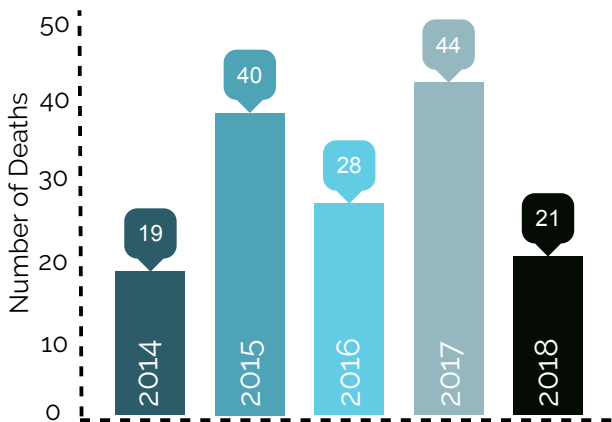


Opioid Prevention Report

Drug Overdose Deaths by Year, 2014-2018



Opioid use prevention is a health priority across the United States as opioid-related overdose deaths have increased nationally. Opioids are a class of drug that include prescription medications like morphine, oxycodone, and hydrocodone, and illicit substances including heroin and illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

The Mesa County Opioid Response Group was established in June 2018 to reduce the community impact of opioids through prevention, treatment, and recovery services.

Overdoses caused by all substances decreased in 2018, but substance use remains a health priority in the community. The impact of opioid use can also be measured through data from emergency medical services (EMS), law enforcement, pharmacies, behavioral health, and harm reduction organizations.

Key Takeaways

- 70% of overdose deaths involve an opioid. The majority of the opioids involved in overdose deaths are prescription medications.
- 50% of people who misuse prescription opioids got them from a friend or family member.
- Enough opioid pills were purchased by pharmacies in Mesa County between 2006-2012 for every person in the county to have 37 opioid pills each year.
- Prescription rates are on the decline. Opioid prescription fills peaked in 2015 with enough bottles dispensed for every person to have a bottle that year.
- Drug-related criminal cases have increased since 2015. This includes all varieties of drugs.
- Most individuals in substance use treatment report alcohol, methamphetamine, or marijuana as their primary drug of choice.
- Prescriptions for Suboxone, an evidence-based treatment medication for opioid use disorder, nearly doubled from 2017 to 2018.
- New enrollment in the Western Colorado Health Network Syringe Exchange program tripled between 2016/17 and 2017/18.

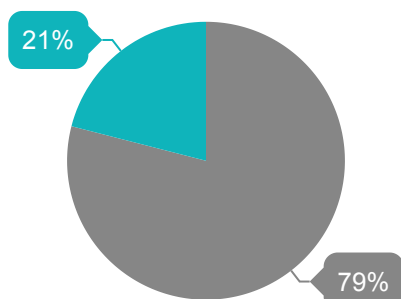
Deaths by Opioid Overdose

2016-2018



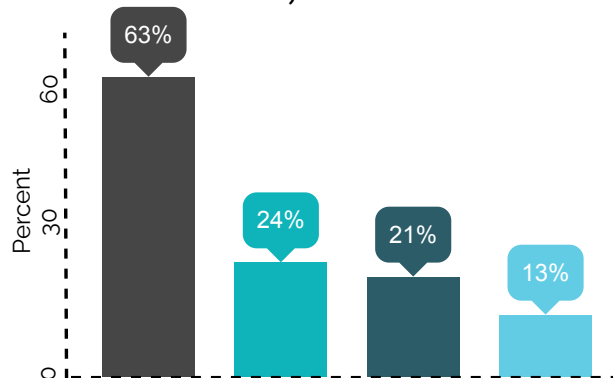
opioid-related deaths

Percent of Overdose Deaths by Manner, 2016-2018



■ Accident (79%) ■ Suicide (21%)

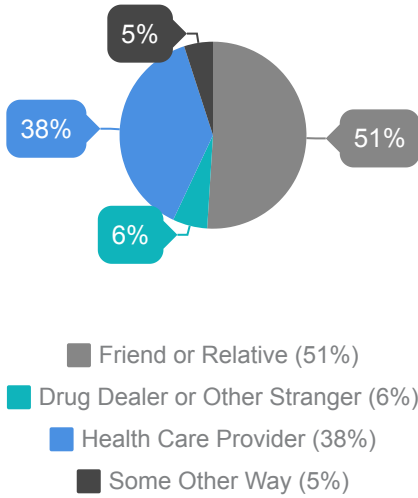
Type of Drugs Involved in Opioid Overdoses, 2016-2018



