

**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY
HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

Opioid Overdose Report

December 2014



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County Executive



Background

Opioids are chemicals that act in the brain to:

- Manage pain
- Suppress coughs
- Treat opioid-use disorders (addictions)
- Cause feelings of euphoria, contentment and/or detachment

Opiates are made from the opium of the poppy plant (heroin, morphine, codeine), while Opioids include any drugs that contain opium or its derivative, natural or synthetic, illegal drugs or prescription medicine. Opioids may be used for pain from injury or after surgery, or as part of care for painful diseases such as cancer. When used recreationally, Opioids can be both addictive and fatal. From 2011-2013, there was an average of over 30 deaths per year in Prince George's County due to Opioid overdoses.

Examples of Opioids are:

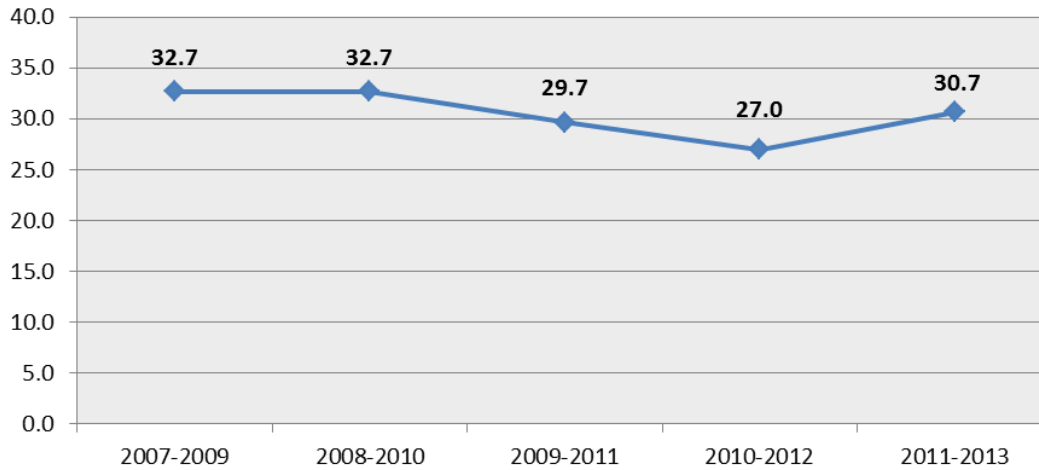
- | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| • Heroin | • Morphine |
| • Buprenorphine (Suboxone) | • Nalbuphine (Nubain) |
| • Butorphanol (Stadol) | • Oxycodone (Percocet) |
| • Codeine | • Oxymorphone |
| • Fentanyl (patch) | • Pentazocine (Talwin) |
| • Hydrocodone (Vicodin) | • Paregoric |
| • Meperidine (Demerol) | • Propoxyphene (Darvon) |



Deaths Involving Opioids

The number of deaths occurring in Prince George's County involving Opioids has remained fairly consistent over the years. The chart below displays the average number of deaths over three-year periods to account for small fluctuations that can occur.

Average Number of Deaths Occurring in Prince George's County Involving Opioids



Deaths Occurring in Prince George's County from 2011-2013 Involving Opioids

From 2011-2013 there were a total of 92 Opioid-related deaths. Of those, 70% (N=64) were male.

Age	Number of Deaths	Percent
<25	8	8.7%
25-34	22	23.91%
35-44	20	21.74%
45-54	26	28.26%
55+	16	17.39%

Race	Number of Deaths	Percent
African American	34	36.96%
White	54	58.70%
Other	4	4.35%

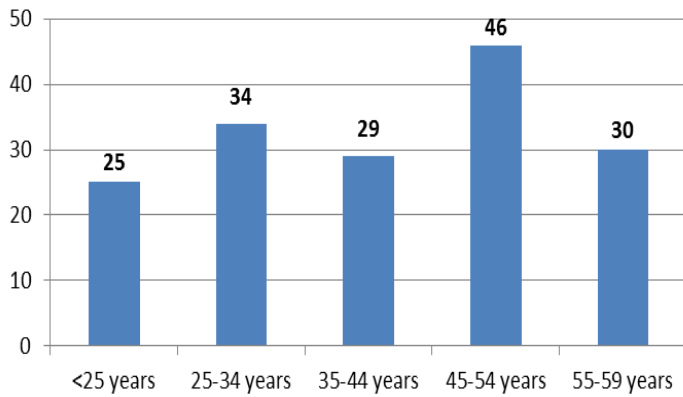
Many of the deaths involved multiple drugs, including both Opioids as well as other substances such as sedatives, cocaine, and alcohol. The following table includes the leading Opioids (deaths may be counted multiple times depending on the types of Opioids used).

Opioid Used	Number of Deaths	Percent
Heroin	57	62.0%
Morphine	23	25.0%
Methadone	17	18.5%
Oxycodone	14	15.2%
Any Prescription Opioid	40	43.5%

