

Illinois Department of Human Services

Grace B. Hou, Secretary

Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery

David T. Jones, Director



State of Illinois

Speaker

James Kowalsky

Project Director

Illinois Prevent Prescription Drug and Opioid-Related Overdose Deaths (IPDO) Grant
Drug Overdose Prevention Program (DOPP)
IDHS/SUPR

E-mail: James.Kowalsky@Illinois.gov



Opioid Overdose Deaths in Illinois

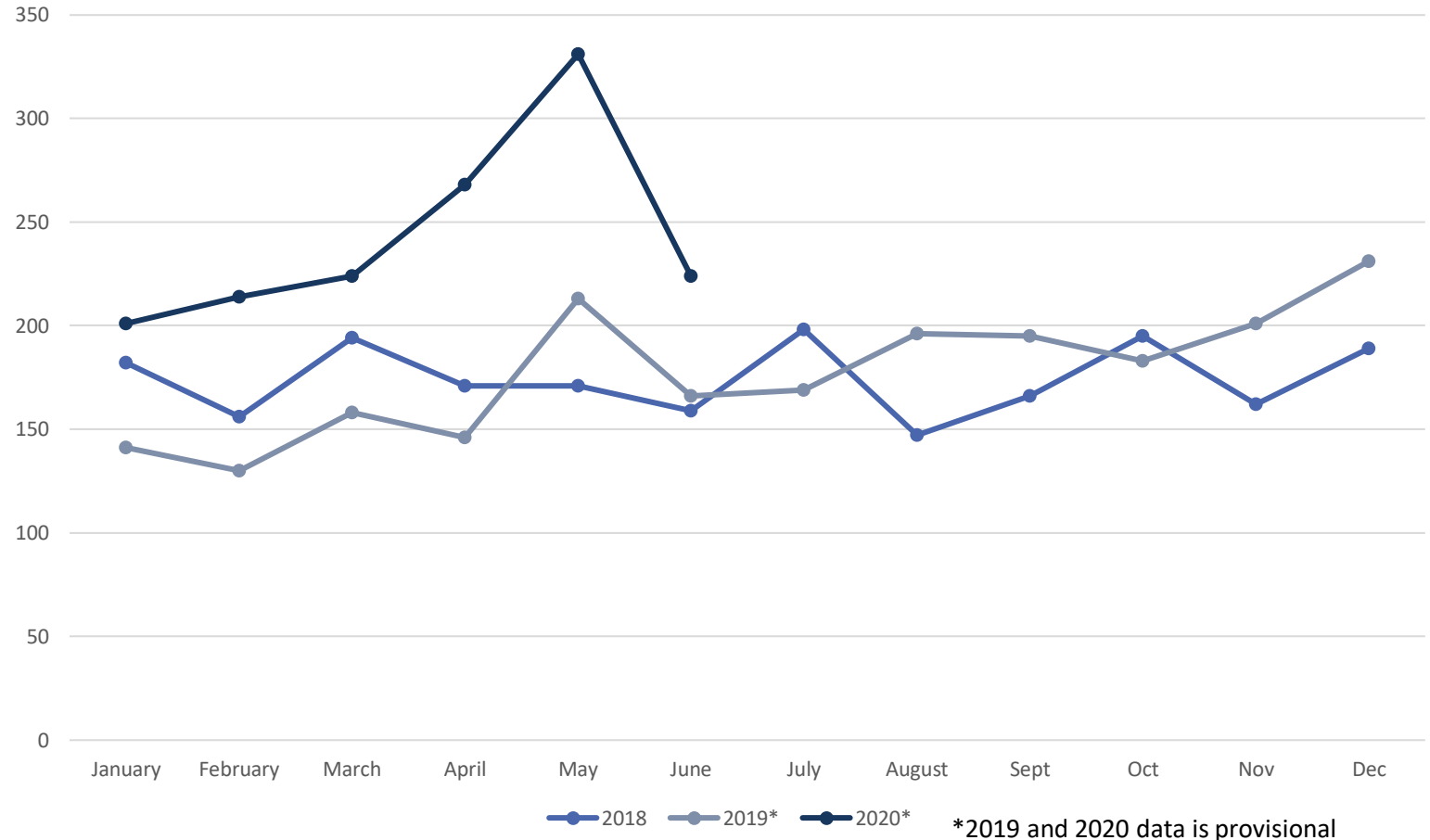
January – June, cases by year

- 2018: 1,033
- 2019*: 954
- 2020*: 1,462—53.2% increase over January – June 2019

