



Clark County Drug Overdose Data

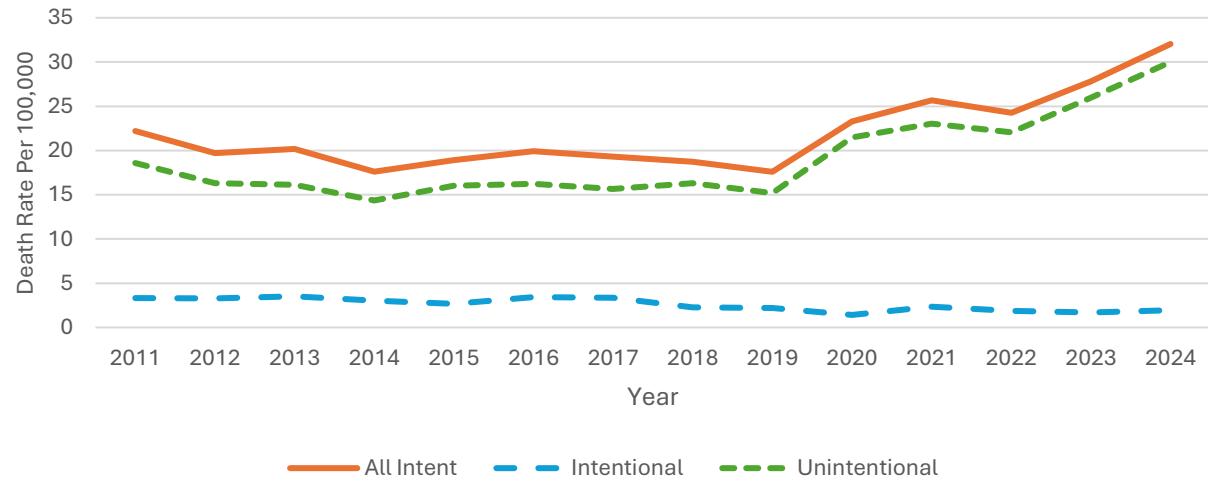
A Comprehensive Analysis of Overdose Mortality & Substance Use Trends

- Brandon Delise, Sr. Epidemiologist
- Marco Mendez, Epidemiologist
- Southern Nevada Health District

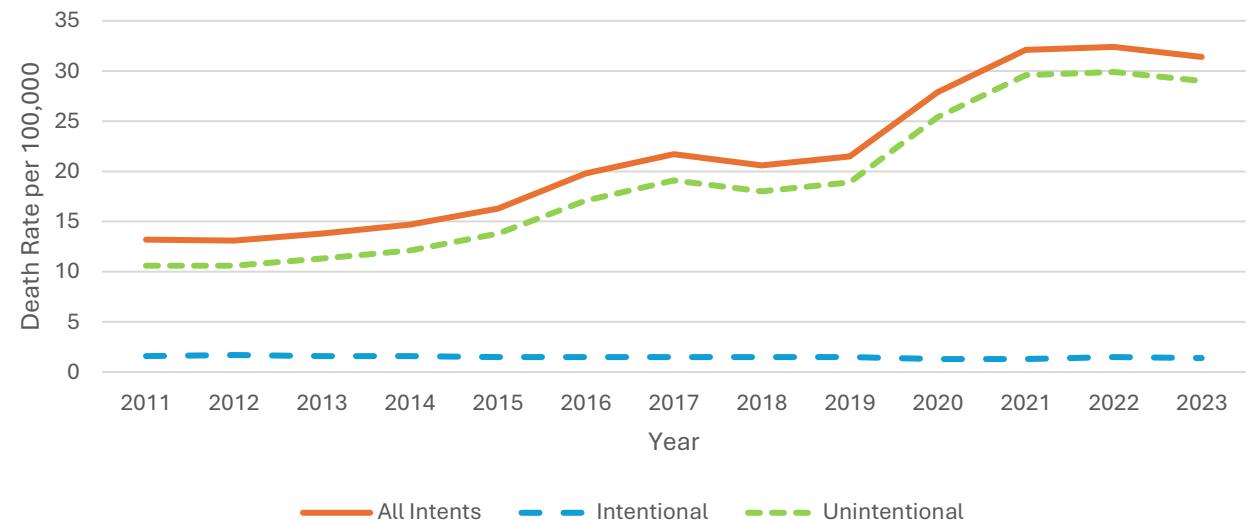
Key Insights – Drug Overdoses

- The majority of fatal drug overdoses in Clark County and across the US are unintentional, including those involving fentanyl.
- Clark County has seen sharp increase in overdose deaths since 2019, mirroring national patterns but with local variations in timing.

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Among Clark County Residents by Drug Class (2011-2024)



Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Among US Residents By Drug Class (2011-2023)



Current as of 03/24/2025.

Data Source: Nevada Electronic Death Registry System; CDC WONDER

Percentage of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Class (Clark County, 2024)

- Fentanyl and methamphetamine each accounted for 56.8% of all overdose deaths, often in combination, followed by cocaine, natural/semi-synthetic opioids, and benzodiazepines.

Drug	Percentage
All Opioid	67.60%
Fentanyl	56.80%
Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids	11.30%
Heroin	3.20%
Methamphetamine	56.80%
Cocaine	15.70%
Benzodiazepines	8.10%
Xylazine (Tranq)	3.80%

Note: Yearly counts **are not** mutually exclusive to one drug class category; therefore, the percentages will not add up to 100%.

