

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Drug Overdose Deaths South Carolina

2020



INTRODUCTION

This report describes fatal drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Carolina in 2020. Data were derived from death certificates registered with the Department of Health and Environmental Control Vital Statistics and represent deaths that occurred in the state of South Carolina regardless of the residence of the decedent.

Drug overdose deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes from the tenth revision of ICD (ICD–10): X40–X44 (unintentional), X60–X64 (suicide), X85 (homicide), and Y10–Y14 (undetermined). Drug overdose deaths involving selected drug categories are identified by additional multiple cause-of-death codes. The current "prescription drugs" category includes both opioid and non-opioid prescription drugs. The category "opioids" includes both legal and illegal opioids. Prescription drugs are identified by the following ICD-10 codes: T36.0--T39.9, T40.2--T40.4, T41.0--T43.5 and T43.7--T50.8. Opioids are identified by codes T40.0--T40.4, T40.6. Other codes used are: heroin T40.1, methadone T40.3, cocaine T40.5. Fentanyl is identified through a search of the literal cause of death. Psychostimulants with abuse potential, which include such drugs as methamphetamine, amphetamine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), and 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy) are identified by the code T43.6.

Drug overdose deaths may involve multiple drugs; therefore, a single death might be included in more than one category when describing the number of drug overdose deaths involving a specific drug. For example, a death that involved both heroin and fentanyl would be included in the following categories: deaths involving heroin, deaths involving fentanyl, deaths involving opioids, and deaths involving prescription drugs.

Figure 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2011-2020
 Occurrence Data

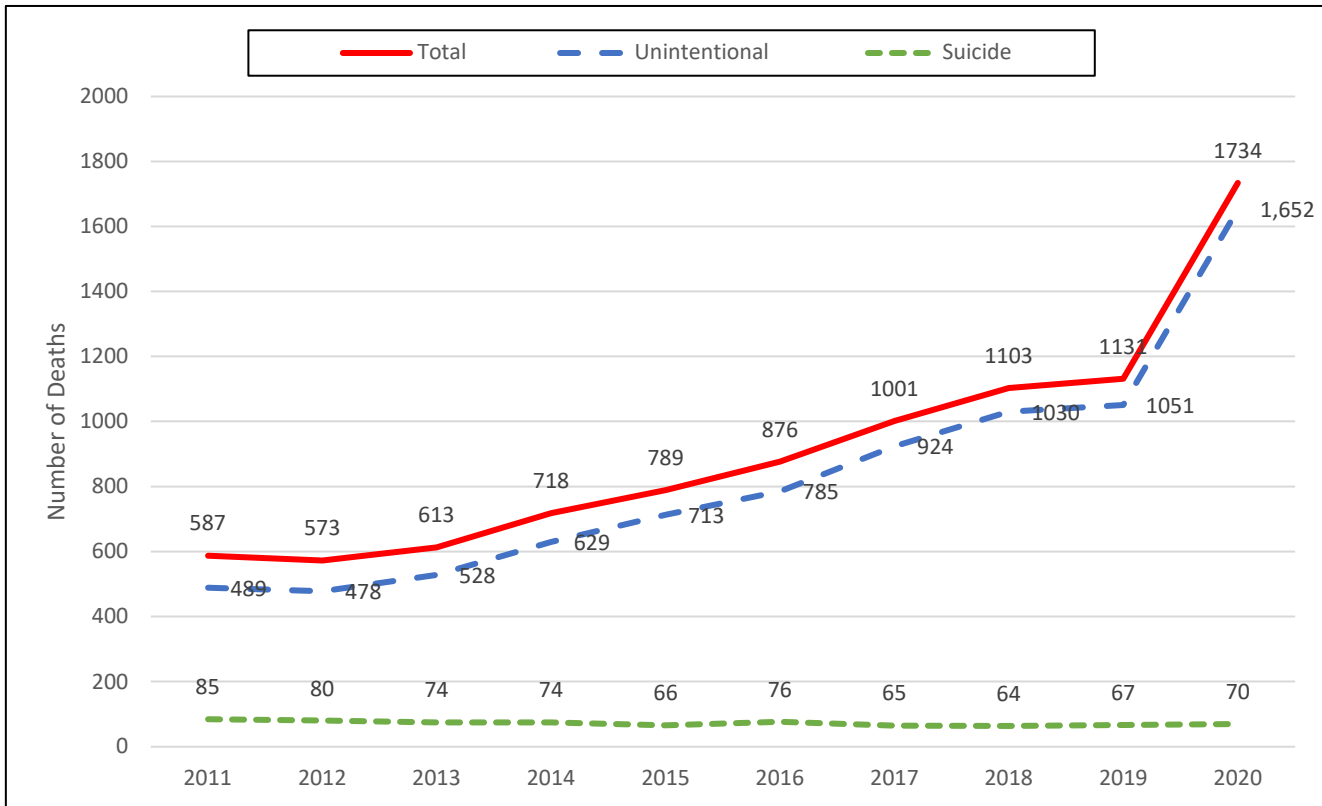


Table 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2011-2020
 Occurrence Data

	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	587	573	613	718	789	876	1,001	1,103	1,131	1,734
Unintentional	489	478	528	629	713	785	924	1,030	1,051	1,652
Suicide	85	80	74	74	66	76	65	64	67	70
Homicide	1	1	0	3	0	3	1	3	0	1
Undetermined	12	14	11	12	10	12	11	6	13	11

Table 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Category and Selected Drugs
 South Carolina, 2016-2020
 Occurrence Data

Year	Total Drug Overdose	Prescription Drugs	Opioids	Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	Fentanyl	Heroin	Methadone	Cocaine
2016	876	684	616	129	190	108	53	139
2017	1,001	782	748	194	362	144	45	235
2018	1,103	863	816	242	460	168	57	254
2019	1,131	923	876	338	537	196	28	230
2020	1,734	1,463	1,400	551	1,100	244	46	352