Annual Total

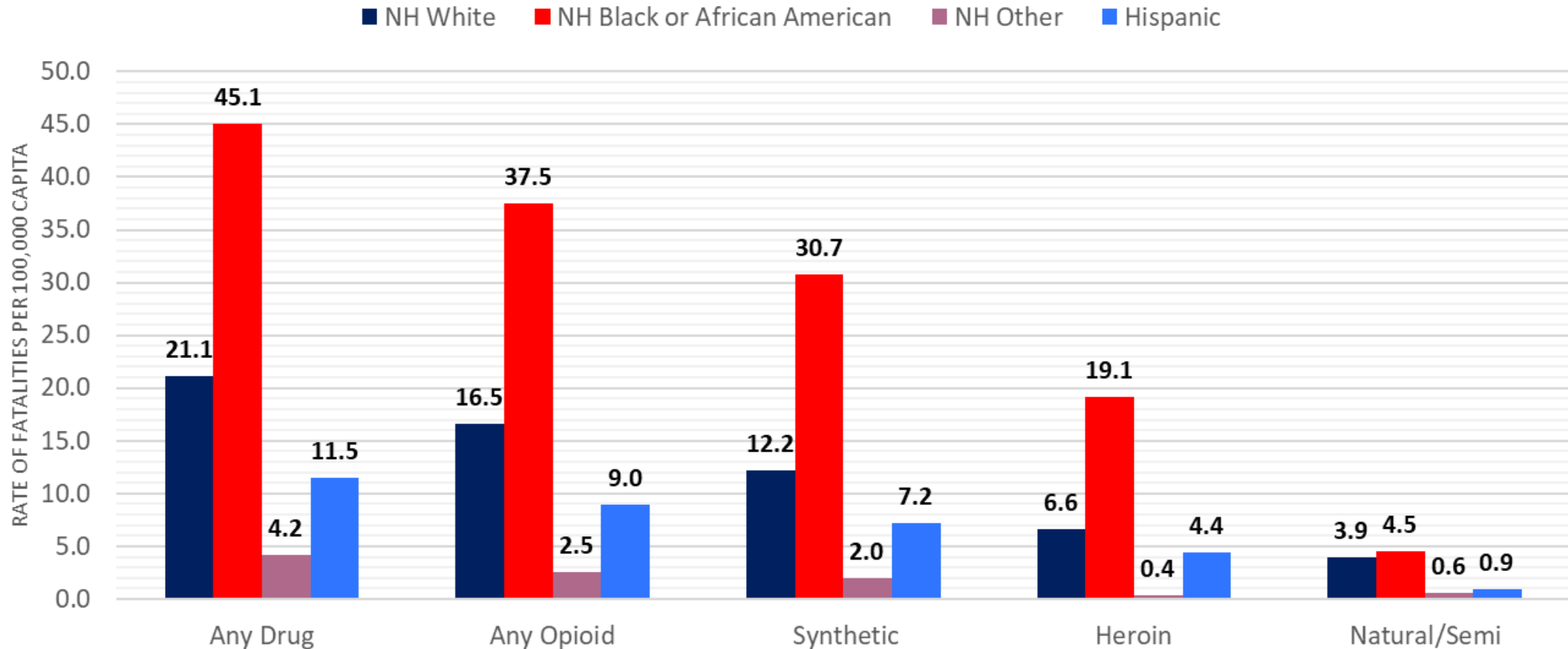
- 2018: 2,090
- 2019*: 2,129
- 2020* projection: 2,900—3,300 (based on percent of deaths occurring Jan. – Jun. 2018 and 2019)
- Past 12-months, July 2019 – June 2020: 2,637

Illinois Occurrences, Monthly Opioid Overdose Deaths, Jan 2018 - June 2020



Statewide Racial Disparity, in 2019

Race/Ethnicity-specific Rate of Fatalities by Drug Type



Non-Hispanic (NH) Black or African American people are more than twice as likely to die from a drug overdose than NH Whites.

