



MISSISSIPPI STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

# Drug Overdose Deaths Mississippi 2019

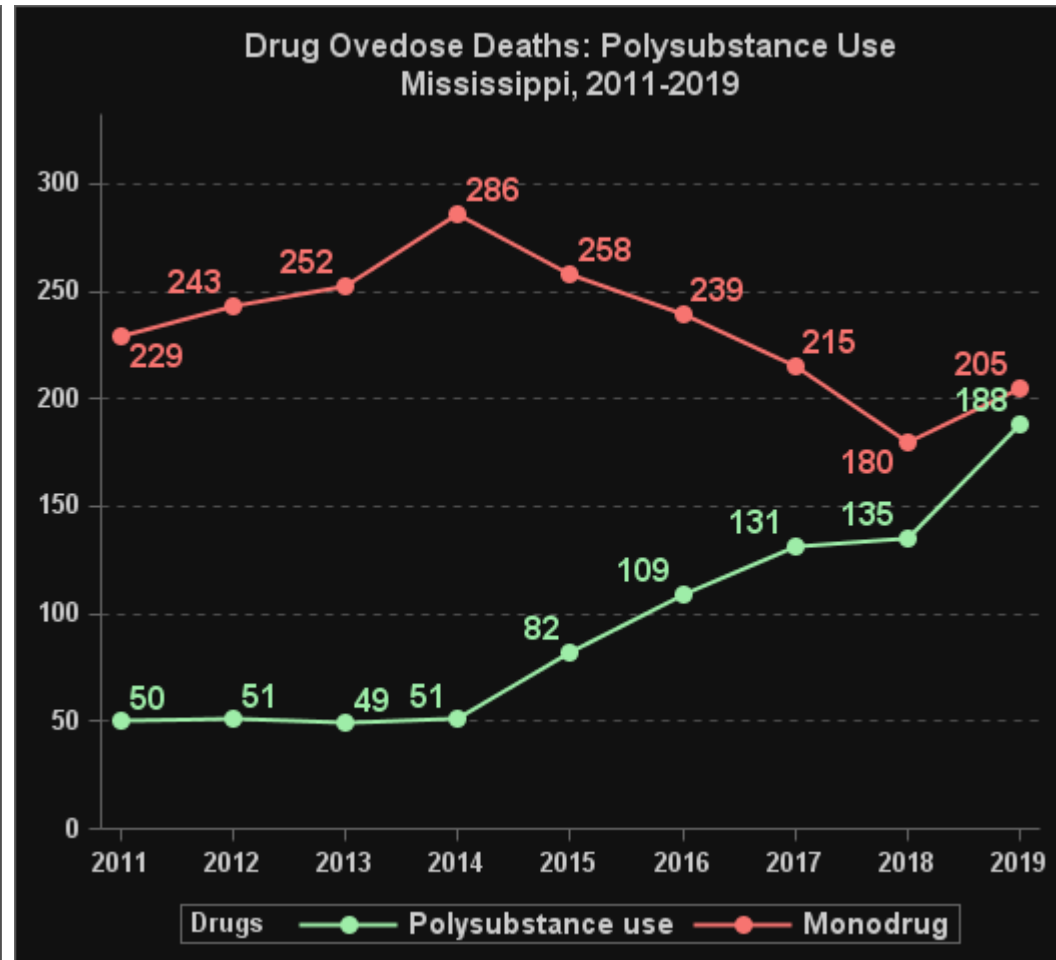
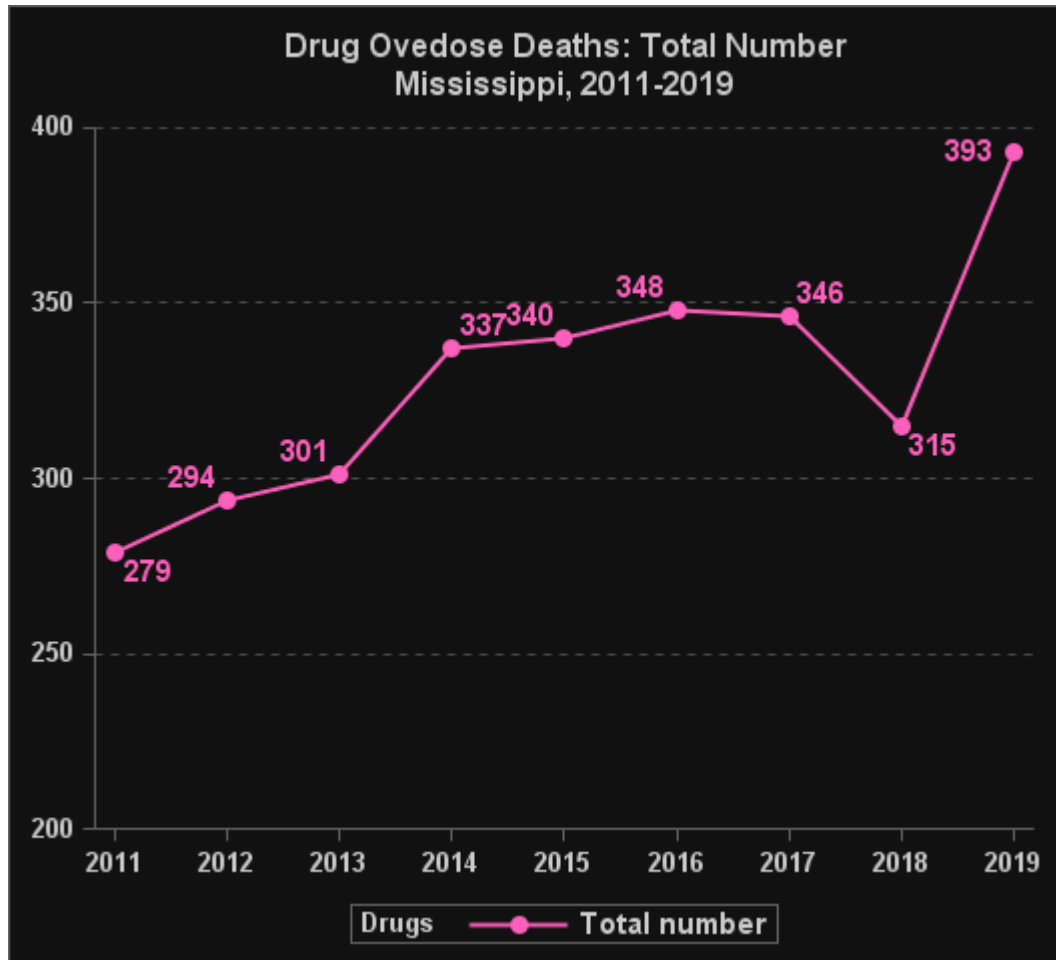
Annual Report  
4/7/2021