Figure 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category
 South Carolina, 2016-2020
 Occurrence Data

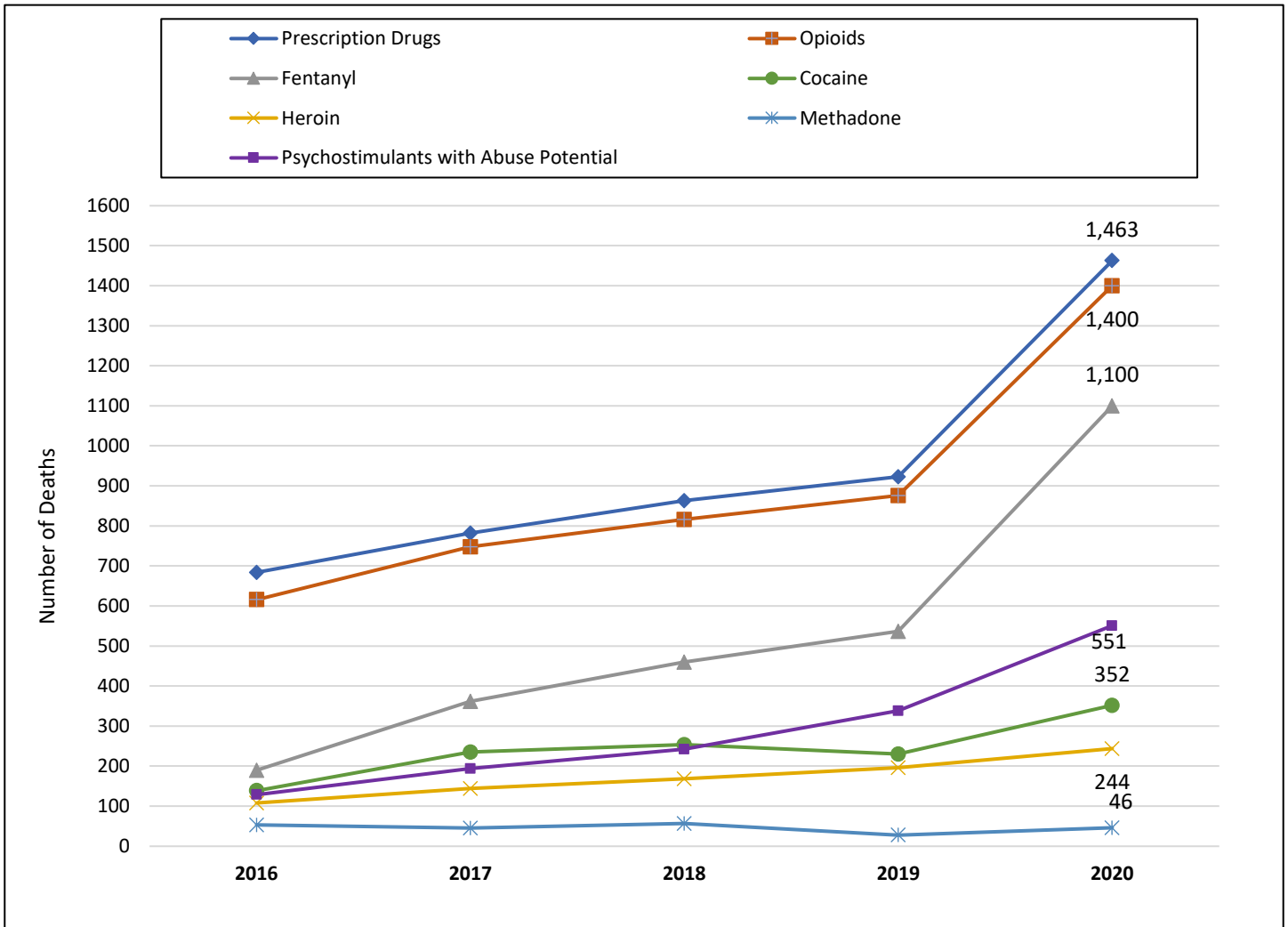


Table 3. A
Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category and County
South Carolina, 2020
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose		Prescription Drugs		Opioids		Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	1,734	34.8	1,463	29.4	1,400	28.5	551	11.5
Abbeville	6	26.1	2	11.5	2	11.5	-	-
Aiken	71	44.3	56	34.5	57	35.9	29	18.3
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	75	37.1	49	25.0	47	24.5	34	17.0
Bamberg	4	28.6	4	28.6	4	28.6	-	-
Barnwell	2	5.8	2	5.8	1	2.9	-	-
Beaufort	34	22.2	30	19.5	30	20.1	4	2.1
Berkeley	48	21.2	44	19.2	41	17.7	17	7.4
Calhoun	1	9.3	-	-	1	9.3	-	-
Charleston	197	44.3	177	40.1	168	38.0	33	7.8
Cherokee	7	12.7	5	9.0	4	7.2	3	5.4
Chester	11	44.1	6	21.7	7	26.5	3	10.0
Chesterfield	8	17.9	6	14.4	7	15.8	2	4.6
Clarendon	2	8.3	1	3.5	1	3.5	1	3.5
Colleton	7	17.7	3	6.2	4	10.3	4	11.7
Darlington	7	10.7	6	9.1	6	9.1	2	2.6
Dillon	19	71.2	16	60.0	16	60.0	5	17.6
Dorchester	36	21.9	36	21.9	34	20.6	9	5.8
Edgefield	5	18.1	4	13.4	4	13.4	2	6.9
Fairfield	10	49.5	8	37.3	8	37.3	4	22.0
Florence	52	42.3	46	36.5	44	35.4	15	12.8
Georgetown	28	56.7	24	48.1	26	51.7	6	13.8
Greenville	181	34.8	145	28.0	144	28.1	60	11.9
Greenwood	37	56.7	32	50.2	29	47.8	13	19.2
Hampton	5	30.0	3	20.3	4	26.5	1	6.2
Horry	197	63.7	181	58.2	170	55.0	79	27.0
Jasper	24	88.6	21	77.6	21	77.6	7	28.2
Kershaw	30	50.2	27	45.1	27	45.1	8	13.4
Lancaster	47	50.6	44	48.2	42	46.6	5	5.9
Laurens	32	54.6	27	48.0	26	45.8	17	30.9
Lee	3	22.5	2	16.7	2	16.7	2	14.1
Lexington	112	38.3	99	33.6	95	32.6	48	16.8
McCormick	2	31.8	2	31.8	2	31.8	-	-
Marion	8	29.8	6	24.0	5	19.2	2	7.8
Marlboro	4	18.8	2	9.4	2	9.4	-	-
Newberry	9	26.1	8	23.3	8	23.3	2	6.9
Oconee	13	18.8	11	15.4	10	16.1	4	6.3
Orangeburg	19	25.1	14	18.3	13	17.6	7	10.4
Pickens	40	31.1	30	23.8	26	20.8	22	18.2
Richland	99	23.6	82	19.8	73	17.8	22	5.4
Saluda	2	11.8	2	11.8	2	11.8	1	5.9
Spartanburg	113	34.2	96	29.2	91	28.1	43	13.6
Sumter	30	29.2	24	23.0	23	22.6	11	10.9
Union	9	36.7	6	24.9	5	22.7	3	13.7
Williamsburg	10	31.3	7	23.5	7	23.5	2	5.8
York	78	27.1	67	23.2	61	21.4	19	7.0

