



**Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.**  
State Superintendent of Schools

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**TO:** Members of the State Board of Education  
**FROM:** Karen B. Salmon, Ph.D.  
**DATE:** September 24, 2019  
**SUBJECT:** Maryland's Response to the Heroin and Opioid Epidemic

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**PURPOSE:**

To brief the State Board on Maryland's efforts to address the heroin and opioid crisis.

**BACKGROUND/HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Heroin and opioid drug dependency surged in Maryland over the last decade, resulting in an urgent and growing public health threat affecting all demographics and geographical settings in Maryland. In response, Governor Larry Hogan established by Executive Order a Heroin and Opioid Emergency Task Force [01.01.2015.12], a Council [01.01.2015.13], and the Center [01.01.2017.01] – composed of member agencies with expertise in addiction treatment, law enforcement, education, and prevention. A State of Emergency was declared [01.01.2017.02] as a direct result of the initial findings of the Center, empowering the emergency management system to enable rapid coordination of all state and local resources in support of public health officials.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

In January 2017, as part of Governor Hogan's Administration Heroin and Opioid Initiative, the Opioid Operational Command Center (OCC) was established. The OCC serves as the coordination entity and facilitates collaboration among federal, state, and local health and human services, education, and public safety entities to address the opioid crisis. The Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) has been a part of the OCC since its inception.

Mr. Steve Schuh, Executive Director of the OCC, coordinates statewide efforts to combat the heroin and opioid crisis in Maryland through education, prevention, treatment, and recovery. Mr. Schuh also collaborates with state and local officials to analyze data on drug use and deaths throughout the State. Mr. Schuh will share information on the coordinated statewide efforts of the OCC.


To support local school systems, the MSDE has conducted several surveys to identify programs that provide substance abuse services across Maryland public schools. In partnership with the OCC, the MSDE has implemented a number of strategies and initiatives to address the opioid epidemic, and has provided resources to local school systems to assist with their efforts in substance abuse prevention and treatment.

**ACTION:**

No action is required; this information is for discussion only.

Attachments:

Coordinated Statewide Efforts – Opioid Operational Command Center  
Youth Prevention Programs in Schools



# YOUTH PREVENTION PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

**State Board of Education**

**September 24, 2019**

# Start Talking Maryland Act of 2017

- ✓ In 2017, the Start Talking Maryland Act of 2017 required the Maryland State Department of Education to convene a workgroup to evaluate programs that provide behavioral and substance abuse disorder services in Maryland Schools.
- ✓ A survey was completed by behavioral health and substance abuse service providers.
- ✓ Fifty-two programs/services were identified by the providers/contacts who completed the survey.

# Report of Naloxone Use in Schools



The Start Talking Maryland Act also required schools to report to the MSDE any incident that required the use of naloxone or other overdose-reversing drug.



In School Year 2017-2018 there were nine reported incidents when naloxone was used in Maryland schools.

# Prevention Programs/Practices

## Prevention Programs/Practices

Botvin Life Skills Program

Smart Choices/Smart Moves Program

New Drug Abuse and Resistance Education  
(DARE) program

Parent Awareness Meetings

Student Plays

Guest Speakers/Student Assemblies

Videos/Documentaries

# Intervention/Postvention

## Intervention, Treatment, Recovery Programs

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Botvin Life Skills Program

Adolescent Clubhouses

Naloxone Staff Training Program

Partnerships with Local Health  
Departments/Substance Abuse Community  
Services

# Program Services by Local School Systems

LSS	Prevention/ Education	Treatment /Intervention	Recovery/ Postvention
Allegany	5	2	
Anne Arundel	3	1	1
Baltimore City	7	1	5
Baltimore County	4	2	2
Calvert	3	2	1
Caroline	5	1	1
Carroll	9	1	
Cecil	6	1	
Charles	4	2	1
Dorchester	5	1	
Frederick	3	1	1
Garrett	4	1	1

LSS	Prevention/ Education	Treatment /Intervention	Recovery/ Postvention
Harford	4	1	
Howard	4	1	
Kent	4	1	
Montgomery	5	1	3
Prince George's	7	1	1
Queen Anne's	6	1	
St. Mary's	4	2	2
Somerset	4	1	
Talbot	3	1	1
Washington	4	1	
Wicomico	4	1	
Worcester	4	1	





# Maryland State Department of Education Initiatives

## 2. **Awarded** grants to each local school system to enhance heroin and opioid prevention policies in FY 2019.

**Howard** – Community forums, parent learning sessions, student-created Public Service Announcements (PSAs), purchasing naloxone kits

**Frederick** – Public relations campaign in collaboration with their Health Department, print and digital PSAs, and producing post card size magnets to mail with opioid prevention resources

**Baltimore County** – Hiring a program facilitator to collaborate with BCPS to develop and implement a comprehensive Opioid Awareness and Abuse Prevention Campaign, hiring a digital media communication specialist

**Talbot** – Funds used support Project Purple which is a partnership between the school system, the Rotary Club, and the Sheriff's Office

**St. Mary's** – Informational campaign for students and the community on drug use and misuse; projects will include PSAs, forums, and lessons

**Somerset** – Creating trifold brochures entitled "How to Identify and Respond to Signs of Opioid Addiction"; developing a PSA billboard

# Maryland State Department of Education Initiatives

3. **Partner** with law enforcement to support reducing availability of prescriptions in the home through awareness of drug take-back programs and events.