# Key Findings

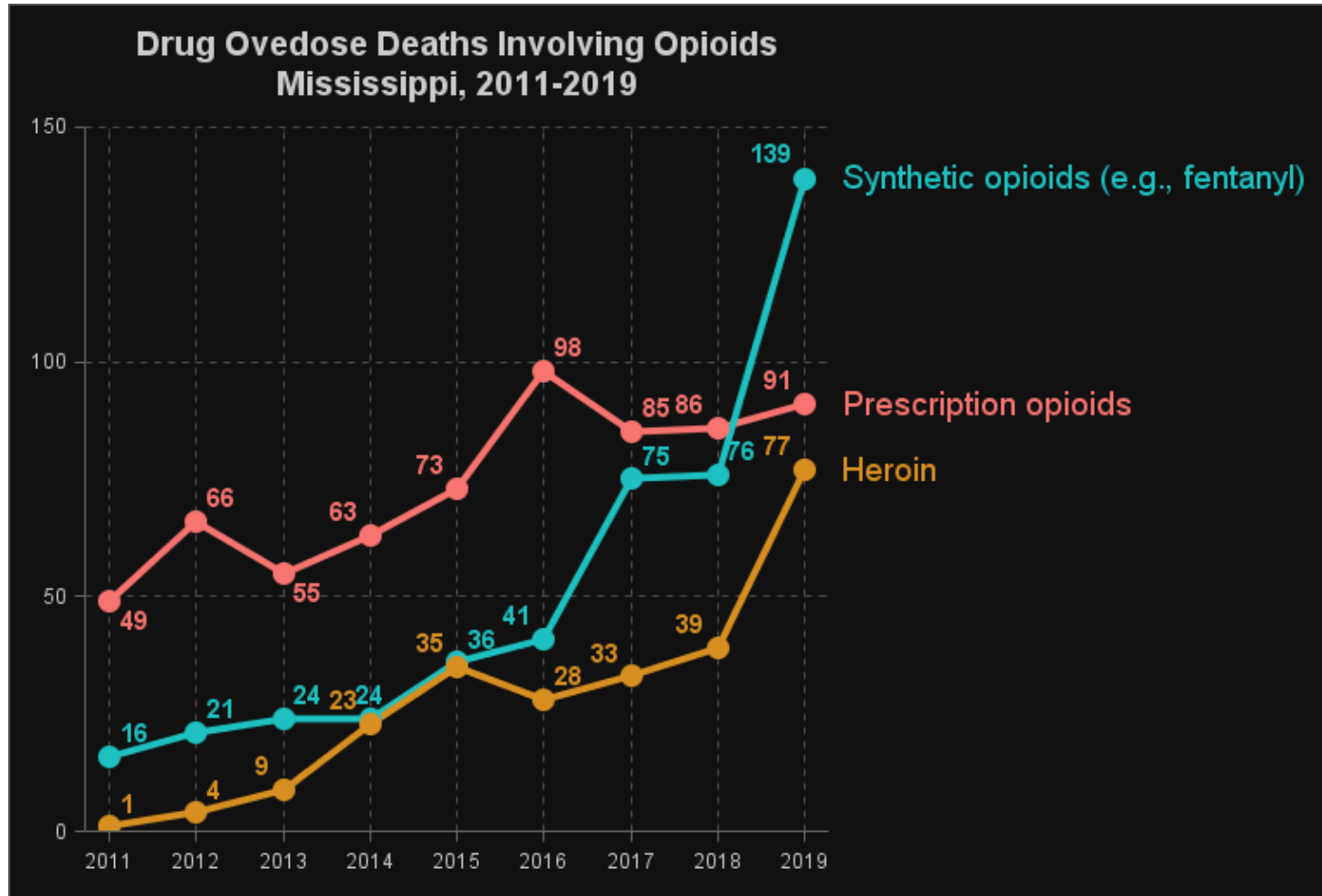
- The total number of drug overdose deaths increased sharply, from 315 in 2018 to 393 in 2019. This 25% increase resulted in 78 more drug overdose deaths in 2019 compared to 2018.
- This uptrend was driven by a substantial increase in deaths involving heroin (97%) and synthetic opioids such as illicit fentanyl (83%).
- Drug overdose deaths due to multiple drug use continued to spike as well, increasing by 39%. In 2019, polysubstance use was recorded in 47.8% of all drug overdose deaths.
- Deaths involving opioids as a group increased by 38%; the number of deaths involving prescription opioids remained relatively stable with a minor increase of 6% (5 more deaths).
- While synthetic opioids and heroin fueled the spike; there was an increase in deaths involving all major groups of drugs. Deaths involving cocaine increased by 50%; deaths involving benzodiazepines increased by 33%; and deaths involving psychostimulants increased by 30%.
- The overwhelming majority of drug-related fatalities during 2019 occurred among white (84.0%), single (79.1%), and men (63.6%). Most of the deceased individuals (94.4%) did not have a college degree.

# Drug Overdose Deaths: Total and Polysubstance

Drug overdose deaths due to multiple drug use continued to spike, increasing by 39%.  
 In 2019, polysubstance use was recorded in 47.8% of all drug overdose deaths.



