

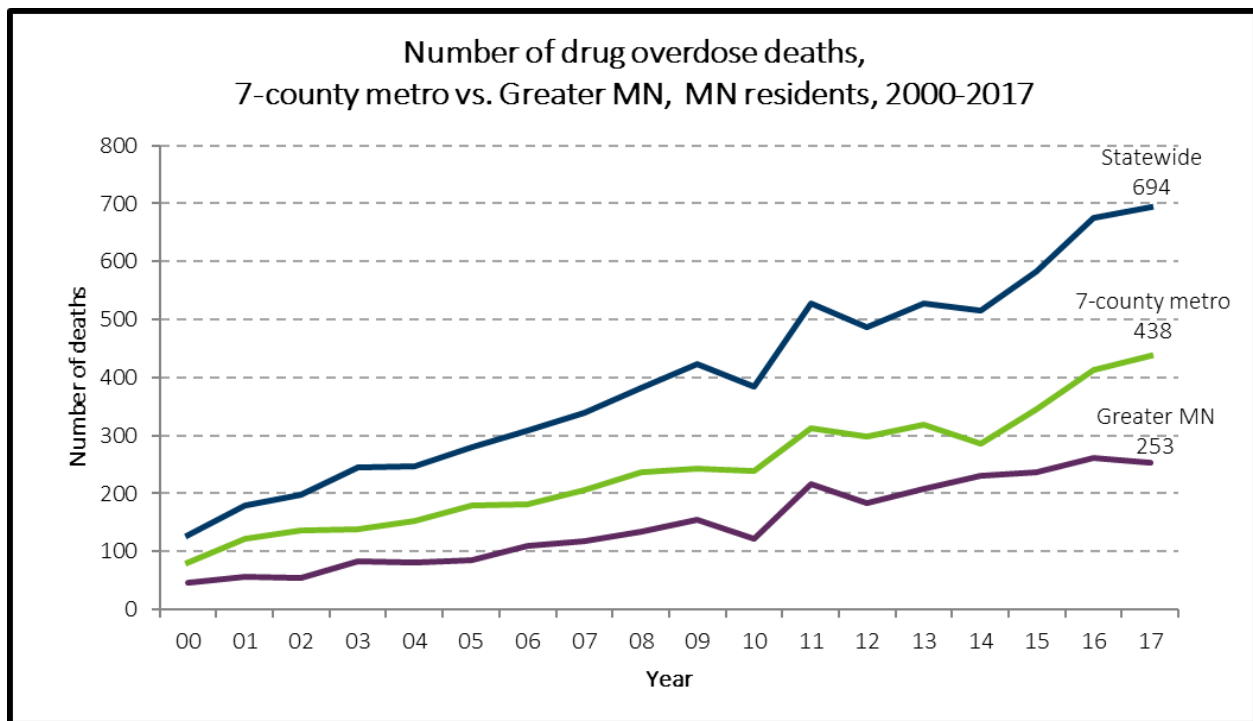
# Preliminary 2017 Drug Overdose Deaths

CONTINUING AND SHIFTING TRENDS

## Statewide Drug Overdose Deaths

Preliminary statewide data for 2017 show that drug overdose deaths increased 3% from 2016 to 2017 (675 deaths to 694 deaths) (figure 1). A greater number of deaths occurred in the 7-county Metro compared with Greater Minnesota. This continues a long trend of a greater number of deaths in the 7-county Metro, and the difference has increased over the past three years.

**Figure 1: The number of drug overdose deaths continues to rise, primarily in the 7-county Metro**



NOTE: Data are preliminary and likely to change when finalized.

