

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Drug Overdose Deaths South Carolina

2019



INTRODUCTION

This report describes fatal drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Carolina in 2019. 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 category "prescription drugs" 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 --T40.6. 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, 2010-2019
 Occurrence Data

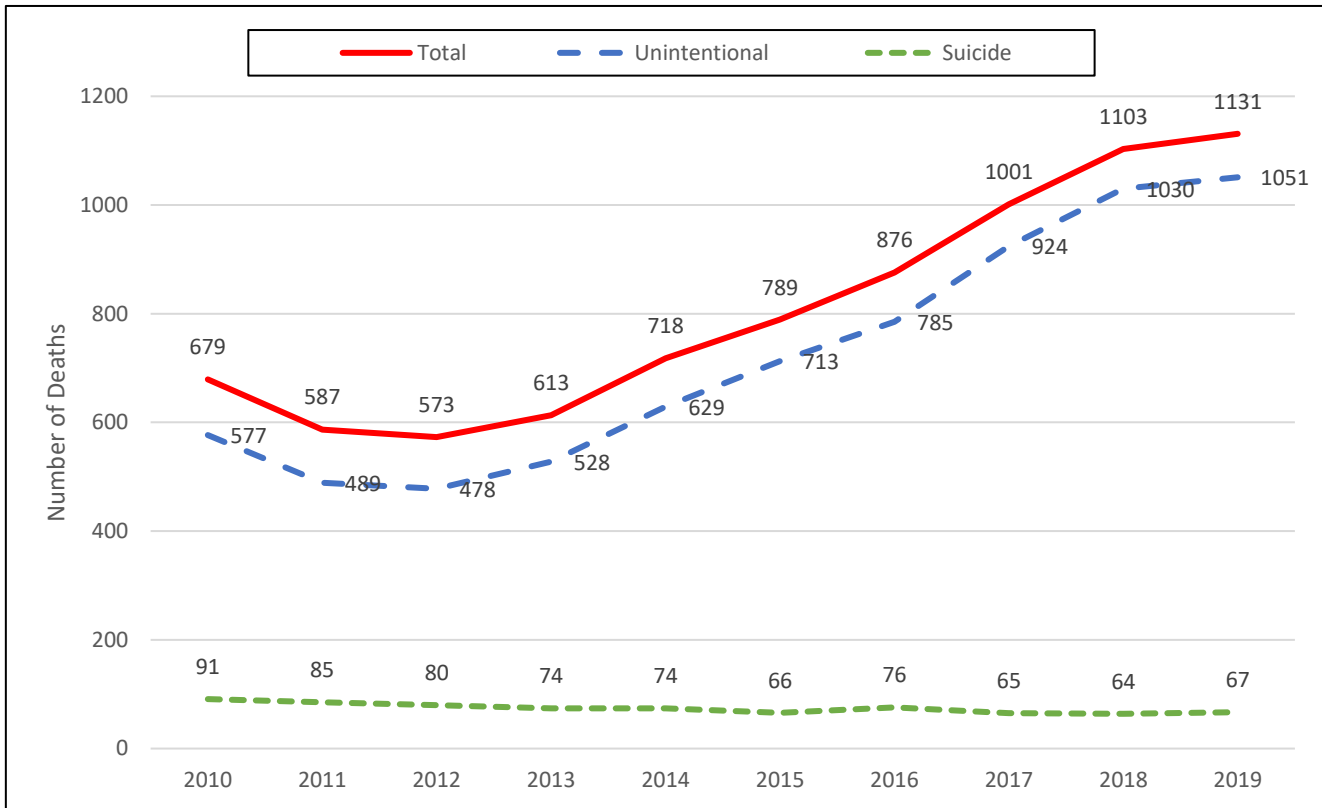


Table 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2010-2019
 Occurrence Data

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	679	587	573	613	718	789	876	1,001	1,103	1131
Unintentional	577	489	478	528	629	713	785	924	1,030	1051
Suicide	91	85	80	74	74	66	76	65	64	67
Homicide	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	1	3	0
Undetermined	9	12	14	11	12	10	12	11	6	13

Table 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Category and Selected Drugs
 South Carolina, 2015-2019
 Occurrence Data

Year	Total Drug Overdose	Prescription Drugs	Opioids	Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	Fentanyl	Heroin	Methadone	Cocaine
2015	789	641	565	95	130	95	59	117
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

Figure 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category
 South Carolina, 2015-2019
 Occurrence Data

