

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Drug Overdose Deaths South Carolina

2018



INTRODUCTION

This report describes fatal drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Carolina in 2018. 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, 2009-2018
 Occurrence Data

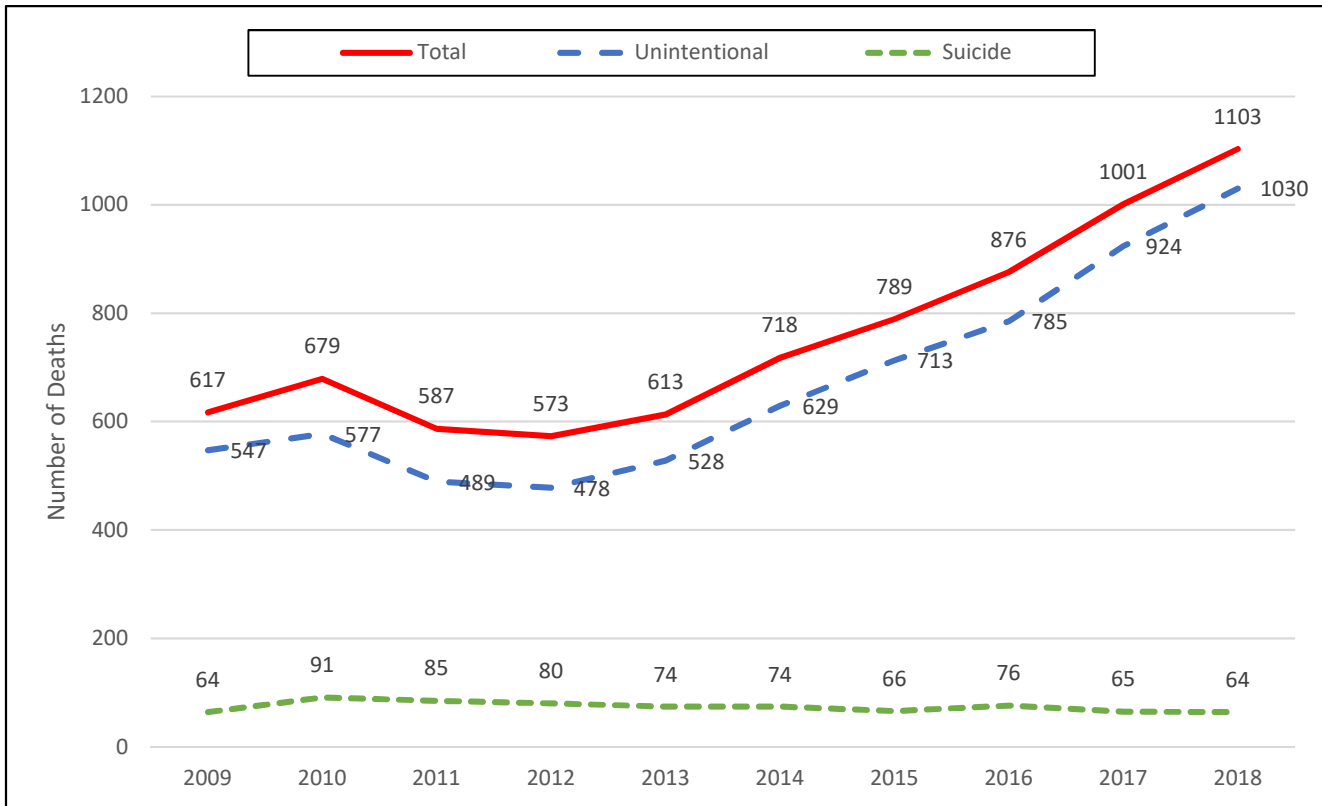


Table 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2009-2018
 Occurrence Data

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total	617	679	587	573	613	718	789	876	1,001	1,103
Unintentional	547	577	489	478	528	629	713	785	924	1,030
Suicide	64	91	85	80	74	74	66	76	65	64
Homicide	0	2	1	1	0	3	0	3	1	3
Undetermined	6	9	12	14	11	12	10	12	11	6

Table 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category
 South Carolina, 2014-2018
 Occurrence Data

Year	Total Drug Overdose	Prescription Drugs	Opioids	Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	Fentanyl	Heroin	Methadone	Cocaine
2014	718	572	508	68	68	57	79	88
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

Figure 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category
 South Carolina, 2014-2018
 Occurrence Data