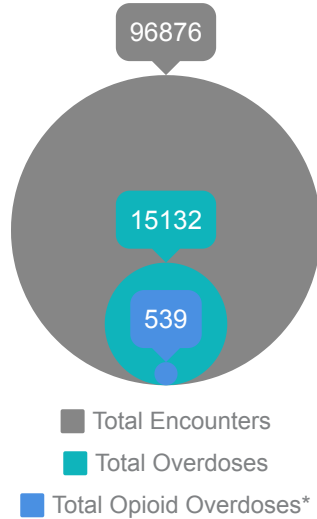
■ Prescription Opioid ■ Fentanyl ■ Methamphetamines ■ Heroin

Opioid Misuse

Source of Pain Relievers for Most Recent Use Among People Aged 12 or Older Who Misused in the Past Year, 2018 (U.S.)

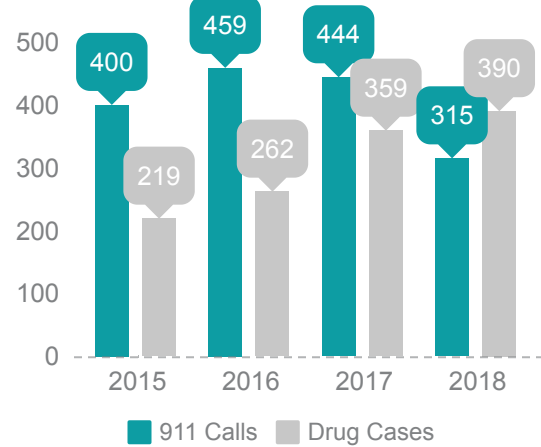


Emergency Medical Service (EMS) Encounters in Mesa County, 2013-2018



*Only includes overdoses requiring use of Naloxone.

Drug-Related Calls and Incidents Responded to by Mesa County Sheriff's Office, 2015-2018



911 calls represent substance use-related calls. Drug cases are incidents that resulted in a charge/investigation.

85%

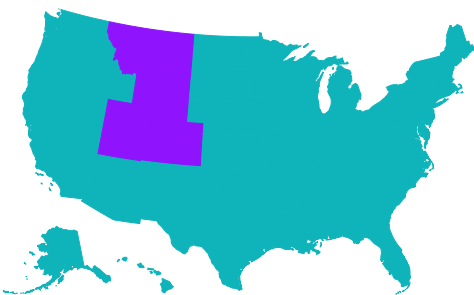
of people in substance use treatment first used their primary drug between the ages 12 and 25 years.



1 in 6 high school students in Mesa County report using a prescription pain reliever without a doctor's prescription.

Rocky Mountain High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (RMHIDTA)

Region: Colorado, Montana, Utah, and Wyoming



Regional Drug Threat Rank

1. Methamphetamine
2. Heroin
2. Marijuana
4. Cocaine
5. Prescription Drugs

Rank is determined by analyzing surveys from drug task force commanders, performance data and community impact data (e.g. poison control, deaths, and medical visits).

Drug Seizures in 2018

Heroin

181

pounds

109% increase from 2014

Prescription drugs

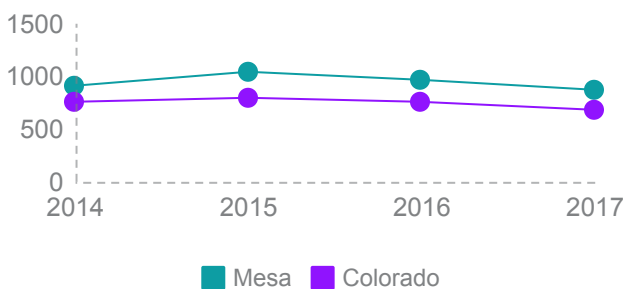
47,767

dosage units

110% increase from 2014

Opioid Prescriptions

Opioid Prescription Fills per 1,000 Residents, Mesa County and Colorado, 2014-2017



Between 2006-2012, enough prescription opioids were purchased for every person to have

37

pills every year.