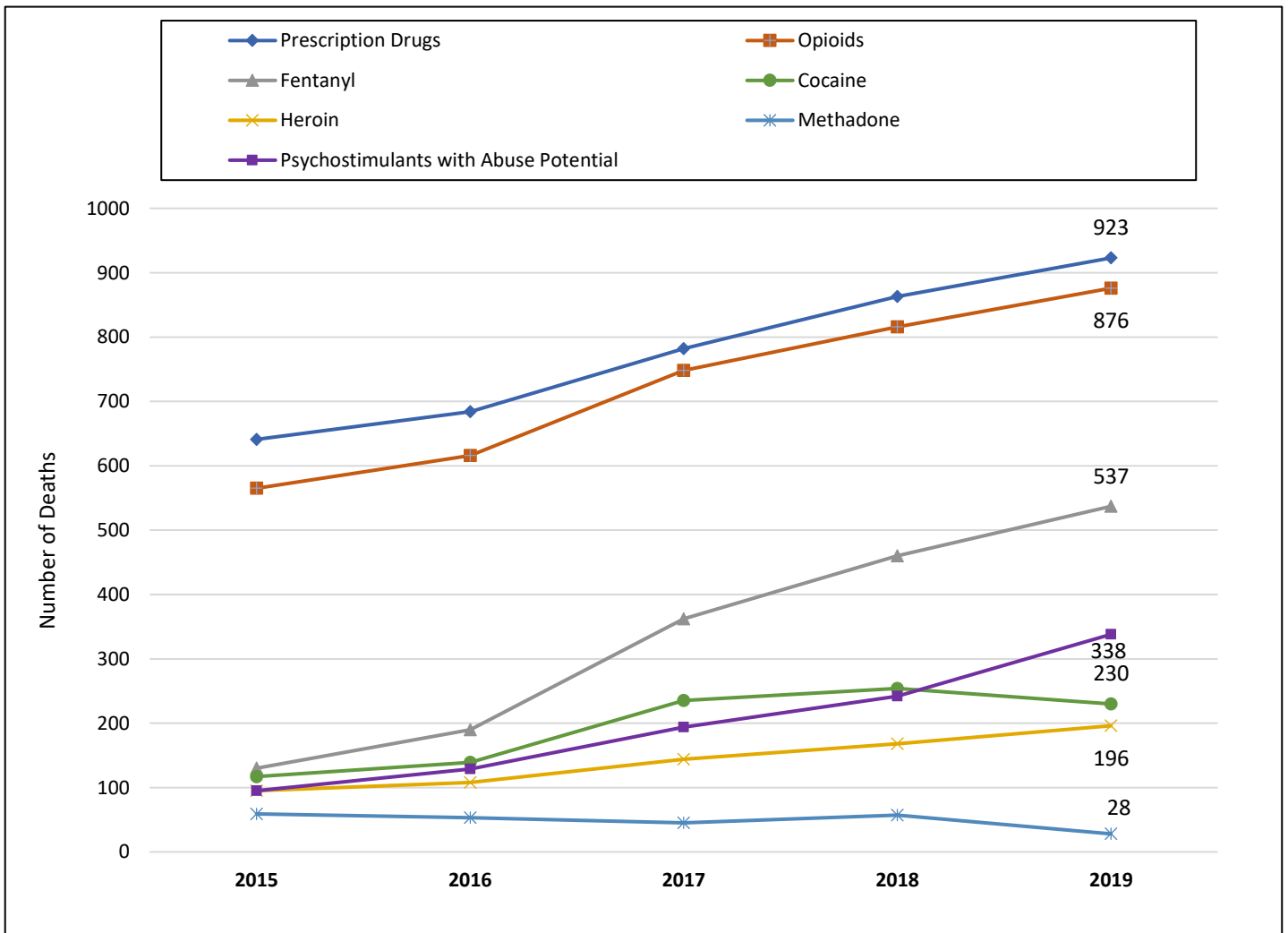


Table 3. A
Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category and County
South Carolina, 2019
Occurrence Data

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	1,131	22.7	923	18.6	876	17.8	338	7.1
Abbeville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aiken	29	17.6	24	13.9	21	12.3	16	9.7
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	36	18.9	26	14.0	27	14.5	19	9.7
Bamberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnwell	1	5.2	1	5.2	1	5.2	-	-
Beaufort	26	16.4	22	13.4	16	9.8	3	1.8
Berkeley	36	15.5	34	14.5	31	13.1	11	5.1
Calhoun	1	7.3	1	7.3	1	7.3	-	-
Charleston	123	28.2	106	24.4	107	24.8	20	5.0
Cherokee	7	15.5	5	11.2	3	6.8	4	8.6
Chester	4	12.1	4	12.1	4	12.1	2	4.9
Chesterfield	8	18.3	6	15.6	3	8.9	2	5.7
Clarendon	6	17.7	1	3.6	2	5.3	2	5.3
Colleton	5	15.9	3	9.9	3	9.9	1	3.0
Darlington	7	12.4	6	10.2	6	10.2	1	1.7
Dillon	5	19.3	5	19.3	5	19.3	3	10.3
Dorchester	20	12.3	13	7.8	14	8.4	8	4.7
Edgefield	1	3.7	1	3.7	1	3.7	1	3.7
Fairfield	3	11.6	3	11.6	2	9.3	-	-
Florence	28	22.4	22	17.4	24	19.2	4	3.5
Georgetown	15	27.2	15	27.2	13	25.3	3	5.4
Greenville	140	27.0	109	21.2	102	20.3	44	9.0
Greenwood	12	19.8	9	14.7	9	15.8	4	6.0
Hampton	2	10.8	1	4.1	-	-	-	-
Horry	153	49.2	138	44.6	131	42.9	53	18.4
Jasper	9	35.9	8	32.2	8	32.2	3	13.6
Kershaw	11	17.1	8	12.6	9	14.2	6	10.0
Lancaster	35	37.7	31	33.6	32	35.1	8	8.3
Laurens	11	17.8	11	17.8	10	16.8	3	4.0
Lee	4	24.7	3	18.7	4	24.7	2	9.6
Lexington	65	22.5	58	19.9	48	16.7	25	8.8
McCormick	2	31.4	1	12.2	1	12.2	1	19.2
Marion	4	11.5	4	11.5	2	5.8	-	-
Marlboro	2	8.3	2	8.3	2	8.3	-	-
Newberry	2	4.4	1	1.6	1	1.6	1	2.8
Oconee	26	37.5	17	26.1	16	24.1	14	20.7
Orangeburg	21	26.6	14	17.5	15	19.5	5	7.7
Pickens	36	28.6	26	20.4	22	17.1	17	15.1
Richland	69	16.8	52	12.8	52	12.8	10	2.5
Saluda	1	5.1	-	-	-	-	1	5.1
Spartanburg	75	23.9	56	17.8	55	17.5	23	7.9
Sumter	27	27.3	18	18.4	19	19.1	8	9.0
Union	2	8.5	2	8.5	1	4.3	-	-
Williamsburg	4	16.8	2	9.6	4	16.8	-	-
York	57	20.3	54	19.1	49	17.5	10	4.0

