January 10, 2024

Subject: Report on 2020 Accidental Overdose Deaths

The enclosed report provides data of accidental overdose deaths in the City and County of San Francisco from January 1, 2020, to December 31, 2020. The number of accidental overdose deaths in 2020 was 726.

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. These reports are not intended to replace other death statistics within the City that rely on finalized death certificates.

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, and locations of residence and death.

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: Accidental Drug Overdose Data Reports for January 2020 through December 2020
Accidental Drug Overdose Data Reports for January 2020 through December 2020
**OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO**

**JAN-DEC 2020**

- **Gender**: 131 Female, 595 Male, 0 Non-Binary
- **Race**: 34 Asian, 29 Black, 181 White, 126 Latinx, 161 Native American, 126 Non-Binary
- **Age**: 184 <15, 228 15-24, 159 25-34, 167 35-44, 106 45-54, 85 55-64, 96 65-74, 93 75+, 162 Unknown
- **Fixed Address**: 505 Yes*, 207 No, 14 Unknown
- **Fixed Address Location**: 123 Tenderloin (94102), 80 SOMA (94103), 48 Inner Mission (94110), 39 Polk/Russian Hill (94110), 35 Others (SF Location), 29 Others (non-SF Location)
- **Death Location**: 224 Tenderloin (94102), 119 SOMA (94103), 98 Inner Mission (94110), 98 Polk/Russian Hill (94110), 98 Others

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

- **Total Deaths**: 726
- **Fentanyl**: 519
- **Heroin**: 390
- **Medicinal Opioids**: 267
- **Methamphetamine**: 93
- **Cocaine**: 59

*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.
Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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

FEBRUARY 2020

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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MARCH 2020

**Gender**
- 18% Female
- 82% Male
- 0% Non-Binary

**Race**
- 2% Asian
- 25% Black
- 18% Latinx
- 18% Native American
- 47% White
- 8% Other/Unknown

**Age**
- 0% <15
- 31% 15-24
- 16% 25-34
- 16% 35-44
- 16% 45-54
- 8% 55-64
- 8% >=65
- 0% Unknown

**Fixed Address**
- 71% Yes*
- 27% No
- 2% Unknown

*See Fixed Address Location

**Fixed Address Location**
- 17% Tenderloin (94102)
- 28% SOMA (94103)
- 8% Inner Mission (94110)
- 8% Glen Park (94131)
- 31% Others (SF Location)
- 8% Others (non-SF Location)

**Death Location**
- 25% Tenderloin (94102)
- 24% SOMA (94103)
- 10% Inner Mission (94110)
- 12% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 29% Others

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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**Gender**

- 20% Female
- 80% Male
- 0% Non-Binary

**Race**

- 8% Asian
- 20% Black
- 20% Latinx
- 53% White
- 0% Native American
- 0% Other/Unknown

**Age**

- 0% <15
- 14% 15-24
- 20% 25-34
- 16% 35-44
- 16% 45-54
- 6% >55
- 25% Unknown

**Fixed Address**

- 53% Yes
- 47% No
- 0% Unknown

- *See Fixed Address Location*

**Fixed Address Location**

- 41% Tenderloin (94102)
- 11% Nob Hill (94109)
- 11% Inner Mission (94110)
- 11% Haight-Ashbury (94117)
- 15% Others (SF Location)
- 11% Others (non-SF Location)

**Death Location**

- 31% Tenderloin (94102)
- 24% Nob Hill (94109)
- 14% Inner Mission (94110)
- 14% SOMA (94103)
- 18% Others

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

- Total Deaths: 51
- Fentanyl: 38
- Heroin: 28
- Medicinal Opioids: 18
- Methamphetamine: 9
- Cocaine: 7

*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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“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.
**Gender**

- Female: 13%
- Male: 87%
- Non-Binary: 0%

**Race**

- Asian: 4%
- Black: 26%
- Latinx: 16%
- Native American: 0%
- White: 53%
- Other/Unknown: 1%

**Age**

- <15: 1%
- 15-24: 7%
- 25-34: 11%
- 35-44: 11%
- 45-54: 18%
- 55-64: 5%
- >=65: 30%
- Unknown: 1%

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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

- 1-May: 70
- 31-May: 70

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JUNE 2020

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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"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.
Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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"Gender" refers to gender at time of death.

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**AUGUST 2020**

**Gender**
- 28% Female
- 72% Male
- 0% Non-Binary

**Race**
- 5% Asian
- 28% Black
- 19% Latinx
- 0% Native American
- 43% White
- 5% Other/Unknown

**Age**
- 0% <15
- 27% 15-24
- 17% 25-34
- 13% 35-44
- 11% 45-54
- 36% 55-64
- 2% 65+ or Unknown

**Fixed Address**
- 71% Yes*
- 23% No
- 7% Unknown

*See Fixed Address Location

**Fixed Address Location**
- 23% Tenderloin (94102)
- 15% SOMA (94103)
- 13% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 11% Inner Mission (94110)
- 36% Others (SF Location)
- 2% Others (non-SF Location)

**Death Location**
- 17% Tenderloin (94102)
- 13% SOMA (94103)
- 23% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 16% Inner Mission (94110)
- 31% Others

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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*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.
**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

- **Total Deaths**: Represents all accidental overdoses including ones for drugs not specified above.
- **Fentanyl**: Ongoing trends in fentanyl-related overdoses.
- **Heroin**: Similarly, trends in heroin overdose deaths.
- **Medicinal Opioids**: Trends in accidental overdoses related to medicinal opioids.
- **Methamphetamine**: Trends in accidental overdoses from methamphetamine.
- **Cocaine**: Trends in accidental overdoses from cocaine.

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DECEMBER 2020

Gender
- 20% Female
- 80% Male
- 0% Non-Binary

Race
- 5% Asian
- 28% Black
- 18% Latinx
- 3% Native American
- 43% White
- 3% Other/Unknown

Age
- 0% <15
- 18% 15-24
- 20% 25-34
- 31% 35-44
- 14% 45-54
- 20% 55-64
- 9% >=65
- 0% Unknown

Fixed Address
- 80% Yes*
- 18% No
- 2% Unknown

Fixed Address Location
- 23% Tenderloin (94102)
- 17% SOMA (94103)
- 10% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 8% Sunset (94122)
- 29% Others (SF Location)
- 13% Others (non-SF Location)

Death Location
- 22% Tenderloin (94102)
- 18% SOMA (94103)
- 12% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 14% Inner Mission (94110)
- 34% Others

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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