



# COVID-19 Behavioral Health Task Force

December 18, 2020

# Behavioral Health Task Force Agenda

- ❖ Housekeeping: Lauren Prole
- ❖ Welcome: Dr. Sara Salek
- ❖ ADHS Update: Teresa Ehnert
- ❖ Opioid & Suicide Data: Sheila Sjolander
- ❖ Suicide Prevention Updates: Kelli Williams
- ❖ HIDTA Update: Shelly Mowrey
- ❖ Crisis Data: Alex Herrera
- ❖ Questions, Open Discussion & Wrap-Up: All

# ADHS Update

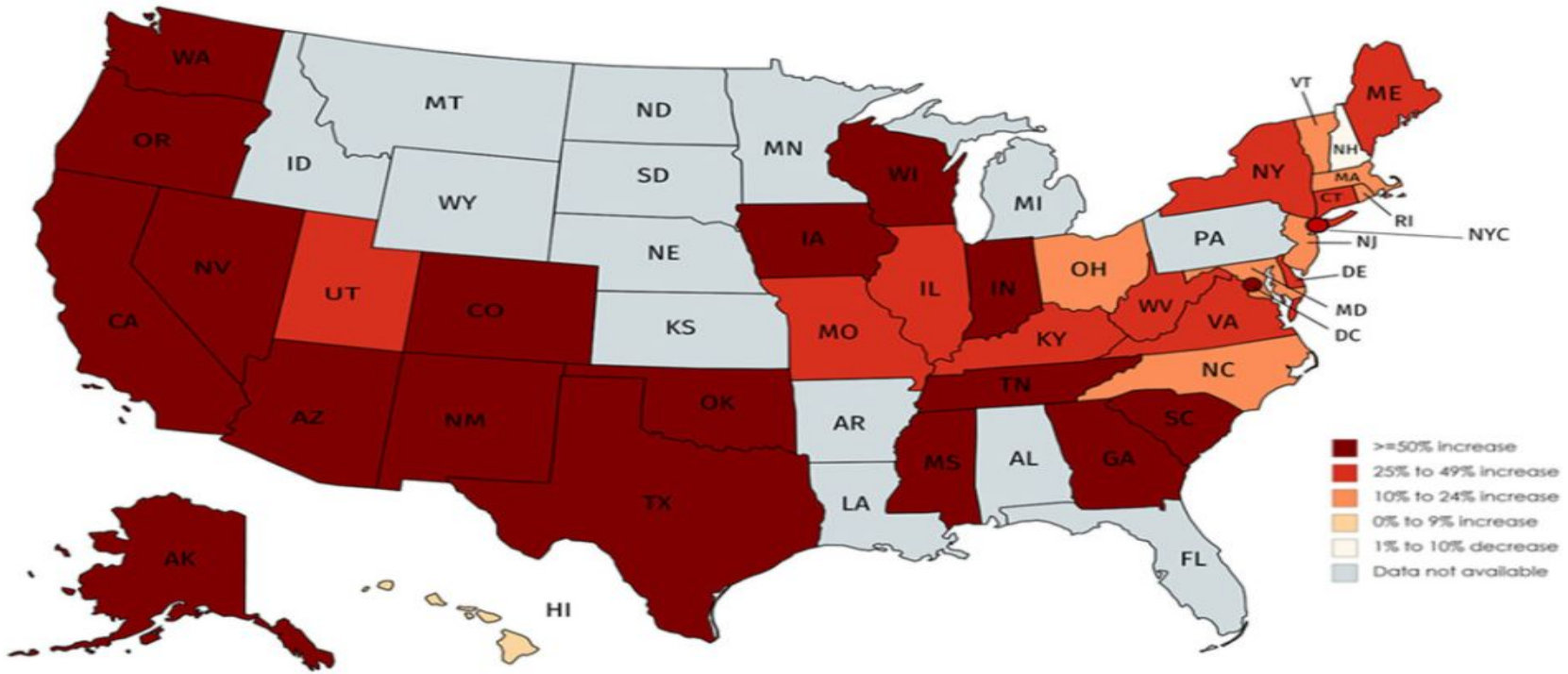
Teresa Ehnert

Bureau Chief, Public Health Emergency Preparedness  
Health Emergency Operation Center/ ESF8  
PHEP/HPP Director, Arizona

# Update on Arizona's Opioid Crisis

Sheila Sjolander, MSW  
Assistant Director, Prevention Services  
ADHS

Figure 3: Percentage change in 12-months ending provisional<sup>a</sup> count of fatal overdoses involving synthetic opioids<sup>b</sup>, 36 states, the District of Columbia, and New York City<sup>c</sup>: Deaths from 12-months ending in June 2019 to 12-months ending in May 2020<sup>d</sup>



# Opioid Deaths 2019 & 2020

Confirmed through death certificates reported to ADHS Vital Records

Month	2019	2020*
January	105	142
February	81	118
March	105	156
April	103	144
May	110	181
June	89	199
July	133	209
August	128	190
<b>Total Jan. - August</b>	<b>854</b>	<b>1339</b>
<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>1359</b>	<b>1563</b>

\*Preliminary Reported as of 12/14/2020

# Opioid Deaths by County

Confirmed through death certificates reported to ADHS Vital Records

County	2019	2020**
Cochise	15	23
Coconino	11	16
Maricopa	959	1048
Mohave	29	24
Pima	210	270
Pinal	37	57
Santa Cruz	*	12
Yavapai	45	54

\*Data is suppressed for counties with numbers fewer than 10

\*\*2020 data is preliminary through 12/14/2020

# Opioid Deaths by Age

Confirmed through death certificates reported to ADHS Vital Records

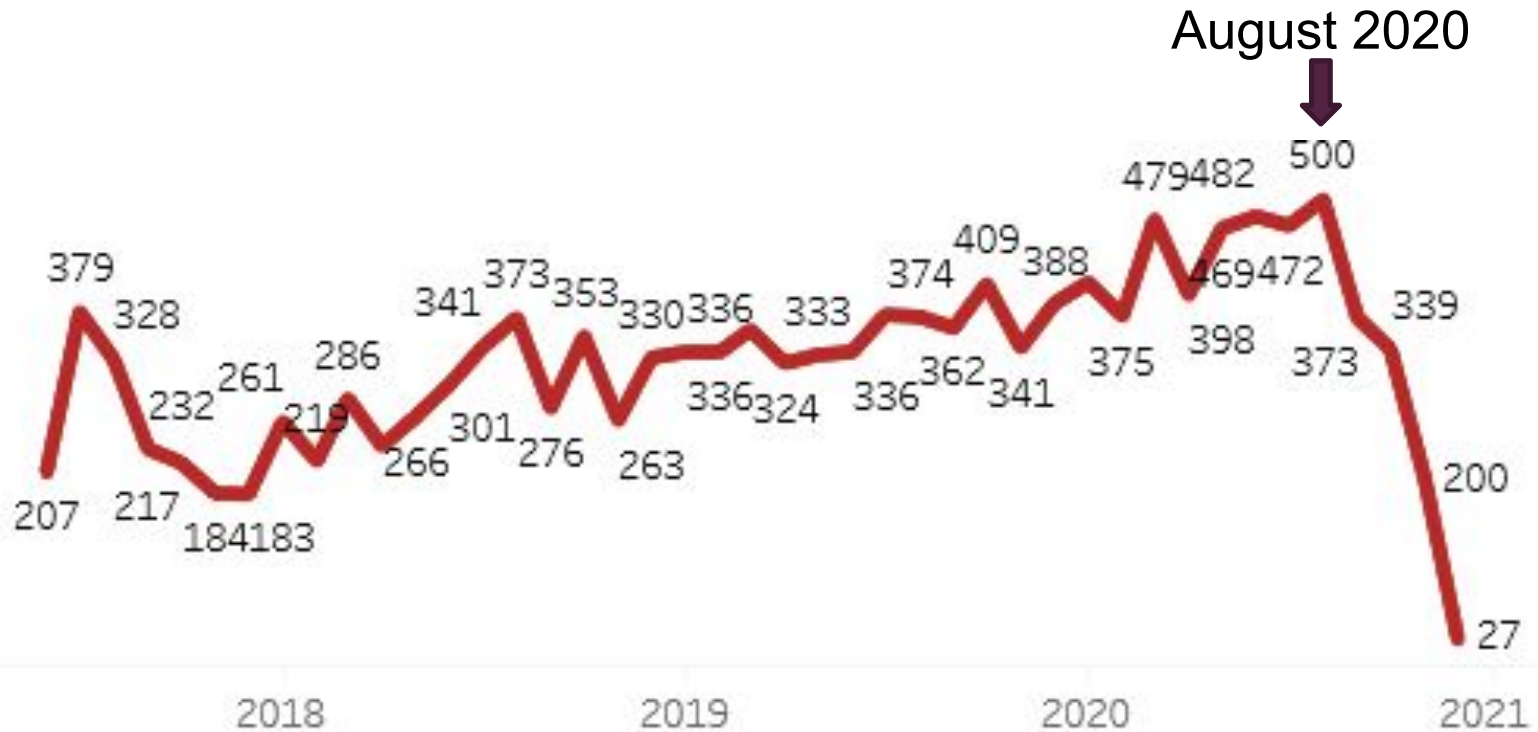
Ages	2019	2020**
Under 15 years	*	13
15 to 24	227	293
25 to 34	362	479
35 to 44	300	319
45 to 54	203	240
55 to 74	188	159
65 to 74	57	49
75+	18	10

