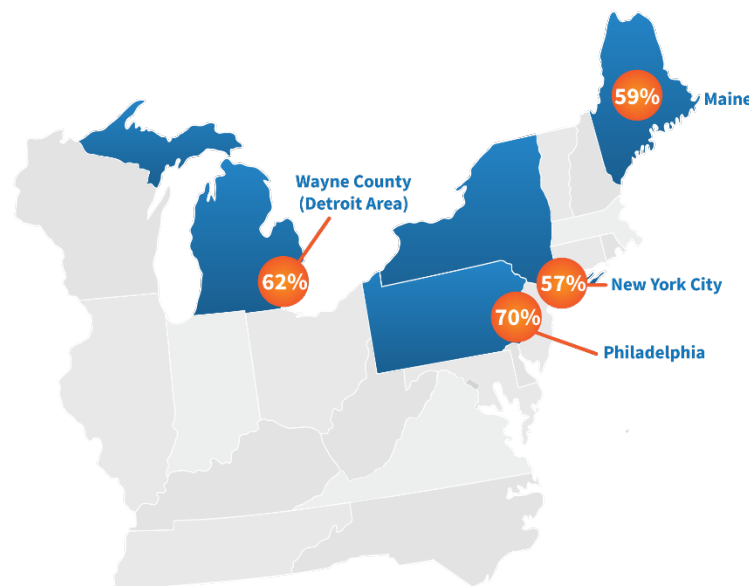


Fentanyl Intoxication Deaths Highlighted in All 2018 NDEWS Sentinel Community Site Reports; Four Sites Report Fentanyl in More Than Half of All Drug Deaths

Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs were found in more than half of the 2017 drug intoxication deaths in four NDEWS Sentinel Community Sites (SCS), according to the 2018 *SCS Drug Use Patterns and Trends* annual reports. While all 12 of the Sentinel Community Epidemiologist (SCEs) reported drug intoxication deaths involving fentanyl in their sites, between 57% and 70% of the deaths in New York City, Maine, Wayne County (Detroit Area), and Philadelphia involved fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs (see figure). In New York City and Philadelphia, fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs were the most frequently detected drugs in drug intoxication deaths. SCE quotes about the fentanyl deaths in these sites appear below. The complete reports for all 12 sites are available at www.ndews.org.

- **Maine:** “Of the 247 fentanyl deaths in 2017, most (n = 194, 79%) had one or more co-intoxicant drugs listed as a cause of death . . . Forty-five (18%) had one or more pharmaceutical opioids listed as a co-intoxicant, 54 (22%) had heroin/morphine listed, and 67 (27%) had cocaine. The change in the proportion of co-intoxicants was most apparent for co-intoxicant heroin, which decreased from 39% to 22%, and cocaine, which increased from 18% to 27%.”
- **New York City:** “The majority of fentanyl-involved deaths in 2017 also involved heroin (63%). Cocaine was the second most common co-involved substance (46%) . . . The rate of fentanyl/heroin-involved deaths increased by 34% from 2016 to 2017 (5.6 to 7.5 per 100,000), while the rate of fentanyl/cocaine-involved deaths increased by 27% over the same period (4.4 to 5.6 per 100,000).”
- **Philadelphia:** “Cocaine is the drug most frequently found with fentanyl-positive drug intoxication cases. There were 387 cases with both fentanyl and cocaine detected, representing 31.8% of cases.” “Fentanyl or fentanyl analogs were present in 84% of opioid-related deaths in 2017, compared with 57% in 2016. Fentanyl had surpassed heroin as the leading cause of opioid-related intoxication deaths.”
- **Wayne County (Detroit Area):** “Of the 997 drug overdose deaths, 621 were from fentanyl (62.3%), which was a 44.4% increase from 430 such deaths in 2016. . . . Most decedents (83.3%) had multiple drugs listed as cause of death.”

Fentanyl and/or fentanyl analogs found in more than half of all drug overdose deaths in four sites



Annual Drug Use Patterns and Trends (2018) Reports for 12 NDEWS Sentinel Community Sites (SCS)

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