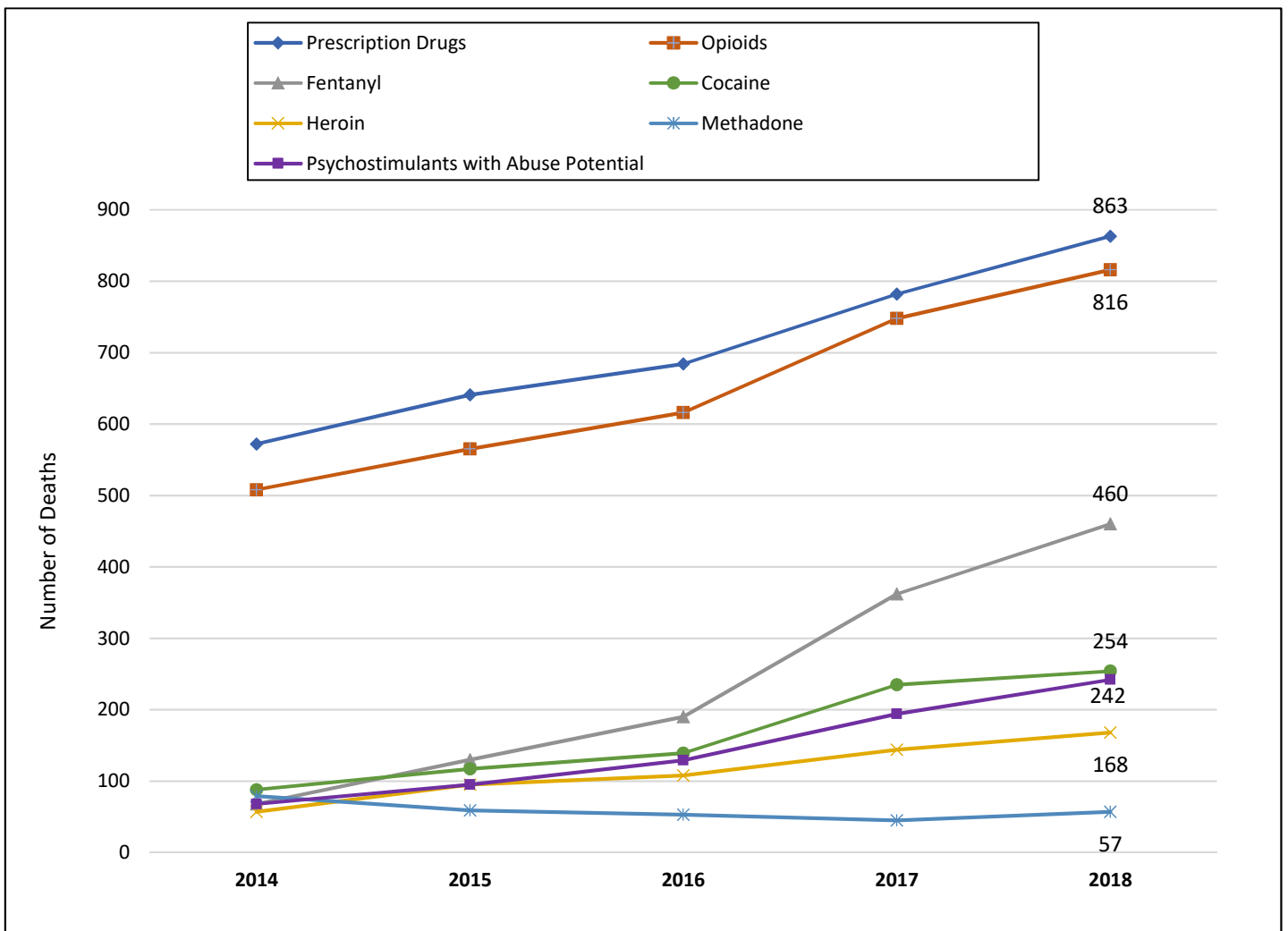


Table 3.
Drug Overdose Deaths by County and Drug Category
South Carolina, 2018
Occurrence Data

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	1,103	22.2	863	17.4	816	16.7	242	5.1
Abbeville	3	11.7	1	4.2	1	4.2	3	11.7
Aiken	34	20.5	29	17.7	27	16.2	9	5.4
Allendale	1	16.4	-	-	-	-	1	16.4
Anderson	28	13.3	16	7.1	15	6.8	12	6.4
Bamberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnwell	4	16.3	2	5.7	2	5.7	1	5.6
Beaufort	16	9.9	14	8.9	14	9.2	5	3.3
Berkeley	32	13.6	23	9.3	24	10.0	4	1.8
Calhoun	2	18.2	2	18.2	2	18.2	-	-
Charleston	121	29.0	100	24.2	100	24.1	20	5.2
Cherokee	4	7.1	2	3.6	2	3.6	2	3.5
Chester	3	11.2	3	11.2	3	11.2	1	3.1
Chesterfield	3	4.0	2	2.7	1	1.3	1	1.3
Clarendon	4	13.4	3	8.6	3	8.6	1	3.3
Colleton	10	27.3	9	25.7	6	15.7	2	6.9
Darlington	6	9.9	6	9.9	5	8.3	1	1.6
Dillon	4	14.4	3	10.8	3	10.8	1	3.6
Dorchester	36	22.8	28	17.6	30	19.0	6	4.1
Edgefield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield	1	4.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florence	37	25.8	30	21.0	26	18.8	3	2.5
Georgetown	23	43.9	15	26.6	16	28.9	1	1.8
Greenville	172	33.7	140	27.8	131	26.4	46	9.1
Greenwood	25	36.9	23	34.5	19	28.0	9	12.5
Hampton	1	6.6	1	6.6	1	6.6	-	-
Horry	105	35.1	84	28.0	85	29.1	16	5.4
Jasper	8	27.4	4	15.8	7	25.4	1	5.1
Kershaw	13	22.6	10	18.0	11	19.4	1	1.8
Lancaster	14	17.0	12	14.8	12	15.4	2	2.4
Laurens	16	24.4	14	21.2	12	18.8	4	6.8
Lee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lexington	55	19.4	48	16.8	42	15.1	18	6.9
McCormick	2	25.7	1	20.1	1	20.1	-	-
Marion	1	3.9	-	-	-	-	1	3.9
Marlboro	1	3.6	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newberry	2	5.6	2	5.6	1	4.0	1	4.0
Oconee	17	21.6	16	20.3	15	19.7	6	8.3
Orangeburg	10	12.1	6	7.1	8	9.6	2	2.6
Pickens	34	31.9	24	21.2	22	19.4	12	11.8
Richland	85	20.5	60	14.4	51	12.3	10	2.3
Saluda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spartanburg	82	26.6	61	19.5	56	18.4	22	7.8
Sumter	29	28.4	16	15.3	17	17.1	7	6.1
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williamsburg	4	16.8	4	16.8	2	8.5	1	4.8
York	55	20.3	49	17.9	43	16.0	9	3.5

