were detected:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Number of Cases | Percentage of cases |
| 1,1-dilfuorethane | 3 | 1% |
| Acetaminophen | 1 | 0.3% |
| Amitriptyline | 8 | 2% |
| Aspirin | 1 | 0.3% |
| Buprenorphine | 1 | 0.3% |
| Citalopram | 1 | 0.3% |
| Cocaine | 9 | 3% |
| Diphenhydramine | 11 | 3% |
| Doxylamine | 1 | 0.3% |
| Duloxetine | 2 | 0.6% |
| Ethanol | 17 | 5% |
| Fentanyl | 26 | 8% |
| Gabapentin | 1 | 0.3% |
| Heroin | 39 | 12% |
| Hydrocodone | 5 | 2% |
| Hydromorphone | 1 | 0.3% |
| Insulin | 2 | 0.6% |
| Loperamide | 1 | 0.3% |
| Lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) | 2 | 0.6% |
| 3,4-Methylenedioxyamphetamine (MDMA) | 1 | 0.3% |
| Methadone | 7 | 2% |
| Methamphetamine | 161 | 49% |
| Mitragynine | 5 | 2% |
| Morphine | 6 | 2% |
| Oxycodone | 5 | 2% |
| Pentobarbital | 1 | 0.3% |
| Potassium cyanide | 1 | 0.3% |
| Propranolol | 2 | 0.6% |
| Quetiapine | 3 | 0.9% |
| Tramadol | 1 | 0.3% |
| Venlafaxine | 2 | 0.6% |

\*The substance or substances responsible for death were not specified in 13 cases attributed to drug toxicity.

Multiple substances were determined to be the cause of death in 294 cases (47%)\*. Of cases where multiple substances were reported, the most common substances attributed were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Number of Cases | Percentage of cases |
| Methamphetamine | 137 | 47% |
| Heroin | 113 | 38% |
| Cocaine | 51 | 17% |
| Fentanyl | 49 | 17% |
| Ethanol | 36 | 12% |
| Oxycodone | 32 | 11% |
| Hydrocodone | 26 | 9% |
| Methadone | 26 | 9% |
| Gabapentin | 24 | 8% |
| Morphine | 22 | 7% |

\*The substance or substances responsible for death were not specified in 13 cases attributed to drug toxicity.

**FENTANYL DEATHS:**

Fentanyl was included as the cause of the death or a part of the cause of death in 74 cases in 2020, a decrease of 6 cases from the previous year. The only fentanyl analogue detected in 2019 was acetyl fentanyl. This was detected in 4 cases. The county distribution of these cases is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Number of cases |
| Multnomah | 25 |
| Washington | 8 |
| Jackson | 6 |
| Clackamas | 6 |
| Jackson | 5 |
| Josephine | 4 |
| Lane | 4 |
| Klamath | 2 |
| Lincoln | 2 |
| Linn | 2 |
| Polk | 2 |
| Yamhill | 2 |
| Curry | 1 |
| Umatilla | 1 |
| Union | 1 |