Continuing Issue: Fentanyl in the Drug Supply

- Fentanyl is frequently found in other substances, either intentionally mixed or as a contaminant.

Drugs Implicated in Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl, 2024

Drug	Numerator	Percentage
Psychostimulants	256	57.10%
Cocaine	75	16.7%
Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids	32	7.10%
Benzos	34	7.6%
Heroin	7	1.6%

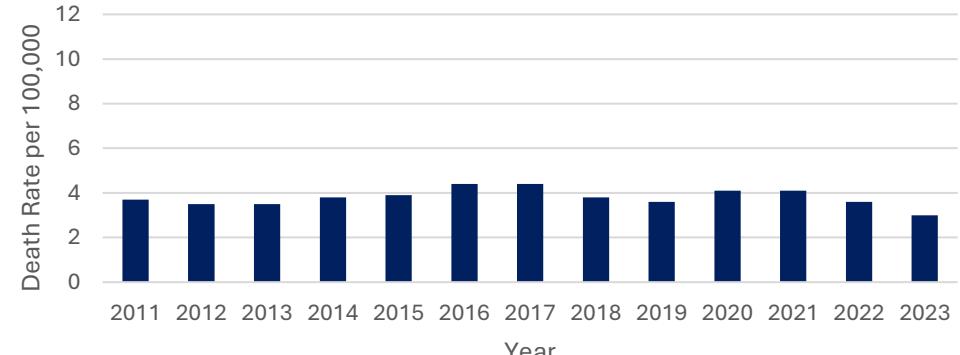
Note: Yearly counts are not mutually exclusive to one drug class category.

The Four Waves of the Overdose Epidemic

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids Among **Clark County** Residents (2011-2024)



Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids Among **US** Residents (2011-2023)

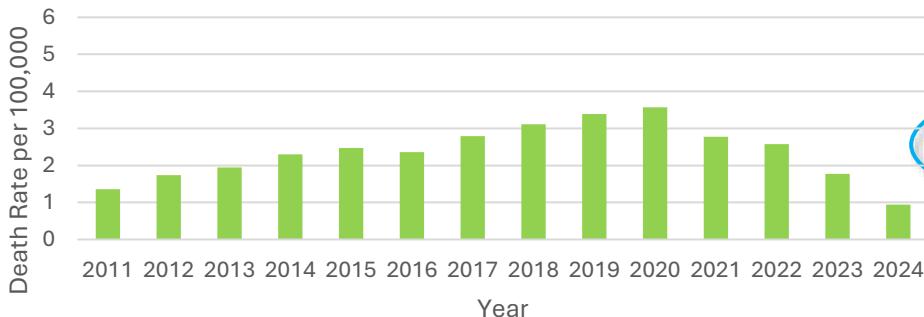


- First Wave (1999–2010): Prescription Opioids
- Second Wave (2010–2015): Heroin
- Third Wave (2015–2020): Synthetic Opioids (Fentanyl & Analogs)
- Fourth Wave (2020-Present): Stimulants (with and without Fentanyl)

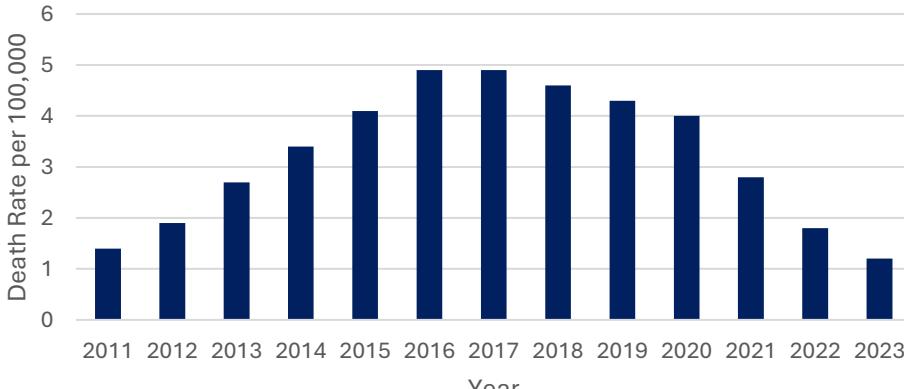
Current as of 03/24/2025.
Data Sources: Nevada Electronic Death Registry System; CDC WONDER

The Four Waves of the Overdose Epidemic

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Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Heroin Among **US** Residents (2011-2023)

