

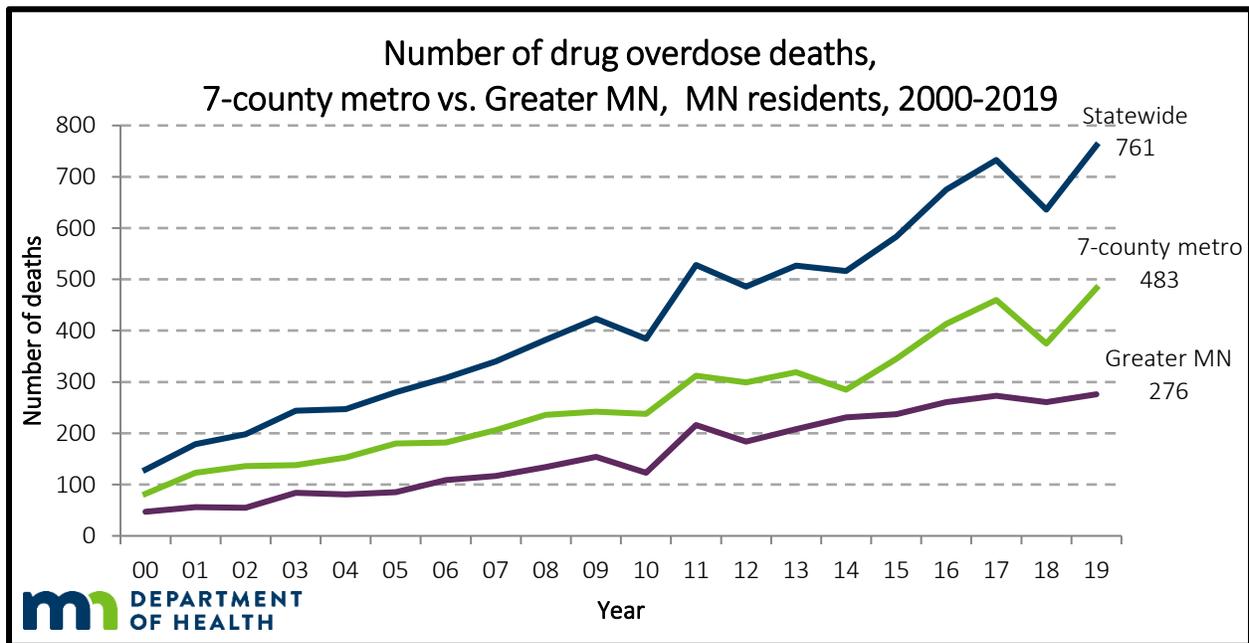
# Preliminary 2019 Drug Overdose Deaths

A RETURN TO THE STATES' OVERALL TREND

## Statewide Drug Overdose Deaths

Preliminary statewide data for 2019 show that drug overdose deaths increased 20% from 2018 to 2019 (636 to 761 deaths) (figure 1). More of these deaths happened in the Seven-county Metro (483 deaths) than in Greater Minnesota (276 deaths), continuing a trend seen since 2000. This difference between the two has grown in the past five years. The number of deaths in Greater Minnesota has recently remained stable.

**Figure 1: The number of drug overdose deaths increased in 2019**



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

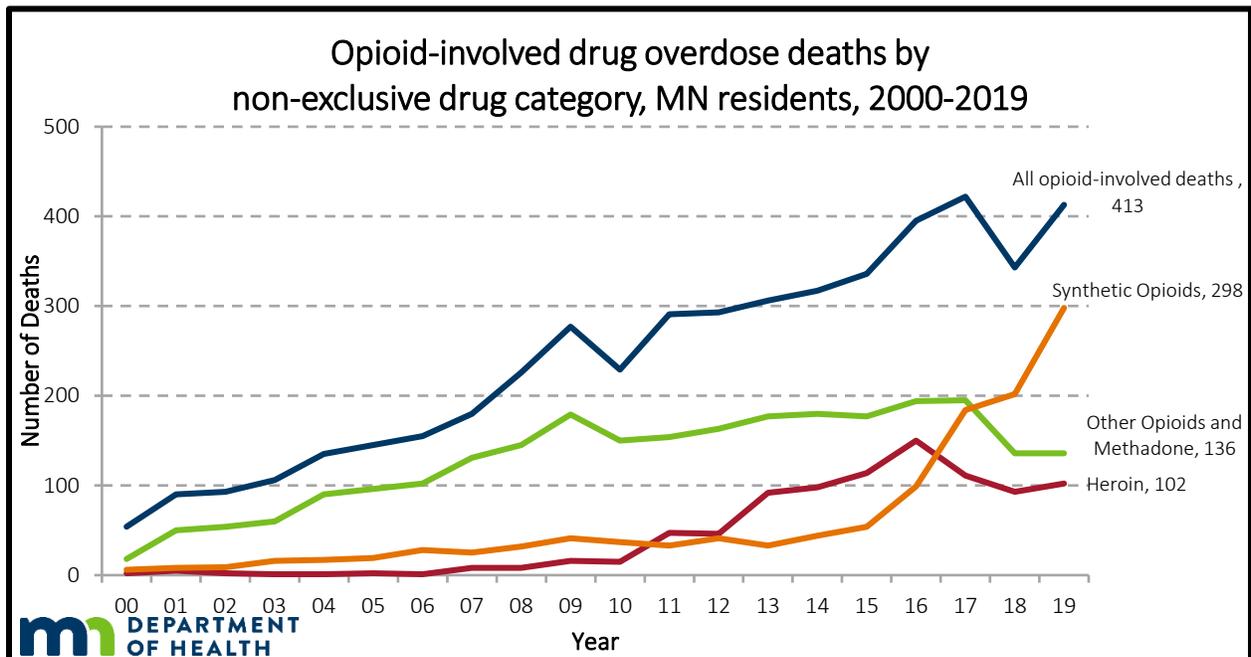
## Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths