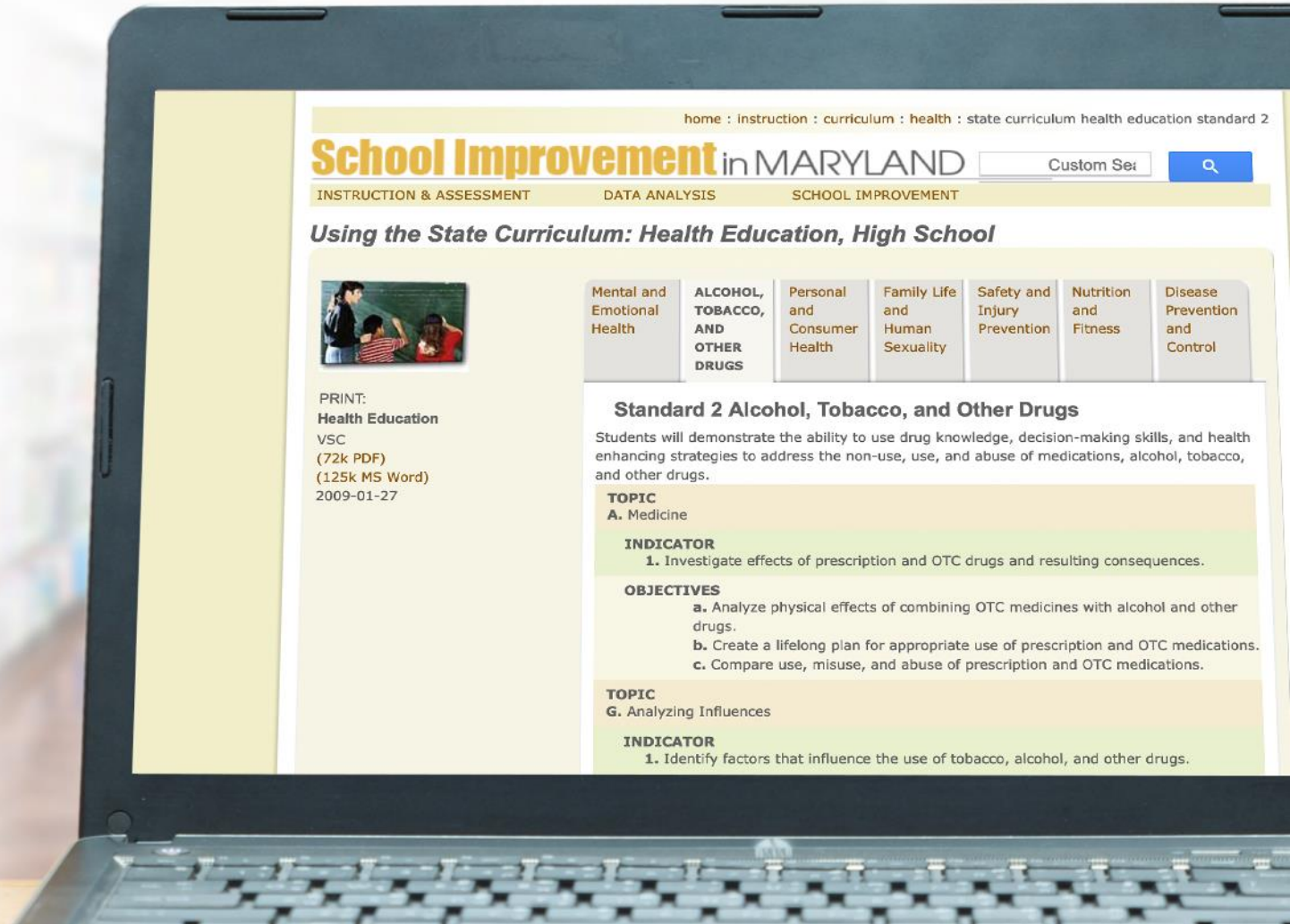
The MSDE disseminates information on the The National Prescription Drug Take Back Day to LSSs to share with parents and families.




# Maryland State Department of Education Initiatives

- 4. Revised** the Maryland Health Education Curriculum Framework to include the lethal effects of fentanyl.


The State Health Education Curriculum was updated in November 2017 to include the the health effects of opioids, including fentanyl.



# Substance Use Disorder Pilot Program


 Partnership with Behavioral Health Administration, National Center for School Mental Health, and the MSDE.

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 Program trains student support staff, school nurses, and health educators to implement the Botvin Life Skills curriculum and the Screening and Brief Intervention process.

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 In School Year 2017 -2018, the program was piloted in Baltimore City, Allegany County, and Prince George's County.

 150 Staff have been trained in Botvin Life Skills.

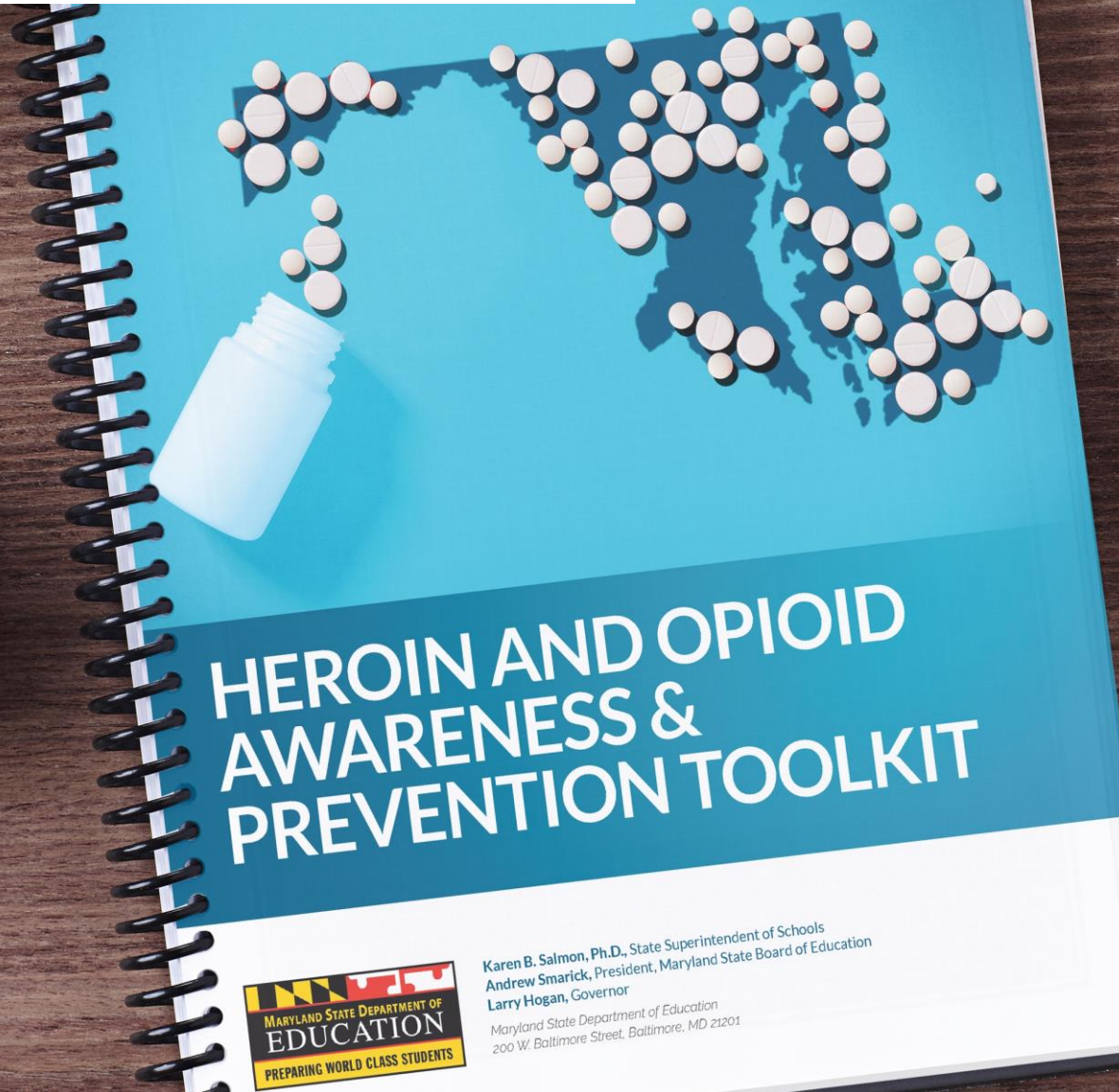
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 119 participants have initiated the Screening and Brief Intervention (SBI) training and 81 have completed the training.