¹Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population. Rates calculated with 20 or fewer deaths are unreliable and should be used cautiously.

Table 3. B
Drug Overdose Deaths by Selected Drugs and County
South Carolina, 2020
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Fentanyl		Heroin		Methadone		Cocaine	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	1,100	22.7	244	5.1	46	0.9	352	6.9
Abbeville	2	11.5	-	-	-	-	2	9.6
Aiken	41	26.0	13	9.5	2	1.0	5	3.0
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	29	15.3	10	5.4	5	3.1	11	6.3
Bamberg	3	24.3	1	8.9	1	4.3	1	8.9
Barnwell	1	2.9	-	-	-	-	1	2.9
Beaufort	24	15.8	5	3.8	-	-	8	5.4
Berkeley	33	14.6	7	3.0	-	-	9	3.8
Calhoun	-	-	1	9.3	-	-	-	-
Charleston	144	33.2	47	10.7	4	0.8	48	10.6
Cherokee	3	6.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chester	3	9.1	3	13.3	-	-	2	6.6
Chesterfield	5	13.1	2	4.6	-	-	-	-
Clarendon	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Colleton	3	6.2	2	5.7	-	-	2	7.1
Darlington	5	7.5	1	1.7	-	-	1	0.9
Dillon	12	45.0	-	-	1	3.8	7	27.5
Dorchester	22	13.7	3	1.7	-	-	6	3.4
Edgefield	4	13.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield	6	26.6	-	-	-	-	3	14.5
Florence	36	29.2	3	2.2	2	1.5	13	10.6
Georgetown	20	41.2	6	11.9	-	-	9	17.9
Greenville	114	22.5	28	5.7	3	0.6	39	7.0
Greenwood	26	41.5	-	-	1	1.6	4	6.6
Hampton	2	12.3	2	14.2	-	-	2	9.7
Horry	130	42.5	10	3.6	4	1.3	70	23.2
Jasper	18	68.4	6	21.5	1	4.9	7	21.6
Kershaw	22	38.6	4	7.4	1	1.6	4	6.1
Lancaster	38	43.0	12	13.4	1	1.2	10	9.5
Laurens	25	44.3	-	-	-	-	4	6.1
Lee	1	8.3	-	-	1	8.3	-	-
Lexington	78	27.0	21	7.1	6	2.2	15	4.7
McCormick	2	31.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marion	4	15.5	-	-	-	-	1	4.0
Marlboro	2	9.4	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newberry	5	17.4	-	-	-	-	1	2.8
Oconee	6	10.7	1	2.0	-	-	1	2.0
Orangeburg	9	12.7	2	2.1	-	-	4	5.3
Pickens	23	19.2	6	5.3	2	1.7	2	1.9
Richland	61	14.9	8	1.8	3	0.8	30	7.3
Saluda	2	11.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spartanburg	61	19.8	32	10.2	1	0.2	9	2.6
Sumter	18	17.1	2	2.3	-	-	7	5.9
Union	5	22.7	-	-	1	5.7	1	3.8
Williamsburg	5	16.5	1	4.9	-	-	4	12.8
York	47	17.1	5	1.7	6	1.8	9	3.2

¹Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population. Rates calculated with 20 or fewer deaths are unreliable and should be used cautiously.

Figure 3.
 Number of Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2020
 Occurrence Data