Source: Illinois Department of Public Health

Opioid Overdose Deaths, Cook County Residents

January – June, cases by year

- 2018: 471
- 2019*: 468
- 2020*: 853—82.2% increase over January – June 2019

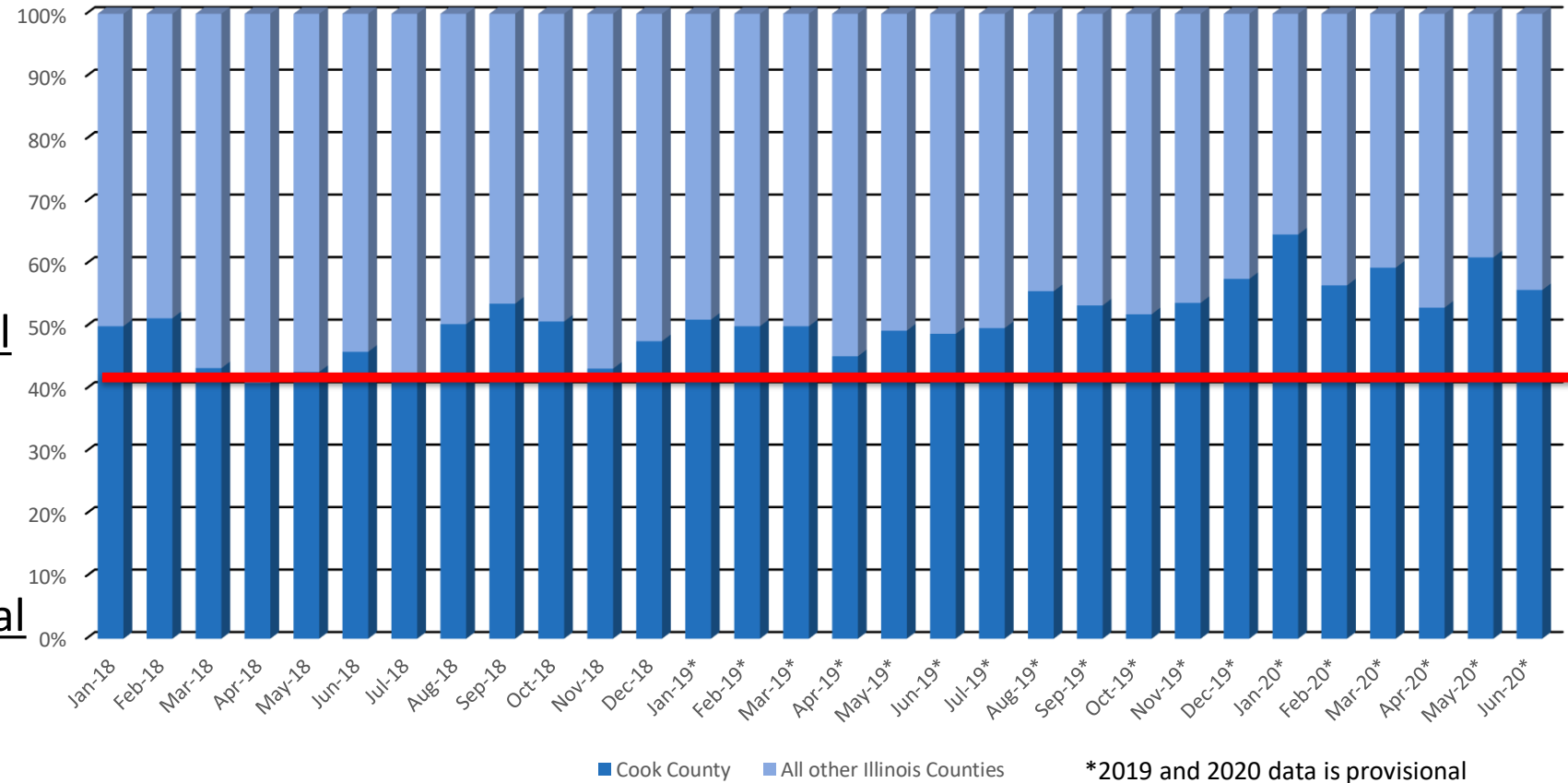
January – June, proportion of total

- 2018: 46.7%
- 2019*: 51.7%
- 2020*: 58.3%

Past 12 months, proportion of total

- July 2019 – June 2020*: 56.4%

Proportion of Annual Opioid Overdose Deaths, Cook vs. All other Illinois Counties



Cook County, Opioid Overdose Deaths, 2019

Overall	NH White	NH Black	Hispanic
Percent of total	39.0%	45.3%	12.9%
Rate per 100,000	19.9	40.7	10.84

Route of Administration	NH White %	NH Black %	Hispanic %
Injection	26.5	4.8	14.1
Snorting	17.8	18.5	16.4
Ingestion	21.5	12.5	9.6
Smoking	18.4	12.1	5.4



Source: Illinois Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Cook County, Opioid Overdose Deaths, 2019

Substances Involved	NH White %	NH Black %	Hispanic %
Alcohol	31.6	30.7	39.4
Benzodiazepine	37.7	9.6	19.7
Cocaine	46.3	47.3	47.9
Fentanyl	76.3	85.0	79.6
Heroin	56.0	55.3	56.3
Methamphetamine	3.0	2.0	0.7

Rx vs. Illicit Involvement	NH White %	NH Black %	Hispanic %
Prescription only	8.4	3.6	4.3
Illicit only	71.4	76.2	84.4
Prescription and illicit	16.5	16.6	8.5



Source: Illinois Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Opioid Overdose Deaths in Chicago