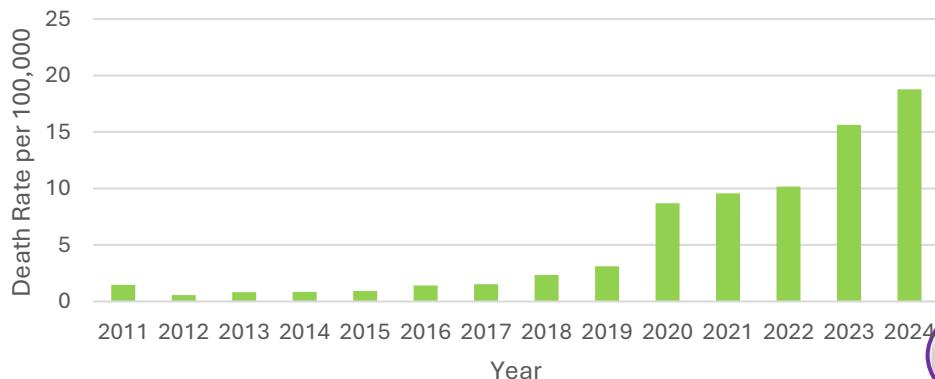


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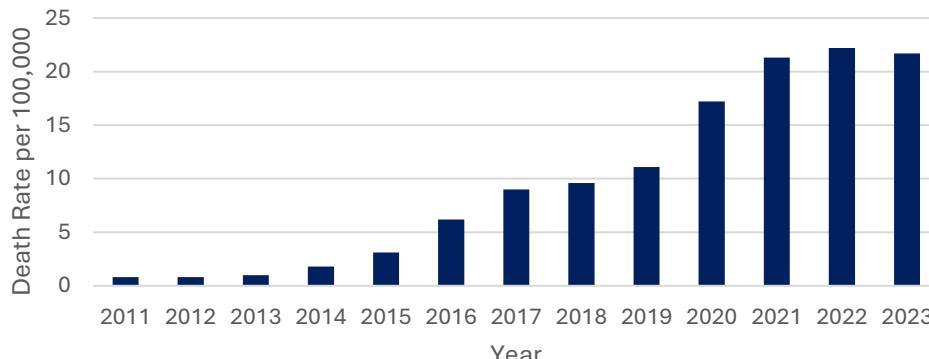
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The Four Waves of the Overdose Epidemic

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Fentanyl Among **Clark County** Residents (2011-2024)



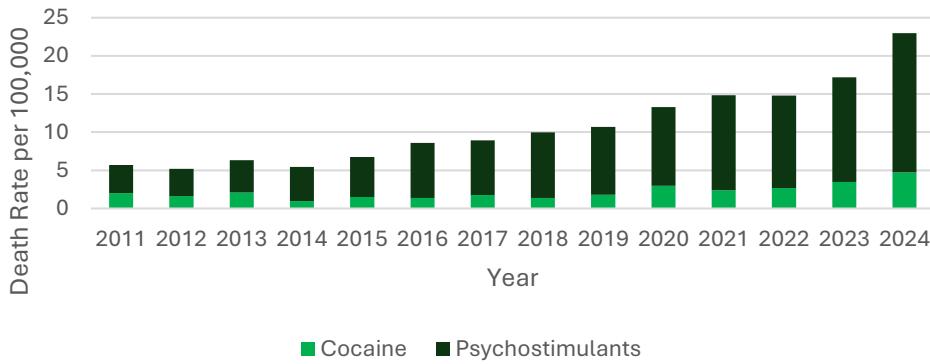
Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Fentanyl Among **US** Residents (2011-2023)



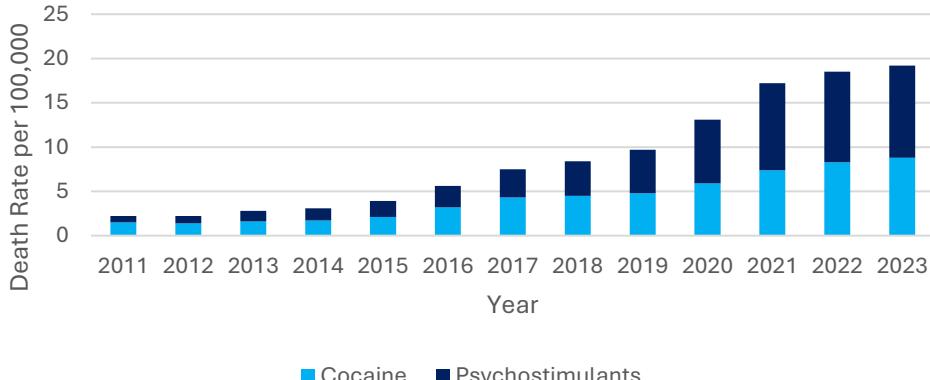
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The Four Waves of the Overdose Epidemic

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Stimulants Among **Clark County** Residents (2011-2024)



Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Involving Stimulants Among **US** Residents (2011-2023)



