

Interim Report on Poisoning Fatalities from Opioids, Cocaine, and Methamphetamine in San Francisco, 2010-2019

Prepared by:

Phillip O. Coffin MD MIA and Christopher Rowe MPH

Center on Substance Use and Health, Department of Public Health, City and County of San Francisco

Published at NDEWS: National Drug Early Warning System; February 2020

Due to increasing numbers of poisoning (“overdose”) deaths from opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamine in San Francisco, this interim report is being made available. Data are considered complete through June 2019; data presented for July-December 2019 are partial due to the time required to close and process cases. Complete data for all of 2019 will be available in mid-2020.

Overall, results demonstrate increasing mortality from opioids, cocaine, and methamphetamine in San Francisco. As can be seen in **Figures 2-4**, fentanyl is a causal substance in most of the increases in deaths across substance categories.

Table: Opioid, cocaine, and methamphetamine overdose deaths by half-year in San Francisco, 2010-2019*

Substance(s)	2010		2011		2012		2013		2014		2015		2016		2017		2018		2019	2019
	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	Jul-Dec	Jan-Jun	*Jul-Dec*
Total (Opioids, Cocaine, or Methamphetamine)	98	75	100	79	82	101	98	110	111	100	93	94	97	89	110	112	115	144	182	148
Opioids	68	55	69	53	56	57	67	65	69	58	49	52	57	47	68	67	70	107	115	122
Fentanyl	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	**	13	17	19	28	61	69	93
Methamphetamine	21	10	21	19	20	25	25	35	35	27	42	39	44	44	48	51	61	65	112	87
Cocaine	44	33	45	37	35	42	43	43	38	50	36	36	33	38	45	44	47	54	72	85

Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields, determined by the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Homicides and suicides were excluded.

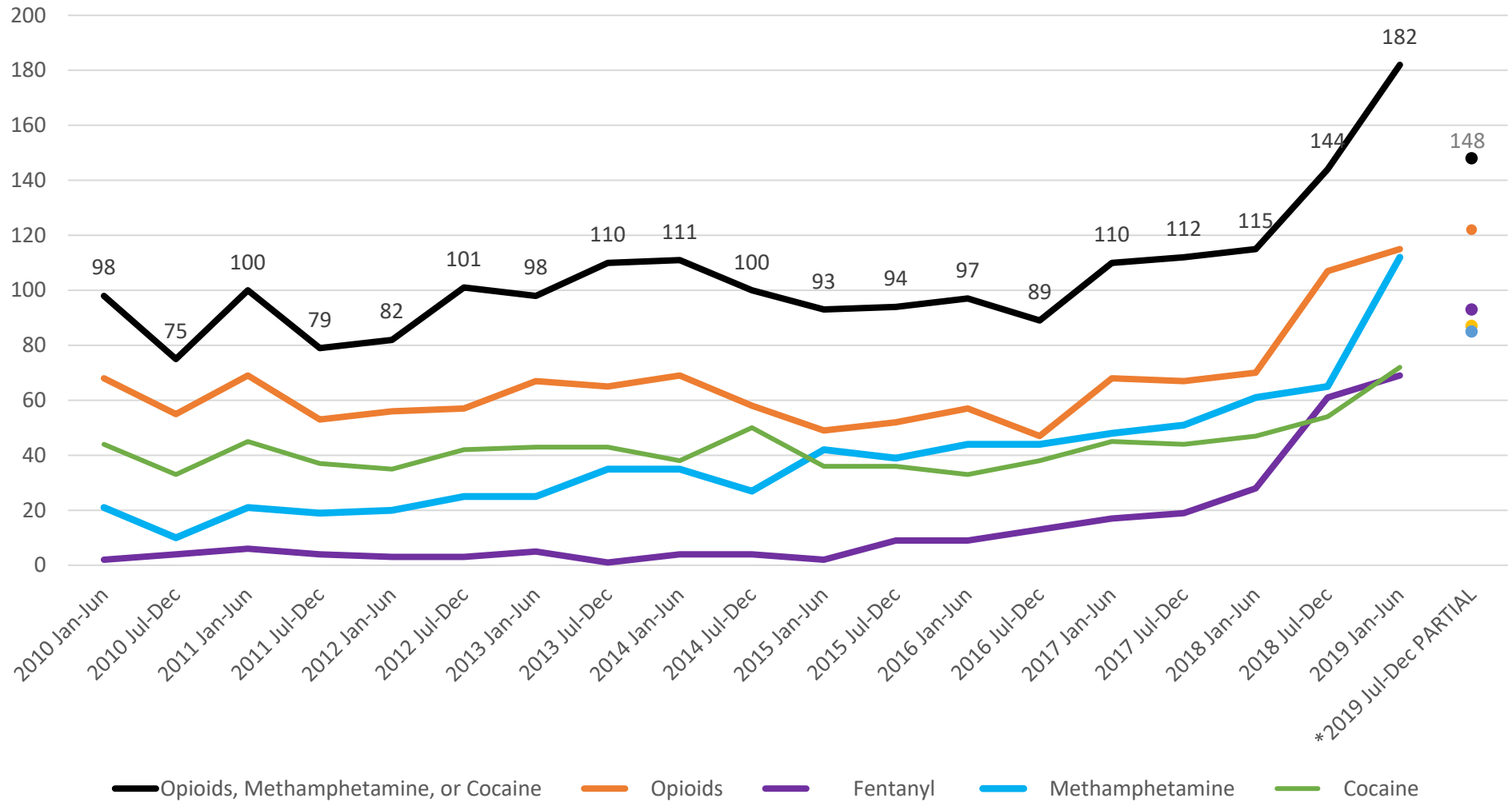
Rows exceed total as deaths may be caused by more than one substance.