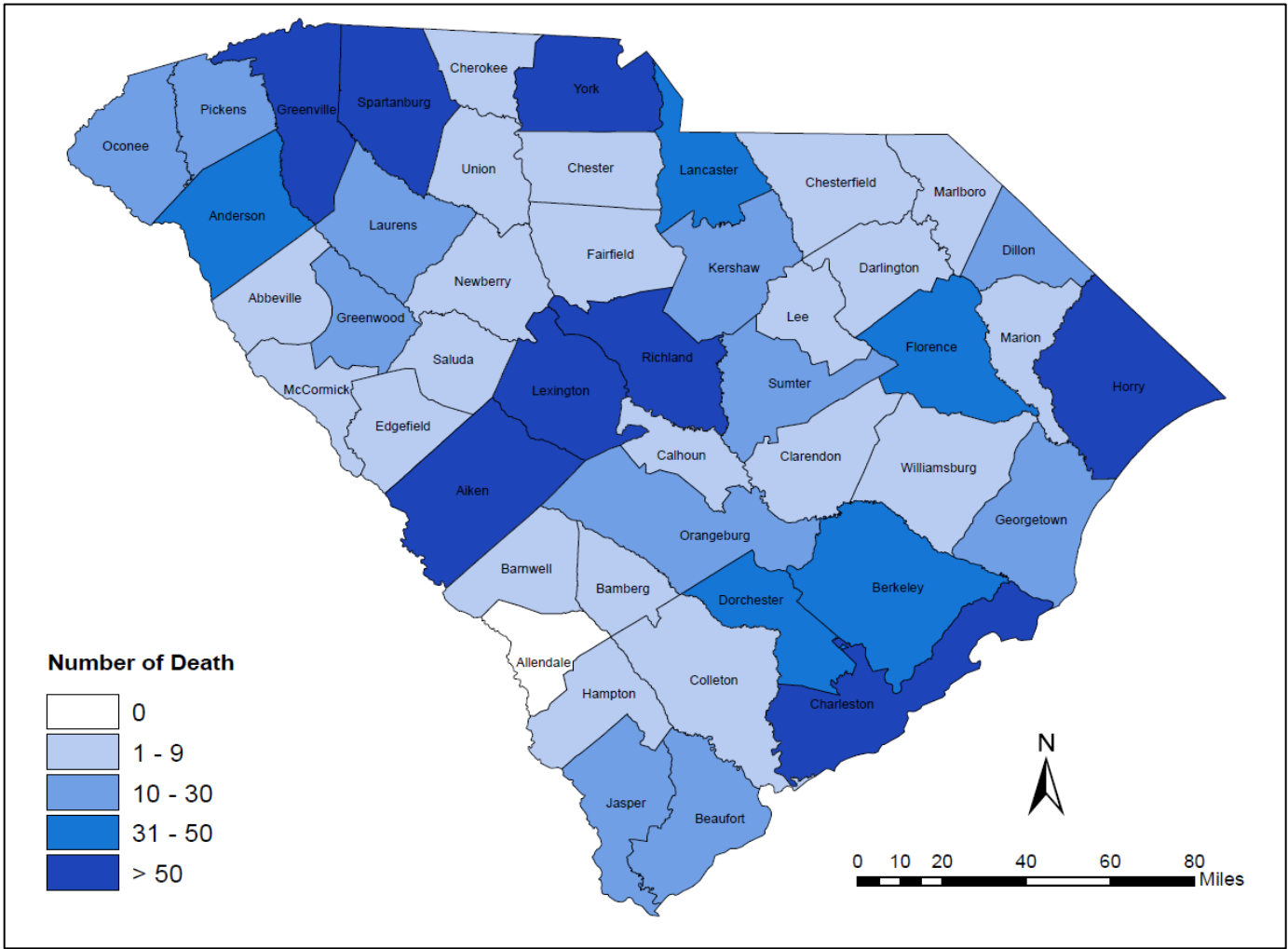


Figure 4.
 Age-Adjusted Rate for Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2020
 Occurrence Data