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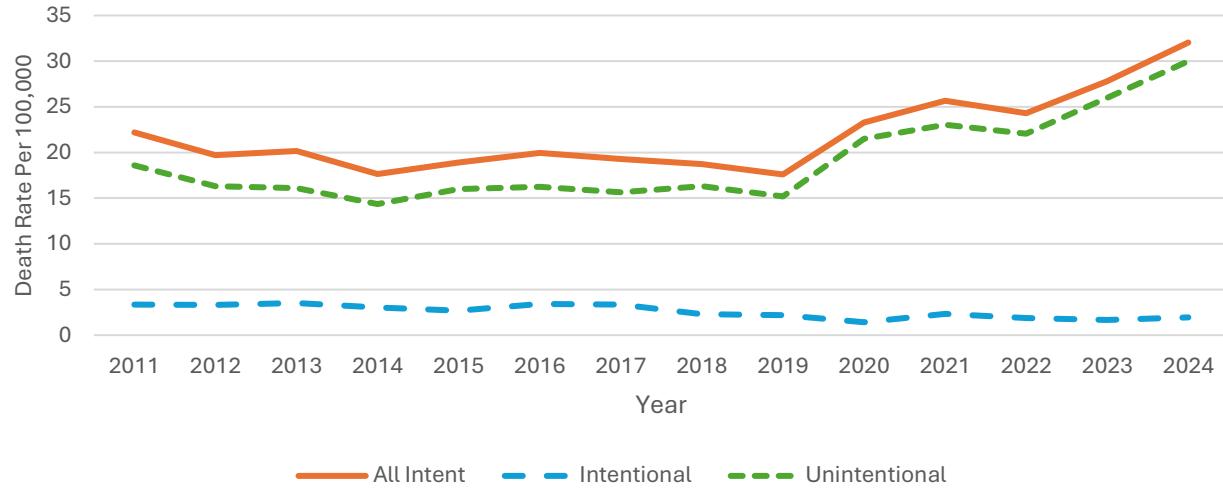
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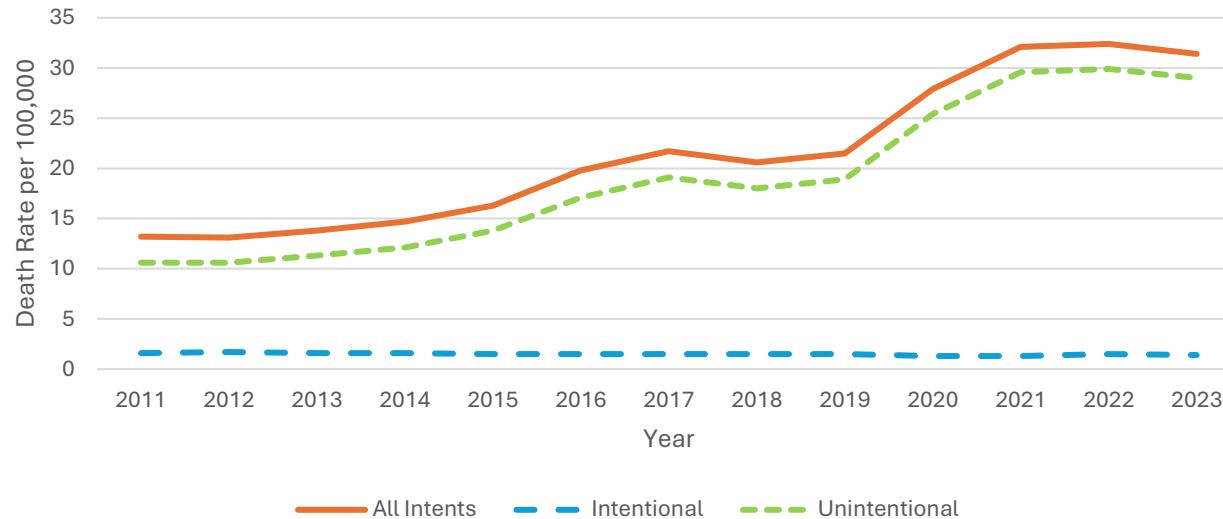
Clark County vs. U.S. – Drug Overdose Trends

- Nationally, overdose deaths began to decline in 2023, while Clark County continued seeing increases into 2024.
- Both Clark County and the U.S. follow the four-wave pattern, but Clark County experiences these waves later.
- Each wave has made overdose prevention more complex, requiring new public health strategies like increased naloxone distribution, harm reduction efforts, and treatment expansion.

Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Among Clark County Residents by Drug Class (2011-2024)



Age-Adjusted Drug Overdose Death Rate per 100,000 Among US Residents By Drug Class (2011-2023)