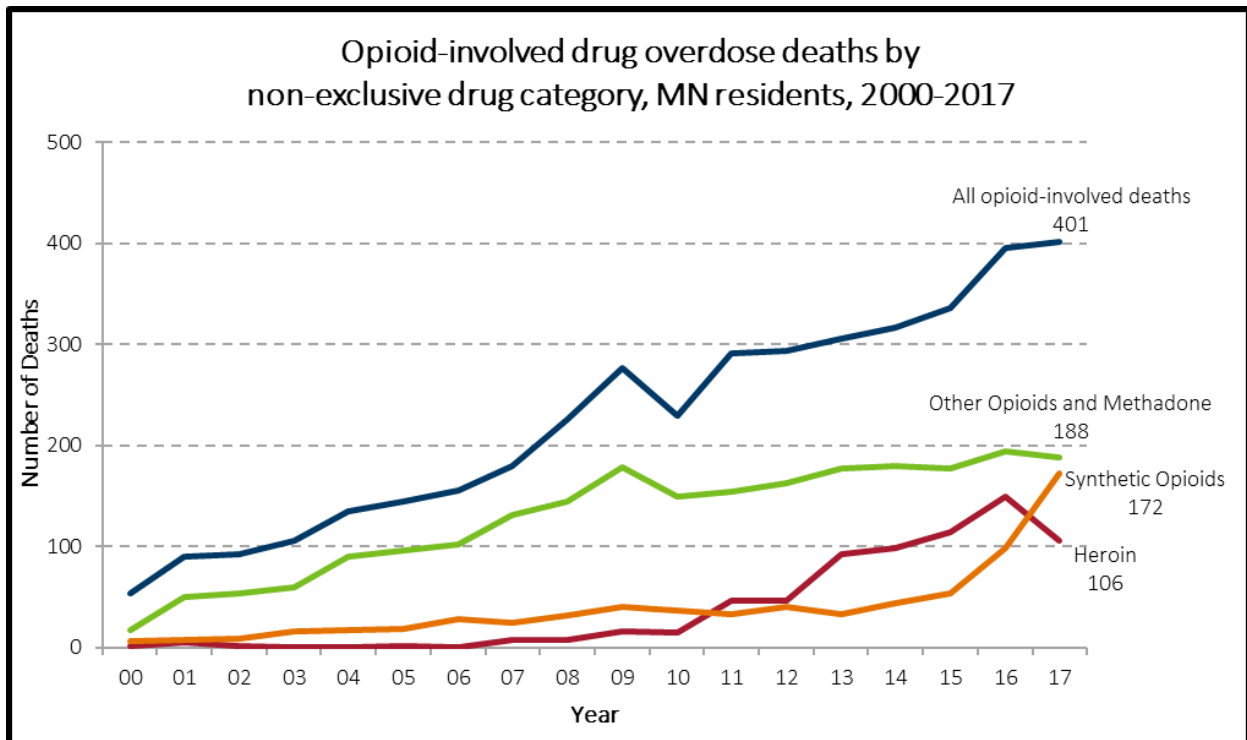
## Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths

In 2017, opioid-involved deaths continued to increase for Minnesota residents. Since 2000, commonly prescribed opioids have been involved in the greatest number of drug overdose deaths, but the numbers of deaths has remained stable over the past five years. Since 2011, heroin deaths increased rapidly, but showed a preliminary 29% decrease from 2016 to 2017. The recent surge of synthetic opioid-involved deaths continued, with a 74% increase from 2016

## PRELIMINARY 2017 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

to 2017 (figure 2). This increase is largely due to fentanyl-involved deaths; of the 172 deaths that involved synthetic opioids, 156 (91%) had fentanyl listed as contributing to the death on the death certificate.

**Figure 2: Opioid-involved overdose deaths continue to rise in Minnesota, driven primarily by synthetic opioids**



*NOTE: Data are preliminary and likely to change when finalized.*

## Trends in Non-Opioid Overdose Deaths

Psychostimulant-involved (e.g., methamphetamine) deaths continued to increase, and rose 9% from 2016 to 2017. Benzodiazepine-involved deaths decreased 17% from 2016 to 2017, reversing a long trend of increasing number of deaths. Cocaine-involved deaths increased 36% from 2016 to 2017, which represents the first time cocaine-involved deaths increased over the past ten years (data not shown).

*NOTE: Data contained within this report are preliminary and likely to change when finalized. The results throughout this report are indicative, not definitive, of the final 2017 drug overdose deaths. A final report is anticipated by September 2018.*

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