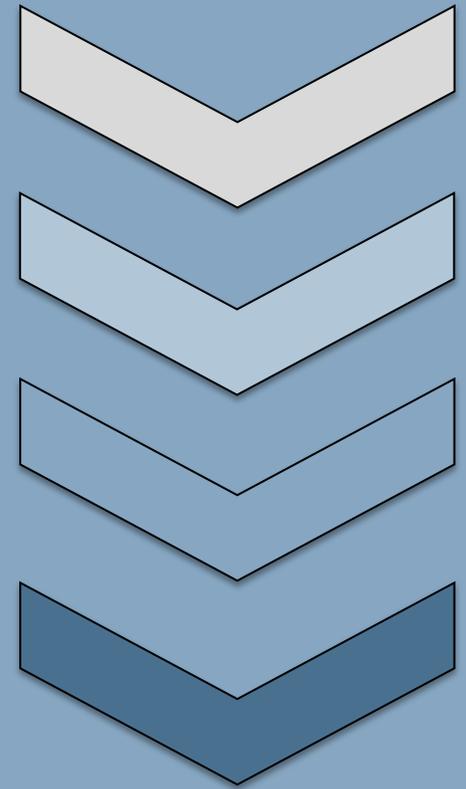# THE MISSISSIPPI OPIOID AND HEROIN DATA COLLABORATIVE

**Provisional Data Report**

**Calendar Year 2020**

Mississippi Board of Pharmacy

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics
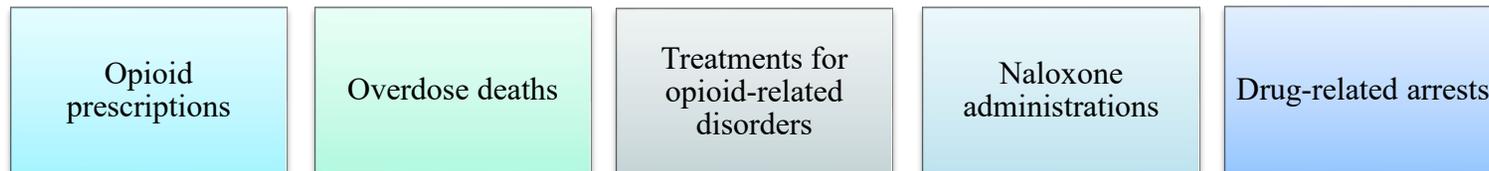
Mississippi State Department of Health

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

8/23/2021

## DATA AND REPORT OVERVIEW

➢ This report summarizes data on opioid prescriptions dispensed in Mississippi, fatal drug overdoses reported to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics, naloxone administrations by Emergency Medical Services for suspected overdoses, drug-related arrests, and treatment services for opioid-related disorders within facilities certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

➢ The goal of this report is to provide timely and accurate information to the public and policy makers on key indicators measuring the scope of the opioid epidemic in Mississippi. The findings reported here, therefore, aim to inform and support data-driven decision-making. This report is updated quarterly to foster continuous quality improvement.

➢ All of the statistics featured in this report are based on available data, and data availability limitations vary somewhat across reported indicators. The Data Collaborative strives to present the latest data in a quarterly format, but some of the data sources used in this report are only released on an annual basis. Detailed information regarding each of the data sources used in the report is presented in the technical notes on page 17.

| Opioid prescriptions | Overdose deaths | Treatments for opioid-related disorders | Naloxone administrations | Drug-related arrests |
|---|---|---|---|---|

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

## OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS AND DOSAGE UNITS DISPENSED

### FINDINGS

➢ **Opioid Prescriptions:** During 2020, over 2.4 million opioid prescriptions were dispensed in Mississippi.
   o An increase in the number of opioid prescriptions (1.9%) was observed from the first quarter to the fourth quarter of 2020.
   o Compared to 2019, there were 149,050 fewer opioid prescriptions dispensed during 2020, representing a 5.8% decrease.
   o During 2020, there were enough opioid prescriptions dispensed for approximately 8 in 10 Mississippians to have 1 prescription.

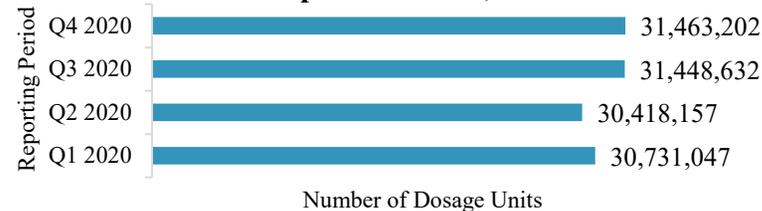➢ **Opioid Dosage Units:** During 2020, more than 124.1 million opioid dosage units (e.g., pills) were dispensed in Mississippi.
   o An increase in the number of opioid dosage units (2.4%) was observed from the first quarter to the fourth quarter of 2020.
   o Compared to 2019, the number of dosage units dispensed decreased by 4.8%, that is, by approximately 6.3 million pills.
   o During 2020, there were enough opioid dosage units dispensed for each Mississippian to have a supply of 41.7 dosage units.