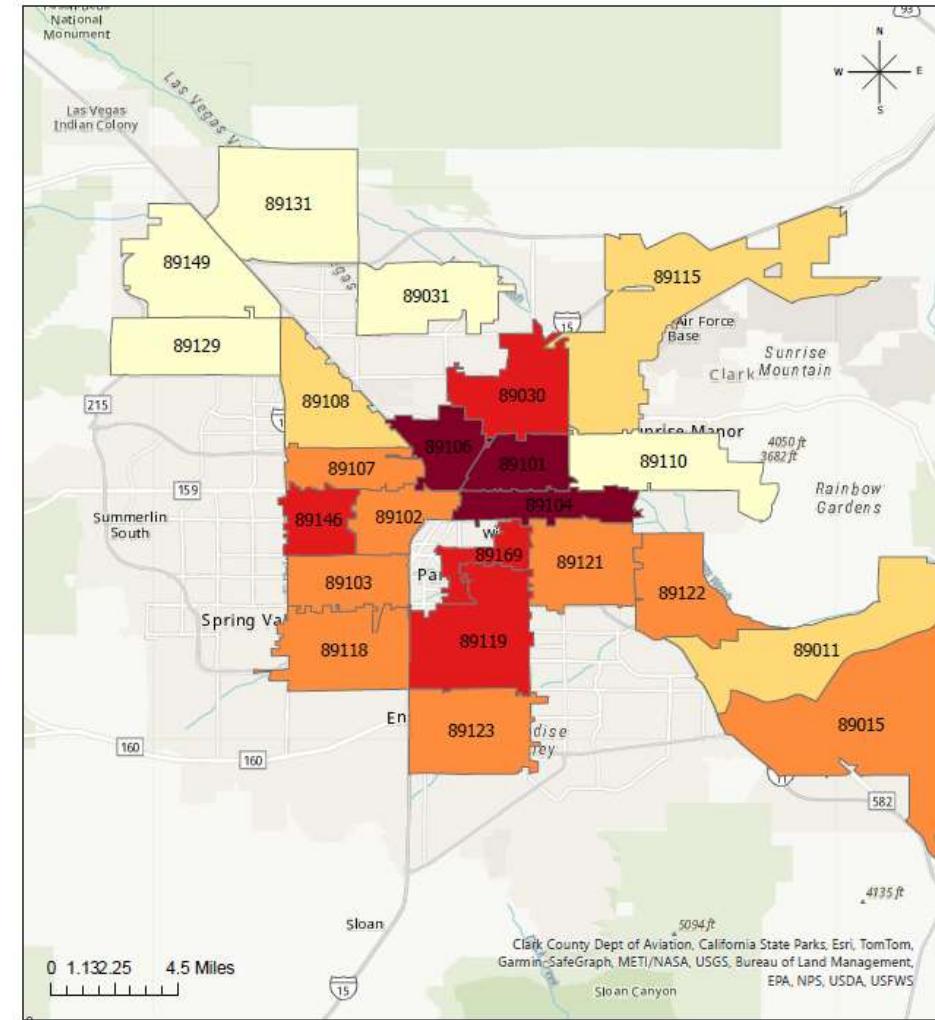


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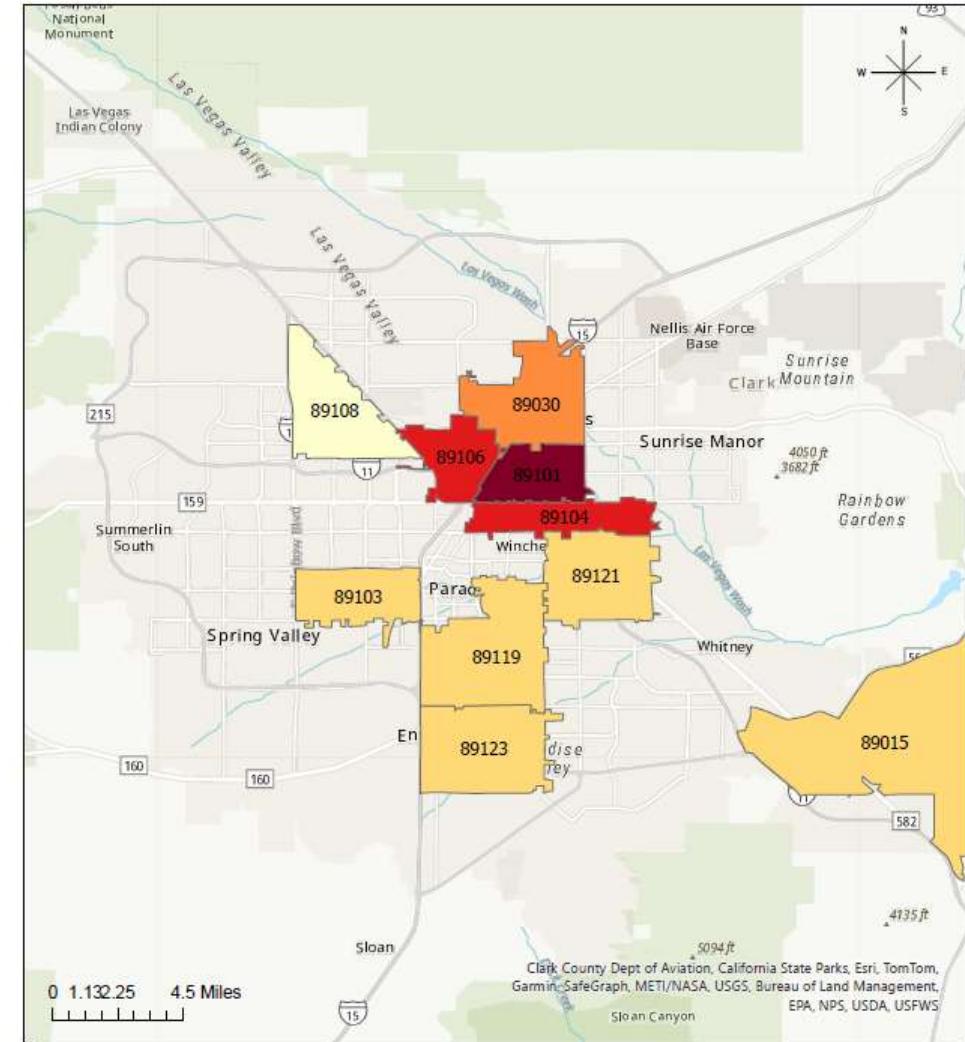
Crude Opioid Overdose Death Rates by ZIP Code (per 100,000 residents)

The ZIP codes with the highest burden of opioid overdose in 2024 was 89101, 89104, and 89106