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 Program is currently being expanded to Carrol County, Baltimore County, Anne Arundel County, Dorchester County, Howard County, and Cecil County.

# MSDE Resources



## MSDE Heroin and Opioid Webpage

[www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/heroinprevention/index.aspx](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Pages/heroinprevention/index.aspx)

## MSDE Heroin and Opioid Toolkit

[www.marylandpublicschools.org/Documents/heroinprevention/HeroinOpioidToolkit.pdf](http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/Documents/heroinprevention/HeroinOpioidToolkit.pdf)



## **Division of Student Support, Academic Enrichment, and Educational Policy**

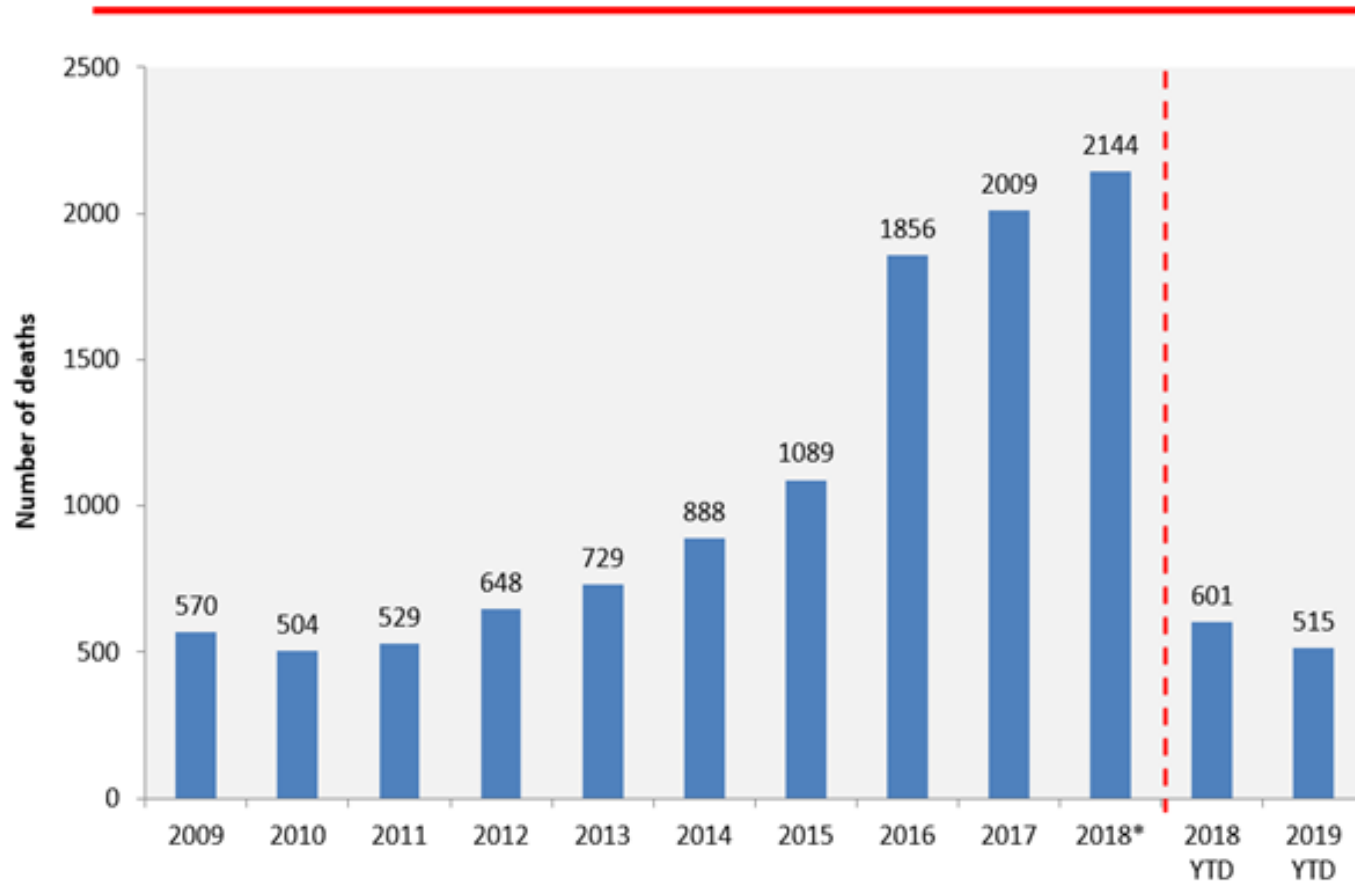
MARYLAND STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

