

Psychostimulant and Cocaine Overdose on the Rise



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Behavioral Health

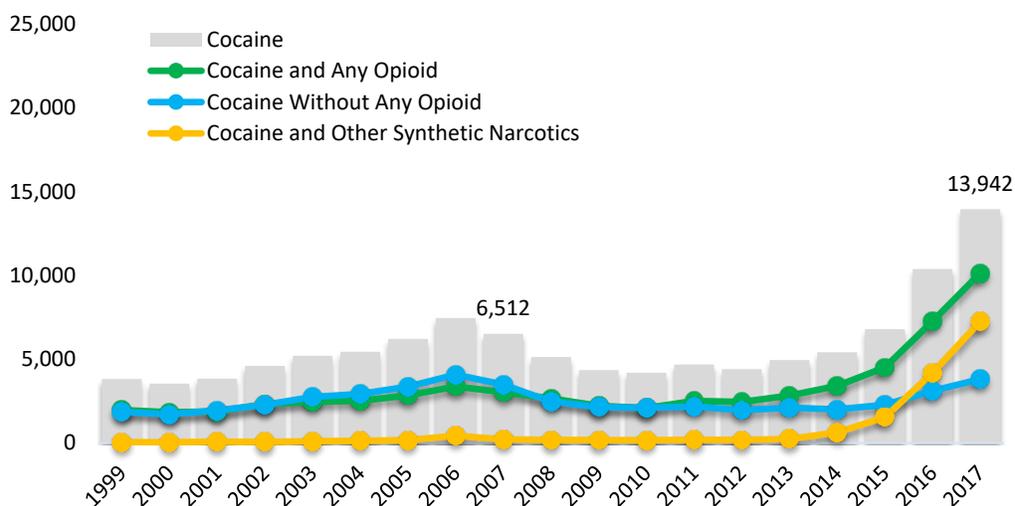


Epidemiology Workgroup

Across the nation, the rate of overdose deaths involving cocaine and psychostimulants with abuse potential increased 42.4%, from 12,122 in 2015 to 17,258 in 2016. These psychostimulants include drugs such as methamphetamine, dextroamphetamine, Ritalin, and MDMA. Specifically, cocaine-involved death rates increased from 6,784 in 2015 to 10,375 in 2016 (52% increase). Psychostimulant deaths also increased during this period, from 5,716 in 2015 to 7,542 in 2016 (33% increase). Of all drug overdose deaths in the U.S. in 2017, 19.8% involved cocaine and 14.7% involved psychostimulants.¹

Opioids were involved in nearly three-quarters of cocaine-involved deaths and half of psychostimulant-involved deaths. Data suggest that the increase in cocaine-involved deaths was primarily driven by the rise in the use of synthetic opioids such as Fentanyl.¹

National Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine, by Opioid Involvement²



The Midwest, including Missouri, saw a 43.6% increase in the rate of cocaine-involved deaths, from 2,575 deaths in 2016 to 3,711 deaths in 2017. Psychostimulant-involved death rates increased by 63.2%, from 1,176 in 2016 to 1,959 in 2017. Both rate increases are the highest among any census region during this time.

Between 2007-2016, Missouri had the highest number of methamphetamine labs per capita in the U.S., with 27.6 meth labs per 100,00 residents³ In 2016-2017, psychostimulant deaths increased from 185 to 248 (30% increase), and cocaine deaths increased from 103 to 132 (22% increase).¹

1. Kariisa, M., Scholl, L., Wilson, N., Seth, P., & Hoots, B. (2019). Drug overdose deaths involving cocaine and psychostimulants with abuse potential- United States, 2003-2017. Centers for Disease Control Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (68)17, 388-395.
2. CDC Wonder, Multiple Cause of Death (Detailed Mortality), 1999-2017
3. <https://www.rehabs.com/explore/neighborhood-drug-dens/>