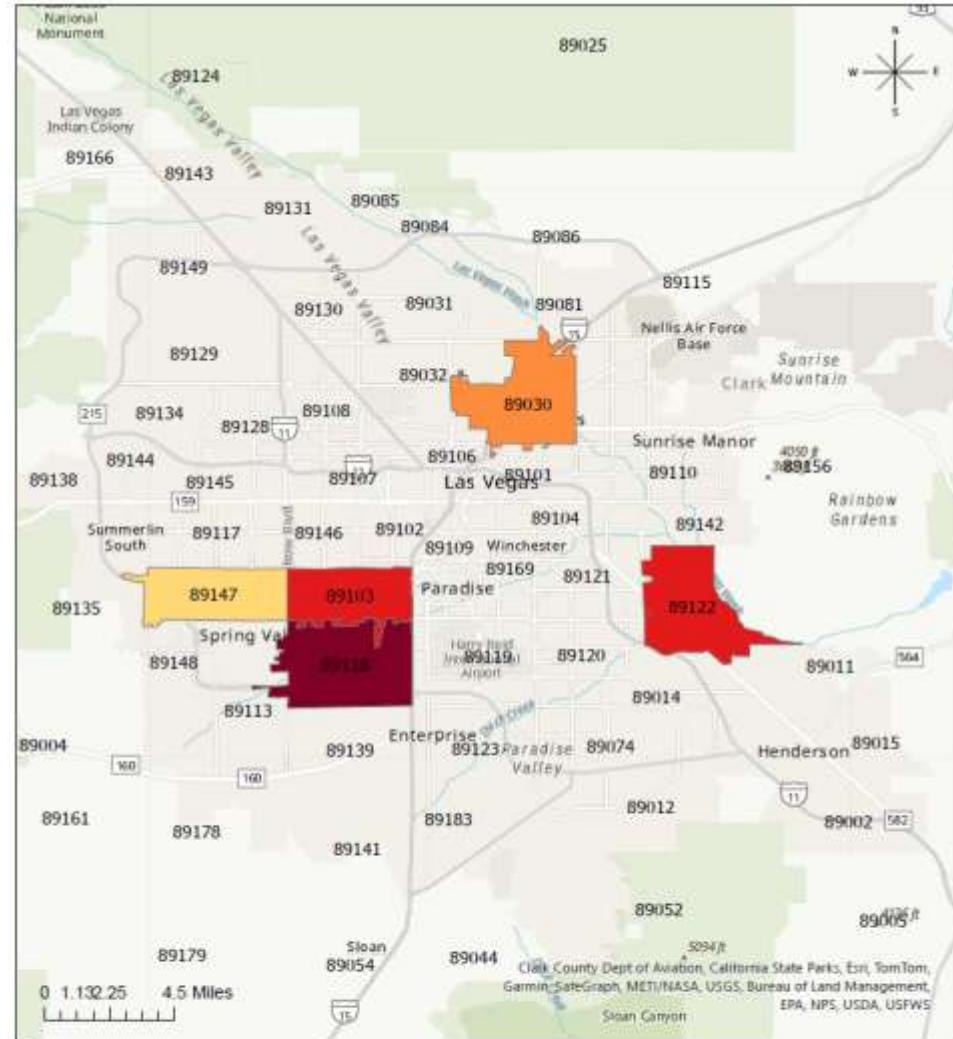
Crude Methamphetamine Overdose Death Rates by ZIP Code (per 100,000 residents)

The ZIP codes with the highest burden of methamphetamine overdose in 2024 was 89101, 89104, and 89106.



Crude Non-fatal Opioid Overdose Rates by ZIP Code (per 100,000 residents)

The ZIP codes with the highest burden of non-fatal opioid overdose in 2024 was 89118, 89122, and 89103.



