**DEATHS DUE TO DRUG INTOXICATION:**

In 2020, 872 deaths due to drug intoxication were reported to the State Medical Examiner. Going forward, all drug overdose deaths will be examined. The age range was 14 years old to 101 years old. The mean age was 44 years and median age was 43 years. The county distribution is as follows:

**COUNTY DISTRIBUTION OF DRUG DEATHS:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| County | Total Cases | Change from 2019 |
| Baker | 3 | +200% |
| Benton | 8 | No change |
| Clackamas | 59 | +97% |
| Clatsop | 9 | +80% |
| Columbia | 4 | +100% |
| Coos | 3 | -80% |
| Crook | 5 | +67% |
| Curry | 4 | +100% |
| Deschutes | 24 | +41% |
| Douglas | 23 | +15% |
| Grant | 1 | No cases in 2019 |
| Harney | 2 | No cases in 2019 |
| Hood River | 1 | -50% |
| Jackson | 45 | +50% |
| Jefferson | 2 | No cases in 2019 |
| Josephine | 24 | -4% |
| Klamath | 15 | +67% |
| Lake | 2 | No cases in 2019 |
| Lane | 105 | +25% |
| Lincoln | 12 | +9% |
| Linn | 18 | -10% |
| Malheur | 5 | +67% |
| Marion | 63 | +66% |
| Morrow | 2 | +100% |
| Multnomah | 315 | +39% |
| Polk | 11 | +57% |
| Tillamook | 7 | +133% |
| Umatilla | 14 | +367% |
| Union | 8 | +167% |
| Wasco | 5 | +67% |
| Washington | 53 | +13% |
| Wheeler | 1 | No cases in 2019 |
| Yamhill | 19 | +217% |

**EXAM TYPE IN SUSPECTED DRUG DEATHS:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Exam type | Number of cases |
| Autopsy | 308 (35%); \*2 autopsies performed in hospitals |
| External Examination | 160 (19%) |
| No examination by a forensic pathologist | 404 (46%) |

A single substance was determined to be the cause of death in 447 cases (51%) \*. Of cases where a single substance was determined to cause death, the ten most commonly detected substances were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Number of Cases | Percentage of cases |
| Methamphetamine | 194 | 43% |
| Fentanyl | 100 | 22% |
| Heroin | 52 | 12% |
| Ethanol | 19 | 4% |
| Cocaine | 11 | 2% |
| Methadone | 9 | 2% |
| Sodium nitrite | 9 | 2% |
| Morphine | 5 | 1% |
| Oxycodone | 5 | 1% |

\*The substance or substances responsible for death were not specified in 27 cases attributed to drug toxicity.

Multiple substances were determined to be the cause of death in 399 cases (46%)\*. Of cases where multiple substances were reported, the ten most commonly detected substances were:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Substance | Number of Cases | Percentage of cases |
| Methamphetamine | 197 | 49% |
| Heroin | 153 | 38% |
| Fentanyl | 130 | 33% |
| Ethanol | 104 | 26% |
| Cocaine | 62 | 16% |
| Oxycodone | 35 | 9% |
| Methadone | 25 | 8% |
| Gabapentin | 21 | 5% |
| Morphine | 19 | 5% |
| Mitragynine | 18 | 5% |

\*The substance or substances responsible for death were not specified in 27 cases attributed to drug toxicity.

**FENTANYL DEATHS:**

Fentanyl was included as the cause of the death or a part of the cause of death in 230 cases in 2020. The county distribution of these cases is:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| County | Number of cases |
| Multnomah | 75 |
| Washington | 25 |
| Lane | 23 |
| Clackamas | 19 |
| Jackson | 17 |
| Marion | 12 |
| Josephine | 7 |
| Yamhill | 7 |
| Deschutes | 6 |
| Umatilla | 6 |
| Benton | 4 |
| Douglas | 4 |
| Klamath | 4 |
| Linn | 4 |
| Polk | 4 |
| Crook | 2 |
| Curry | 2 |
| Lincoln | 2 |
| Malheur | 2 |
| Clatsop | 1 |
| Columbia | 1 |
| Coos | 1 |
| Jefferson | 1 |
| Baker | 1 |