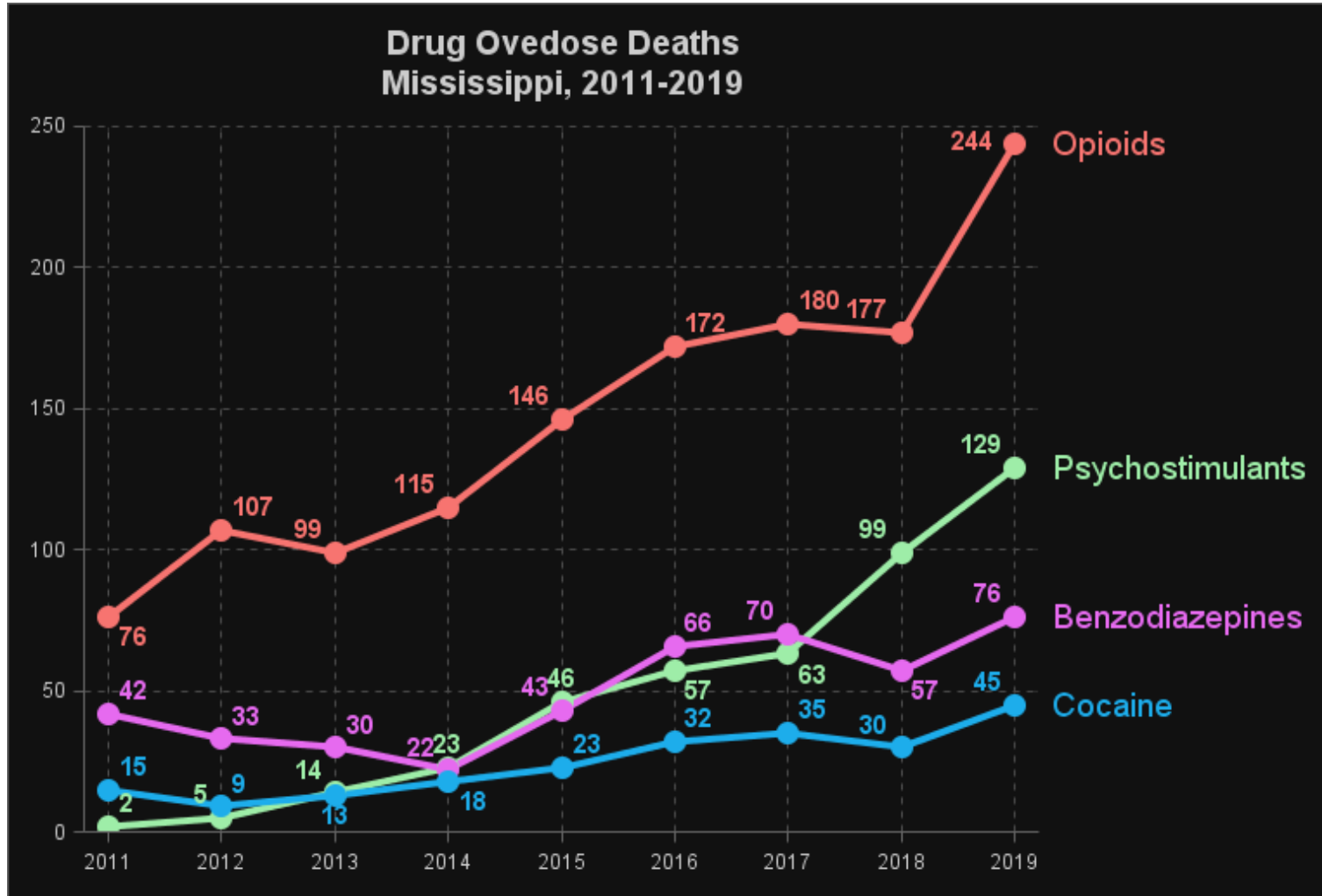
# Synthetic Opioids – The New Challenge



The uptrend in drug overdose deaths during 2019 was driven by a substantial increase in deaths involving heroin, from 39 to 77 deaths (97% increase) and synthetic opioids, from 76 to 139 (83% increase).

The number of deaths involving prescription opioids remained relatively stable with a minor increase of 6% (5 more deaths).

# Major Drug Groups



Deaths involving opioids as a group increased by 38%. While synthetic opioids and heroin fueled the spike, there was an increase in deaths involving all major groups of drugs. Deaths involving cocaine increased by 50%; deaths involving benzodiazepines increased by 33%; and deaths involving psychostimulants increased by 30%.