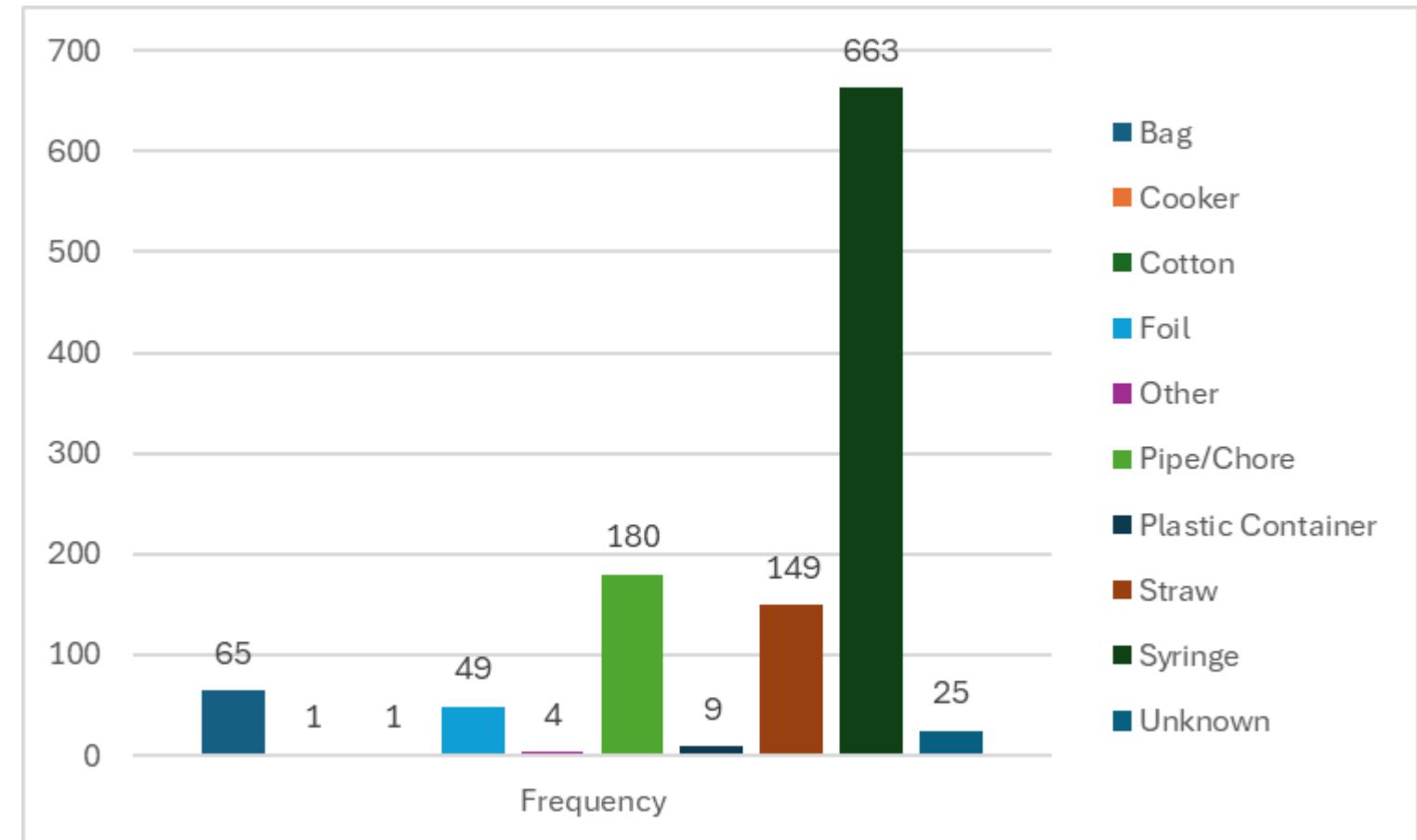
NFOO Rate

- <=28.4
- 28.4 - 31.7
- 31.7 - 59.6
- 59.6 - 86.2

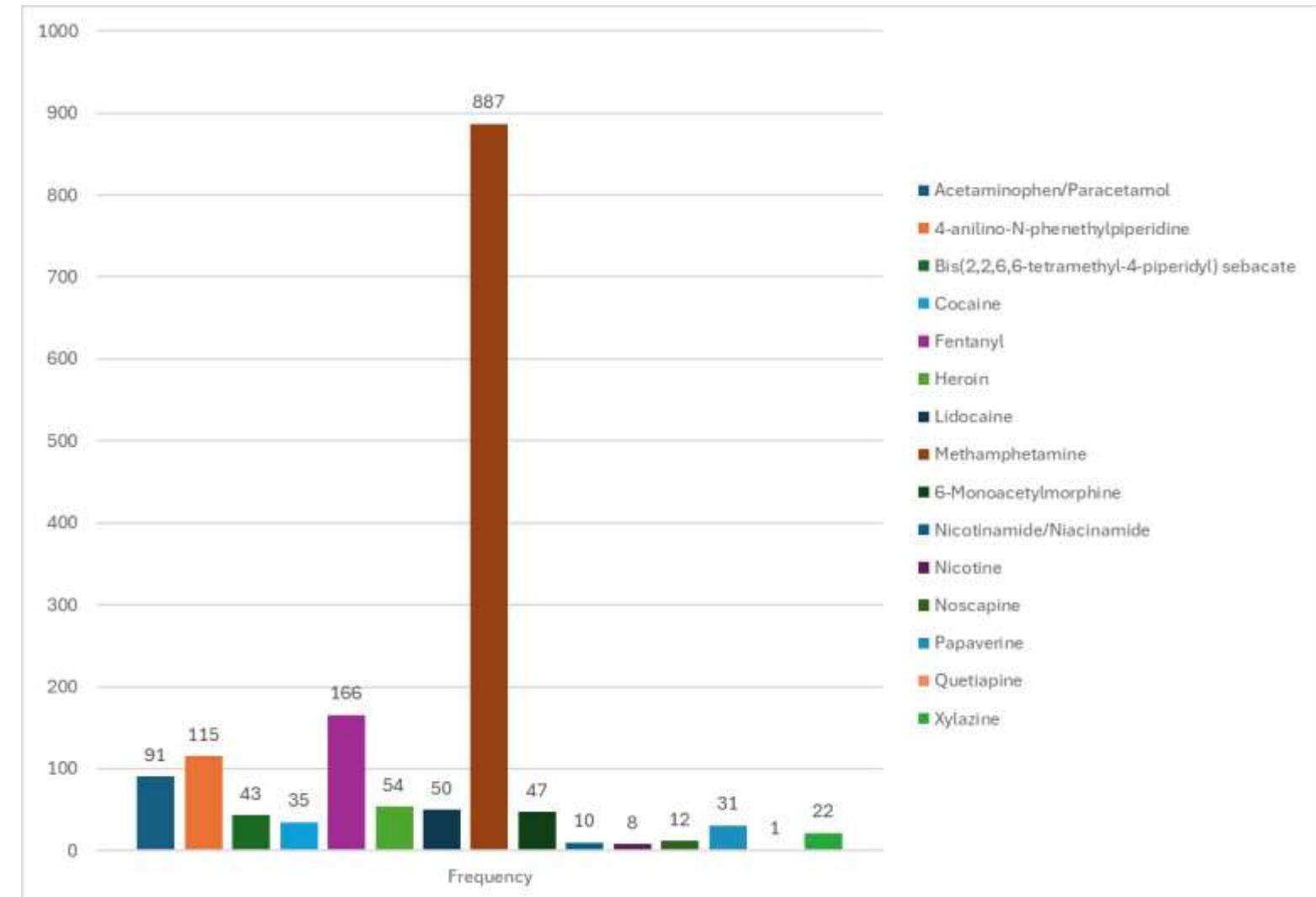
Illicit Drug Supply Surveillance

- Partnership with RaDAR laboratory (part of National Institute of Standards and Technology)
- SNHD, The Center, and Impact Exchange collect samples from used paraphernalia
- **1,146 samples analyzed since September 2024**
 - 2,093 samples since September 2023
- Samples are **voluntary and anonymous**, only identified by an ID number
 - ID numbers are not tied to any identifying information
- Goal: Monitor local illicit drug supply for recurring and novel adulterants to inform prevention efforts

Item Types Sampled, N=1,146



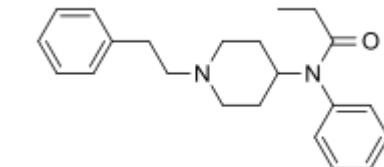
Substances Identified, N=1,146



Adulterants Detected, N=1,146 Samples

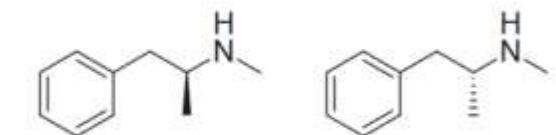
Fentanyl samples containing:

- + Xylazine = 13.25%
- + BTMPS = 25.90%
- + Lidocaine = 23.49%



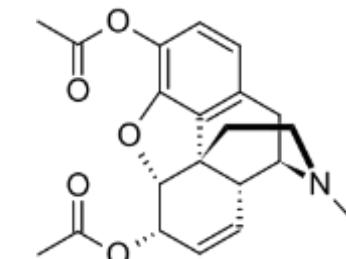
Methamphetamine samples containing:

- + Fentanyl = 9.34%
- + Xylazine = 2.14%
- + BTMPS = 2.93%
- + Lidocaine = 3.49%



Heroin samples containing:

- + Fentanyl = 7.41%
- + Xylazine = 0.00%
- + BTMPS = 1.85%
- + Lidocaine = 3.70%



Southern Nevada Health District detects xylazine in Clark County illicit drug supply

Resources available to the community for harm reduction

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

May 28, 2024

LAS VEGAS – The Southern Nevada Health District has detected xylazine in the local illicit drug supply through its community surveillance program where drug paraphernalia is anonymously collected and sampled in Clark County. While xylazine use has not been widely reported in Nevada, the Health District registered three overdose deaths involving xylazine in 2023 (compared to one death in 2020).

The surveillance program is part of an expanded effort to detect substances more quickly and respond. The program that detected xylazine has collected 502 samples since December 2022. In the reports received by the Health District, methamphetamine was detected in 53.7% of samples and heroin in 38.9%. Samples were taken from various paraphernalia to ensure a broad representation of the way substances are used in the community.