200 W. Baltimore Street  
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

*Coordinated Statewide Efforts*  
**Opioid Operational Command Center**

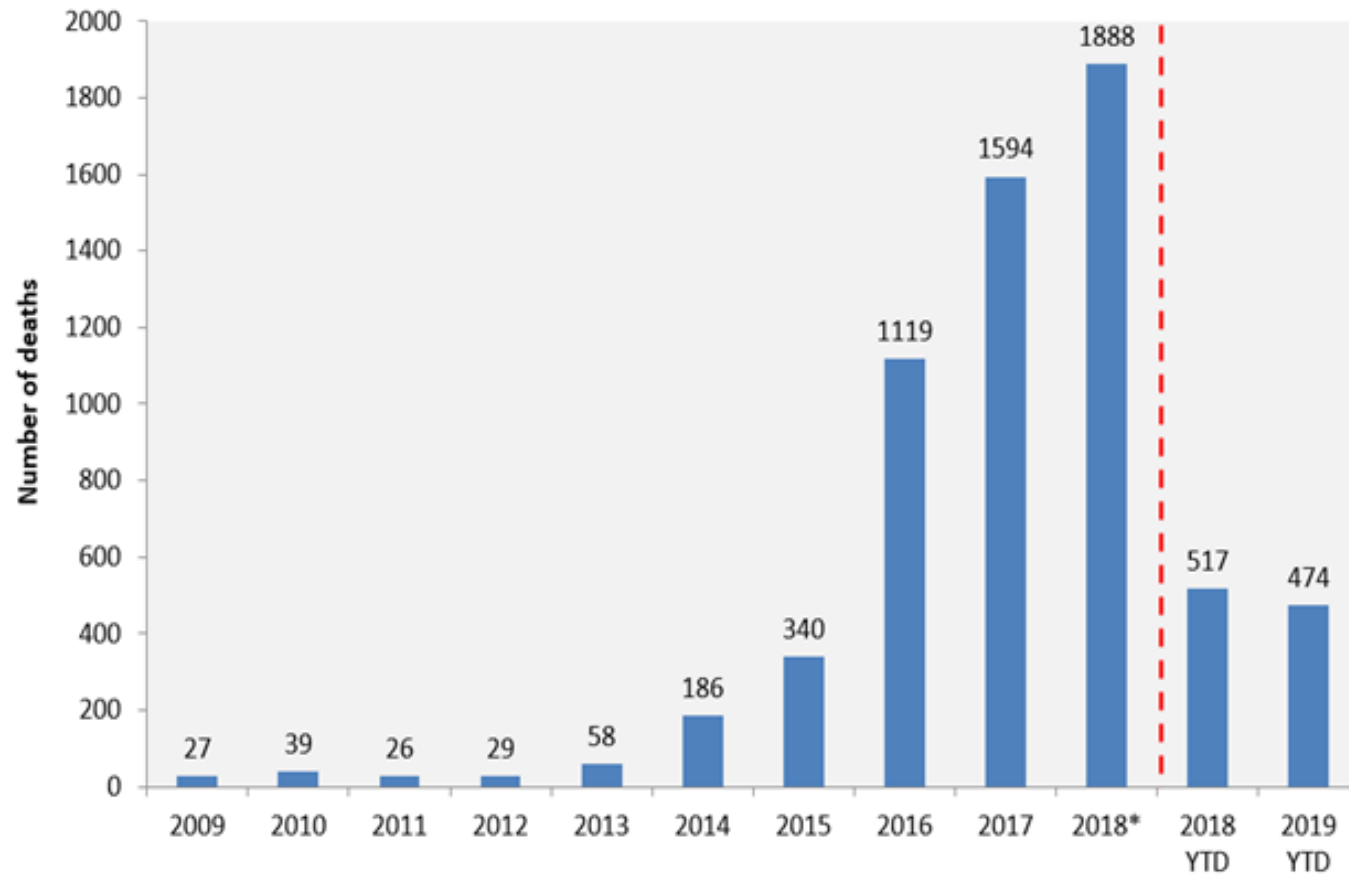


**Figure 2. Number of Opioid-Related Deaths in Maryland from January-December 2009-2017 and from January-March 2018 and 2019.\***



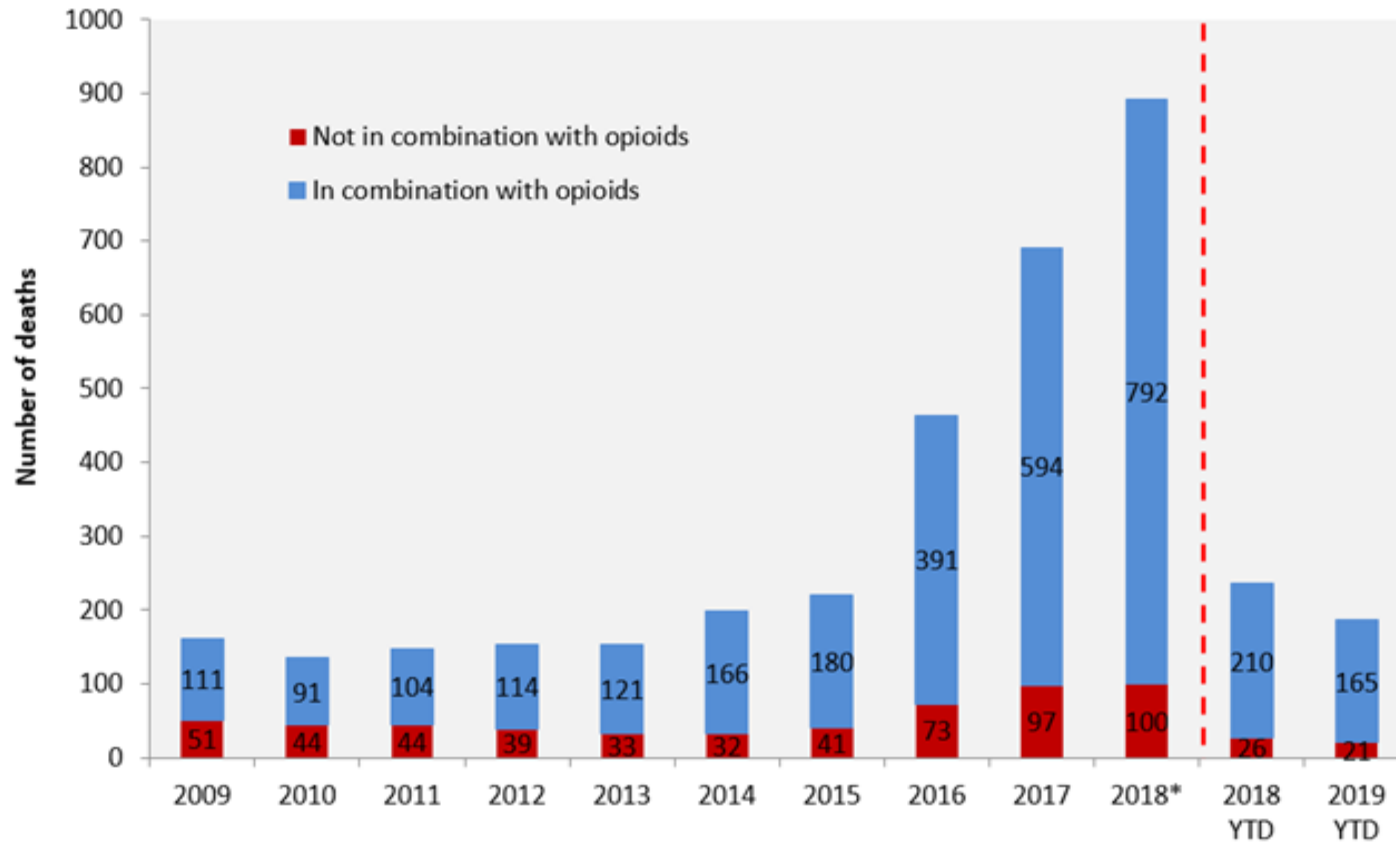
\*2018 and 2019 counts are preliminary.