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, 2019
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Fentanyl		Heroin		Methadone		Cocaine	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	537	11.2	196	4.1	28	0.6	230	4.6
Abbeville	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Aiken	16	9.0	9	5.3	2	1.2	4	2.6
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	9	5.1	8	4.3	-	-	5	2.5
Bamberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnwell	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beaufort	8	4.8	5	3.5	1	0.6	8	5.7
Berkeley	17	7.4	1	0.3	-	-	5	2.2
Calhoun	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charleston	71	16.5	43	9.9	2	0.6	32	7.1
Cherokee	2	5.0	1	2.5	-	-	-	-
Chester	4	12.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Chesterfield	2	5.7	1	3.2	2	5.7	1	1.3
Clarendon	1	3.6	1	1.7	-	-	-	-
Colleton	-	-	-	-	1	3.0	-	-
Darlington	3	4.8	-	-	-	-	3	5.3
Dillon	3	12.7	-	-	-	-	5	19.3
Dorchester	5	3.1	2	1.4	-	-	4	2.3
Edgefield	1	3.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield	1	7.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florence	17	13.7	3	2.7	-	-	9	7.4
Georgetown	7	16.0	-	-	-	-	2	5.1
Greenville	70	14.4	23	4.9	3	0.6	28	5.4
Greenwood	8	14.3	1	2.0	-	-	5	8.7
Hampton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horry	91	31.3	6	1.9	-	-	42	13.7
Jasper	7	28.2	3	13.9	1	5.0	-	-
Kershaw	8	12.6	3	5.0	-	-	2	2.8
Lancaster	24	26.5	14	15.3	1	1.2	5	5.7
Laurens	8	13.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lee	2	10.3	3	16.3	-	-	-	-
Lexington	27	9.5	14	5.2	1	0.3	10	3.4
McCormick	-	-	-	-	1	12.2	-	-
Marion	2	5.8	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marlboro	2	8.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newberry	1	1.6	-	-	-	-	1	1.6
Oconee	7	11.0	2	2.1	3	5.4	1	2.0
Orangeburg	9	12.1	3	4.4	-	-	5	5.9
Pickens	8	6.6	4	3.9	2	1.5	1	0.9
Richland	29	6.9	11	2.5	2	0.5	26	6.2
Saluda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spartanburg	26	8.1	20	6.4	2	0.6	14	4.4
Sumter	10	10.1	6	7.3	-	-	8	8.5
Union	1	4.3	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williamsburg	2	9.6	3	12.0	1	4.8	1	4.8
York	28	10.3	6	2.2	3	1.1	3	1.1