\*Data is suppressed for age categories with numbers fewer than 10

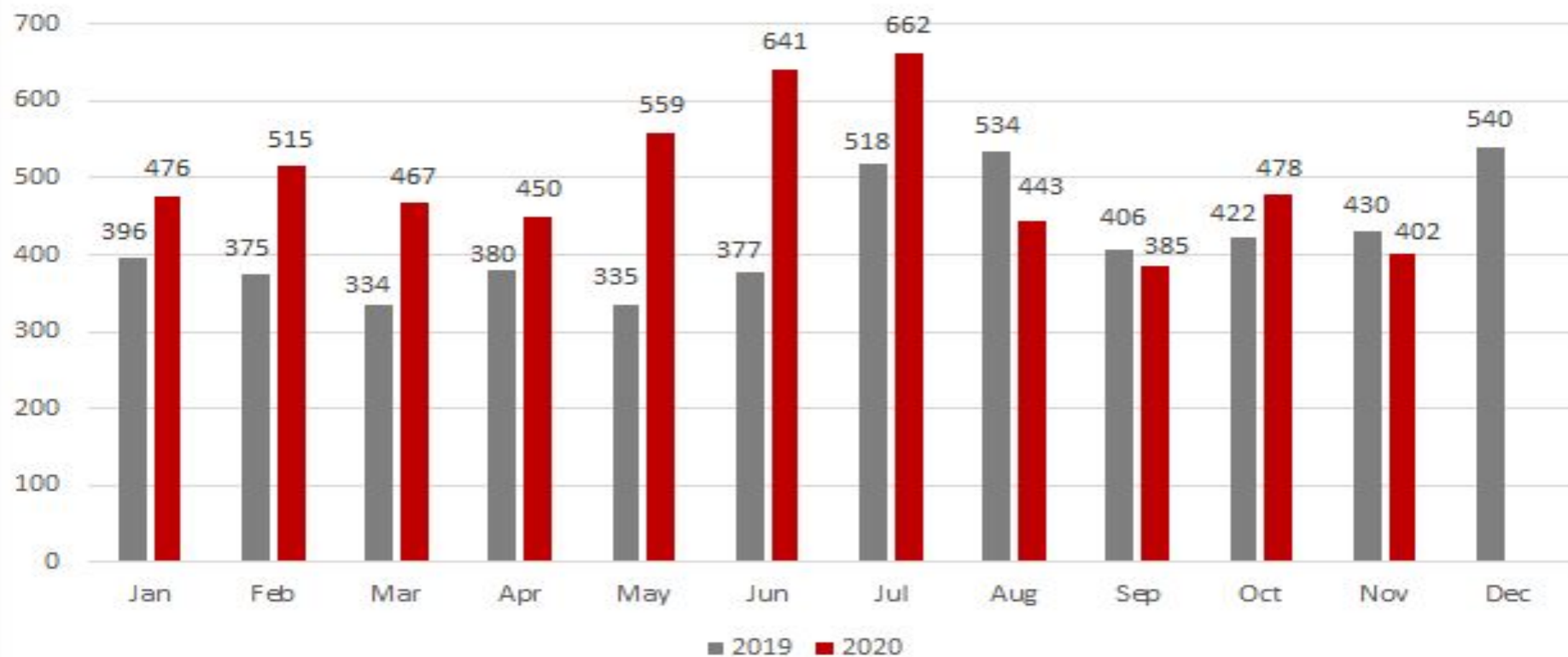
\*\*2020 data is preliminary through 12/14/2020



# Verified Opioid Overdoses by Month June 2017 – December 11, 2020



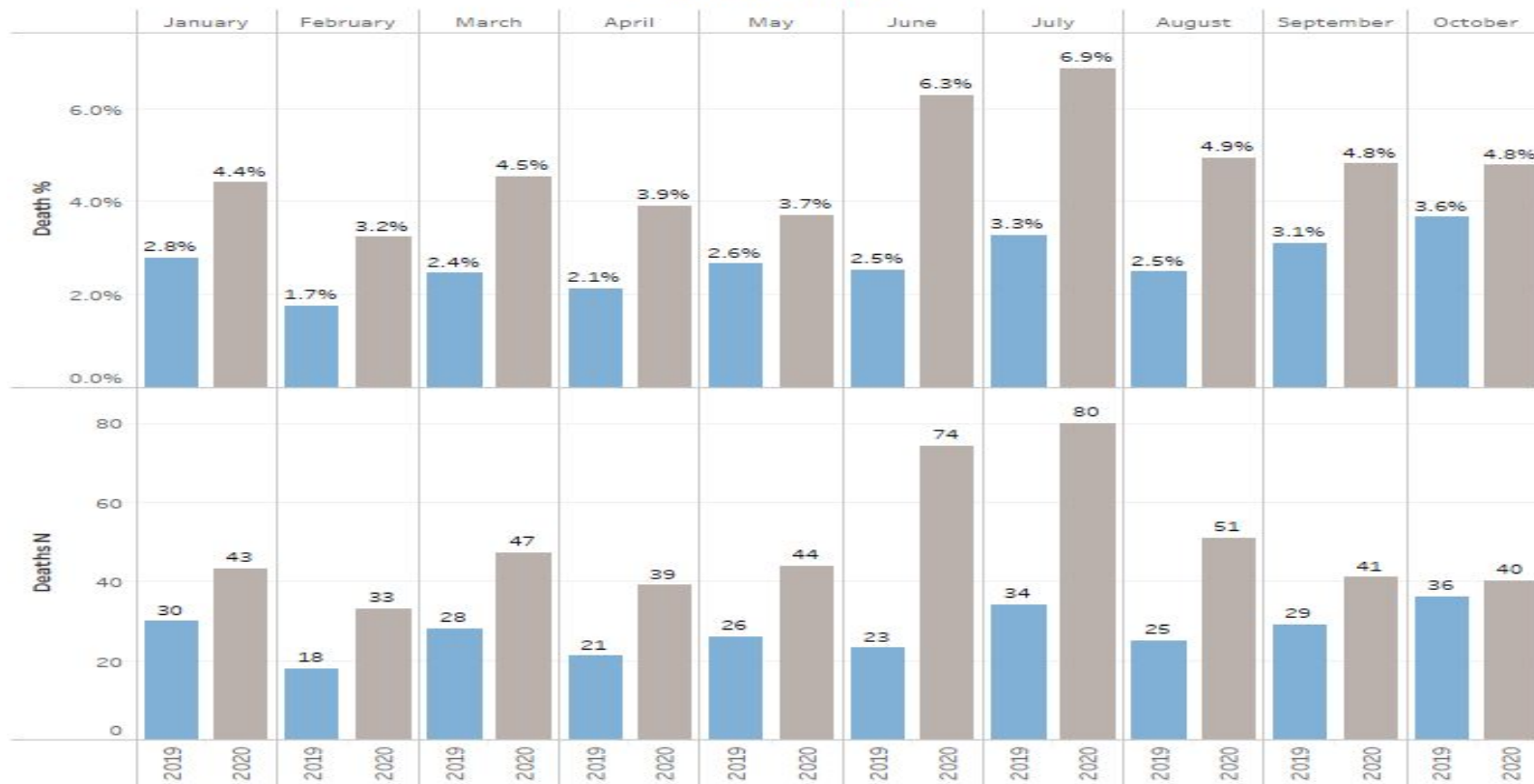
## Individuals that Received Naloxone from All Pre-Hospital Sources



