June 21, 2024

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 2024 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 February 1, 2024, to May 31, 2024. This report satisfies the ordinance’s reporting criteria. For your reference, reports of preliminary data for accidental overdose deaths from January 1, 2024, to May 31, 2024, are enclosed. The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths in May 2024 is 66.

The preliminary number of accidental overdose deaths involving Xylazine, Bromazolam, and Fluoro Fentanyl from January 1, 2024 to May 31, 2024 are as follows:

- Xylazine, 20
- Bromazolam, 8
- Fluoro Fentanyl, 23

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 June 7, 2024, 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-like 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 2024 through May 2024
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report for January 2024 through May 2024
Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to June 7, 2024

JAN-MAY 2024

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 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 JUNE 7, 2024

JANUARY 2024

GENDER

- 17% Female
- 83% Male
- 0% Non-Binary

RACE

- 3% Asian
- 28% Black
- 17% Latinx
- 0% Native American
- 42% White
- 10% Other/Unknown

AGE

- 0% <15
- 15% 15-24
- 25% 25-34
- 24% 35-44
- 14% 45-54
- 14% 55-64
- 32% >=65
- 0% Unknown

FIXED ADDRESS

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

*See Fixed Address Location

ACCIDENTAL OVERDOSES BY DAY OF DEATH

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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 June 7, 2024

FEBRUARY 2024

Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to June 7, 2024

MARCH 2024

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Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report
as of testing to June 7, 2024

APRIL 2024

Gender
- Female: 22%
- Male: 78%
- Non-Binary: 0%

Race
- Asian: 7%
- Black: 20%
- Latinx: 15%
- Native American: 0%
- White: 51%
- Other/Unknown: 7%

Age
- <15: 0%
- 15-24: 17%
- 25-34: 25%
- 35-44: 19%
- 45-54: 22%
- 55-64: 20%
- >=65: 0%

Fixed Address
- Yes*: 86%
- No: 14%
- Unknown: 0%

Fixed Address Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 27%
- SOMA (94103): 12%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 18%
- Inner Mission (94110): 4%
- Others (SF Location): 25%
- Others (non-SF Location): 14%

Death Location
- Tenderloin (94102): 24%
- SOMA (94103): 15%
- Polk/Russian Hill (94109): 25%
- Inner Mission (94110): 12%
- Others: 24%

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**Preliminary Accidental Drug Overdose Data Report**

as of testing to June 7, 2024

**MAY 2024**

**Gender**
- 18% Female
- 80% Male
- 2% Non-Binary

**Race**
- 5% Asian
- 32% Black
- 17% Latinx
- 0% Native American
- 38% White
- 9% Other/Unknown

**Age**
- 0% <15
- 14% 15-24
- 17% 25-34
- 17% 35-44
- 17% 45-54
- 26% 55-64
- 27% >65
- 11% Unknown

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

*See Fixed Address Location

**Fixed Address Location**
- 23% Tenderloin (94102)
- 26% SOMA (94103)
- 13% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 4% Western Addition (94115)
- 34% Others (SF Location)
- 0% Others (non-SF Location)

**Death Location**
- 20% Tenderloin (94102)
- 29% SOMA (94103)
- 20% Polk/Russian Hill (94109)
- 5% Inner Mission (94110)
- 27% Others

**Accidental Overdoses by Day of Death**

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