January – June, cases by year

- 2019: 370
- 2020: 573—54.9% increase over January – June 2019

January – June, Black non-Latinx

- 2019 cases: 204
- 2020 cases: 340
 - 66.7% increase over January – June 2019
 - 59.3% of opioid-related deaths January – June 2020



Opioid-related overdose death characteristics, Chicago January - June 2020

	January - June 2019			January - June 2020			2019-2020
	n	%	Rate ⁱⁱ	n	%	Rate ⁱⁱ	% Change in rate
Chicago	370	100.0%	13.6	573	100.0%	20.9	53.7%
Drug Typeⁱ							
Heroin-involved	211	57.0%	7.8	264	46.1%	9.7	24.4%
Fentanyl-involved	297	80.3%	11.0	471	82.2%	17.2	56.4%
Fentanyl – only opioid involved	118	31.9%	4.3	213	37.2%	7.7	79.1%
Opioid pain reliever-involved ⁱⁱⁱ	26	7.0%	0.9	36	6.3%	1.2	33.3%
Methadone-involved	25	6.8%	0.9	62	10.8%	2.3	155.6%
Gender							
Male	284	76.8%	21.7	438	76.4%	33.3	53.5%
Female	86	23.2%	6.2	135	23.6%	9.5	53.2%
Race-Ethnicity^{iv}							
Black, non-Latinx	204	55.1%	21.5	340	59.3%	35.6	65.6%
White, non-Latinx	114	30.8%	11.8	151	26.4%	15.8	33.9%
Latinx	50	13.5%	6.9	73	12.7%	10.6	5.0%
Asian or Pacific Islander, non-Latinx	1	0.3%	0.4	5	0.9%	2.9 [^]	625.0%

Source: Chicago Department of Public Health

Best Practices in Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND)

- Training people who use drugs (PWUD)
- Directly distributing naloxone rather than providing a prescription for it
- Conducting street and community outreach to work directly with PWUD
- Employing community health workers or peer recovery specialists who are familiar with the communities served and can provide culturally competent services
- Collaborating with other community-based organizations, substance use disorder treatment centers, or other health care providers engaged in treating PWUD
- Engaging individuals exiting jails or prisons who are at a high risk of overdose.
- Providing linkages for individuals to obtain evidence-based substance use disorder treatment.
- Training community-based organizations who work directly with PWUD and those individuals' families and communities
- Training emergency personnel and law enforcement
- Informing communities about how emergency personnel can assist in responding to an opioid overdose
- Producing and distributing targeted mass media materials



Source: 2019 Overdose Prevention and Harm Reduction Act. Full text available at: <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?Name=101-0356>

Settings to Integrate Naloxone Distribution

- Harm reduction and syringe service programs
- Street and community outreach programs
- Substance use disorder treatment, including programs offering Medication Assisted Recovery (e.g., methadone and buprenorphine)
- Peer support and recovery groups
- Community-based social service and healthcare organizations
- Hospitals and emergency departments
- Jails and prisons
- Traditional first responders: “Leave-behind” approach



Enhancements to Naloxone Distribution Efforts

- Targeted community outreach – fixed and mobile outreach, block-by-block training, community distribution events, and trusted messengers
- Safer substance use supplies – snorting and smoking kits
- Naloxone Rescue Stations – strategically placed, publicly accessible kits
- Rapid Deployment Teams
 - Using data to target disparities
 - Employing peers and people with lived experience
- Promoting the availability of harm reduction services



Call, Text, or Visit the Helpline for Harm Reduction, Treatment and Recovery Resources



Help is here.

833-2FINDHELP
HelplineL.org
Text "HELP" to 833234

 **ILLINOIS HELPLINE**
for Opioids & Other Substances



Helpline: “Meet the Providers” Series



Illinois Helpline, Stay Safe webpage:
<https://helplineil.org/app/staysafe>

Challenges, Lessons and Takeaways

- Challenge: reorienting systems to better track whether naloxone distribution efforts are reaching people who are Black or African American
- Success
 - Employing peers: ability to reach into networks that are not otherwise accessing services
 - Positive signs of incorporating safer substance use supplies: grant subrecipient reports a recent increase in the percent of clients served who are African American



References and Resources

- Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Substance Use Prevention and Recovery (IDHS/SUPR) Drug Overdose Prevention Program:
<https://www.dhs.state.il.us/page.aspx?item=58142>
- Illinois Helpline: <https://helplineil.org/>
- Illinois Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System:
<https://sites.northwestern.edu/illinoissudors/>
- Illinois Department of Public Health: <https://www.dph.illinois.gov/naloxone>
- Chicago Department of Public Health:
https://www.chicago.gov/city/en/depts/cdph/provdrs/healthy_living/svcs/substance-use-disorder.html