# Bureau of EMS & Trauma System

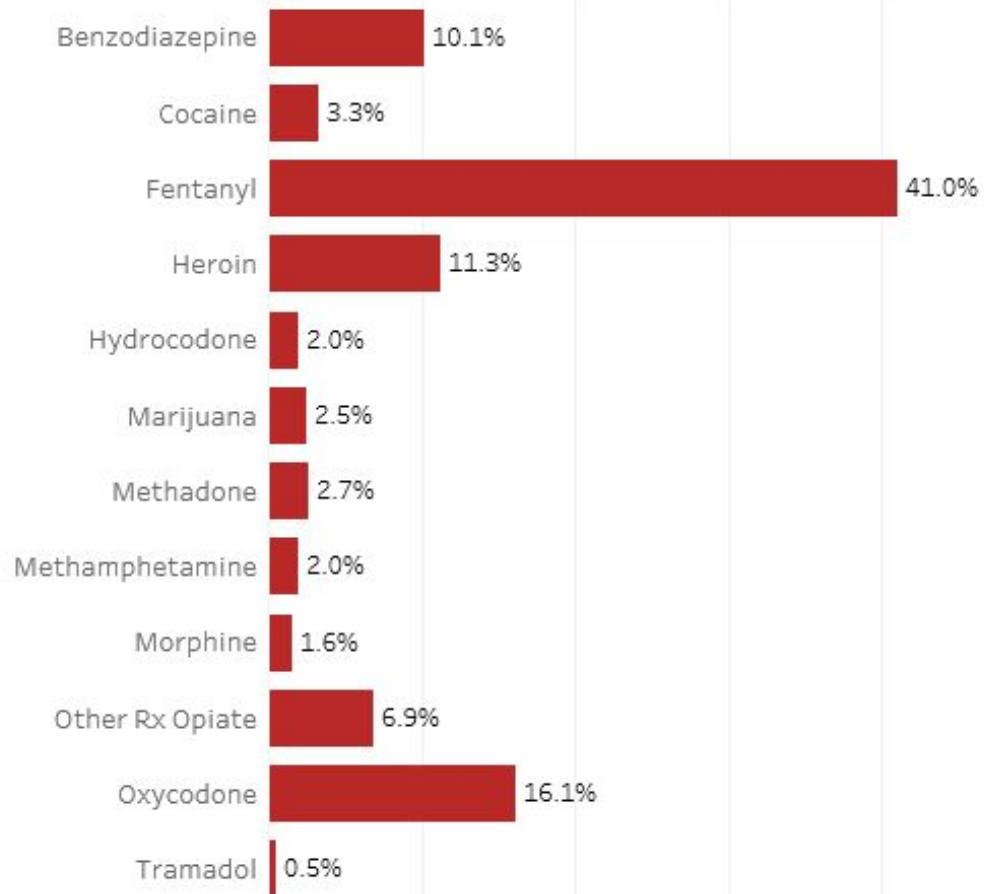
## EMS Calls for Opioid Deaths. AZPIERS: 2019-2020

### Opioid Deaths

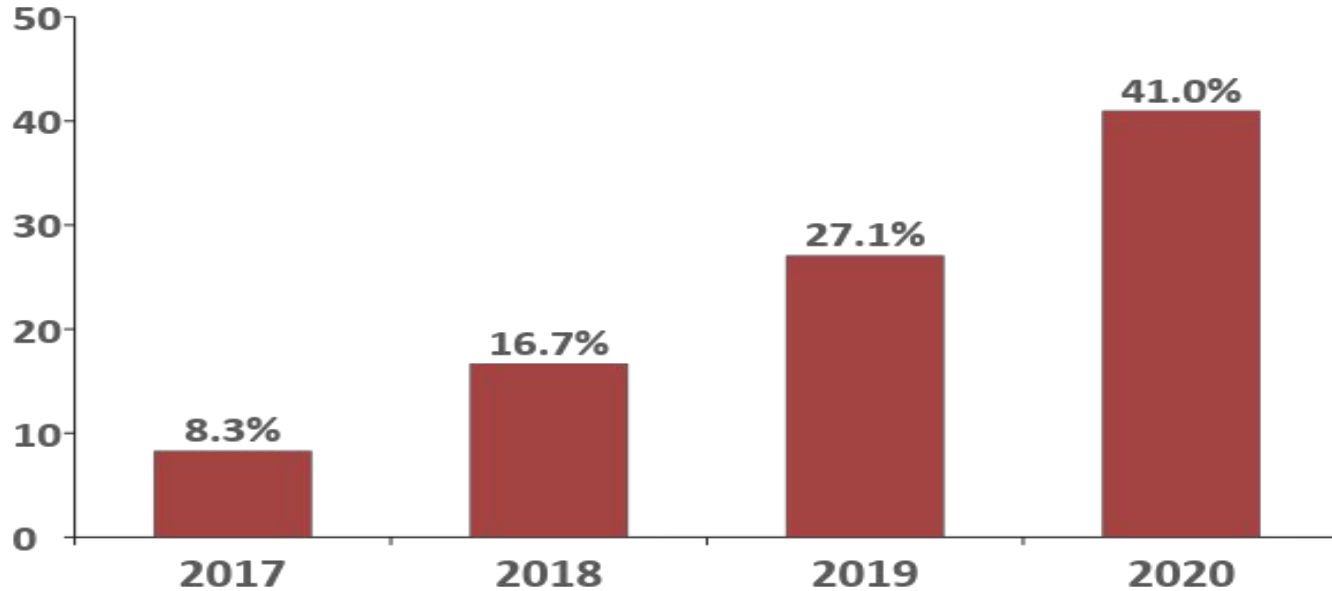


In order to do the comparison between the years 2019 and 2020, those agencies submitted data in 2020 and not in 2019 are excluded from this analysis. Therefore, opioid data for the year 2020 may not reflect the actual incidents reported in the AZPIERS.

# Substances involved in verified opioid overdoses 2020



# Percentage of Verified Overdoses with Fentanyl Involved, 2017 - 2020



# Fentanyl Overdose Trends

Number of verified overdoses involving fentanyl peaked in August 2020\*\*



\*2017 is a partial year – data collection began June 15, 2017

\*\*2020 is through December 11, 2020; data is incomplete for recent months

# Fentanyl involved in verified opioid overdoses 2020 By Age & Gender

Age	Female	Male
17 years & younger	3%	6%
18 – 24 years	6%	20%
25 – 44 years	14%	38%
45 – 64 years	5%	10%
65 years & older	0%	0%

# Suicide Deaths 2019 & 2020

Confirmed through death certificates reported to ADHS Vital Records

<b>Month</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020*</b>
January	138	131
February	99	105
March	140	137
April	137	111
May	143	104
June	139	108
July	133	126
August	118	142
<b>Total Jan. - August</b>	<b>1041</b>	<b>964</b>
<b>Year to Date Total</b>	<b>1478</b>	<b>1291</b>

\*Preliminary reported as of 12/14/2020



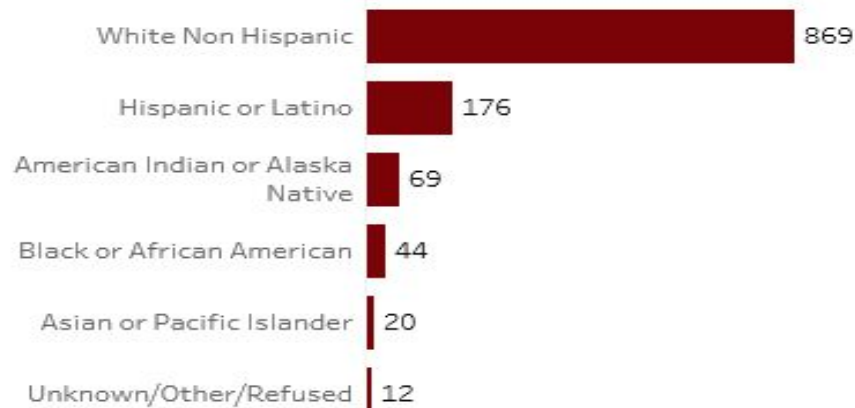
# Suicide Dashboard: [azhealth.gov/suicide](https://azhealth.gov/suicide)

## Number of AZ Resident Suicides by Gender

Select a bar below for more detailed information

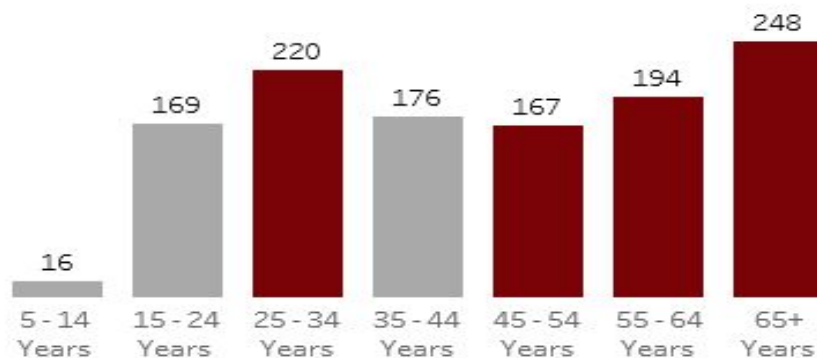


## Suicides by Race/Ethnicity



## Suicides by Age Group

Select a bar below for more detailed information.



# Arizona Health Improvement Plan: Mental Well-being

- 3 key areas of focus:
  - Social Isolation and Loneliness
  - Substance Misuse
  - Suicide
- ADHS will host a virtual forum to learn about, and contribute to, the Mental Well-being AzHIP priority: January 12, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.
- Please register for this event here.  
[https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftW5wNao6Y5Pmfquq40gNiRI1-MOLjltHDm6FEDZ3ddl6Fmg/viewform?usp=sf\\_link](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSftW5wNao6Y5Pmfquq40gNiRI1-MOLjltHDm6FEDZ3ddl6Fmg/viewform?usp=sf_link)
- Contact [azhip@azdhs.gov](mailto:azhip@azdhs.gov) for more information.

