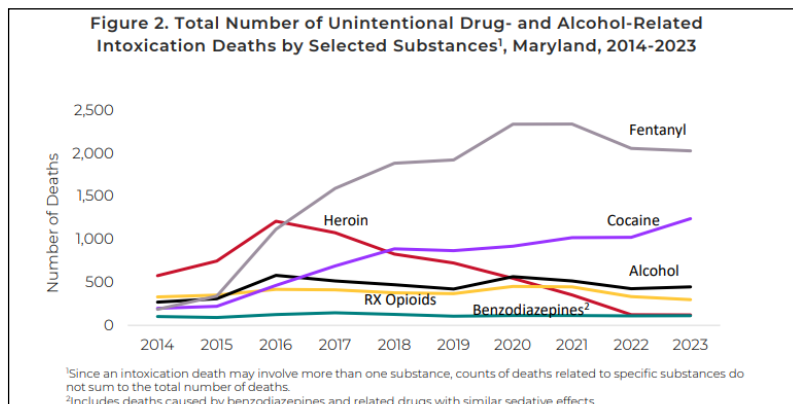


Intoxication Deaths in Maryland– Update

Earlier this year, the Vital Statistics Administration (VSA) of the Maryland Department of Health (MDH) released the “Unintentional Drug- and Alcohol-Related Intoxication Deaths in Maryland, 2023 Annual Report.” This report describes trends in intoxication deaths occurring in Maryland from 2014 through 2023. The methodology used in the report was developed with the assistance of the MDH Behavioral Health Administration, the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, authors of the Baltimore City Health Department report, and the Maryland Poison Center. Below are some of the key findings of the report:

- There were 2,511 drug- and alcohol-related intoxication deaths in Maryland in 2023, a decrease of 11.5% since a peak 2,800 deaths in 2018.
- 87% of deaths were opioid-related.
- Fentanyl-related deaths represent ~80% of opioid-related deaths, increasing this portion by ~12% since 2020.
- Since the previous update, total number of total heroin deaths has dropped significantly, 90% [1,212 (y.2016) to 121(y.2023)].
- Cocaine-related deaths have increased 37% [464(y.2016) to 1,242(y.2023)] since 2016, with 88.6% being in combination with opioids.
- Baltimore Metro and Capital Region had the highest numbers of cocaine-related deaths in Maryland, where Baltimore City, Baltimore County, and Prince George’s county have the highest number of unintentional drug and alcohol-related intoxication deaths.
- Methamphetamine-related deaths in 2023 decreased ~25% from the peak number of casualties in 2022 [105(y.2022) to 79(y.2023)].
- 100% of xylazine-related deaths involved fentanyl with ~52% involving cocaine; while 13.3% of fentanyl-related deaths involved xylazine, 53.1% involved cocaine, and 24.4% involved alcohol.
- There were 299 prescription opioid-related deaths in 2023 compared to 453 in 2020. Deaths decreased, or stayed roughly the same, in all age groups except for those 55 years and older.
- Phencyclidine (PCP)-related deaths remain similar to 2022 (56 vs 58) but have decreased from the peak number of deaths, 75, since 2020.
- Benzodiazepines continue to be consistently used in combination with opioids in benzodiazepine related deaths. Fentanyl was involved in 77% of these deaths, 34.8% in combination with cocaine, and 25% with prescription opioids.

Read the full 2023 report at: https://health.maryland.gov/vsa/Documents/Overdose/2023_IntoxAnnualReport_Final.pdf



Did you know?

Cocaine-related intoxication deaths has surpassed heroin as the 2nd most common culprit.

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