***Jul-Dec 2019 data are partial due to the time required to close and process cases; complete data will be available mid-year 2020.**

****Fields with fewer than 10 records suppressed to maintain confidentiality.**

Source: California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), accessed on 29 January 2020.

Figure 1: Number of opioid, cocaine, and methamphetamine overdose deaths by half-year in San Francisco, 2010-2019*

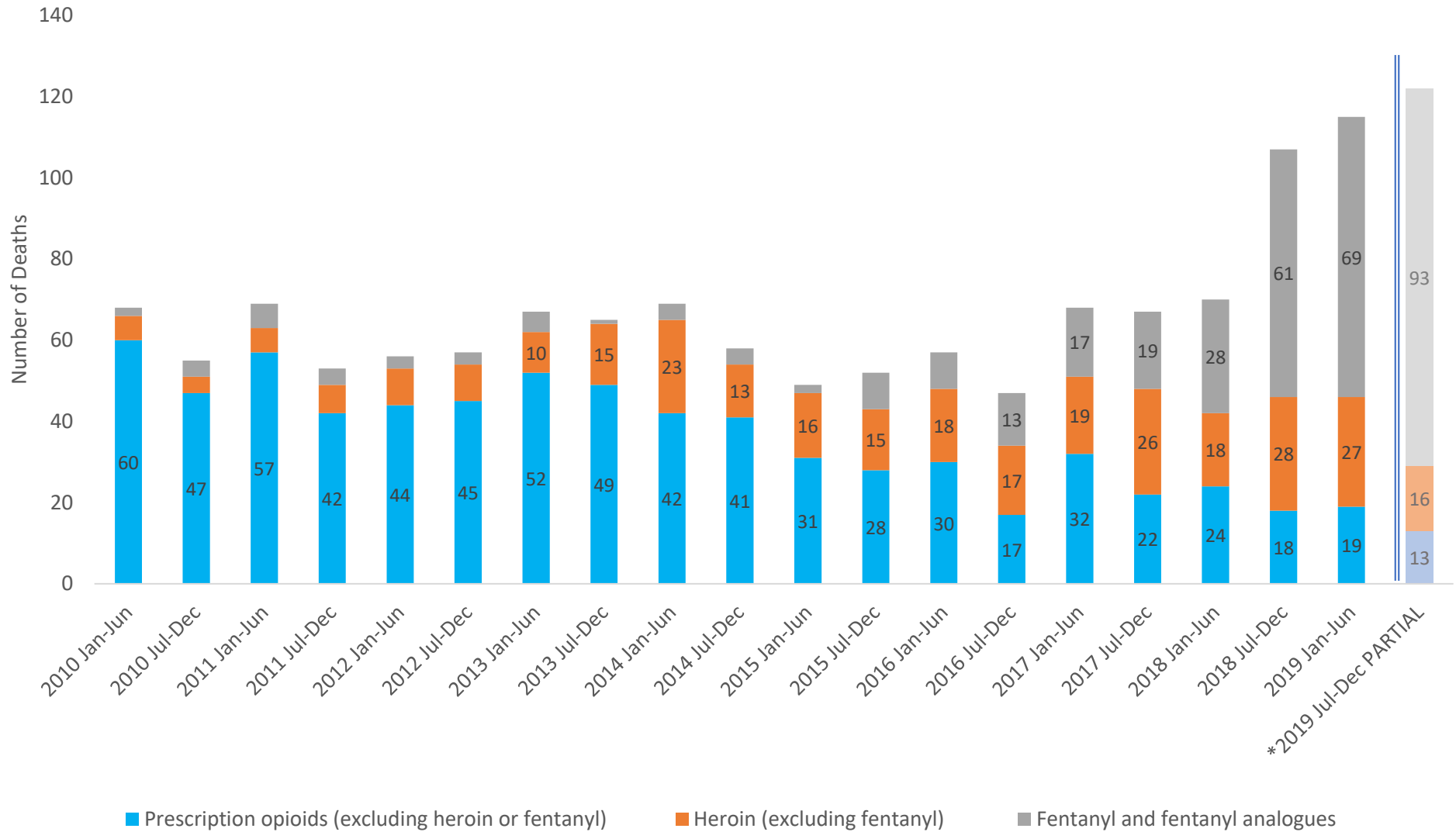


Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields, determined by the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Homicides and suicides were excluded. Individual substance lines exceed total (“Opioids, Methamphetamine, or Cocaine”) as deaths may be caused by more than one substance.

***Jul-Dec 2019 data are partial due to the time required to close and process cases; complete data will be available mid-year 2020**

Source: California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), accessed on 29 January 2020.

Figure 2: Number of opioid overdose deaths by mutually exclusive opioid type and half-year in San Francisco, 2010-2019*