For more information:

[azhealth.gov/opioid](https://azhealth.gov/opioid)

[www.azhealth.gov/suicide](https://www.azhealth.gov/suicide)

[www.azdhs.gov/oarline/](https://www.azdhs.gov/oarline/)

Questions/Comments:

[azopiod@azdhs.gov](mailto:azopiod@azdhs.gov)

[sheila.sjolander@azdhs.gov](mailto:sheila.sjolander@azdhs.gov)



**Opioid Assistance & Referral**

A free 24/7 hotline that assists providers with complex patients with pain and opioid use disorders, answered by medical experts at the Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.

Arizona **OAR** Line  
**1-888-688-4222**

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

Center for Toxicology & Pharmacology  
Education & Research

The OAR Line is a joint project between the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT  
OF HEALTH SERVICES

# Suicide Prevention Update

Kelli Donley Williams, MPH

AHCCCS

# Trends, Projects, Priorities

- Suicide data
  - 41% decrease in youth related suicides from 2018-2019
  - Pandemic data is not finalized; 6 month lag
- Partnerships with ADHS, ADE, DVS
- Priorities remain reducing suicide among all in Arizona, especially those age 65 and older, American Indians, Veterans, youth

# Opioid Prevention

Shelly Mowrey



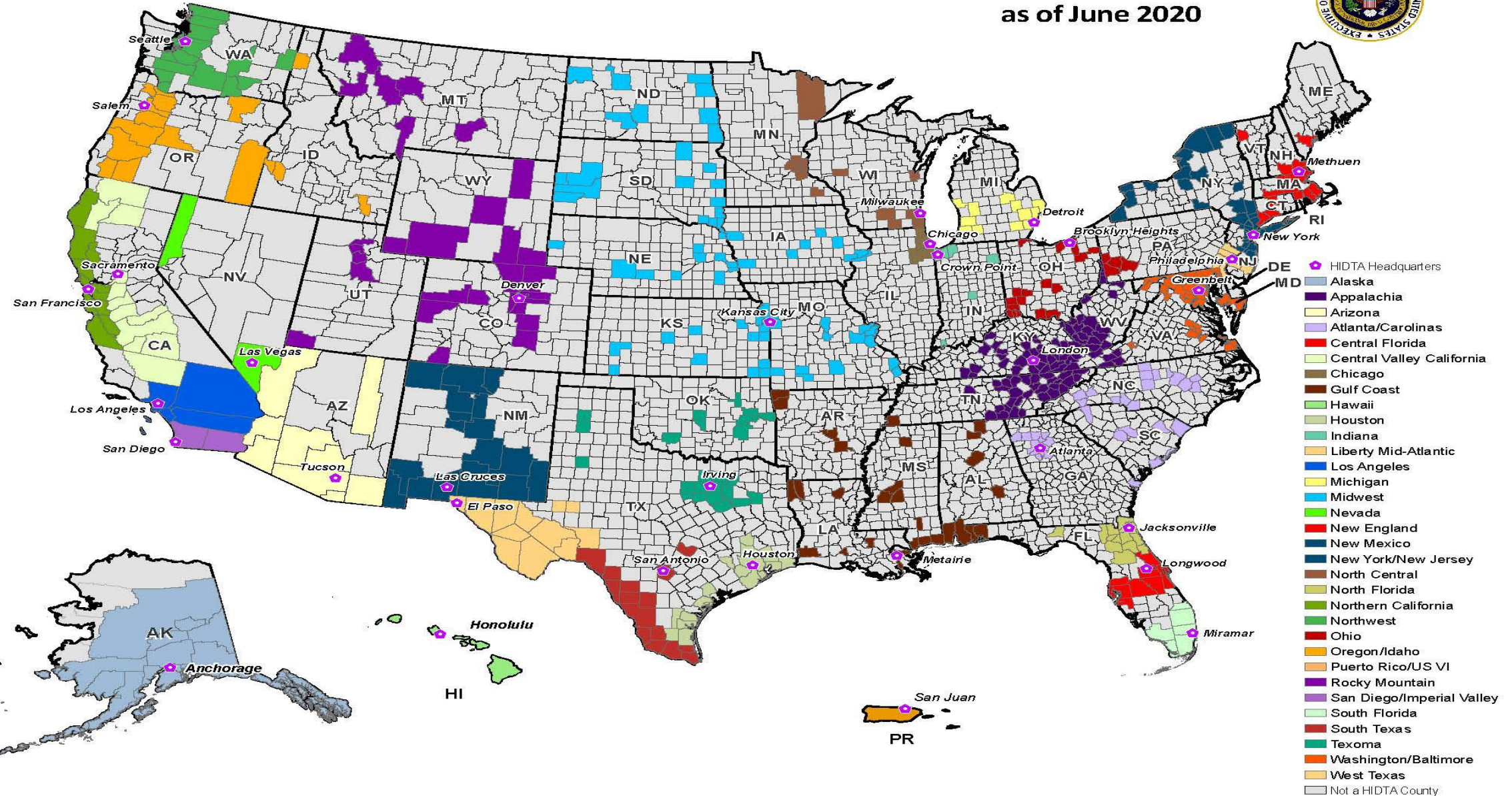
# High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area

Shelly Mowrey

Public Health/Public Safety Initiative  
Commander

# High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas

as of June 2020



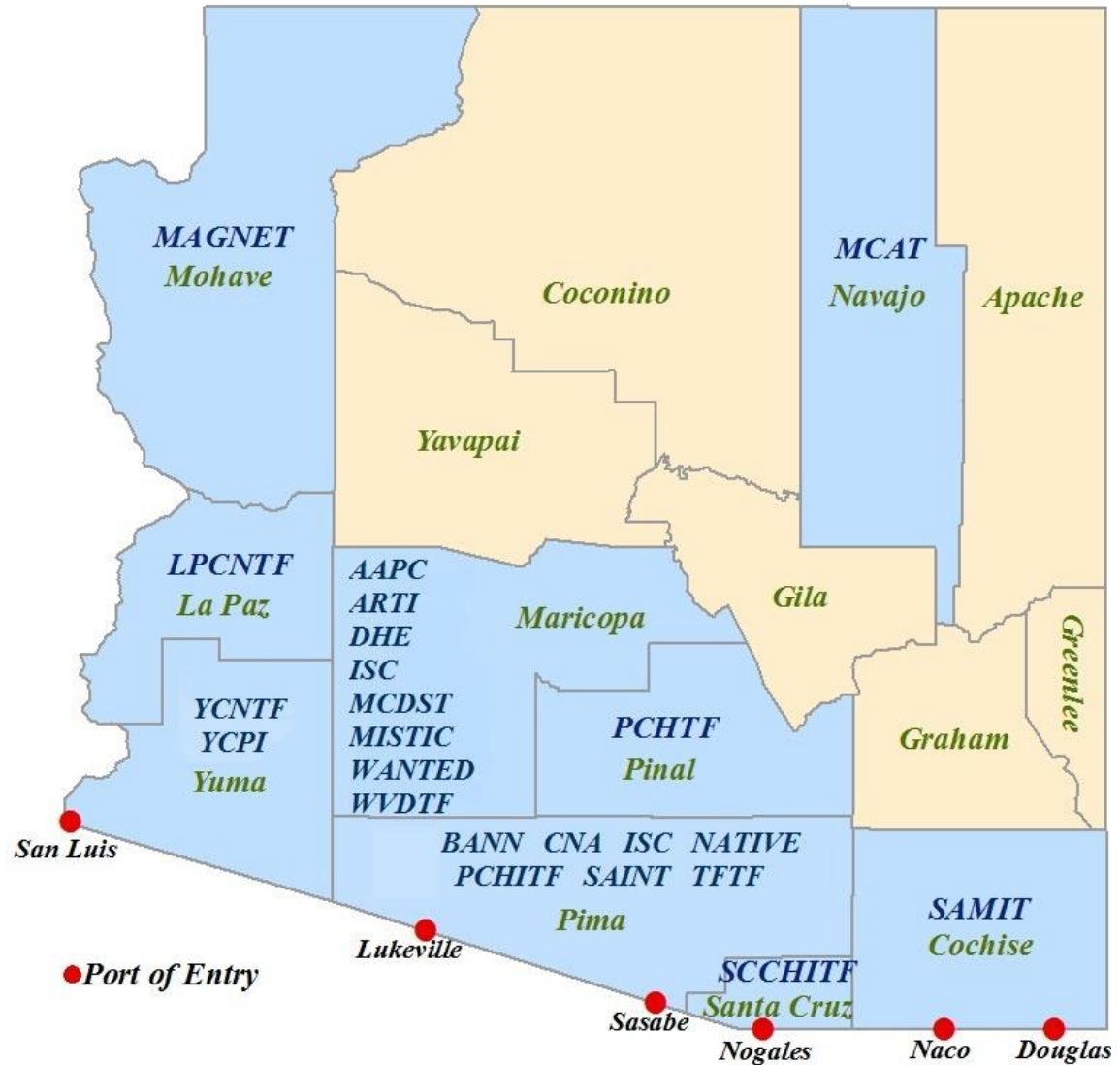
OND/CP2-0880



Arizona HIDTA coordinates and supports the efforts of 620 full-time and 177 part-time participants from 71 agencies.