Xylazine, also known as "tranz," is a potent tranquilizer that is increasingly being found in the national illicit drug supply and has been linked to overdose deaths throughout the United States. In Clark County, the age-adjusted overdose death rate involving any drug per 100,000 residents rose by 46.3% from 2018 to 2023, with overdose deaths involving fentanyl increasing by 561%, and overdose deaths involving methamphetamine increasing by 57.4% during the same period.

Xylazine is only approved for veterinary use and is not approved for human consumption. It can be life-threatening and is especially dangerous when combined with opioids, such as fentanyl. The use of xylazine can cause drowsiness, amnesia, blood sugar abnormalities, slowed breathing, slowed heartbeat, dangerously low blood pressure, wounds that can become infected, and death.

Harm reduction practices can help prevent further overdose deaths and the incidence of xylazine-related wounds and infections. The Health District provides test strips for both fentanyl and xylazine without a prescription at 280 S. Decatur Blvd., Las Vegas, NV 89107. Additional distribution locations for fentanyl test strips can be found at <https://nwoioidresponse.org/fentanyl-testing-strip-finders/>.

Xylazine is not an opioid, and naloxone (Narcan) will not reverse the effects of xylazine. Because xylazine is often found in substance mixtures containing fentanyl, it is important to take extra caution. Narcan should be given in response to any suspected overdose as a means of reversing any possible opioid effects. In addition, 911 should be called for further medical evaluation. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services provides information on responding to an opioid overdose at [How to Respond to an Opioid Overdose | HHS.gov](https://www.hhs.gov/coronavirus/what-can-i-do-if-someone-is-overdosing-on-an-opioid).

Resources

- Naloxone
- The Strip Club
- Public Health Vending Machines
 - The Gay & Lesbian Community Center
 - Center for Behavioral Health (DI Location)
 - Center for Behavioral Health (Cheyenne Location)
 - SNHD (Main Decatur Location)
 - Hawthorne, NV (A St. Location)
- Substance Use Dashboard
 - Links to free naloxone and test strips



Acknowledgements

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