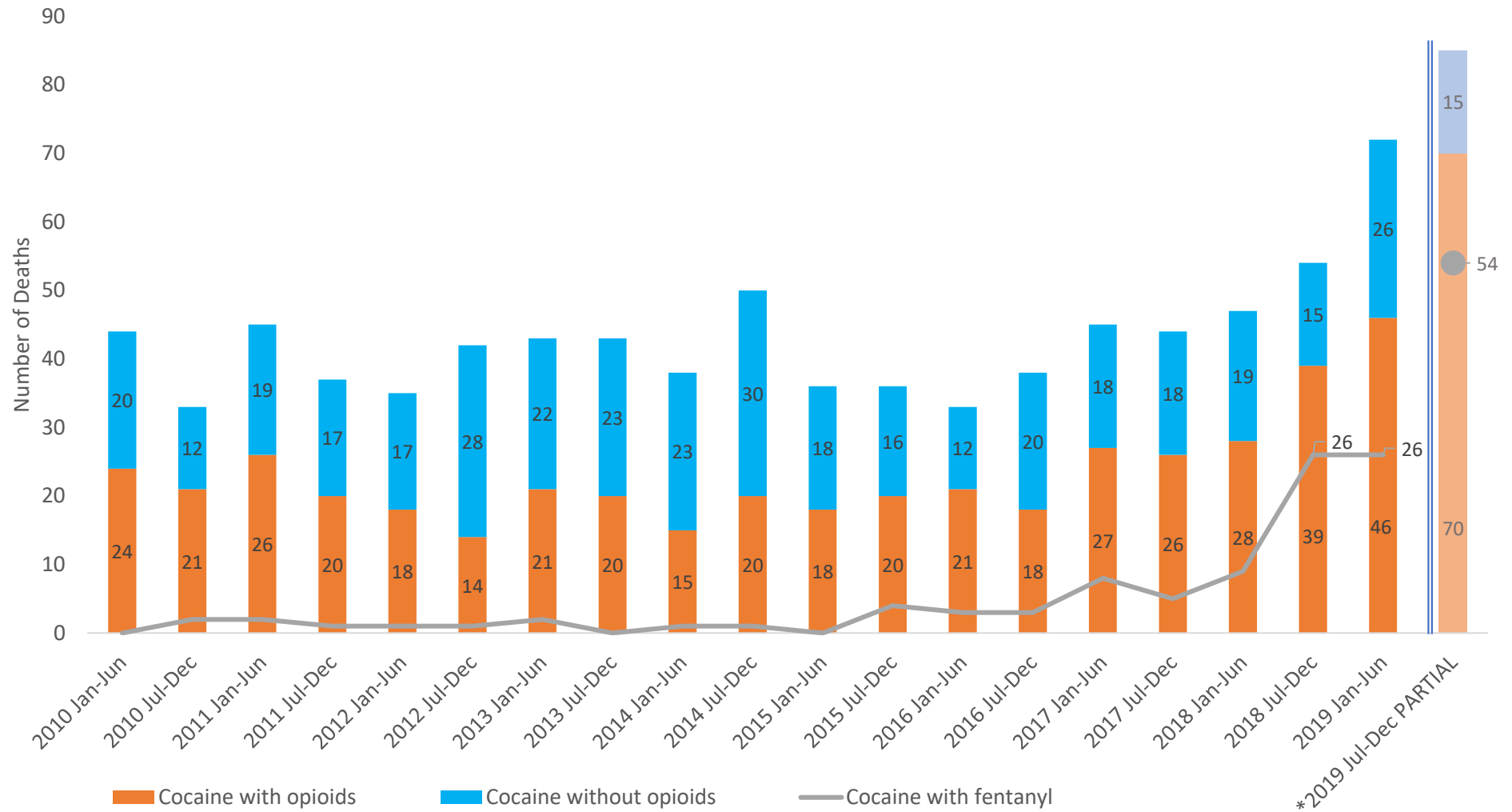


Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields, determined by the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Homicides and suicides were excluded.

***Jul-Dec 2019 data are partial due to the time required to close and process cases; complete data will be available mid-year 2020**

Source: California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), accessed on 29 January 2020.

Figure 3: Number of cocaine overdose deaths by opioid involvement and half-year in San Francisco, 2010-2019*