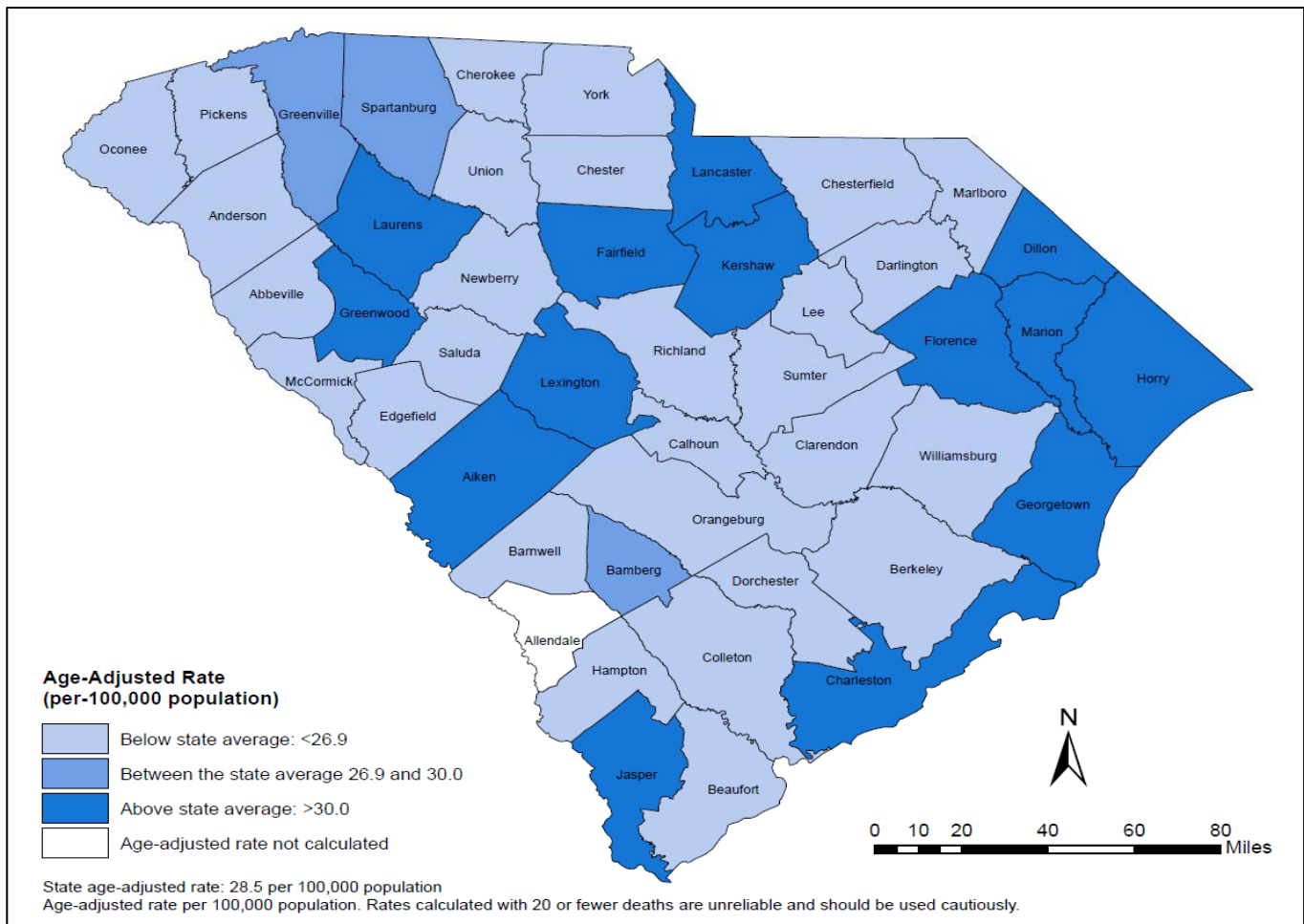


Table 4.
Change in Drug Overdose Deaths by County
South Carolina, 2019-2020
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose			Opioids Overdose		
	2019	2020	Percent Change	2019	2020	Percent Change
South Carolina	1,131	1,734	53.3*	876	1,400	59.8*
Abbeville	-	6	.	-	2	.
Aiken	29	71	144.8*	21	57	171.4*
Allendale	-	-	.	-	-	.
Anderson	36	75	108.3*	27	47	74.1
Bamberg	-	4	.	-	4	.
Barnwell	1	2	.	1	1	.
Beaufort	26	34	30.8	16	30	87.5
Berkeley	36	48	33.3	31	41	32.3
Calhoun	1	1	.	1	1	.
Charleston	123	197	60.2*	107	168	57.0*
Cherokee	7	7	.	3	4	.
Chester	4	11	175.0	4	7	.
Chesterfield	8	8	.	3	7	.
Clarendon	6	2	.	2	1	.
Colleton	5	7	.	3	4	.
Darlington	7	7	.	6	6	.
Dillon	5	19	280.0*	5	16	220.0
Dorchester	20	36	80.0	14	34	142.9*
Edgefield	1	5	.	1	4	.
Fairfield	3	10	233.3	2	8	.
Florence	28	52	85.7	24	44	83.3
Georgetown	15	28	86.7	13	26	100.0
Greenville	140	181	29.3	102	144	41.2
Greenwood	12	37	208.3*	9	29	222.2*
Hampton	2	5	.	-	4	.
Horry	153	197	28.8	131	170	29.8
Jasper	9	24	166.7	8	21	162.5
Kershaw	11	30	172.7*	9	27	200.0*
Lancaster	35	47	34.3	32	42	31.3
Laurens	11	32	190.9*	10	26	160.0*
Lee	4	3	.	4	2	.
Lexington	65	112	72.3*	48	95	97.9*
McCormick	2	2	.	1	2	.
Marion	4	8	.	2	5	.
Marlboro	2	4	.	2	2	.
Newberry	2	9	.	1	8	.
Oconee	26	13	-50.0	16	10	-37.5
Orangeburg	21	19	-9.5	15	13	-13.3
Pickens	36	40	11.1	22	26	18.2
Richland	69	99	43.5	52	73	40.4
Saluda	1	2	.	-	2	.
Spartanburg	75	113	50.7	55	91	65.5
Sumter	27	30	11.1	19	23	21.1
Union	2	9	.	1	5	.
Williamsburg	4	10	150.0	4	7	.
York	57	78	36.8	49	61	24.5

*Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2020.

* Statistically significant at 95% confidence interval

Figure 5.
 Change in Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2019-2020
 Occurrence Data