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25 Initiatives (task forces) are located in the nine HIDTA designated Counties.



# 2020 Threat Assessment: Top Drug Threats

1. Methamphetamine

2. Fentanyl/Synthetic Opioids

3. Marijuana/THC Derivatives

4. Heroin

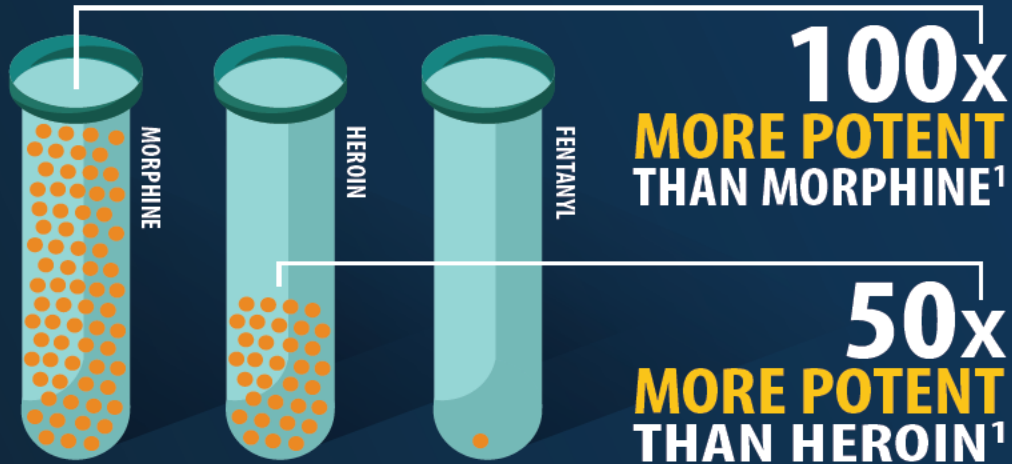
5. Cocaine



# FENTANYL: Overdoses On the Rise in Arizona

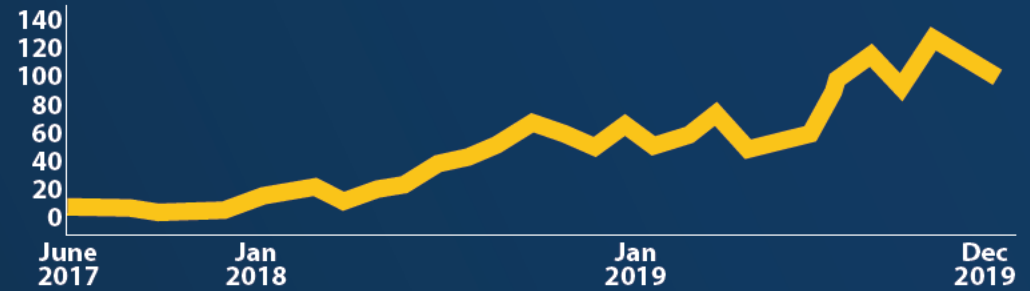


Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



## FENTANYL OVERDOSES IN ARIZONA

Verified Non-Fatal Fentanyl Overdoses by Month



Fentanyl involvement in verified opioid overdoses increased the most since July 2017<sup>2</sup>

## COUNTERFEIT PILL SEIZURES WITH FENTANYL



**490%** 2018 TO 2019 INCREASE IN ARIZONA<sup>4</sup>



## ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Fentanyl is often used to cut other illicit substances including **heroin**, **cocaine**, and **methamphetamine** to increase the potency as well as increase profit potential for manufacturers and distributors<sup>3</sup>



### References:

<sup>1,3</sup> DEA Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide 2020


<sup>2</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services Opioid Update & Surveillance Data Summary February 2020

<sup>4</sup> Arizona HIDTA as of January 09, 2020

# Arizona HIDTA Fentanyl

- Overdose Investigations
- Overdose Response Strategy
  - Opioid Monitoring Initiative
  - Public Health Analyst (CDC)
  - Drug Intelligence Officer
- Training
- Demand Reduction Program

## Opioid Monitoring Initiative Alert System



HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA

### AZ Opioid Monitoring Initiative Alert System!

Stay informed and get timely updates including the latest bulletins! Join now!

\* Email Address

First Name

Last Name

Address  
City

Select a state/province  Zip Code

Email Lists

Community Outreach

Public Health

Public Safety

By submitting this form, you are granting: AZ HIDTA, 5350 N. 48th Street, Chandler, AZ, 85226 United States, permission to email you. You can revoke permission to mail to your email address at any time using the [SafeUnsubscribe](#) link, found at the bottom of every email. We take your privacy seriously (to see for yourself, please read our [Email Privacy Policy](#)). Emails are serviced by Constant Contact.

## AZ Opioid Monitoring Initiative Alert System!

Stay informed and get timely updates! Join now!

Text

# OPIOID

to **22828** to get started.



Message and data rates may apply.

## Emergency Preparedness and Response

[Resources for Emergency Health Professionals](#) > [Health Alert Network \(HAN\)](#) > [HAN Archive](#) > 2020



### Health Alert Network (HAN)

[HAN Jurisdictions](#)

[HAN Message Types](#)

[Sign Up for HAN Updates](#)

[HAN Archive](#)

2020

[HAN00438](#)

[HAN00437](#)

[HAN00436](#)

[HAN00435](#)

[HAN00434](#)

[HAN00433](#)

[HAN00432](#)

[HAN00431](#)

# Increase in Fatal Drug Overdoses Across the United States Driven by Synthetic Opioids Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic



Distributed via the CDC Health Alert Network

December 17, 2020, 8:00 AM ET

CDCHAN-00438

### Summary

The purpose of this Health Alert Network (HAN) Advisory is to alert public health departments, healthcare professionals, first responders, harm reduction organizations, laboratories, and medical examiners and coroners to—

- (1) substantial increases in drug overdose deaths across the United States, primarily driven by rapid increases in overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone (hereafter referred to as synthetic opioids), likely illicitly manufactured fentanyl;
- (2) a concerning acceleration of the increase in drug overdose deaths, with the largest increase recorded from March 2020 to May 2020, coinciding with the implementation of widespread mitigation measures for the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (3) the changing geographic distribution of overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids, with the largest percentage increases occurring in states in the western United States;
- (4) significant increases in overdose deaths involving psychostimulants with abuse potential (hereafter referred to as

# Overdose Spike Alert

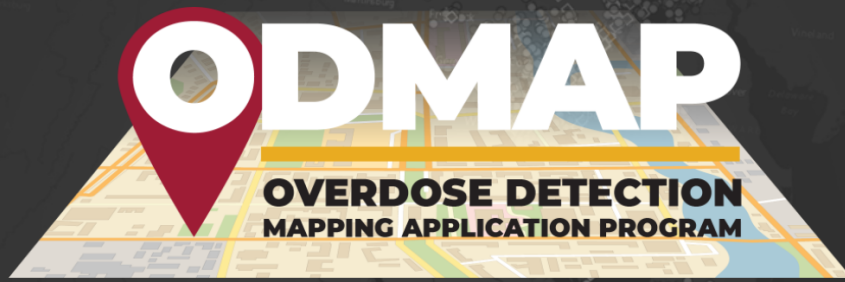
**\*\*NOT FOR PUBLIC RELEASE - LAW ENFORCEMENT & FIRE DEPARTMENTS ONLY\*\***

The purpose of this email is to inform you of a new zip code that appeared on our radar today. According to the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS), in the past 60 days, there have been 10 suspected fatal or non-fatal opioid overdoses for (Specific Zip code).

Please note that the data provided by ADHS is based on Healthcare and/or Medical Examiner cases reported to the Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS) based on the patient's zip code of residence and not actual overdose location. It is important to note that the patient is a resident of the city noted.