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, 2019
Occurrence Data

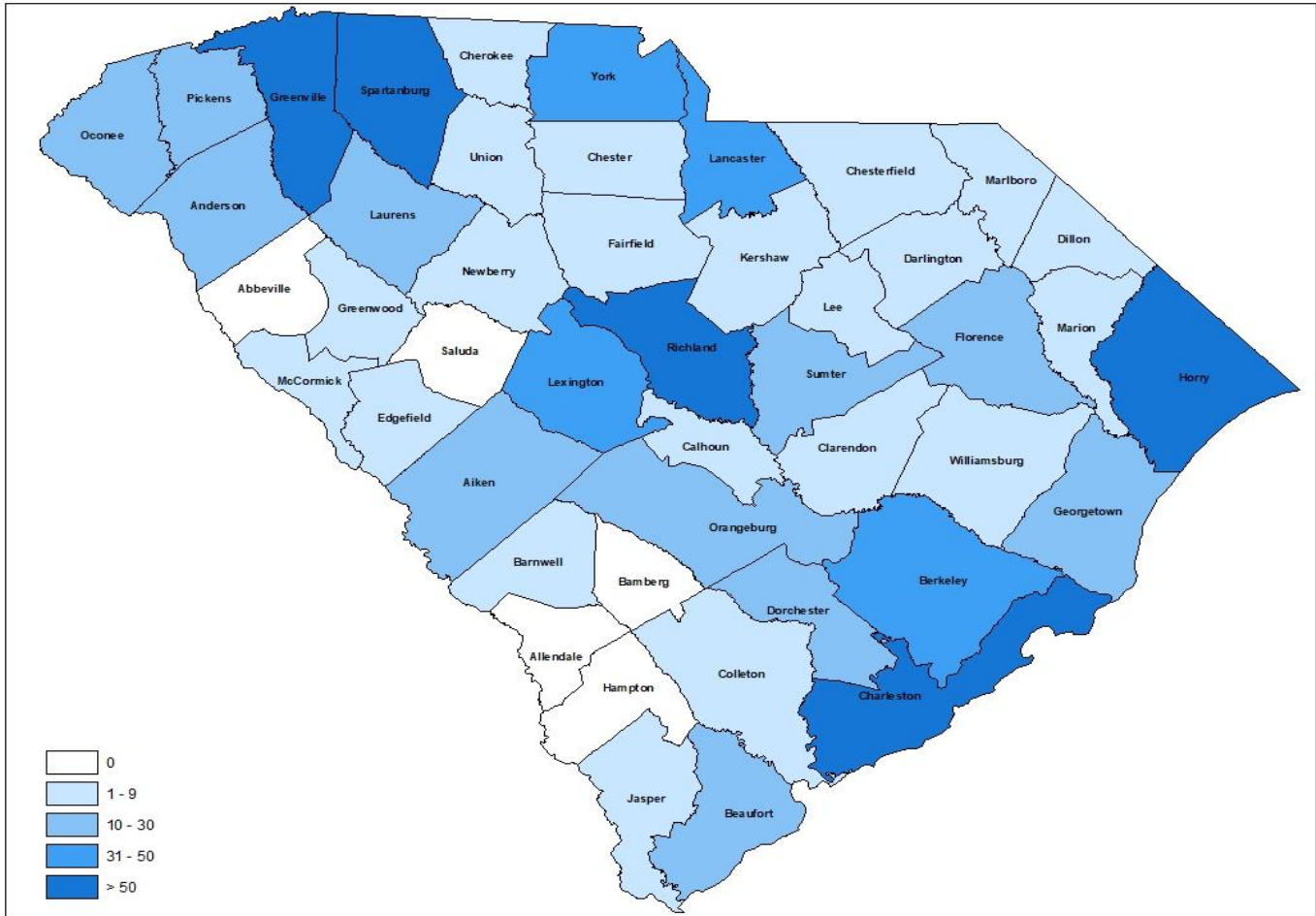
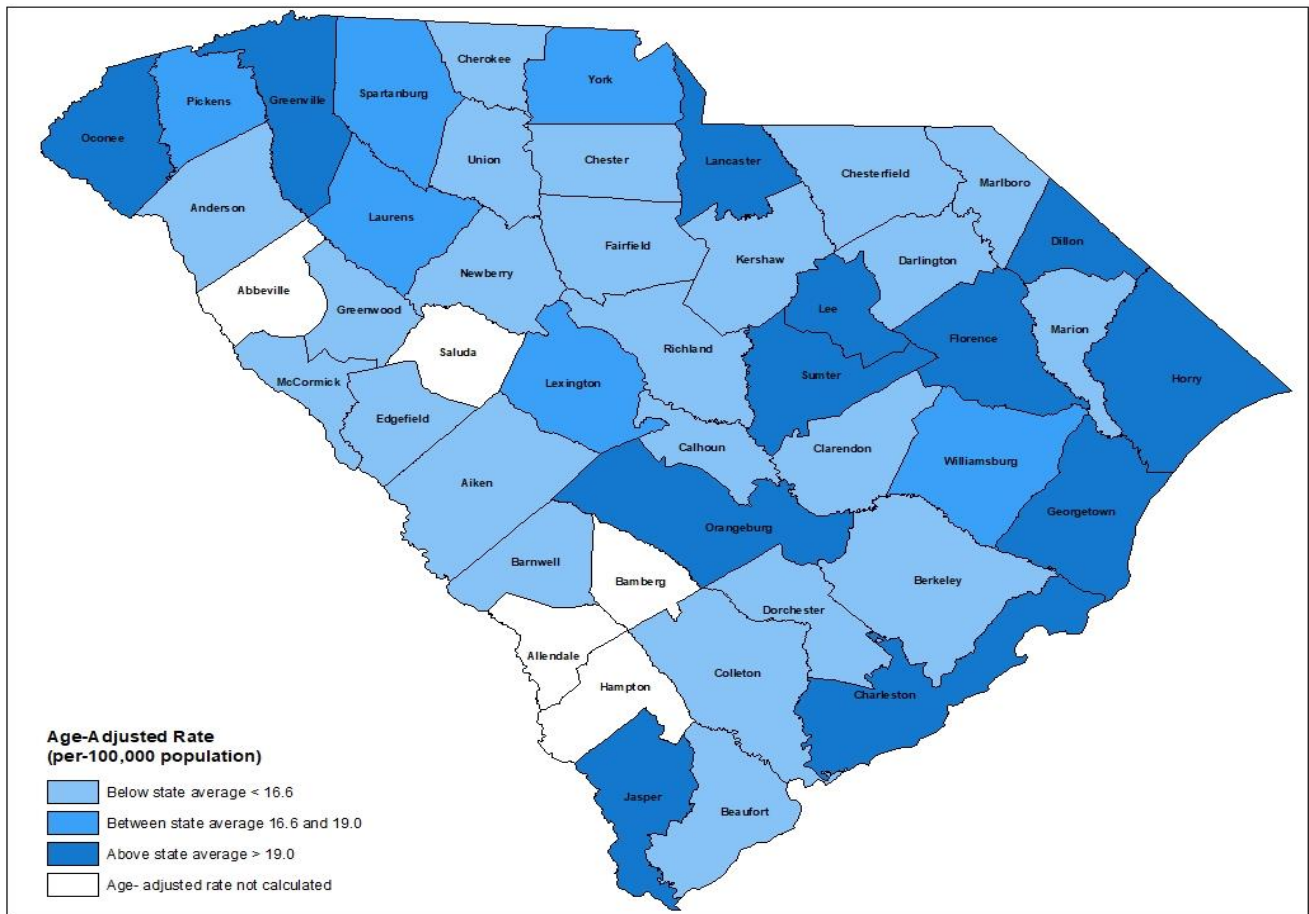