**Figure 5. Number of Fentanyl-Related Deaths in Maryland from January-December 2009-2017 and from January-March 2018 and 2019.\***



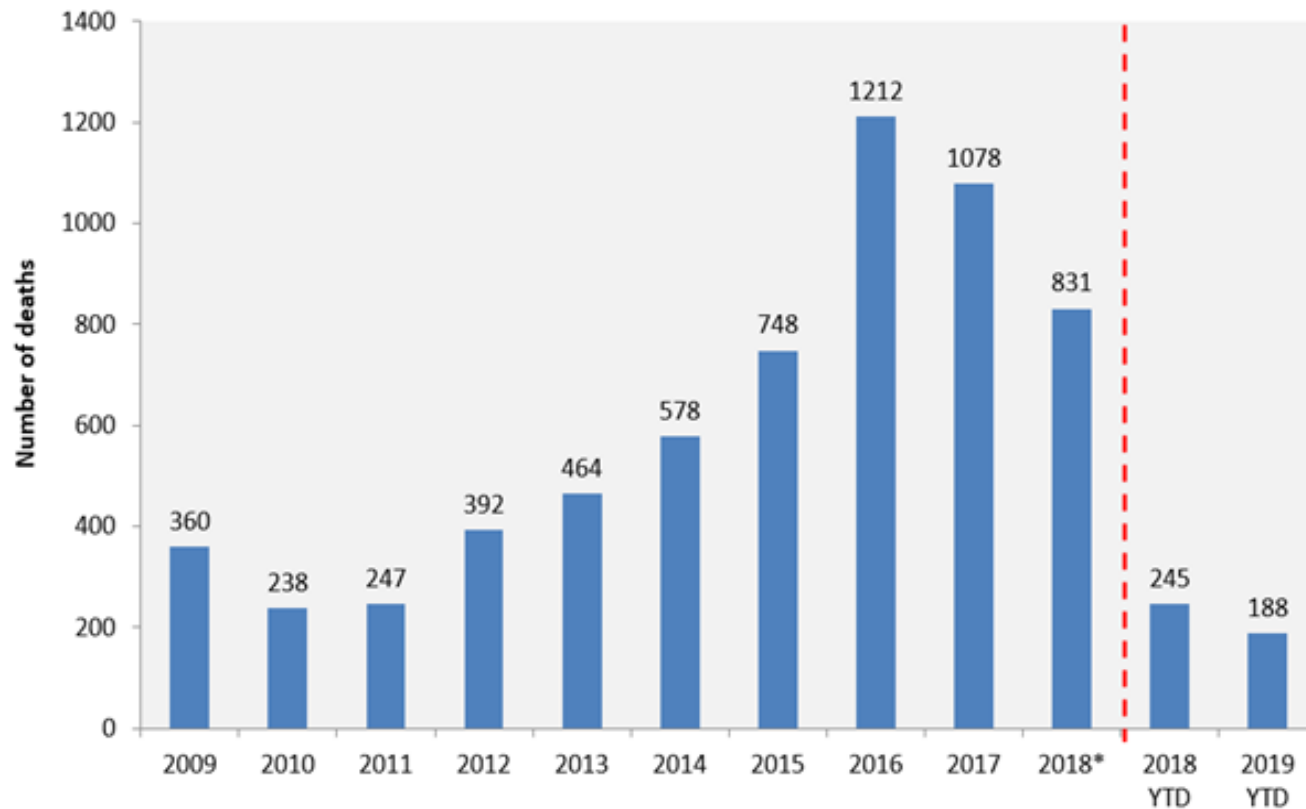
\*2018 and 2019 counts are preliminary.