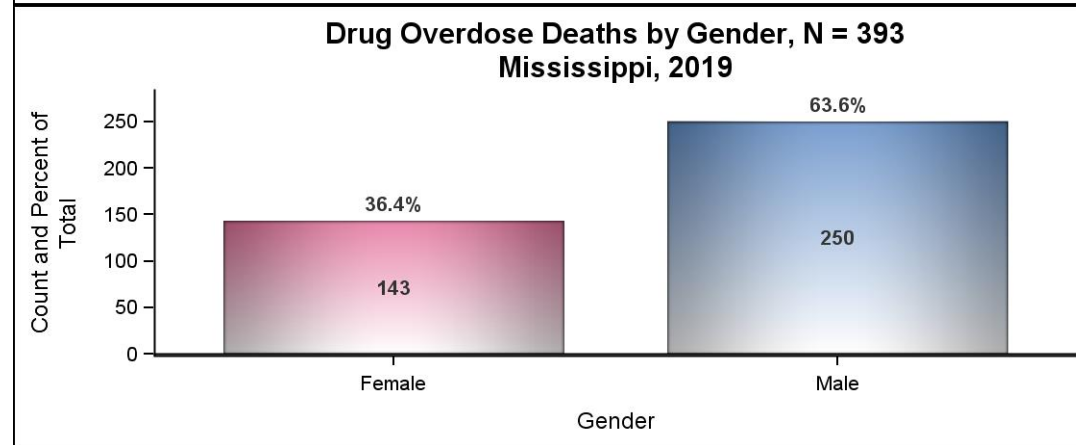
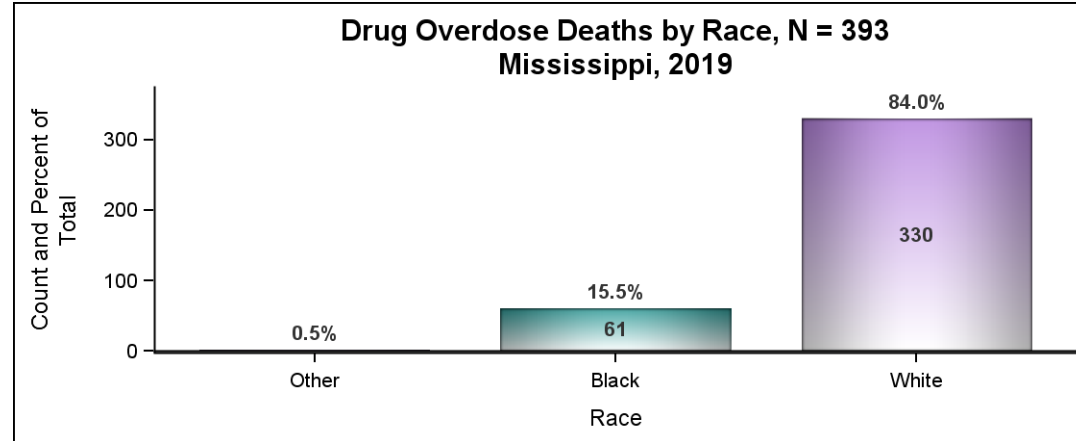
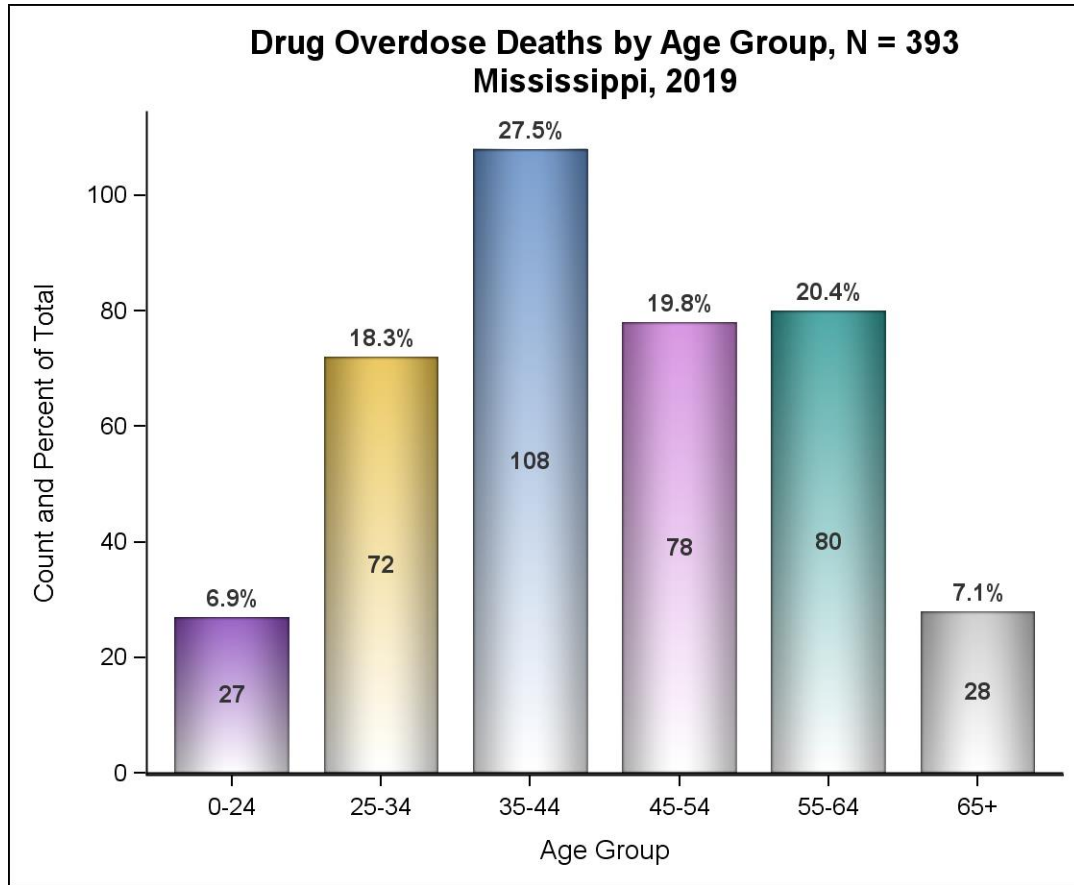
# Type of Drugs – Summary Table