Figure 4.
 Age-Adjusted Rate for Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2019
 Occurrence Data



State age-adjusted rate: 17.8 per 100,000 population

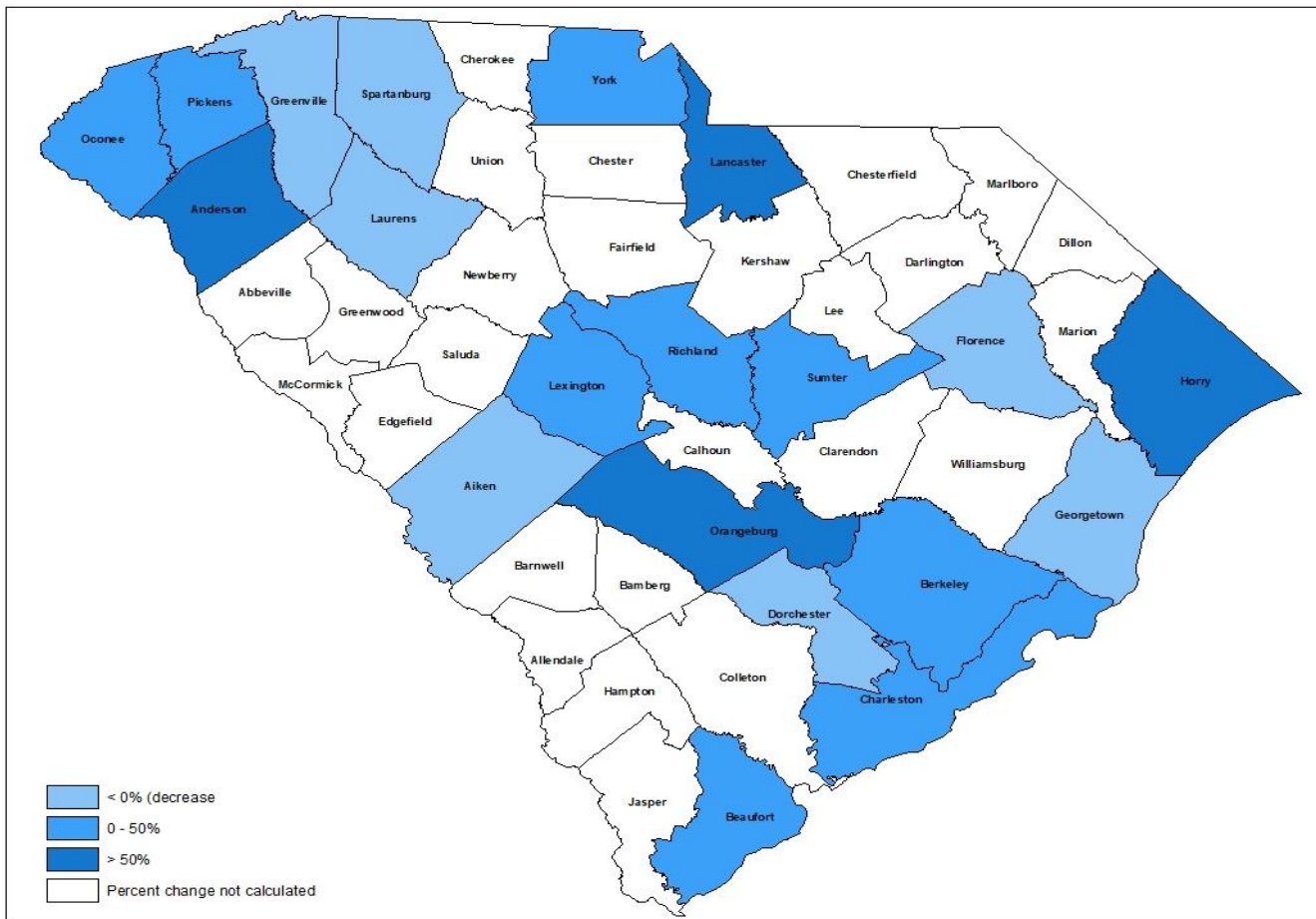
Age-adjusted rate not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2019.