**Figure 7. Number of Cocaine-Related Deaths in Maryland from January-December 2009-2017 and from January-March 2018 and 2019.\***



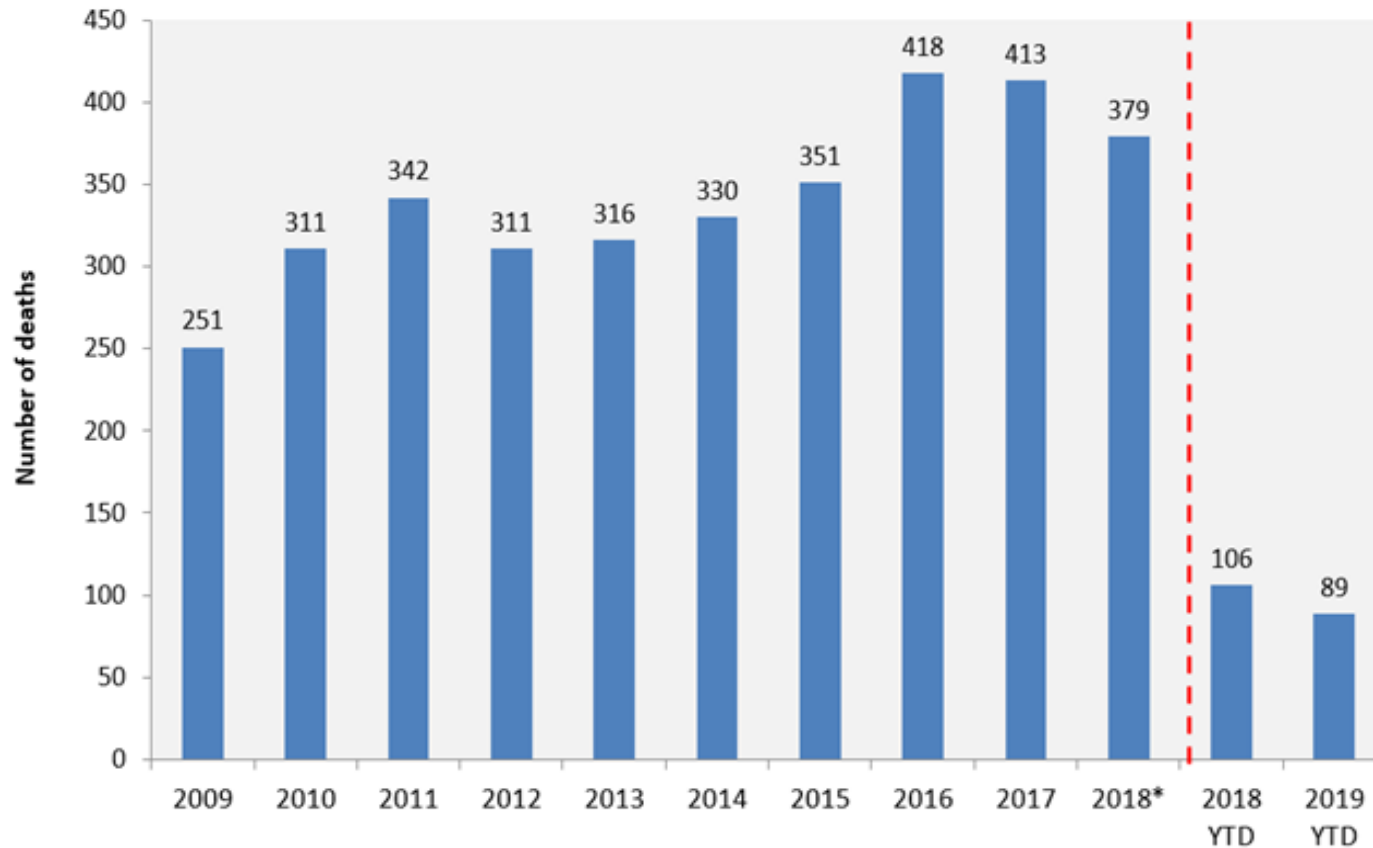
\*2018 and 2019 counts are preliminary.

**Figure 4. Number of Heroin-Related Deaths in Maryland from January-December 2009-2017 and from January-March 2018 and 2019.\***



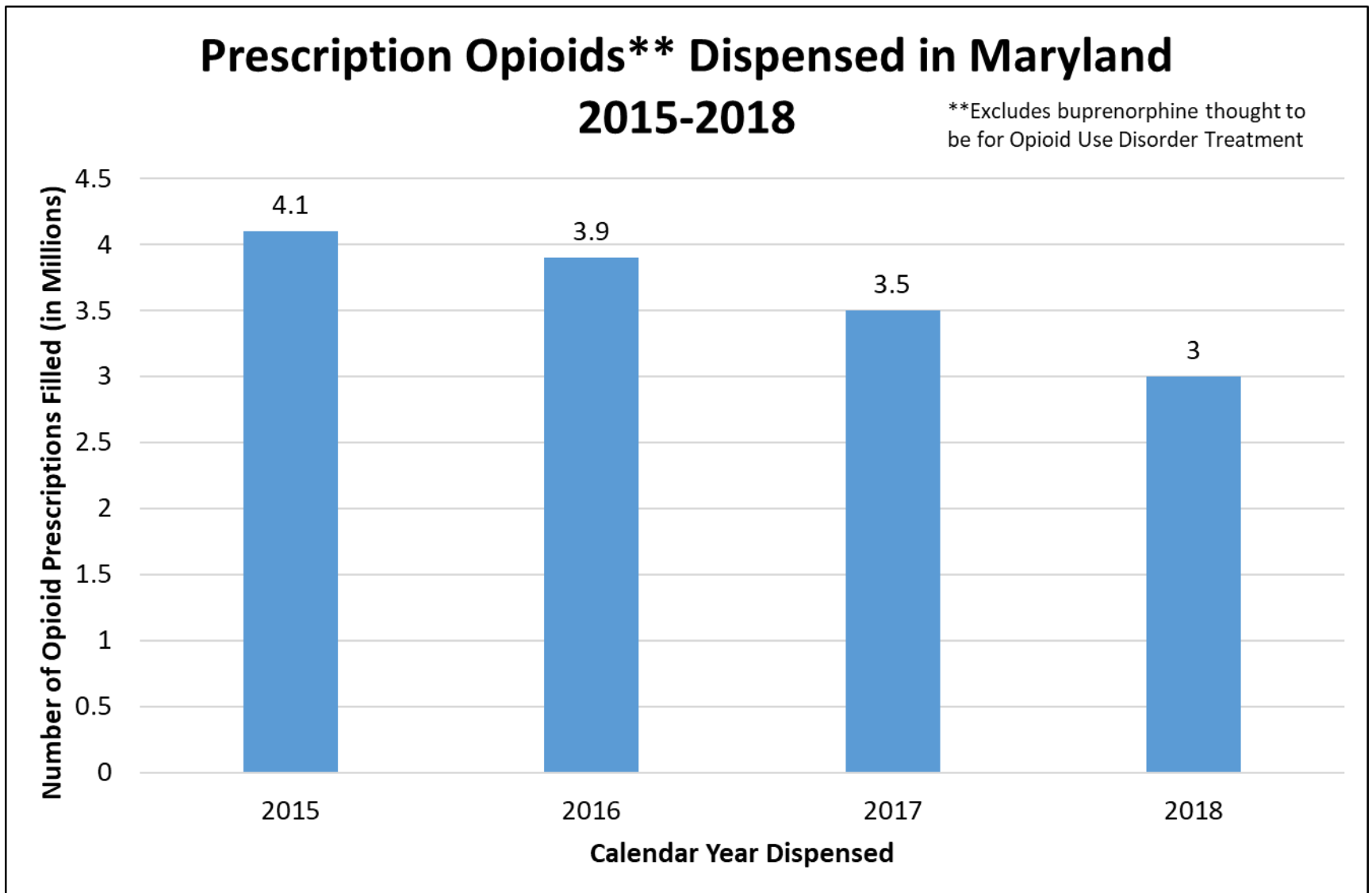
\*2018 and 2019 counts are preliminary.