Type of drug	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Change 2018-2019
<b>Opioids</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>180</b>	<b>177</b>	<b>244</b>	<b>38%</b>
Natural and semisynthetic opioids (i.e., prescription opioids)	49	66	55	63	73	98	85	86	91	6%
Synthetic opioids (e.g., fentanyl)	16	21	24	24	36	41	75	76	139	83%
Heroin	1	4	9	23	35	28	33	39	77	97%
Methadone	11	21	12	7	12	8	9	12	7	-42%
Other and unspecified narcotics	6	9	10	13	11	20	20	12	7	-42%
<b>Psychostimulants</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>30%</b>
<b>Benzodiazepines</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>57</b>	<b>76</b>	<b>33%</b>
<b>Cocaine</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Unspecified</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>158</b>	<b>160</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-47%</b>
<b>Polysubstance use</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>131</b>	<b>135</b>	<b>188</b>	<b>39%</b>
<b>Total number</b>	<b>279</b>	<b>294</b>	<b>301</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>340</b>	<b>348</b>	<b>346</b>	<b>315</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>25%</b>



# Overdoses - Demographics, 2019

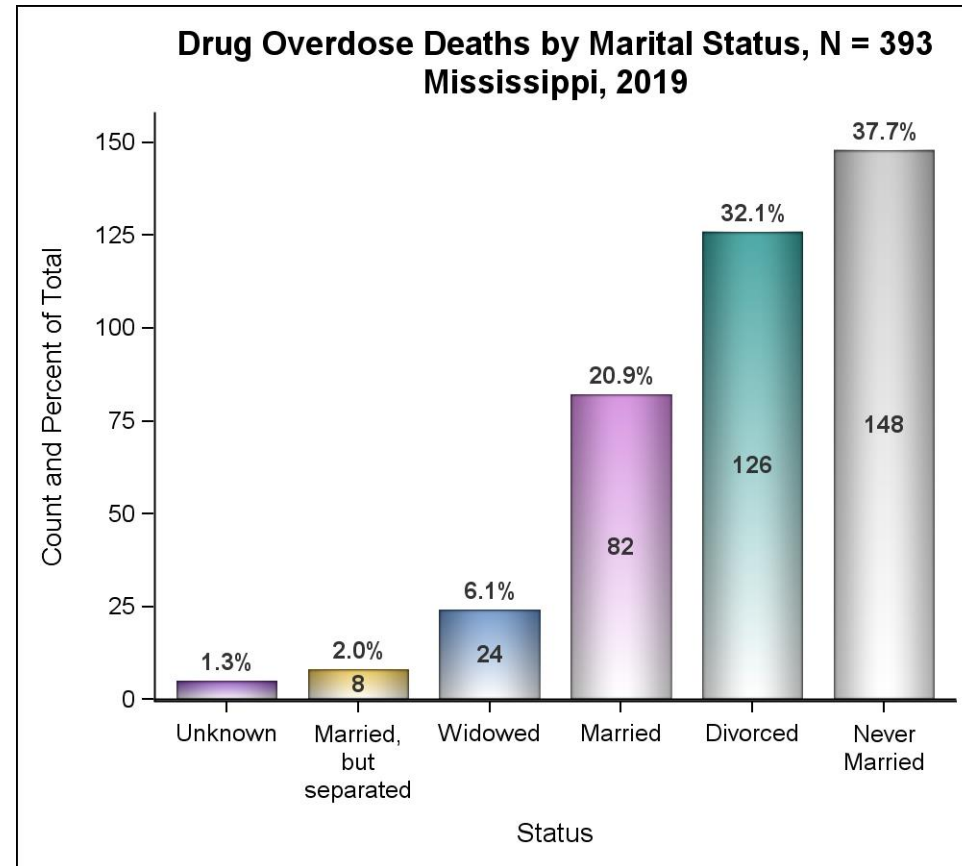
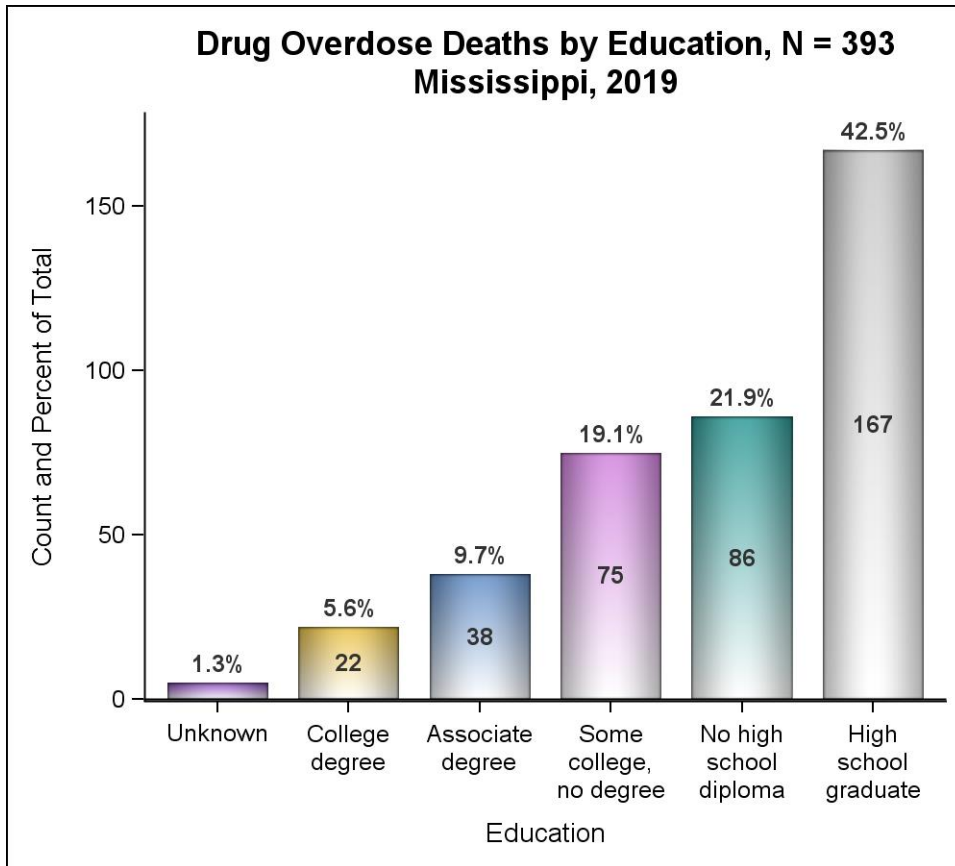
In 2019, the age group of 35-44 years had the highest occurrence of drug overdose deaths, followed by the age group of 55-64 years. Men accounted for 250 or 63.6% of the total deaths. The overwhelming majority of deaths (330 or 84.0%) occurred among whites.



# Education and Marital Status

**Education:** In 2019, only 5.6% (22) of all decedents from opioid overdoses had a bachelor's degree or higher level of education.

**Marital Status:** During the same year, only 20.9% (82) of all decedents were married or not separated at the time of their death.





# Notes

**Data Analysis:** Drug overdose deaths were identified by International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) underlying cause-of-death codes: X40-44 (accidental drug poisoning), X60-X64 (intentional self-drug poisoning), X85 (assault by drug poisoning), Y10-Y14 (drug poisoning by undetermined intent). Specific drug categories and multidrug use was identified by: T40.0-T40.4, and T40.6 (opioids), cocaine (T40.5), T40.7 (cannabis), T40.8 (lysergide), T40.9 (other and unspecified psychodysleptics), T43.6 (psychostimulants with abuse potential), T42.2-42.8 (antiepileptic, sedative-hypnotic and antiparkinsonism), and T50.9 (unspecified).

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