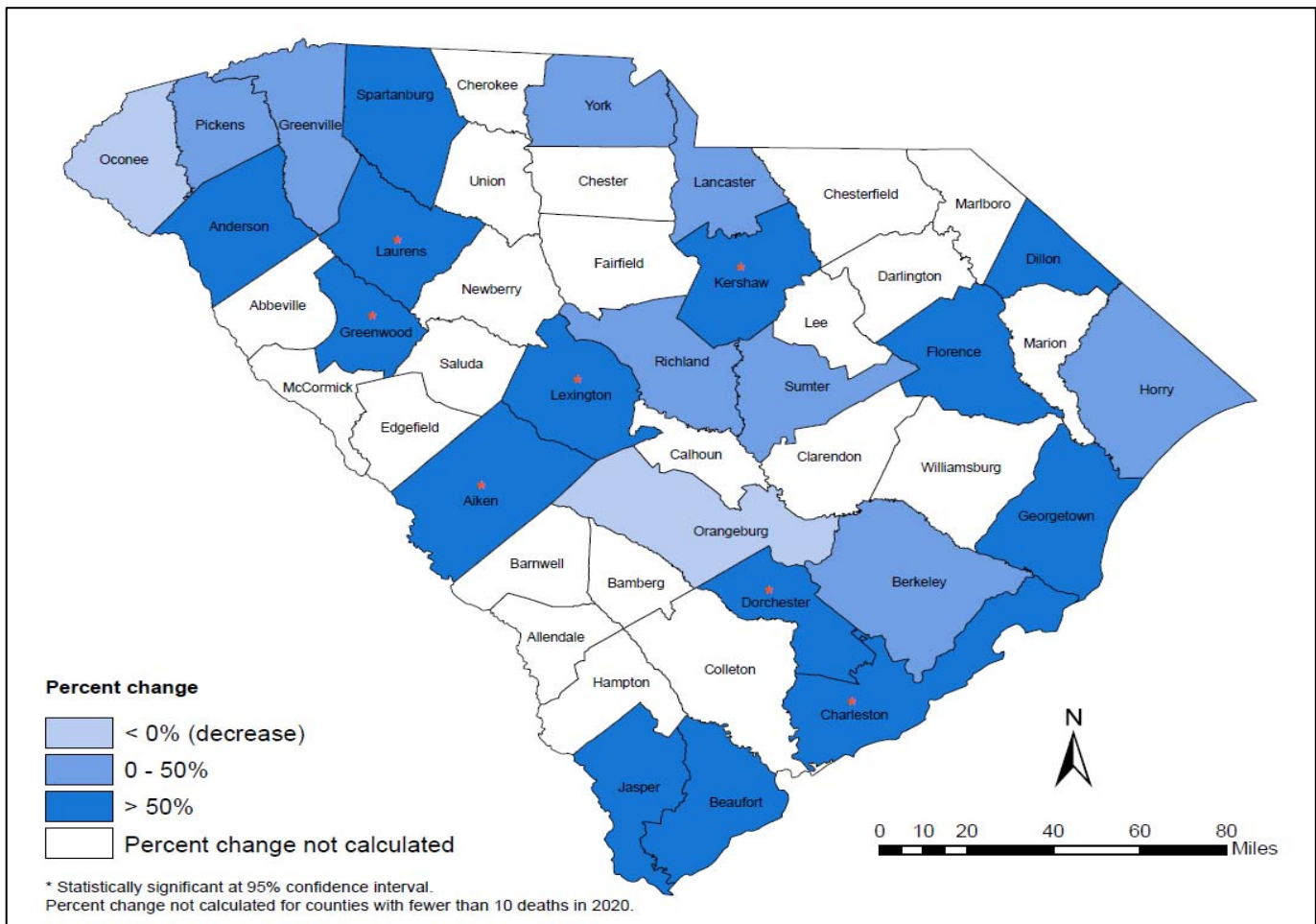
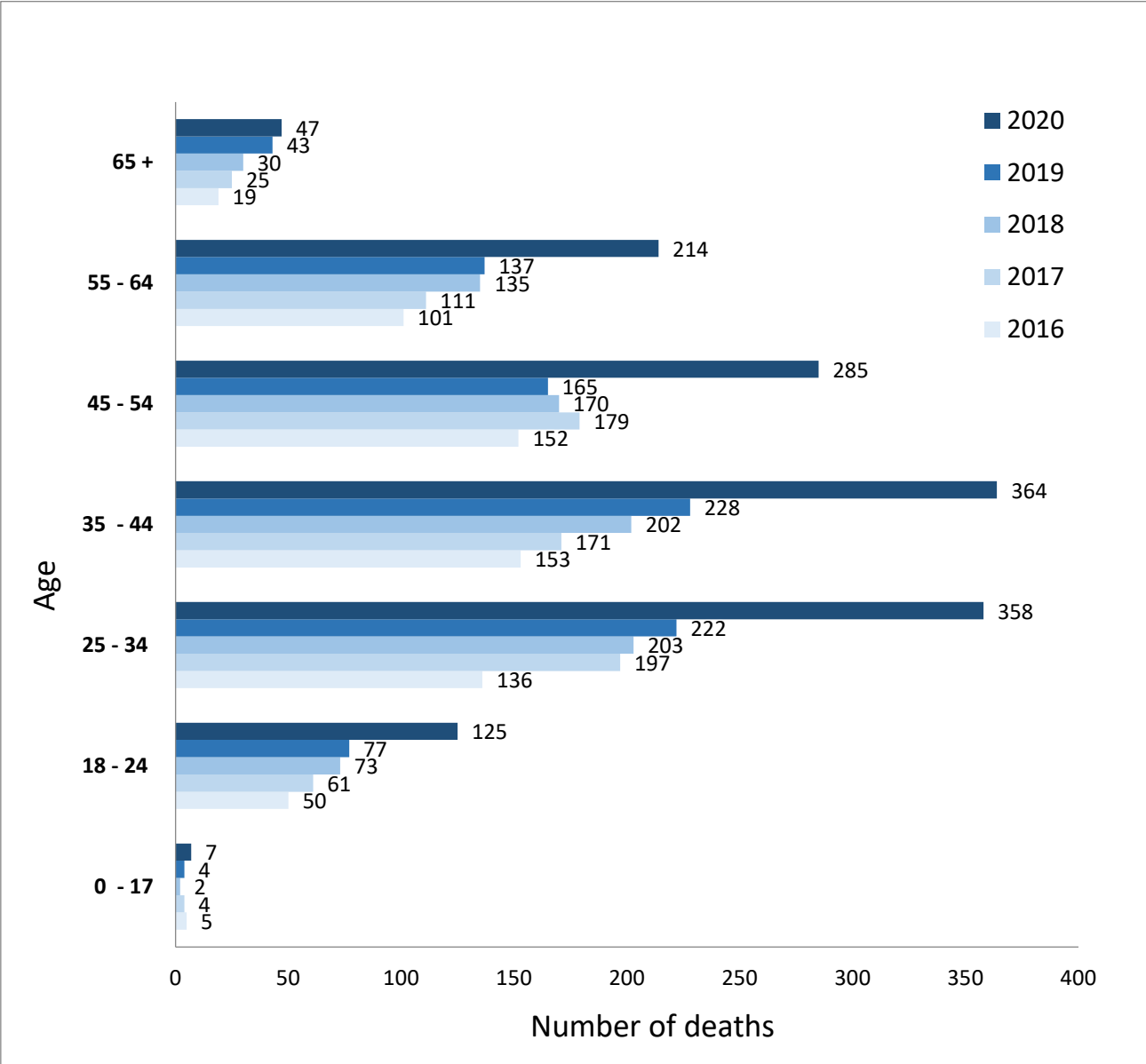


Figure 6.
 Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Age
 South Carolina, 2016-2020
 Occurrence Data



Source: SC DHEC, Vital Statistics

Figure 7.
Select Drug Categories by Race/Sex
South Carolina, 2020
Occurrence Data