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

Table 3. (Continue)
Drug Overdose Deaths by County and Drug Category
South Carolina, 2018
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Fentanyl		Heroin		Methadone		Cocaine	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	460	9.8	168	3.4	57	1.2	254	5.1
Abbeville	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	2.4
Aiken	9	6.2	5	3.2	1	0.4	2	1.5
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	2	1.0	4	1.7	-	-	5	2.2
Bamberg	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnwell	1	2.9	-	-	-	-	-	-
Beaufort	7	5.1	6	4.1	1	0.2	6	3.3
Berkeley	9	3.7	5	2.3	1	0.5	10	4.5
Calhoun	2	18.2	-	-	-	-	-	-
Charleston	51	12.4	41	9.7	7	1.6	26	6.2
Cherokee	1	2.5	-	-	-	-	1	2.5
Chester	3	11.2	-	-	-	-	1	3.1
Chesterfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Clarendon	2	8.1	1	3.3	-	-	-	-
Colleton	2	4.4	4	10.0	-	-	1	2.8
Darlington	4	6.2	-	-	-	-	1	1.6
Dillon	1	3.6	-	-	-	-	1	3.6
Dorchester	16	10.4	9	6.1	-	-	13	7.8
Edgefield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Florence	11	8.0	6	3.8	4	3.5	15	11.5
Georgetown	11	23.2	1	2.4	-	-	8	15.3
Greenville	101	20.8	28	5.5	9	1.8	40	7.8
Greenwood	15	22.0	-	-	3	4.5	4	5.5
Hampton	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Horry	50	17.4	6	2.1	3	1.1	42	13.9
Jasper	3	12.3	3	9.6	-	-	2	3.8
Kershaw	6	11.0	3	5.1	-	-	4	8.0
Lancaster	11	14.3	5	6.2	1	1.2	2	2.3
Laurens	7	12.2	-	-	1	1.6	3	3.5
Lee	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Lexington	23	8.2	5	1.6	6	2.1	9	3.3
McCormick	1	20.1	-	-	-	-	1	5.5
Marion	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marlboro	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newberry	1	4.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oconee	2	3.7	2	3.5	3	4.9	-	-
Orangeburg	2	2.6	2	2.5	1	1.8	3	2.7
Pickens	11	10.2	2	1.8	1	1.2	3	3.4
Richland	24	5.7	8	1.8	6	1.6	23	5.4
Saluda	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Spartanburg	36	12.2	8	2.5	3	1.1	8	2.4
Sumter	7	7.0	8	7.8	1	1.1	11	11.9
Union	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Williamsburg	2	8.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
York	26	10.0	6	2.3	5	2.0	8	3.1

