

## Opioid Overdose Trends in Frederick City

- There have been 48 Calls for Service for opioid overdose this year vs. 46 for SPLY - an increase of 2 (4%) (Compared with other years
  - There were less ODs than 2017 (54) and 2018 (68) and are the same as two years ago in 2019.
- Most likely places of occurrence: 42% occur inside residences; 19% occur at hotels
- There have been 9 fatal opioid overdose incidents vs. 8 for SPLY – an increase of 1 fatal overdose – 19% of calls for service for opioid overdose involved a fatal overdose
  - 21% of opioid overdose calls for service for all of 2020 were fatal
- Fentanyl or fentanyl in combination with other substances was a factor in the cause of every fatal opioid overdose
- Substances in combination with fentanyl causing fatal overdose were: Alcohol, Cocaine, Oxycodone, Oxymorphone, Xylazine, Methamphetamine, Clonazepam, and Eutylone. The combination of alcohol and fentanyl was the cause of death in 2 out of 9 fatal overdose incidents.
- 38% of opioid overdose incidents involved victims that have had a prior overdose incident
  - This is comparable to the rate of 37% for all of 2020
- 75% of victims received Narcan (with EMS being the predominant provider) – for all of 2020, 84% of victims received Narcan for the year (a 9% decrease in Narcan use) – this may indicate a need to increase the availability, promote use of Narcan and educate users to avoid being alone when using.
- Frederick City Police administered Narcan to 14 people having an opioid overdose
- 60% of victims were transported to the hospital
  - o An increase when compared with all of 2020 when barely half (51%) were transported to the hospital

## Victim Demographics

- 71% Male, 29% Female
  - o no significant change from all of 2020
- The age of users ranged from 20 to 64 years old
  - a younger age range of overdose victims was observed in all of 2020 – it was 19 to 62 - For 2021 to date, most OD victims were 26-45 years old (62%). For all of 2020, most OD victims were younger at 21-40 (64%) – the increasing age of victims may indicate success with opioid misuse prevention education directed to parents, children, teenagers and college students.
- 77% White, 23% Black
  - No significant change from 2020 FPD Overdose Victim Referral for Treatment Information concerning victims of opioid overdose is referred to the health department, probation/parole and drug

court officials for appropriate outreach to connect them to treatment. Over this current fiscal year (July 2020 to May 2021) the health department was able to contact 58% of overdose victims. Of the 49 persons contacted, 40 (82%) received harm reduction counseling, Narcan training, and were connected to treatment. A welcome consequence, is that in making contact with the initial victim of overdose, peer recovery specialists connected 22 other persons to treatment.

### **Overdose and drug seizure trends**

- Increased involvement of xylazine used as a cutting agent with fentanyl
  - o Xylazine is a veterinary drug that can cause significant skin and nasal ulcers
- Increased involvement of counterfeit oxycodone tablets containing fentanyl in drug seizures and overdoses. They are reportedly obtained in Baltimore or ordered via the internet and shipped to the buyer.
- Increased involvement of counterfeit Xanax (alprazolam), a benzodiazepine, that actually contains Etizolam, a substance prescribed in foreign countries and not approved for use in the US

### **Some CDS opioid packaging trends observed in Frederick City**

- The packaging of fentanyl in combination with other drugs (heroin, cocaine, xylazine, etizolam)
- Clear plastic snap-top vials of various colors (known as "trash cans")
  - o Clear gel capsules
  - o Bi-color capsules
- Small plastic baggies of various size
- Counterfeit oxycodone tablets known as "Oxys" "Percs" "Blues" and "M-30s" that contain fentanyl are a dangerous trend. The tablets are copies of legitimate 30 mg oxycodone hydrochloride tablets.

### **K2 – or Spice – remains a concern**

- K2 is plant material coated with chemicals that are supposed to mimic the effects of THC which is the active compound in marijuana. They are marketed and labelled as incense or potpourri and are reportedly available at gas stations and convenience stores in Baltimore.
- For YTD 2021, there were 29 calls for service for persons overdosing on K2 that required transport to the hospital
  - 18 (69%) incidents involved victims that repeatedly overdosed during this period
  - Eight of the overdose incidents involved the same person – referrals for outreach were completed.
- Most overdose incidents occur in downtown Frederick City inside and along Carroll Creek Linear Park. Many of the overdose victims have a history of mental

illness, substance abuse, and have had frequent contact with law enforcement. They tend to be homeless, live in tent camps, or in community and healthcare assisted housing. The Frederick Police Dept has a team of officers that has focused on community policing in this area and have been working closely with members of the health department's outreach services.

Contact me regarding any questions or for assistance:  
MBURACK1@FREDERICKMDPOLICE.ORG