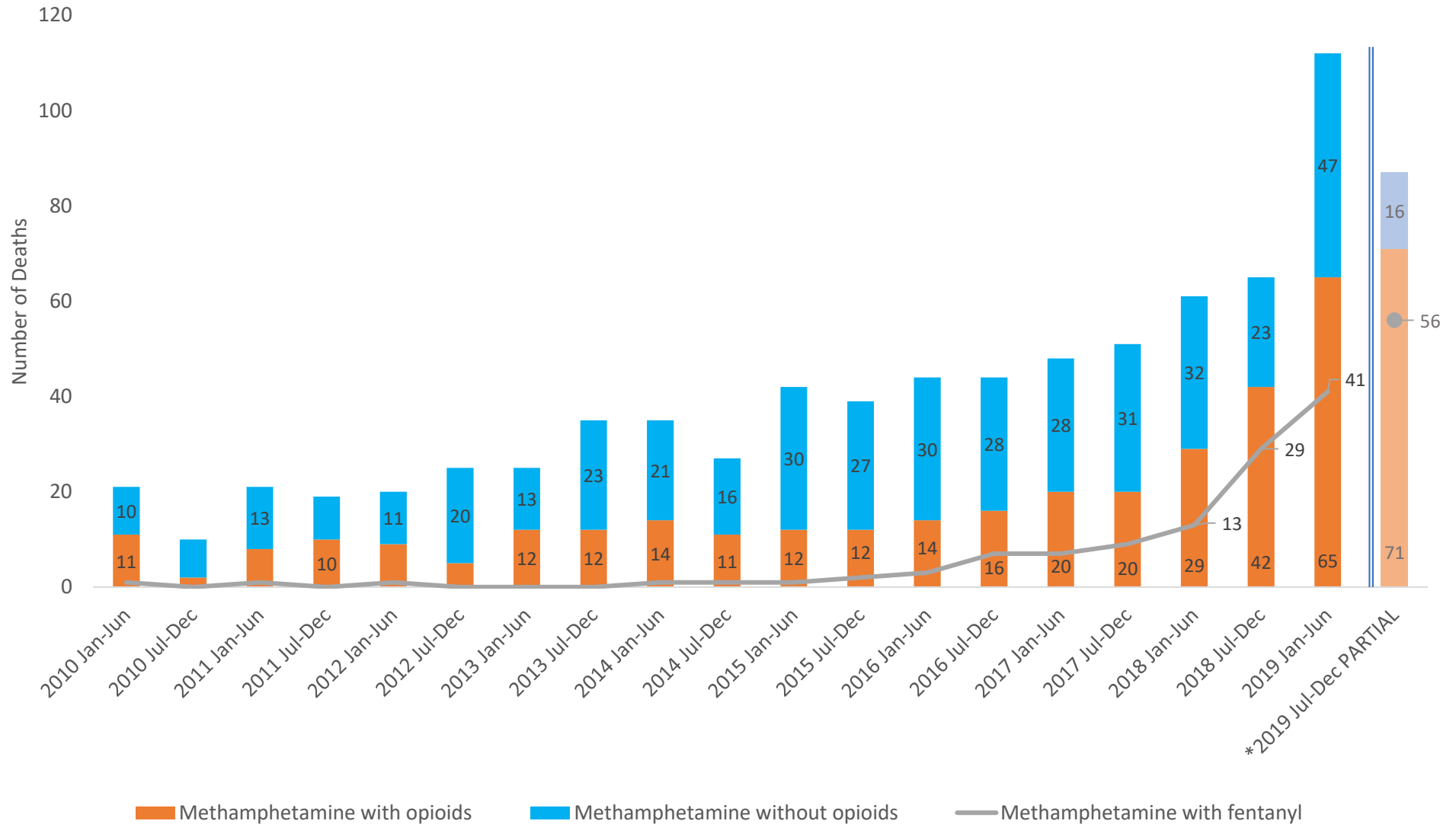


Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields, determined by the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Homicides and suicides were excluded. Numbers to the right of bars represent deaths attributed to cocaine with fentanyl; values less than 10 suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

***Jul-Dec 2019 data are partial due to the time required to close and process cases; complete data will be available mid-year 2020**

Source: California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), accessed on 29 January 2020.

Figure 4: Number of methamphetamine overdose deaths by opioid involvement and half-year in San Francisco, 2010-2019*



Substance-related overdose deaths were identified using textual cause of death fields, determined by the San Francisco Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. Homicides and suicides were excluded. Numbers to the right of bars represent deaths attributed to methamphetamine with fentanyl; values less than 10 suppressed to maintain confidentiality.

***Jul-Dec 2019 data are partial due to the time required to close and process cases; final data will be available mid-year 2020**

Source: California Electronic Death Registration System (CA-EDRS) via the Vital Records Business Intelligence System (VRBIS), accessed on 29 January 2020.