Table 4.
Change in Drug Overdose Deaths by County
South Carolina, 2018-2019
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose			Opioids Overdose		
	2018	2019	Percent Change	2018	2019	Percent Change
South Carolina	1,103	1,131	2.5	816	876	7.4
Abbeville	3	-		1	-	
Aiken	34	29	-14.7	27	21	-22.2
Allendale	1	-		-	-	
Anderson	28	36	28.6	15	27	80.0
Bamberg	-	-		-	-	
Barnwell	4	1		2	1	
Beaufort	16	26	62.5	14	16	14.3
Berkeley	32	36	12.5	24	31	29.2
Calhoun	2	1		2	1	
Charleston	121	123	1.7	100	107	7.0
Cherokee	4	7		2	3	
Chester	3	4		3	4	
Chesterfield	3	8		1	3	
Clarendon	4	6		3	2	
Colleton	10	5		6	3	
Darlington	6	7		5	6	
Dillon	4	5		3	5	
Dorchester	36	20	-44.4	30	14	-53.3
Edgefield	-	1		-	1	
Fairfield	1	3		-	2	
Florence	37	28	-24.3	26	24	-7.7
Georgetown	23	15	-34.8	16	13	-18.8
Greenville	172	140	-18.6	131	102	-22.1
Greenwood	25	12	-52.0	19	9	
Hampton	1	2		1	-	
Horry	105	153	45.7	85	131	54.1
Jasper	8	9		7	8	
Kershaw	13	11	-15.4	11	9	
Lancaster	14	35	150.0	12	32	166.7
Laurens	16	11	-31.3	12	10	-16.7
Lee	-	4		-	4	
Lexington	55	65	18.2	42	48	14.3
McCormick	2	2		1	1	
Marion	1	4		-	2	
Marlboro	1	2		-	2	
Newberry	2	2		1	1	
Oconee	17	26	52.9	15	16	6.7
Orangeburg	10	21	110.0	8	15	87.5
Pickens	34	36	5.9	22	22	0.0
Richland	85	69	-18.8	51	52	2.0
Saluda	-	1		-	-	
Spartanburg	82	75	-8.5	56	55	-1.8
Sumter	29	27	-6.9	17	19	11.8
Union	-	2		-	1	
Williamsburg	4	4		2	4	
York	55	57	3.6	43	49	14.0

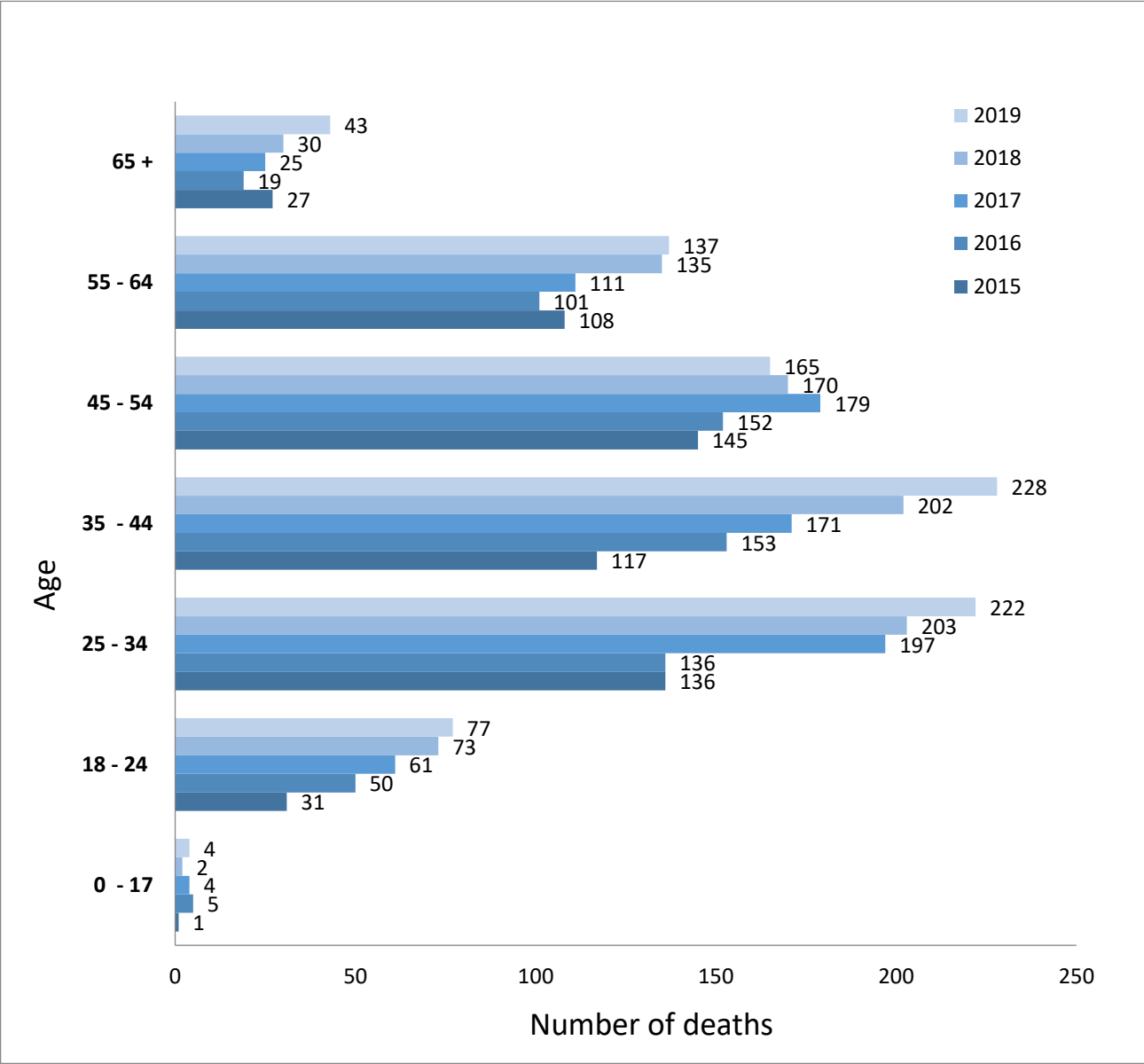
*Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2019.