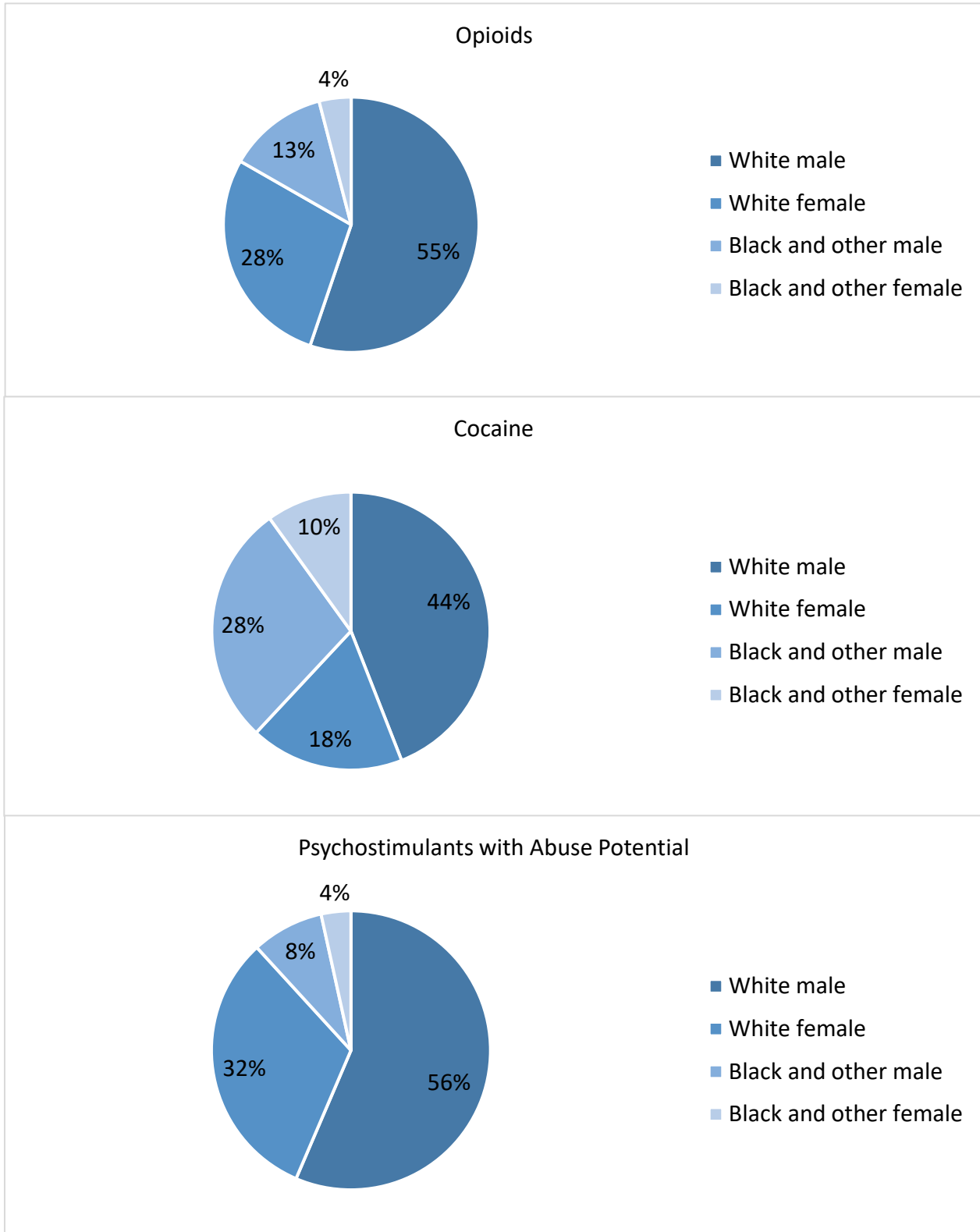


Figure 8.
 Select Drug Categories by Education
 South Carolina, 2020
 Occurrence Data