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, 2018
Occurrence Data

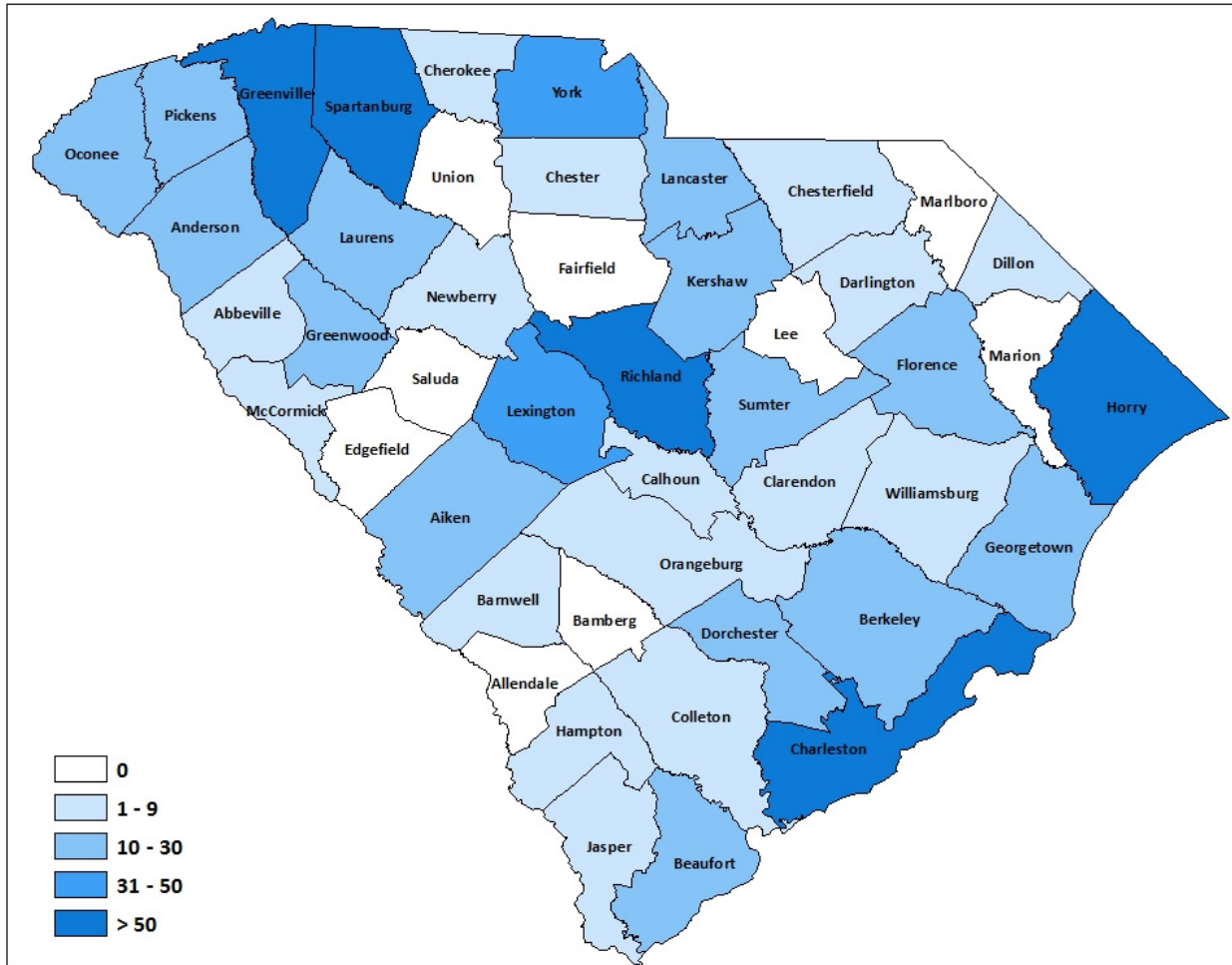
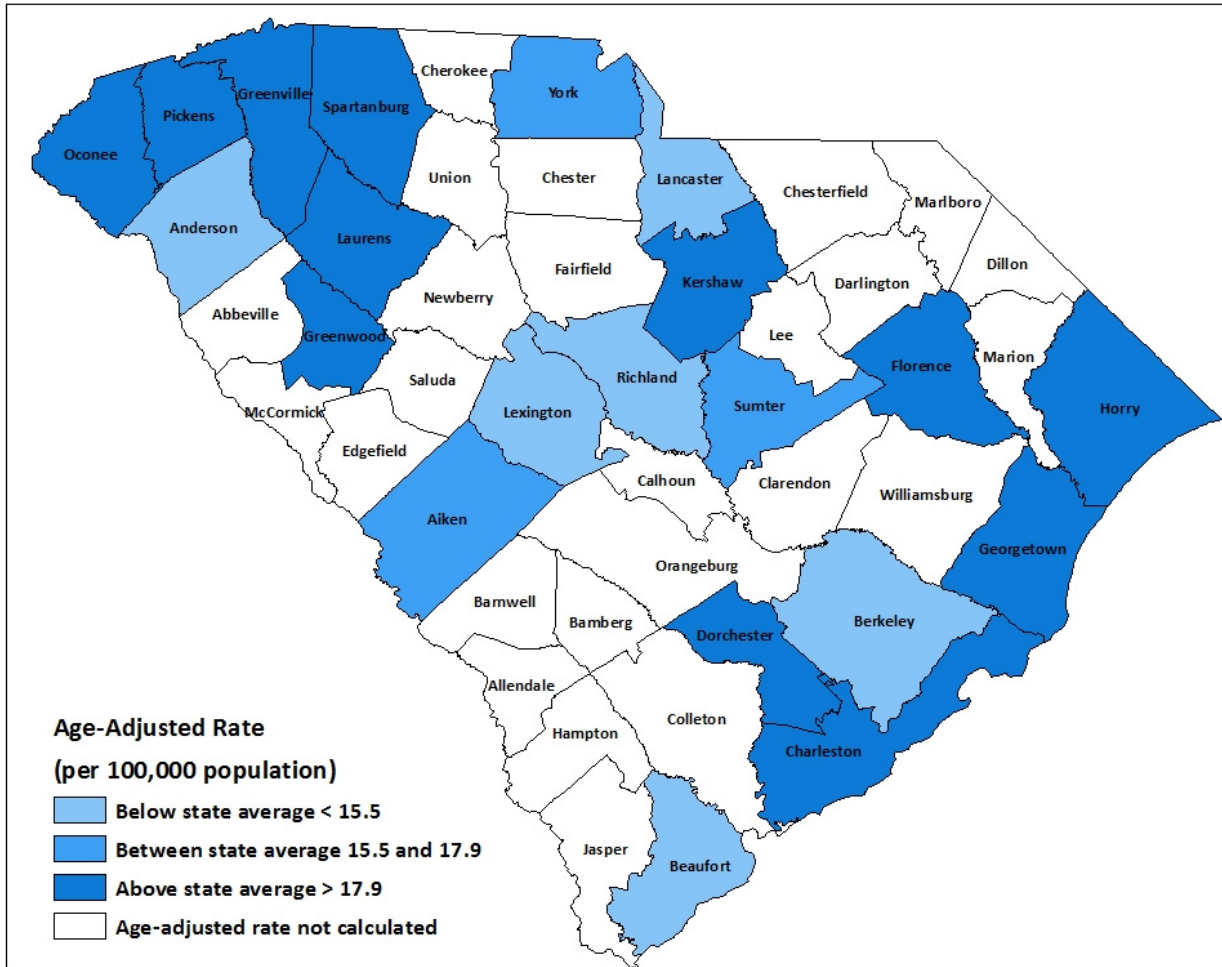