**Figure 6. Number of Prescription Opioid-Related Deaths in Maryland from January-December 2009-2017 and from January-March 2018 and 2019.\***

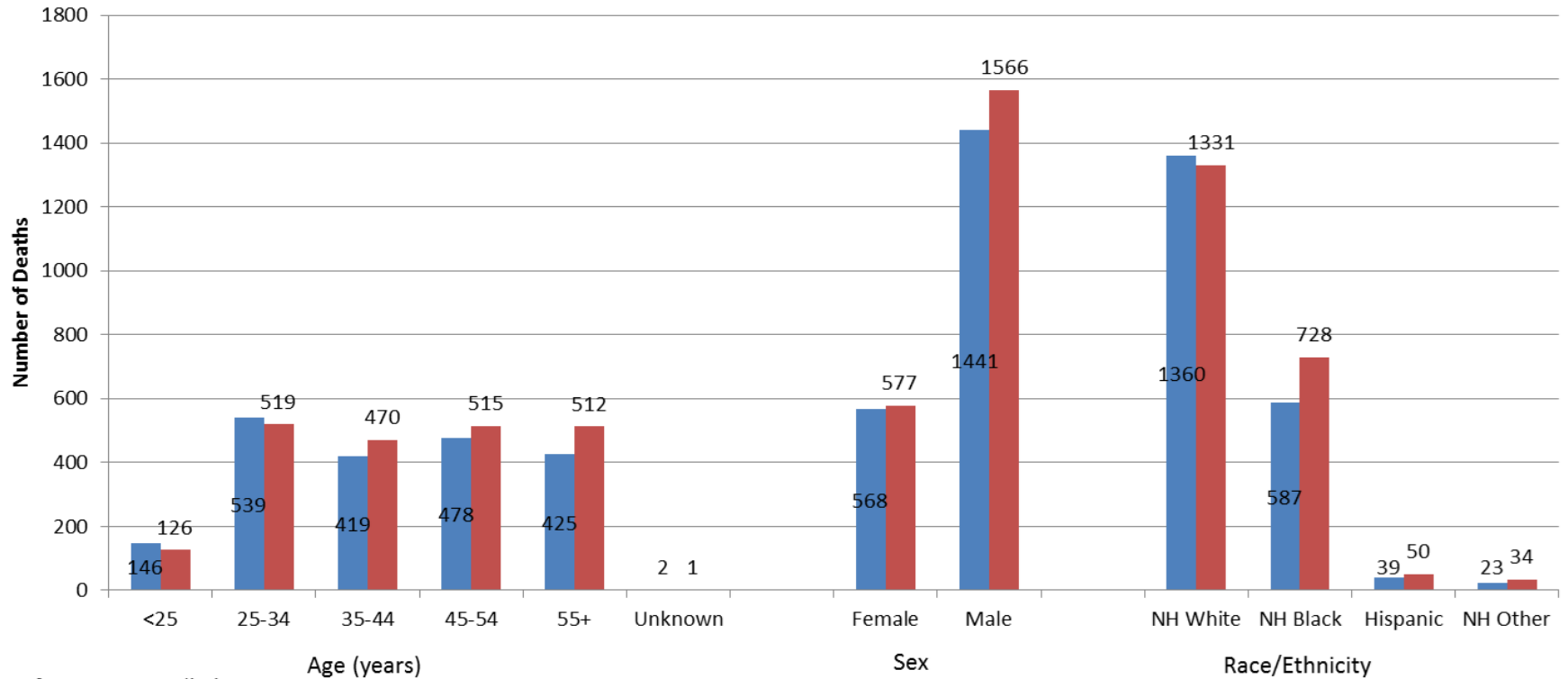


\*2018 and 2019 counts are preliminary.

# Prescription Opioid Dispensing Trend



## Unintentional Opioid-Related Drug Intoxication Deaths occurring in Maryland by select demographics, January through December, 2017, 2018 \*



\* Data for 2018 are preliminary  
 Data Source: MD Dept of Health

<b>Table 2. Comparison of Opioid-Related Intoxication Deaths<sup>1,2</sup> by Place of Occurrence, Maryland, January – March, 2019<sup>3</sup> and 2018.</b>			
<b>Jurisdiction</b>	<b>Opioid Intoxication Deaths</b>		<b>2019 vs 2018</b>
	<b>Jan. - Mar. 2019</b>	<b>Jan. - Mar. 2018</b>	<b># DIFFERENCE</b>
<b>Maryland Total</b>	<b>515</b>	<b>601</b>	<b>-86</b>
<b>Allegany</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Anne Arundel</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>-23</b>
<b>Baltimore City</b>	<b>224</b>	<b>225</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Baltimore County</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>-31</b>
<b>Calvert</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Caroline</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Carroll</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>-14</b>
<b>Cecil</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>-9</b>
<b>Charles</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Dorchester</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Frederick</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>Garrett</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Harford</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>-10</b>
<b>Howard</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Kent</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Montgomery</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Prince George's</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>-6</b>
<b>Queen Anne's</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Somerset</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>-3</b>
<b>St. Mary's</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>-1</b>
<b>Talbot</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Washington</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Wicomico</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>-2</b>
<b>Worcester</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>