Figure 5.
 Change in Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2018-2019
 Occurrence Data



Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2019.

Figure 6.
 Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Age
 South Carolina, 2015-2019
 Occurrence Data



Source: SC DHEC, Vital Statistics

Figure 7.
 Select Drug Categories by Race/Sex
 South Carolina, 2019
 Occurrence Data

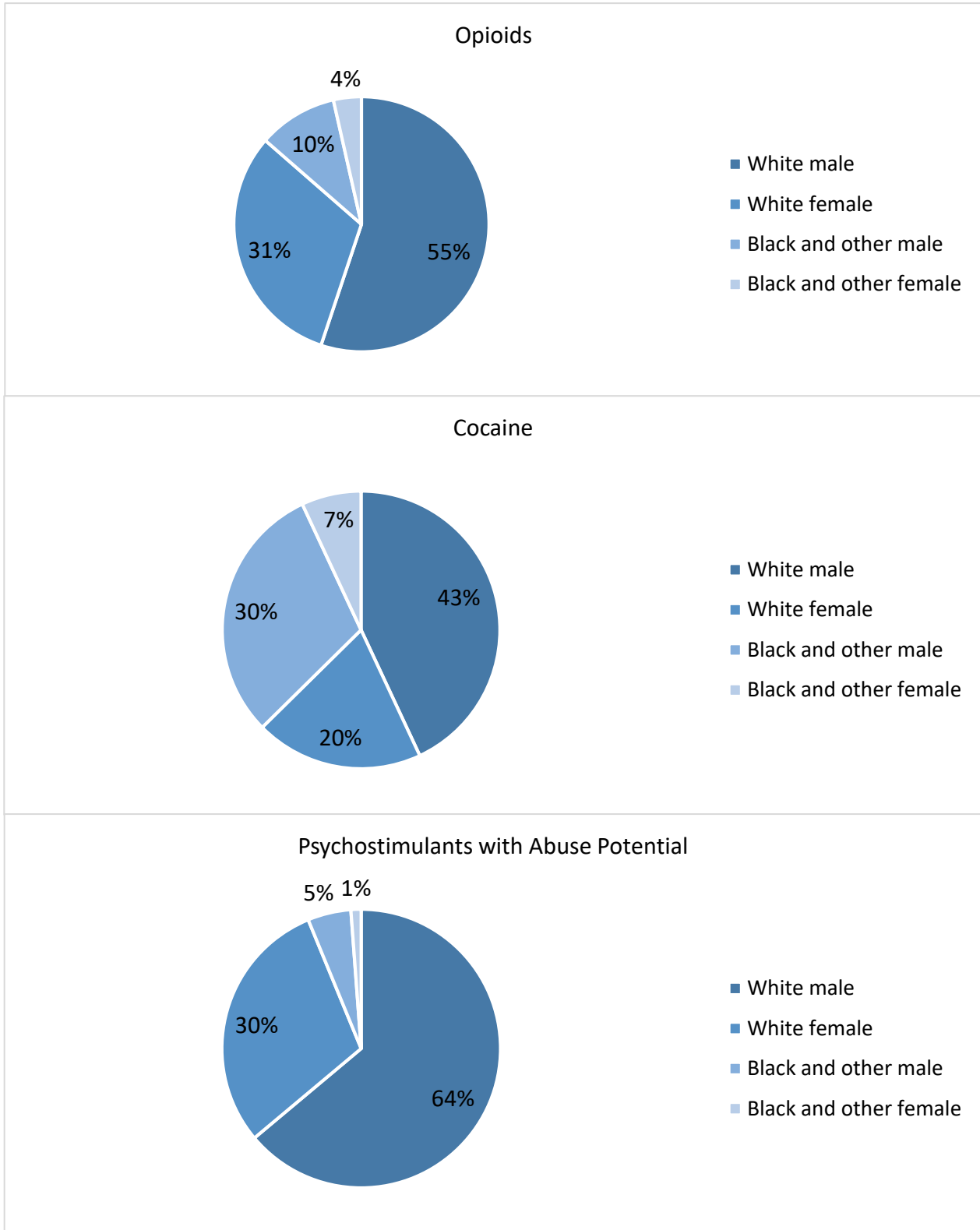


Figure 8.
 Select Drug Categories by Education
 South Carolina, 2019
 Occurrence Data

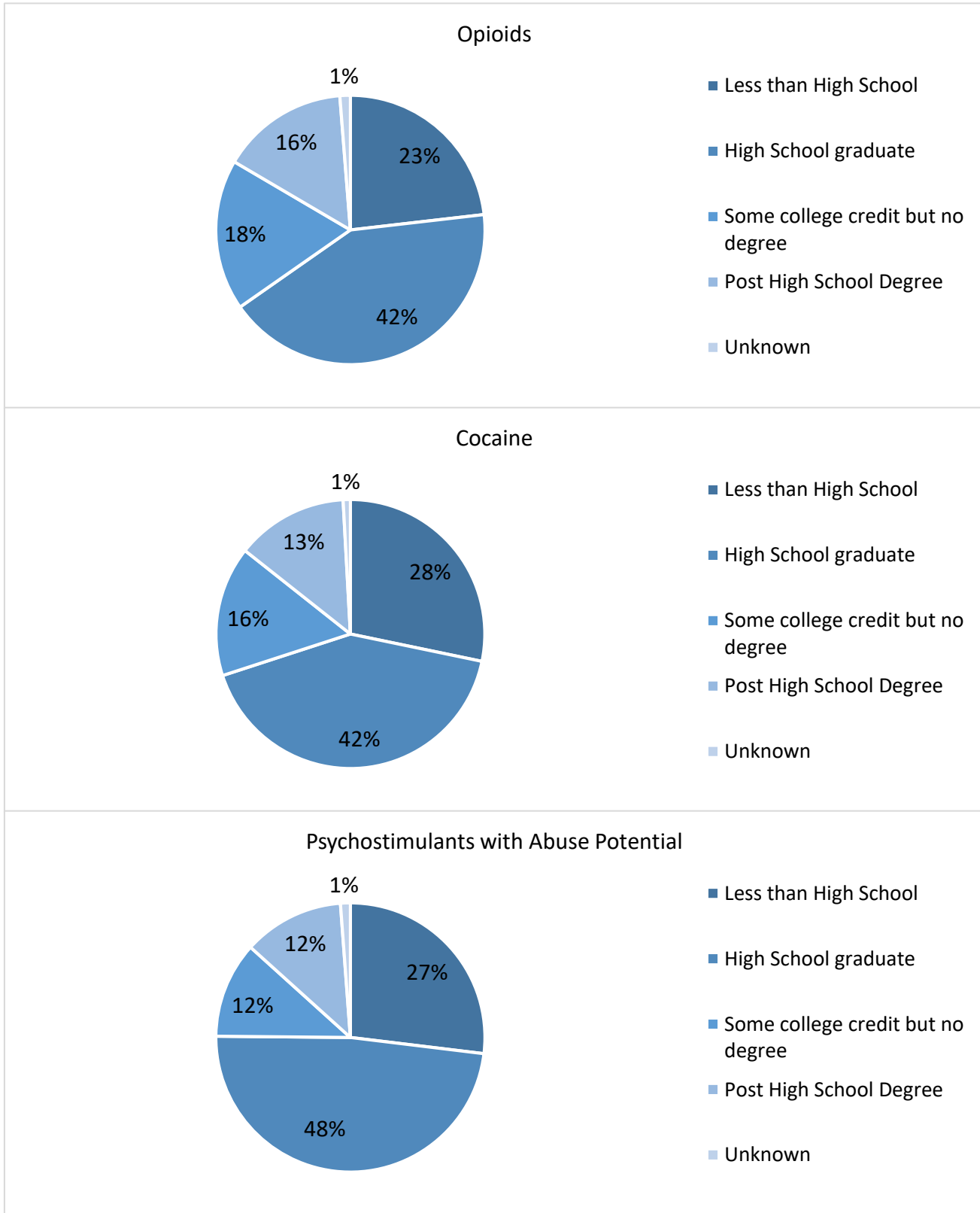


Figure 9.
Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Month
South Carolina, 2019
Occurrence Data

