West Virginia Drug Overdose Deaths

Elizabeth Larimore, Research Specialist
WV Health Statistics Center
July 2019
Please keep the following in mind:

- Preliminary data
  - Not final counts
  - Determination whether overdose was underlying cause
- Polypharmacy
- Figures from analysis completed on July 15, 2019
Preliminary 2018 data is not available.

- There are 1,017 confirmed overdose deaths in 2017 to date.
- Approx. 1 out of 5 overdose deaths involved cocaine.
- More than 20% involved methamphetamine.
- Continued declines in fatal hydrocodone, oxycodone-related overdoses.

Drug Overdose Deaths by Sex, 2013-2017

- Male
- Female

Note: Data displayed is calculated from WV occurrence deaths.
Of the 1,017 confirmed overdose deaths in 2017:

- In 2017, 86% of drug overdose deaths involved an opioid.
- Fentanyl was involved in 7% of overdose deaths in 2013, and 59% of overdose deaths in 2017.
- Steep increases of meth-related deaths continue.
- On average, heroin has been involved in 27% of overdose deaths from 2013-2017.

Note: Data displayed is calculated from WV occurrence deaths. 
Commonly Observed Drug Co-Use

In 2017, half of methamphetamine-related deaths involved fentanyl and 11% of all drug overdoses involved methamphetamine and fentanyl.

Stimulant & Opioid Co-Use

Fatal drug overdoses involving methamphetamine and an opioid increased from 4% of deaths in 2015 to 17% of deaths in 2017.

Alcohol & Opioid Co-Use

Select Benzodiazepines & Opioid Co-Use

Contact

Elizabeth Larimore
Research Specialist || Health Statistics Center

West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources, Bureau for Public Health
350 Capitol Street, Room 165

Email: Elizabeth.E.Larimore@wv.gov