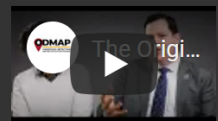
## **Additional information in the alert**

- Number of Schools in that zip code
- Treatment Information
- Naloxone Information
- Coronavirus Cases



[HOME](#) [AGENCIES](#) [IMPLEMENTATION](#) [HOW IT WORKS](#) [SPIKE ALERTS](#) [TRAINING](#) [IN THE NEWS](#)

## USER STORIES: ODMAP IN ACTION



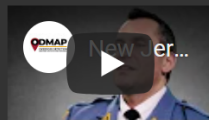
Jeff Beeson, Dep. Director,  
Washington/Baltimore HIDTA |  
Aliese Alter, Senior Program Manager,  
Washington/Baltimore HIDTA



Brian Gould, Assitant Chief, Cheektowaga PD |  
Cheryl Moore, Medical Care Administrator,  
Erie County, NY Department of Public Health



David Sweat, Cheif of Epidemiology |  
Courtney Serra, Opioid Epidemiologist,  
Shelby County, TN Health Department



LT. Piotrowski, New Jersey State Police

# Overdose Response Strategy

CDC Foundation and HIDTA

## THE ODMAP TEAM REPORTS

COVID-19 Impact on US National Overdose Crisis

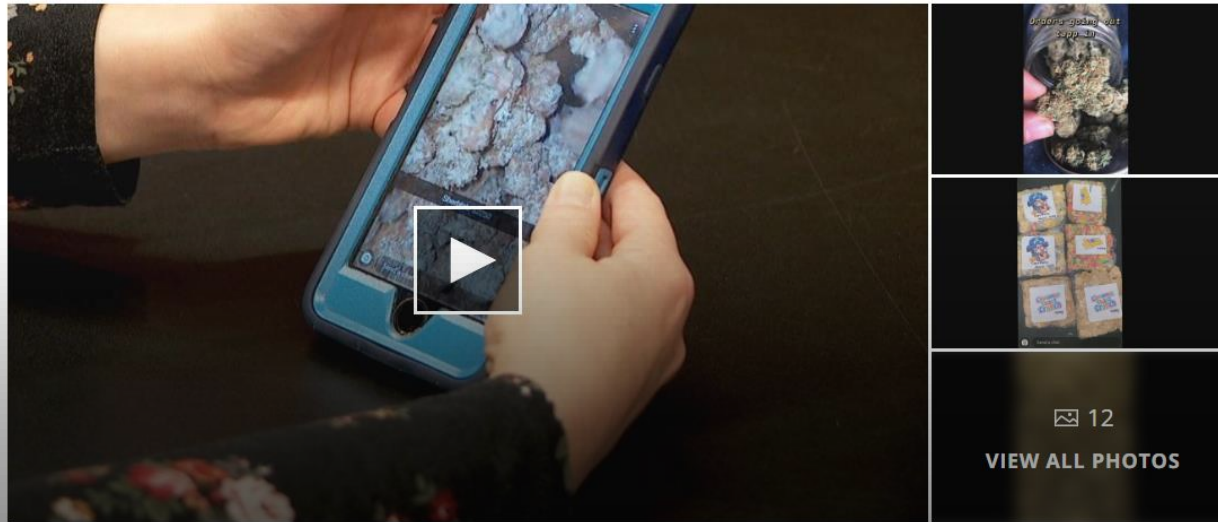
[Click Here to Read the ODMAP Team Report](#)

AN EPIDEMIC



# Drug dealers find potential young customers on Snapchat, social media

by Jim Spiewak & Maren Jensen | Tuesday, November 19th 2019

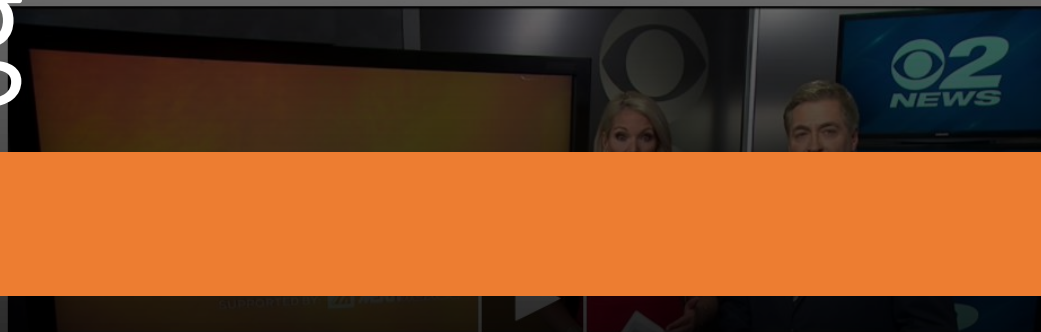


Addicted Utah: Drug dealers find potential young customers on Snapchat, social media (Photo: KUTV)



SALT LAKE CITY (KUTV) — If your children have Snapchat, there's a good chance they are seeing ads from drug dealers.

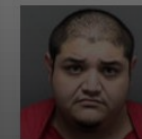
# Training



## TRENDING



Family wants answers after dogs attack Tulsa woman, forcing her to undergo three surgeries



Police: Woman dismembered while alive, then killed after 'disrespecting' fiancé's name

...esses on controversial USU  
...m call heard president's LDS  
...ment



February 25



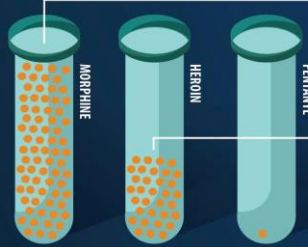
March 29 & September 27

[AZDrugSummit.org](http://AZDrugSummit.org)

# Demand Reduction Prevention

## FENTANYL: Overdoses On the Rise in Arizona

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



**100x**  
MORE POTENT  
THAN MORPHINE<sup>1</sup>

**50x**  
MORE POTENT  
THAN HEROIN<sup>1</sup>

References:  
<sup>1,3</sup> DEA Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide 2020 | <sup>2</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services Opioid Update & Surveillance Data Summary February 2020  
<sup>4</sup> Arizona HIDTA as of January 09, 2020 | Created and Distributed by the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

## FENTANYL: Overdoses On the Rise in Arizona

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid approved for treating severe pain, such as advanced cancer pain. Illicitly manufactured fentanyl is the main driver of recent increases in synthetic opioid deaths.



### ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL

Fentanyl is often used to cut other illicit substances including heroin, cocaine, and methamphetamine to increase the potency as well as increase profit potential for manufacturers and distributors<sup>3</sup>



OFTEN MIXED WITH  
**OTHER  
DRUGS**  
WITH OR WITHOUT  
USER KNOWLEDGE

References:  
<sup>1,3</sup> DEA Drugs of Abuse Resource Guide 2020 | <sup>2</sup> Arizona Department of Health Services Opioid Update & Surveillance Data Summary February 2020  
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## FENTANYL: Overdoses On the Rise in Arizona

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## COUNTERFEIT PILL SEIZURES WITH FENTANYL



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Created and Distributed by the Arizona High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area.

# FENTANYL<sup>†</sup> SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PUBLIC HEALTH/PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL

- ▶ The abuse of drugs containing fentanyl<sup>†</sup> is killing Arizonans. Misinformation and inconsistent recommendations regarding fentanyl<sup>†</sup> have resulted in confusion in the first responder community.
- ▶ You as a public health/public safety worker are increasingly likely to encounter fentanyl<sup>†</sup> in your daily activities ((e.g., attending to patients in the emergency department, conducting in-home services or visits, responding to overdose calls, conducting traffic stops, arrests, and searches).
- ▶ This document provides scientific, evidence-based recommendations to protect yourself from exposure.

## WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

- ▶ Fentanyl<sup>†</sup> can be present in a variety of forms (e.g., powder, tablets, capsules, solutions, and rocks).
- ▶ Inhalation of airborne powder is MOST LIKELY to lead to harmful effects, but is less likely to occur than skin contact.
- ▶ Incidental skin contact may occur during daily activities but is not expected to lead to harmful effects if the contaminated skin is promptly washed off with water.
- ▶ Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is effective in protecting you from exposure.
- ▶ Slow breathing or no breathing, drowsiness or unresponsiveness, and constricted or pinpoint pupils are the specific signs consistent with fentanyl<sup>†</sup> intoxication.
- ▶ Naloxone is an effective medication that rapidly reverses the effects of fentanyl<sup>†</sup>.

### Actions to take . . .

#### To protect yourself from exposure

- ▶ Wear **gloves** when the presence of fentanyl<sup>†</sup> is suspected.
- ▶ **AVOID actions that may cause powder to become airborne.**
- ▶ Use a properly-fitted, NIOSH-approved **respirator (“mask”)**, wear **eye protection**, and minimize skin contact when responding to a situation where small amounts of suspected fentanyl<sup>†</sup> are visible and may become airborne.
- ▶ Follow your department guidelines if the scene involves large amounts of suspected fentanyl<sup>†</sup> (e.g., distribution/storage facility, pill milling operation, clandestine lab, gross contamination, spill or release).

#### When exposure occurs

- ▶ Prevent further contamination and notify other first responders and dispatch.
- ▶ Do not touch your eyes, mouth, nose or any skin after touching any potentially contaminated surface.
- ▶ Wash skin thoroughly with cool water, and soap if available. **Do NOT use hand sanitizers as they may enhance absorption.**
- ▶ Wash your hands thoroughly after the incident and before eating, drinking, smoking, or using the restroom.
- ▶ If you suspect your clothing, shoes, and PPE may be contaminated, follow your department guidelines for decontamination.

#### If you or a co-worker exhibits

- **Slow Breathing or No Breathing**
- **Drowsiness or Unresponsiveness**
- **Constricted or Pinpoint Pupils**
- ▶ Move away from the source of exposure and call EMS.
- ▶ Administer naloxone according to your department protocols. Multiple doses may be required.
- ▶ If naloxone is not available, rescue breathing can be a lifesaving measure until EMS arrives. Use standard basic life support safety precautions (e.g., pocket mask, gloves) to address the exposure risk.
- ▶ If needed, initiate CPR until EMS arrives.



