Drug and Alcohol Deaths - 2021
Medical Examiner: Caseload Drivers

- Population increases: As population increases so do deaths falling under medical examiner jurisdiction
- Drug overdoses: Continued rise in methamphetamine, heroin, and other opioid overdoses
- Requests for autopsies
- County Medical Examiner for Multnomah, Clackamas, Washington, Columbia, Harney, Lane, Wheeler, Douglas, Coos, Curry, Jackson, Josephine, and Klamath Counties
- Limited capacity in current facilities
- Reduced forensic pathologist workforce in 2022
Medical Examiner System - Total Cases

- 2019: 4759
- 2020: 5424
- 2021: 3151

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Deaths Due to Drug Toxicity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>January</th>
<th>February</th>
<th>March</th>
<th>April</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>June</th>
<th>July</th>
<th>August</th>
<th>September</th>
<th>October</th>
<th>November</th>
<th>December</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2019</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>51</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>57</td>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>66</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>2021</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>115</td>
<td>101</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
County Distribution of Drug Deaths

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Manner of Death

- Accident: 91%
- Suicide: 7%
- Undetermined: 2%

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Gender Distribution

Female 31%
Male 69%

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Drug Deaths - Total

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Drug</th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2020</th>
<th>2021</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Methamphetamine</td>
<td>298</td>
<td>291</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fentanyl</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Heroin</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>111</td>
<td>205</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ethanol</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>57</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Methamphetamine
Fentanyl
Heroin
Ethanol

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Single Agent Drug Deaths

- Methamphetamine: 161, 194, 135
- Fentanyl: 26, 100, 69
- Heroin: 39, 52, 19

Legend: 2019, 2020, 2021
Multiagent Drug Deaths


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Exam Type - 2021

- No exam: 51%
- Full: 21%
- External: 28%

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Ethanol-Related Deaths

Ethanol Deaths - Total

- 2019: 197
- 2020: 341
- 2021: 161

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Ethanol-Related Deaths

Acute Intoxication: 35%
Chronic Use: 65%

“To Provide Premier Public Safety Services”
Ethanol-Related Deaths

- Acute
- Chronic

Year | Acute | Chronic |
--- | --- | --- |
2019 | 65 | 132 |
2020 | 108 | 233 |
2021 | 57 | 104 |
Acute Ethanol-Related Deaths

- Ethanol alone: 5%
- Ethanol + other substances: 95%
Future Goals

• More timely and detailed mortality data:
  – Continuing education for case reporting and information management system usage
  – Recruitment of Research Analyst
• Planning for new autopsy facility in Springfield area