422

pounds*

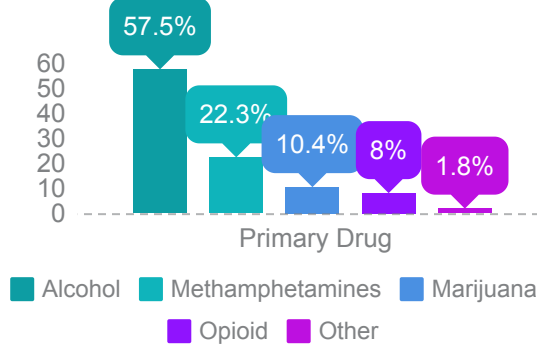
of medication have been disposed of at Mesa County medication drop box locations.

*Only includes Colorado Department of Public Health locations.

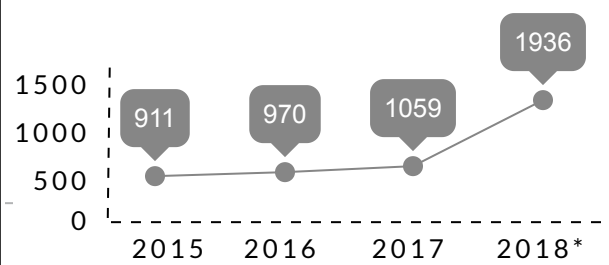
Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Services

Nearly **2,500** Mesa County residents received substance use treatment in 2017.

Primary Drug for SUD Treatment, 2017

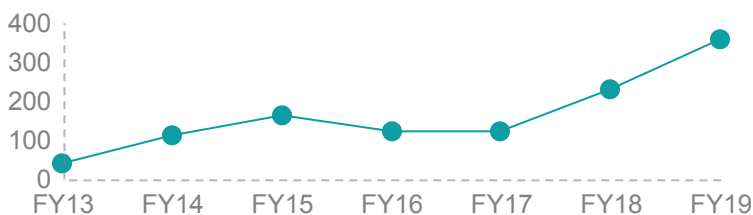


Suboxone Prescriptions in Mesa County, 2015-2018*

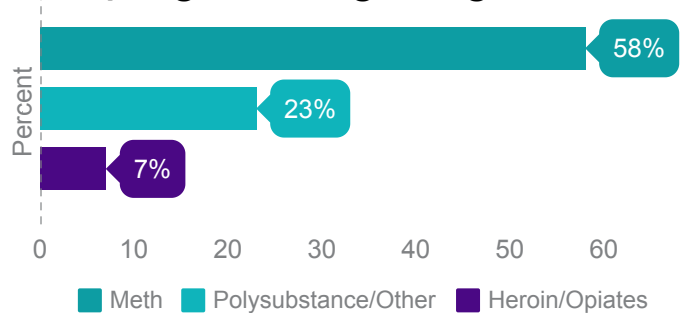


*2018 does not include December

Western Colorado Health Network Syringe Exchange Program New Enrollment, Fiscal Year 2013-2019



Drug of Choice by Clients of Syringe Exchange Program, 2018



Public Health Recommendations

Decrease opioid prescriptions in the community by:

- Educating prescribers to use the CDC Opioid Prescribing Guidelines,
- Increasing safe disposal options, and
- Educating community members about safe use, storage, and disposal of medications.

Decrease opioid overdoses by increasing access to and use of naloxone.

Offer evidence based-life skill programs for court-involved youth.

Develop a cross-sector data system from hospitals, law enforcement, and social services agencies to comprehensively address drug use in Mesa County.

Promote Western Colorado 211 directory for substance use disorder resources.

Increase the availability of treatment and recovery options by:

- Expanding Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services,
- Supporting workforce development for behavioral health providers, and
- Expanding substance use disorder recovery services.

Increase free or low-cost opportunities for youth involvement in pro-social activities.

Continue to explore and further understand high-risk behaviors leading to substance abuse in Mesa County youth.

Identify gaps in programs and policies aimed to prevent substance use initiation.

Improve recovery supports through increased sober living options and expanded employment opportunities for people in recovery.