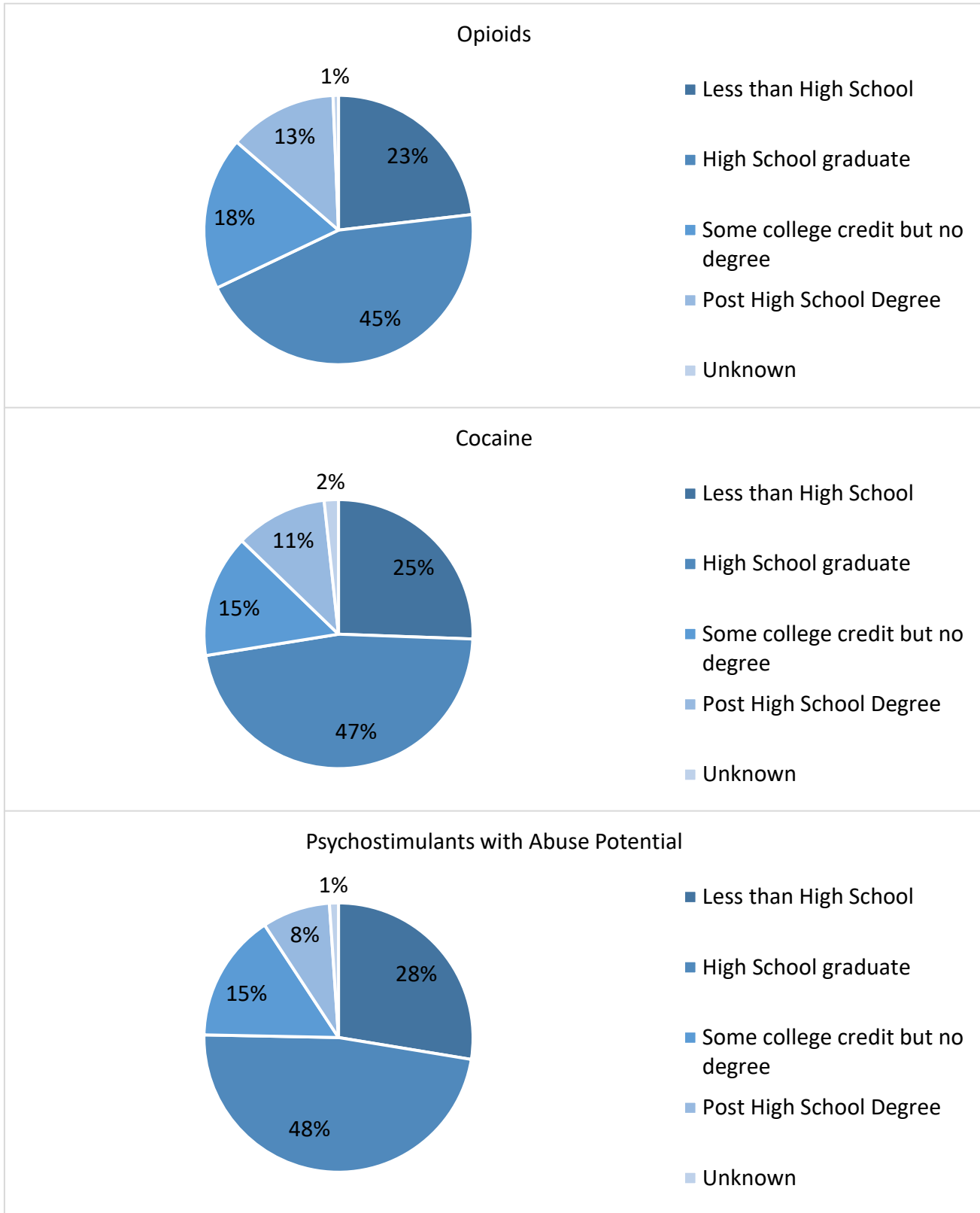
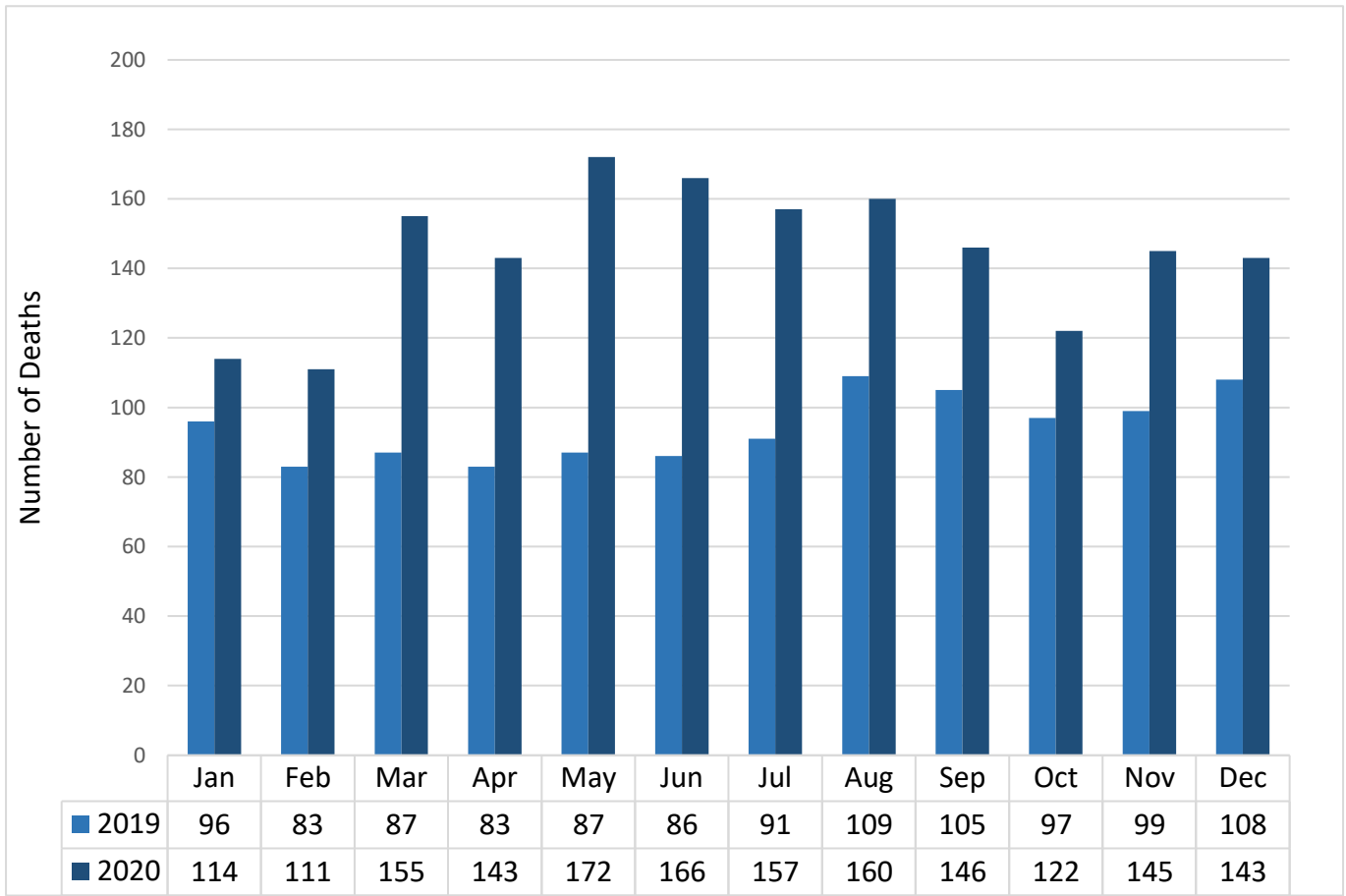


Figure 9.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Month
 South Carolina, 2020
 Occurrence Data



* Covid-19 pandemic started in March, 2020