EMS Calls For Potential Opioid Overdoses

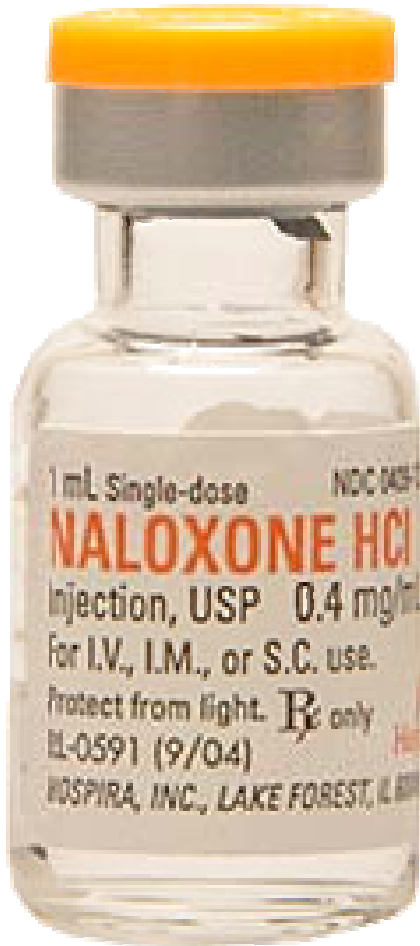
EMS data is limited in tracking Opioid overdoses for two reasons: 1) not every call may have complete information entered by the EMS crew, and 2) the data is based on the complaint and/or EMS crew perception, so the actual confirmed diagnosis is unknown. The EMS data displayed below is limited to ages 16-59 years with “Narcan” (Naloxone) noted as an on-site treatment since this would be used if Opioid overdose was strongly suspected.

2013 EMS Patients with “Narcan Use” by Age Group, Ages 16-59 years



2013 EMS Calls with Narcan Use, Age 16-60 years

ZIP Code	Number of EMS Calls with Narcan Use	Percent of EMS Calls with Narcan Use
20743	17	10.43
20747	13	7.98
20745	11	6.75
20707	11	6.75
20748	10	6.13
20785	9	5.52
20746	7	4.29
20706	7	4.29
20782	6	3.68
20740	6	3.68
20774	5	3.07
20772	5	3.07
20744	5	3.07
20737	5	3.07
20735	5	3.07
20781	4	2.45
20784	3	1.84
20721	3	1.84
20716	3	1.84
20715	3	1.84
20712	3	1.84
20708	3	1.84
20783	2	1.23
20770	2	1.23
20769	2	1.23
20755	2	1.23
20722	2	1.23
20720	2	1.23
20710	2	1.23
20705	2	1.23
20912	1	0.61
20613	1	0.61
20474	1	0.61
Missing	1	0.61
TOTAL	164	

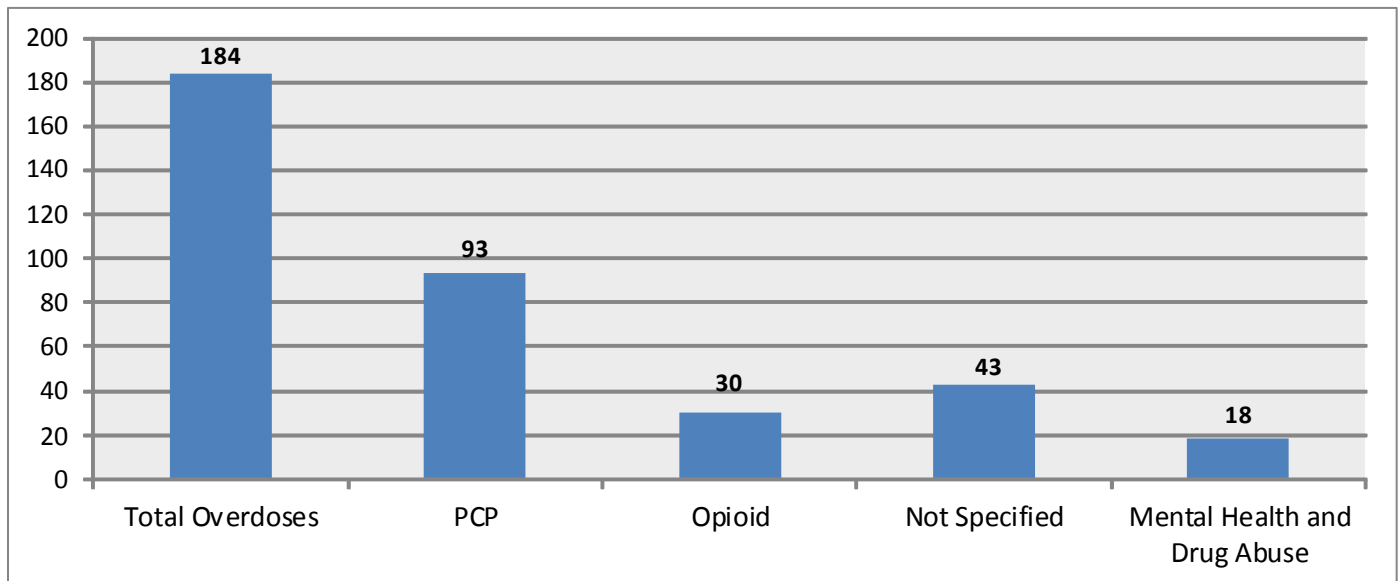


Emergency Department Visits For Opioids

In an overdose situation, many people will be seen in an Emergency Department (ED). However, like EMS services, EDs have limited data available since they may not know the final diagnosis and all the contributing factors that caused the emergency. In addition, ED data often only includes one diagnosis, which further limits the ability to identify multiple drug use. Prince George's Hospital Center Emergency Department was able to provide the following data for the six-month period of July 2013-December 2013. The majority of overdoses were attributed to Phencyclidine (commonly known as PCP), followed by a diagnosis of unspecified drug use. The thirty Opioid visits displayed below are most likely undercounted due to the diagnosis limitations. However, they do appear consistent when combined with the other data sources to show that though abuse is still relatively low in Prince George's County, this issue should be monitored for changes.



Drug Overdose ED Visits, Prince George's Hospital Center, July-December 2013



Acknowledgements

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