Collaborative Support From:

- American College of Emergency Physicians
- American College of Medical Toxicologists
- American Industrial Hygiene Association
- Association of State and Territorial Health Officials
- Association of State Criminal Investigative Agencies
- Fraternal Order of Police



- International Association of Chiefs of Police
- International Association of Fire Chiefs
- International Association of Fire Fighters
- Major Cities Chiefs Association
- Major County Sheriffs of America
- National Alliance of State Drug Enforcement Agencies



- National Association of Counties
- National Association of County and City Health Officials
- National Association of Emergency Medical Technicians
- National Association of EMS Physicians
- National Association of State EMS Officials



- National Governor's Association
- National HIDTA Directors Association
- National Narcotic Officers' Associations' Coalition
- National Sheriffs' Association
- National Volunteer Fire Council
- Police Executive Research Forum
- Police Foundation

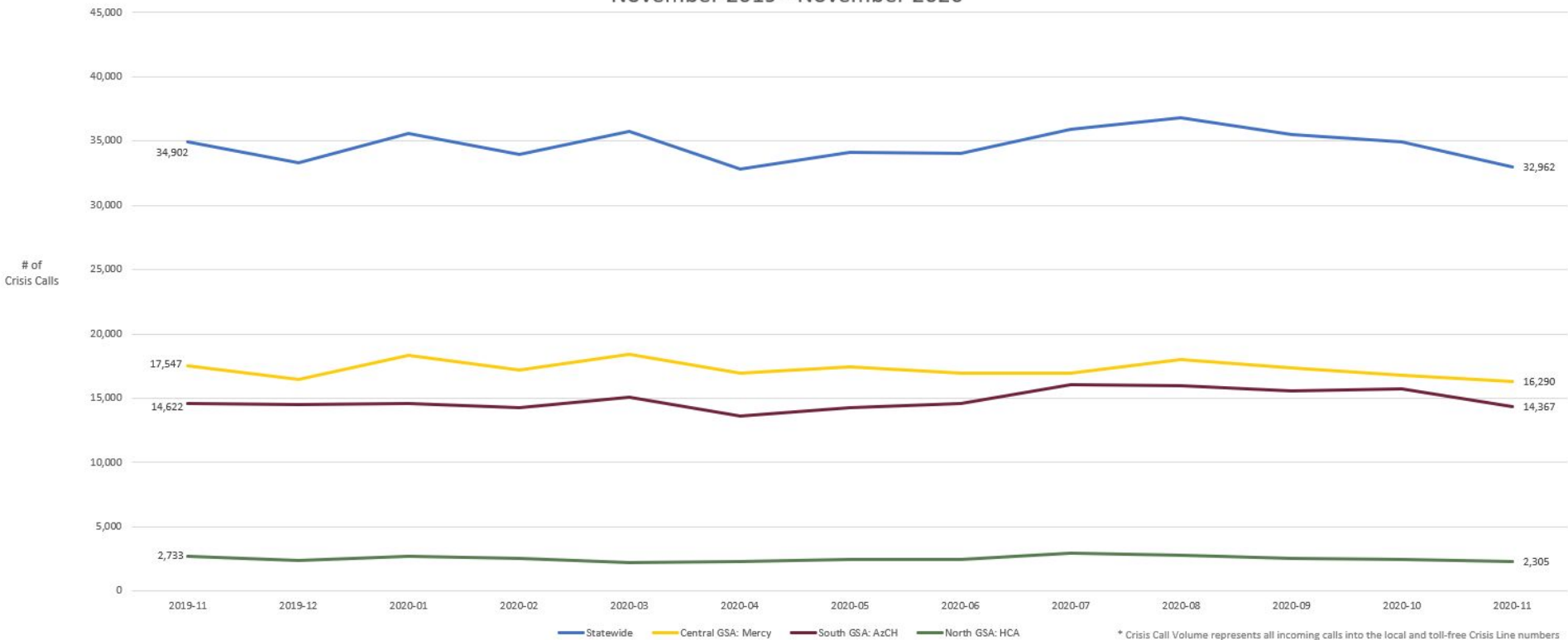
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/key-issues/fentanyl>

# Crisis System Update

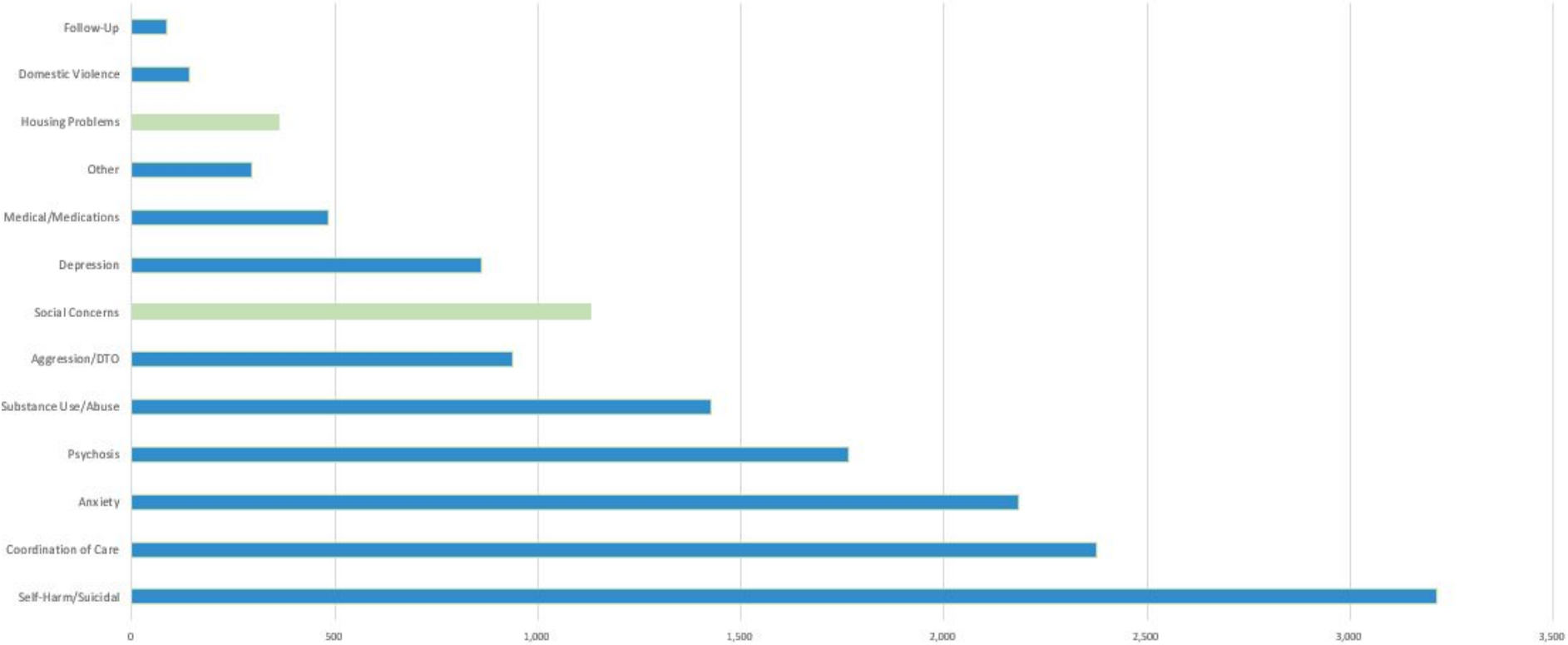
Alex Herrera

Crisis Administrator / BH Project Manager  
DHCM

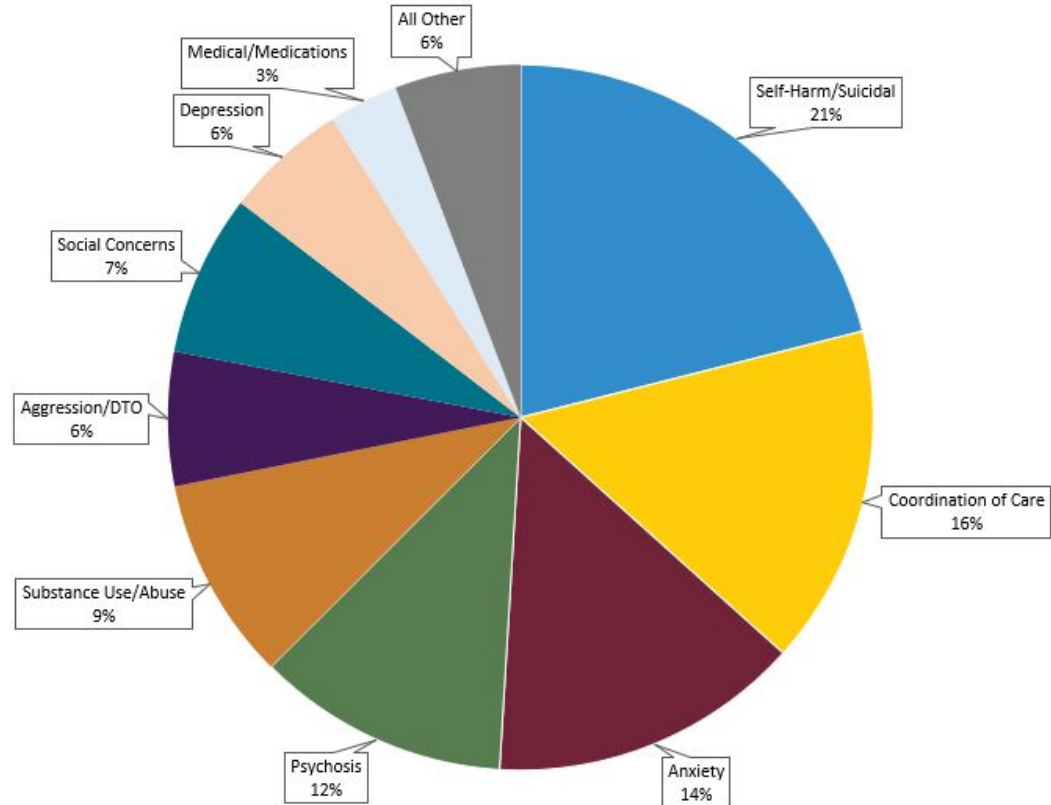
## Crisis Call Volume November 2019 - November 2020