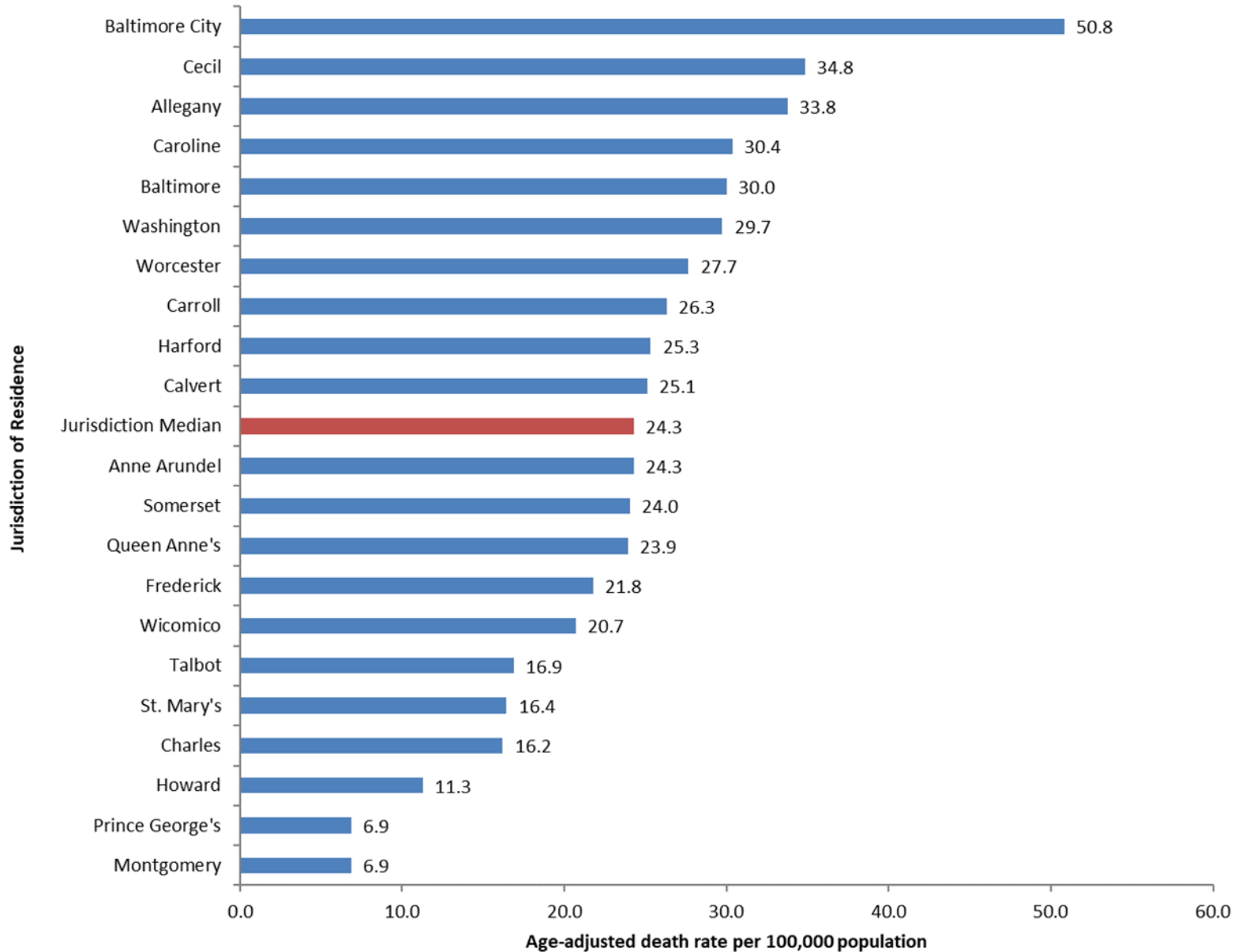
1. Includes deaths that were the result of recent ingestion or exposure to any opioid, prescribed or illicit.

2. Includes only deaths for which the manner of death was classified as accidental or undetermined.

3. Counts for 2018, 2019 are not complete.



## Age-Adjusted Death Rates<sup>1,2</sup> for Unintentional Opioid-related Intoxication Deaths by Jurisdiction of Residence, Maryland, 2013-2017



<sup>1</sup> Age-adjusted to the 2000 U.S. standard population by the direct method.

<sup>2</sup> Jurisdictions with < 20 deaths over the period are not displayed due to rate instability.

# OOCC Initial Mobilization Efforts

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- Opioid Task Force established 2015.
- Governor declared State of Emergency 2017.
- Established local coordinating bodies (OITs).
- Established state coordinating body – Opioid Operational Command Center (OOCC) in early 2017.
- Mobilized state agencies and non-governmental state partners.
- Established planning goals and objectives.

# Policy Priorities

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## Prevention & Education

- Harm reduction
- Information campaigns
- School programming

## Enforcement

- Interdiction
- Diversion
- Jail-based treatment

## Treatment & Recovery

- Crisis services
- Peer specialists
- Treatment programs

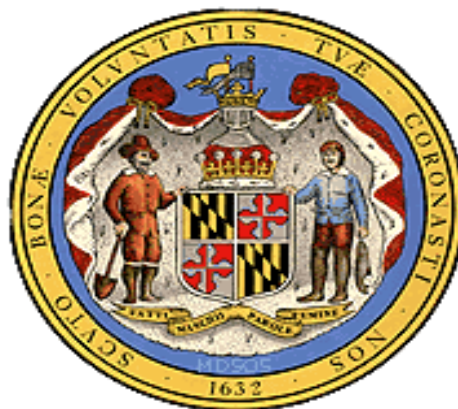
# OOCC Mission and Operations

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- Coordinate the statewide response to the epidemic and assure consistency with the Governor's three major policy priorities.
- Prepare strategic plan (Coordination Plan).
- Coordinate efforts of 20 state agencies and 24 local jurisdictions.
- Disseminate best practices and identify gaps.
- Review and approve all opioid-related budget proposals and legislation.

# Opioid Operational Command Center

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