Figure 4.
 Age-Adjusted Rate for Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2018
 Occurrence Data



State age-adjusted rate: 16.7 per 100,000 population

Age-adjusted rate not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2018.

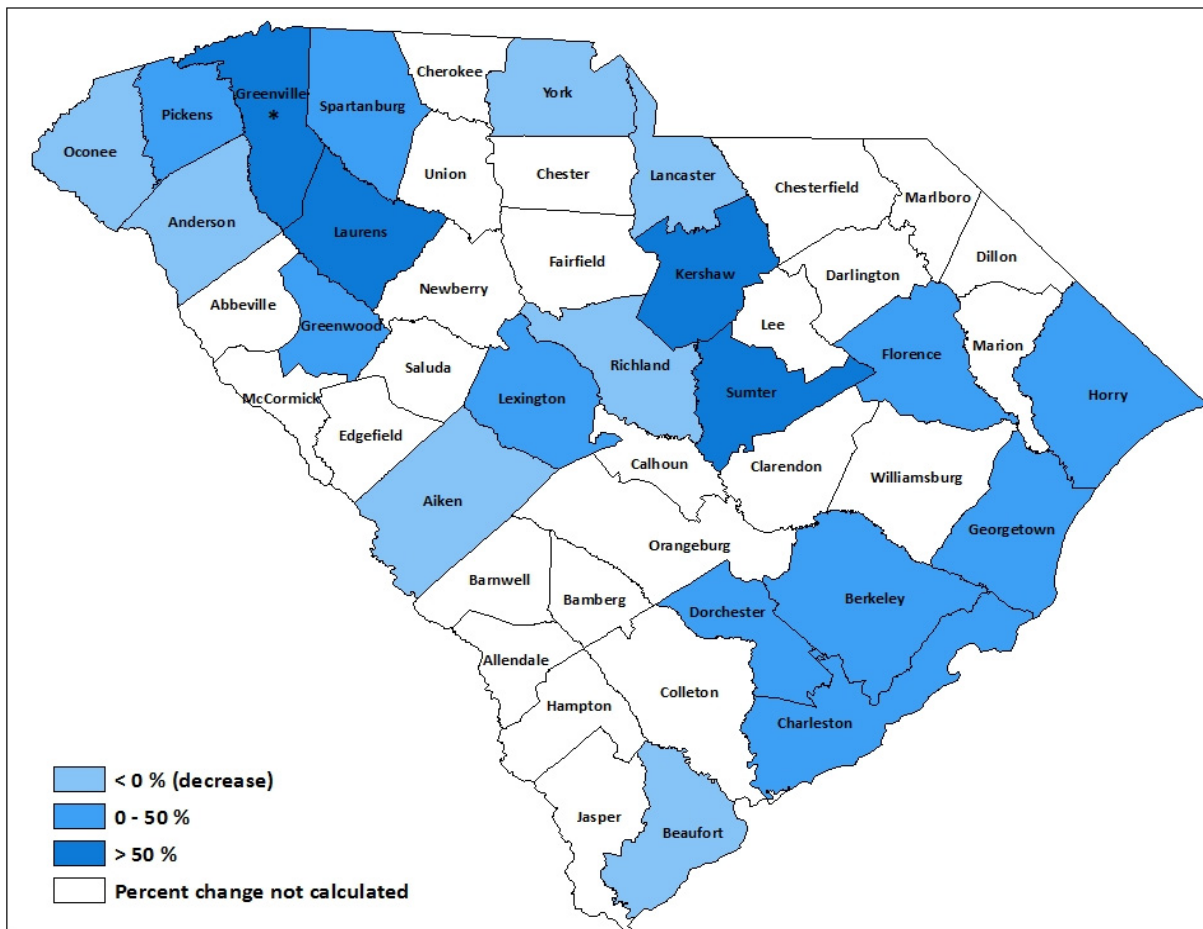
Table 4.
Change in Drug Overdose Deaths by County and Drug Category
South Carolina, 2017-2018
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose			Opioids		
	2017	2018	Percent Change	2017	2018	Percent Change
South Carolina	1001	1,103	10.2	748	816	9.1
Abbeville	8	3		6	1	
Aiken	40	34	-15.0	31	27	-12.9
Allendale	-	1		-	0	
Anderson	32	28	-12.5	22	15	-31.8
Bamberg	-	0		-	0	
Barnwell	4	4		3	2	
Beaufort	25	16	-36.0	18	14	-22.2
Berkeley	27	32	18.5	23	24	4.3
Calhoun	-	2		-	2	
Charleston	118	121	2.5	94	100	6.4
Cherokee	1	4		1	2	
Chester	5	3		5	3	
Chesterfield	4	3		3	1	
Clarendon	4	4		2	3	
Colleton	6	10	66.7	5	6	
Darlington	9	6		8	5	
Dillon	6	4		4	3	
Dorchester	28	36	28.6	20	30	50.0
Edgefield	2	0		1	-	
Fairfield	3	1		2	-	
Florence	31	37	19.4	26	26	0.0
Georgetown	18	23	27.8	14	16	14.3
Greenville	107	172	60.7 *	73	131	79.5 *
Greenwood	16	25	56.3	14	19	35.7
Hampton	1	1		-	1	
Horry	103	105	1.9	77	85	10.4
Jasper	6	8		3	7	
Kershaw	7	13	85.7	4	11	175.0
Lancaster	24	14	-41.7	23	12	-47.8
Laurens	12	16	33.3	7	12	71.4
Lee	1	0		1	-	
Lexington	49	55	12.2	36	42	16.7
McCormick	-	2		-	1	
Marion	2	1		2	-	
Marlboro	-	1		-	-	
Newberry	2	2		-	1	
Oconee	22	17	-22.7	18	15	-16.7
Orangeburg	9	10	11.1	5	8	
Pickens	27	34	25.9	19	22	15.8
Richland	93	85	-8.6	71	51	-28.2
Saluda	2	0		1	-	
Spartanburg	69	82	18.8	47	56	19.1
Sumter	7	29	314.3 *	6	17	183.3
Union	4	0		3	-	
Williamsburg	7	4		5	2	
York	60	55	-8.3	45	43	-4.4

* Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2018.

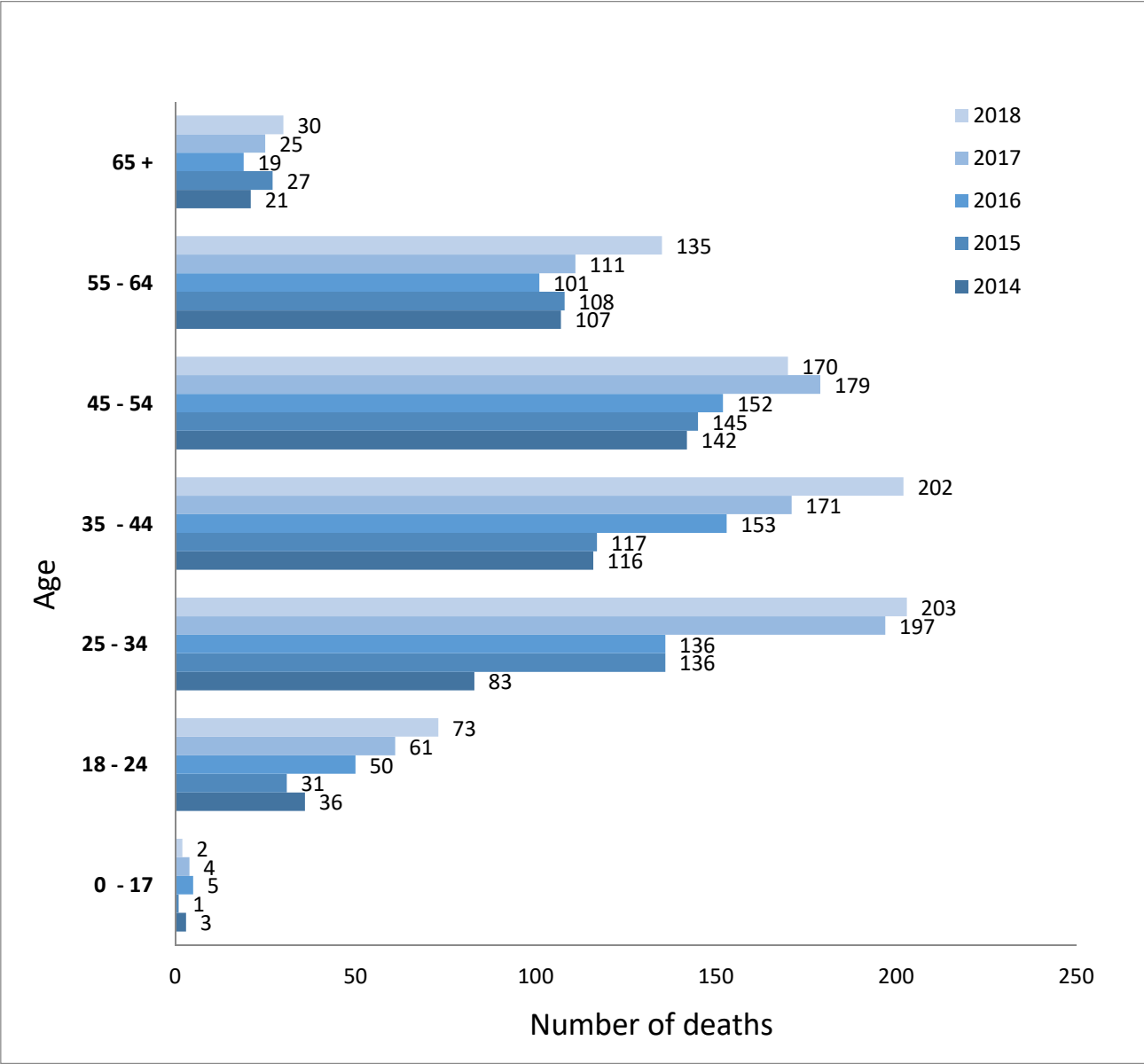
* Statistically significant at 95% confidence interval