## Crisis Call Center - Top Reasons for Calls November 2020 Statewide



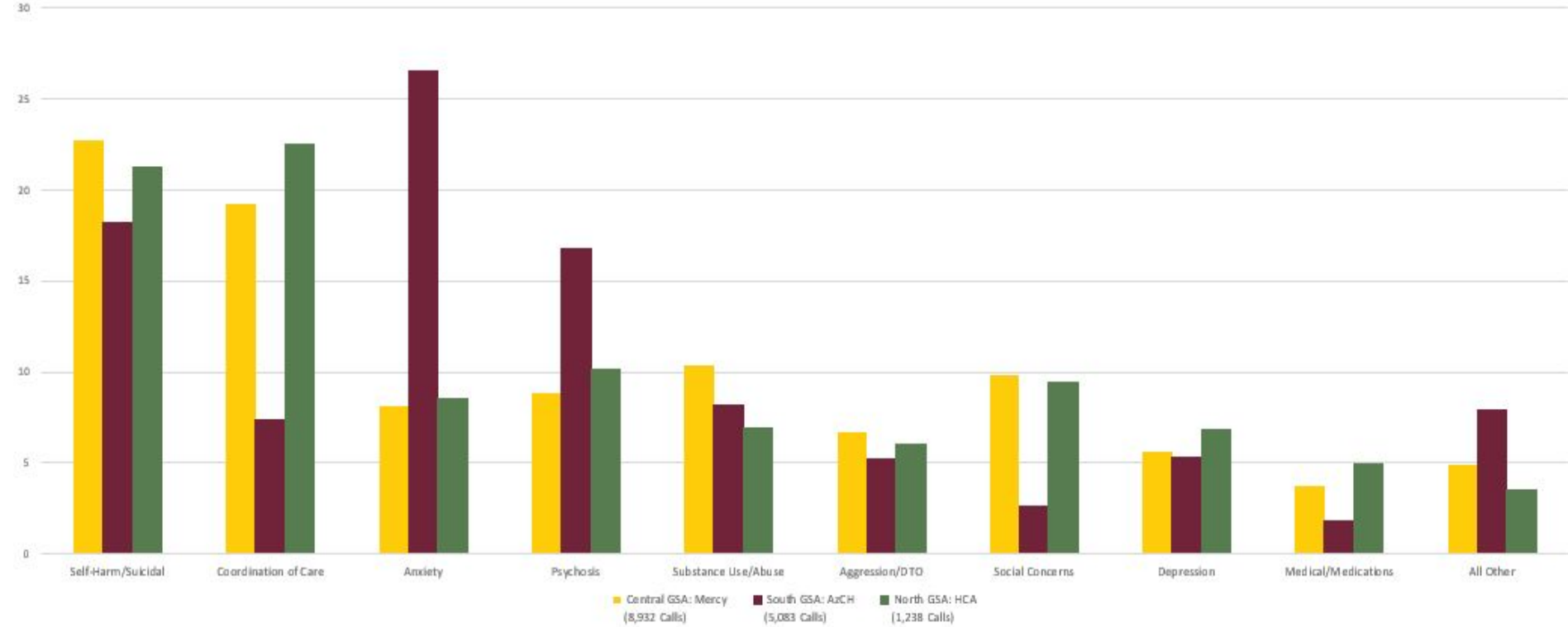
# Crisis Call Center - Top Reasons for Calls November 2020 Statewide



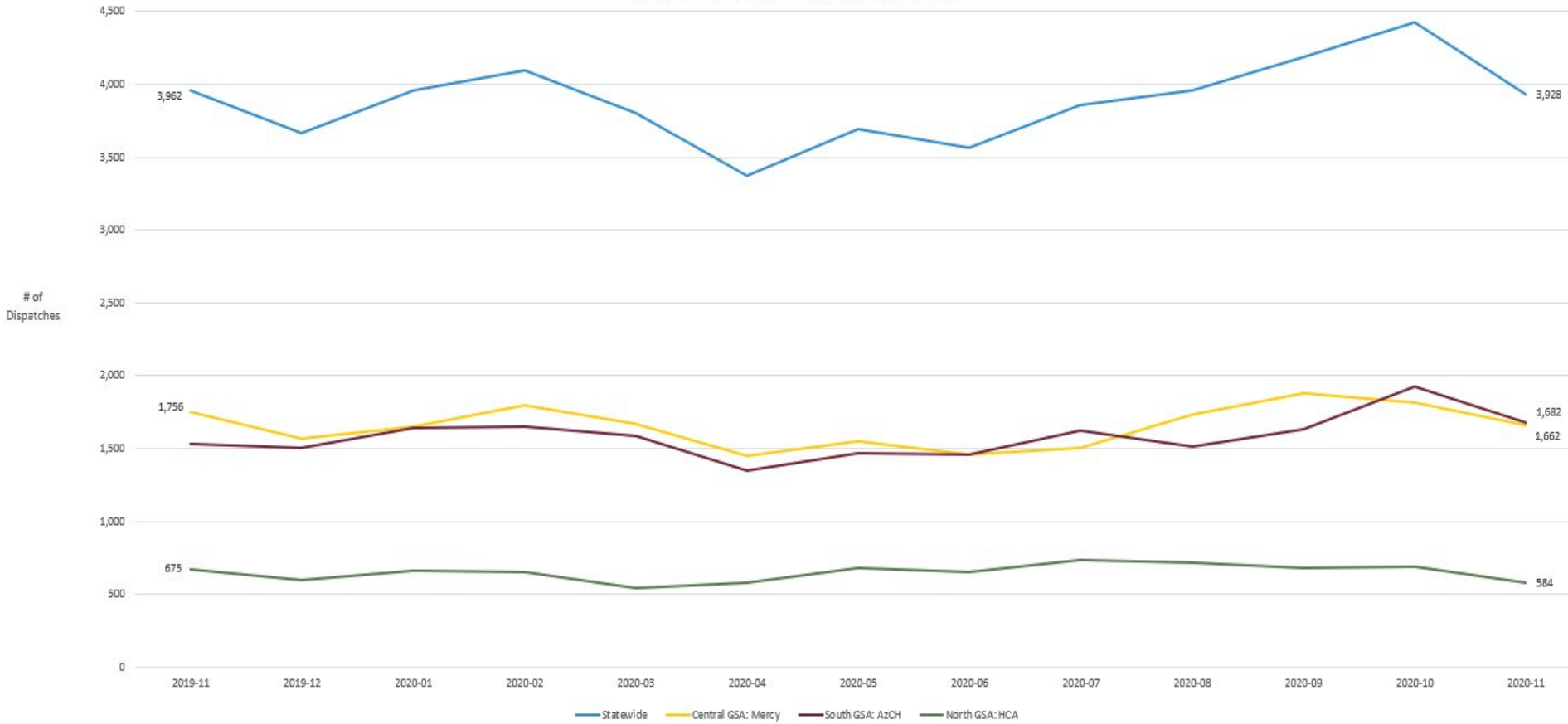
■ Self-Harm/Suicidal ■ Coordination of Care ■ Anxiety ■ Psychosis ■ Substance Use/Abuse ■ Aggression/DTO ■ Social Concerns ■ Depression ■ Medical/Medications ■ All Other



**Crisis Call Center - Top Reasons for Calls**  
**November 2020**  
 (By RBHA/GSA, Rate Per 100 Calls)



## Mobile Team Dispatch November 2019 - November 2020





# Questions, Open Discussion & Wrap Up

Next Meeting - January 15th  
(1/1/2021 Meeting Cancelled)

# Happy New Years!



# Thank You.

See the Behavioral Health Task Force web page for meeting past meeting presentations - <https://www.azahcccs.gov/AHCCCS/CommitteesAndWorkgroups/BehavioralHealthTaskForce.html>

Send future topics you want to discuss to [lauren.prole@azahcccs.gov](mailto:lauren.prole@azahcccs.gov)