Preliminary data show that there were more opioid-involved deaths for Minnesota residents in 2019 than in 2018, but there were not as many deaths in 2019 as in 2017 (figure 2). This may change as final data becomes available. Up until 2017, the greatest number of overdose deaths involved commonly prescribed opioids (i.e. other opioids and methadone). Overdose deaths

involving commonly prescribed opioids began to decrease in 2018 and continued to decrease 2019.

Synthetic opioids now make up the greatest number of overdose deaths. Deaths involving synthetic opioids increased 48% from 2018 to 2019. Most of the synthetic opioid deaths involved fentanyl; of the 298 deaths, 288 (97%) had fentanyl listed as contributing to the death on the death certificate. Meanwhile, heroin deaths remained level in 2019.

**Figure 2: Opioid-involved overdose deaths increased, with a significant increase in synthetic opioid-involved deaths**

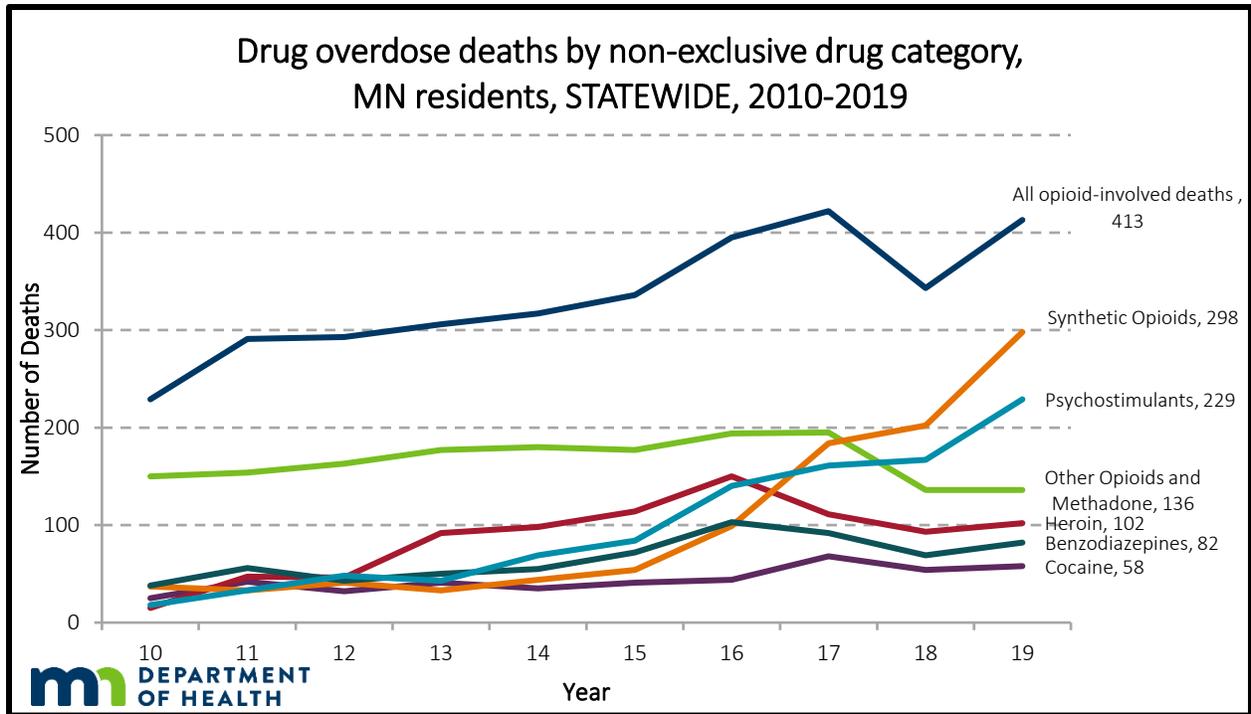


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### Trends in Non-Opioid Overdose Deaths

Psychostimulant-involved (e.g., methamphetamine) deaths increased 37% from 2018 (167 deaths) to 2019 (229 deaths). Benzodiazepine-involved deaths increased 19% from 2018 (69 deaths) to 2019 (82 deaths). Cocaine-involved deaths held steady from 2018 to 2019 with 54 and 58 deaths, respectively (figure 3).

**Figure 3. A significant increase was also seen in psychostimulant-involved deaths**



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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 2019 drug overdose deaths.

Minnesota Department of Health, Injury and Violence Prevention Section, Drug Overdose Epidemiology Unit

Mary DeLaquil | [mary.delaquil@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.delaquil@state.mn.us) | 651-201-4091

Shelbi Giesel | [shelbi.giesel@state.mn.us](mailto:shelbi.giesel@state.mn.us) | 651-201-4169

Nate Wright | [nate.wright@state.mn.us](mailto:nate.wright@state.mn.us) | 651-201-4237