Figure 5.
 Change in Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2017-2018
 Occurrence Data



* Statistically significant at 95% confidence interval
 Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2018.

Figure 6.
 Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Age
 South Carolina, 2014-2018
 Occurrence Data



Source: SC DHEC, Vital Statistics

Figure 7.
Select Drug Categories by Race/Sex
South Carolina, 2018
Occurrence Data

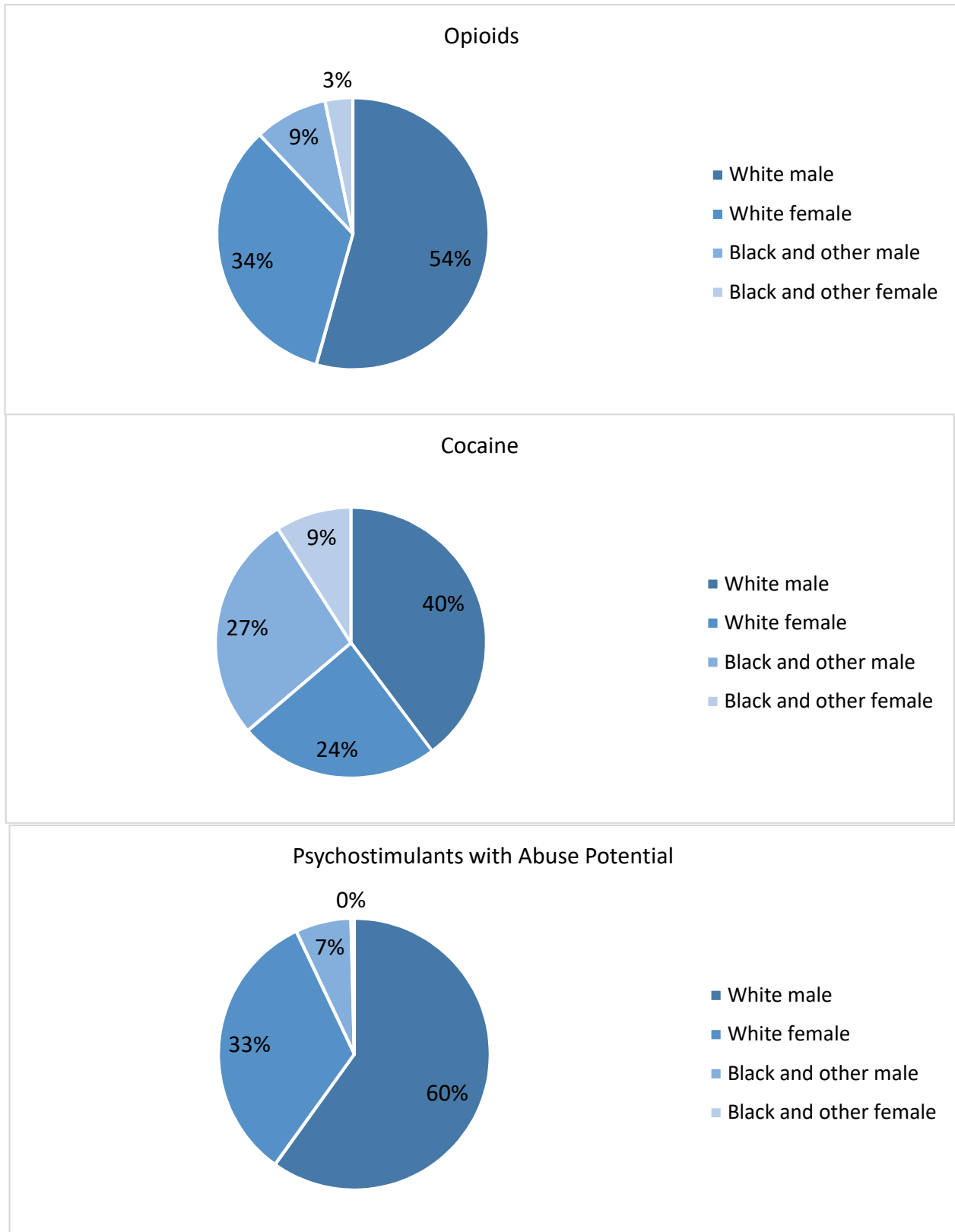


Figure 8.
 Select Drug Categories by Education
 South Carolina, 2018
 Occurrence Data

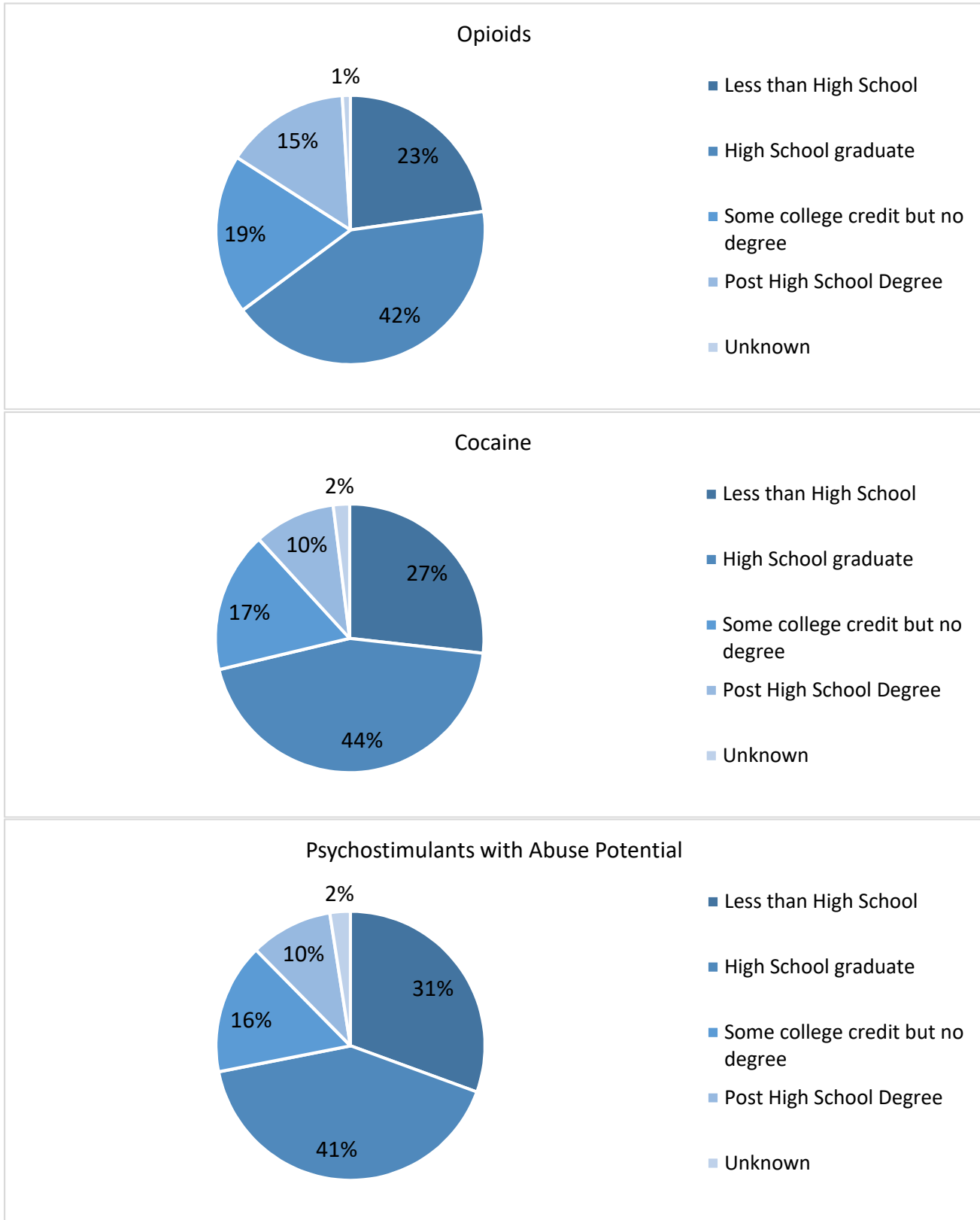


Figure 9.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Month
 South Carolina, 2018
 Occurrence Data

