

The Overdose Crisis Involves More Than Just Opioids

Psychostimulant-related deaths are on the rise

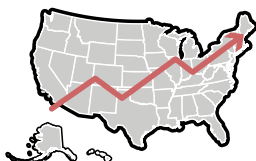
Opioid-related overdose deaths have devastated communities throughout the country. But fatalities related to psychostimulant drugs—which increase activity in the body’s central nervous system—are increasing, and complicating efforts to curb the nation’s overdose crisis.



Every 7½ minutes a life is lost to a drug overdose in the United States.¹



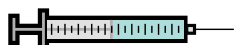
Of the more than 70,000 overdose deaths in 2017, **one-third involved psychostimulants**—which include cocaine, methamphetamine, amphetamines, and some prescription drugs, such as methylphenidate.²



From 2016 to 2017, death rates involving cocaine and psychostimulants each increased by **approximately one-third across all demographic groups and census regions.**³



Among racial/ethnic groups, the **highest rate of cocaine-involved deaths in 2017 occurred in blacks** (8.3 per 100,000), who also experienced the largest relative rate increase (36.1 percent) compared with 2016.⁴



Psychostimulant-involved



Cocaine-involved

In 2017, approximately half (**50.4 percent**) of psychostimulant-involved deaths and about three-fourths (**72.7 percent**) of cocaine-involved deaths also involved opioids.⁵

Endnotes

- 1 L. Scholl et al., “Drug and Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths—United States, 2013–2017,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 67, no. 5152 (2019): 1419, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/67/wr/mm675152e1.htm>.
- 2 M. Kariisa et al., “Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine and Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential—United States, 2003–2017,” *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* 68, no. 17 (2019): 388–95, <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6817a3>.
- 3 Ibid.
- 4 Ibid.
- 5 Ibid.

This infographic was updated on November 26, 2019 to reflect new data.

For further information, please visit:
pewtrusts.org/substancemisuse

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