**Figure 1. Number of Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed in MS, 2020**

Reporting Period:
- Q4 2020: 611,295
- Q3 2020: 615,516
- Q2 2020: 577,961
- Q1 2020: 599,846

Number of Prescriptions
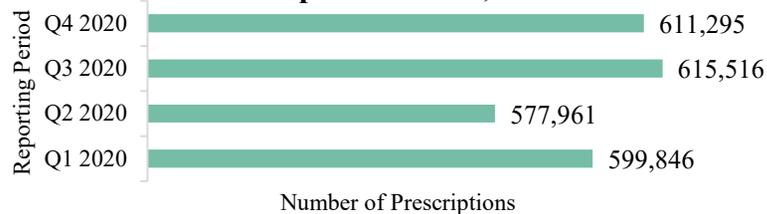
**Figure 2. Number of Opioid Dosage Units Dispensed in MS, 2020**

Reporting Period:
- Q4 2020: 31,463,202
- Q3 2020: 31,448,632
- Q2 2020: 30,418,157
- Q1 2020: 30,731,047

Number of Dosage Units

**Figure 3. Average Number of Opioid Dosage Units per Opioid Prescription in MS, 2020**

Avg. No. of Dosage Units per Prescription:
- Q1 2020: 51.2
- Q2 2020: 52.6
- Q3 2020: 51.1
- Q4 2020: 51.5

Reporting Period
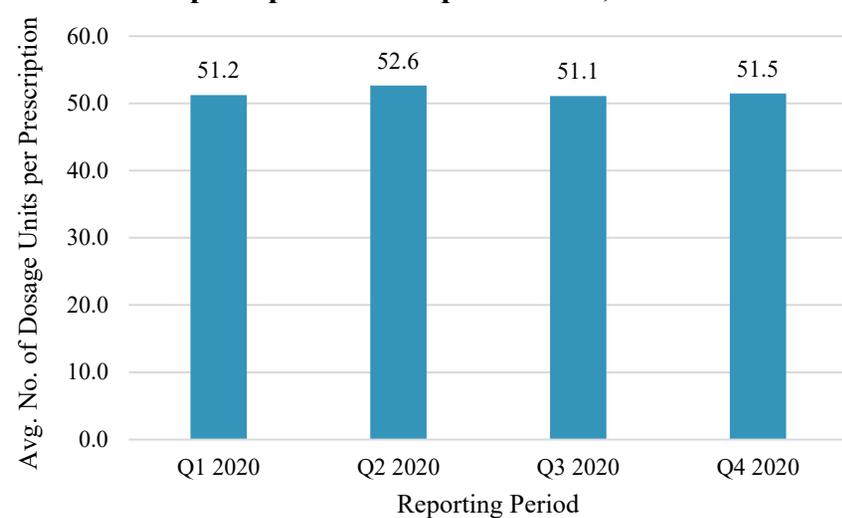
**CONSIDERATIONS:** This report identified a considerable decline in the number of opioid prescriptions from 2019. Such downward movement could be driven by regulation revisions made between 2018 and 2019 by The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure,[1] The MS Board of Nursing,[2] and The MS Board of Dental Examiners,[3] as well as education outreach and prevention efforts.

## SUSPECTED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

### FINDINGS

➢ There were 10.9 opioid-related overdose deaths per 100,000 persons reported to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) in 2020.

➢ In 2020, 324 (73.1%) of the 443 suspected overdose deaths reported to the MBN were opioid-related. The numbers of opioid-related deaths and total overdose deaths were 149.2% and 124.9% higher, respectively, in 2020 than in 2019.

➢ The proportion of opioid-related deaths that involved fentanyl increased from 34.6% in 2019 to 73.1% in 2020.

**Figure 4. Percentage of Total Suspected Overdose Deaths by Type of Involved Substance, MS, 2020**



Legend:
- Opioid-related overdose deaths
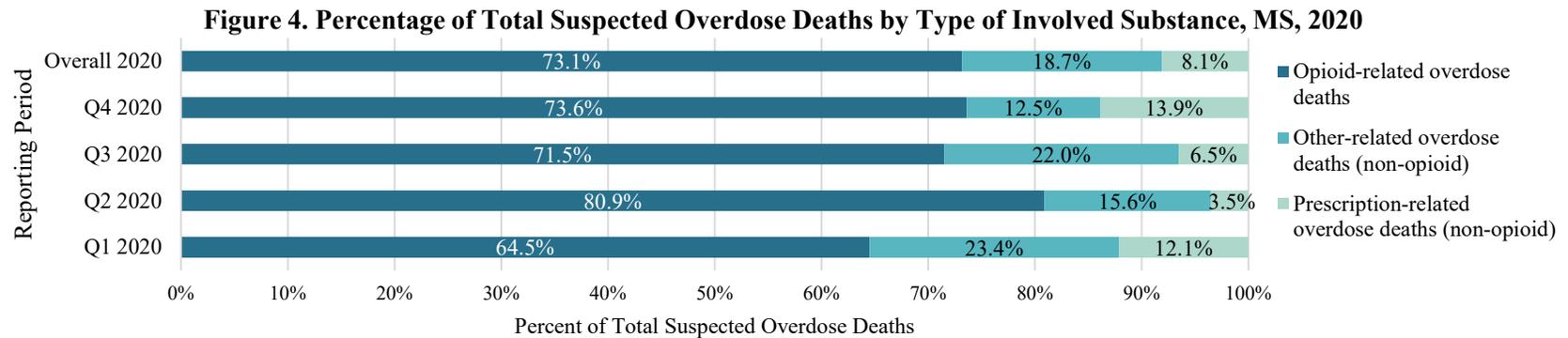- Other-related overdose deaths (non-opioid)
- Prescription-related overdose deaths (non-opioid)

**Table 1. Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths Reported to MBN by Type of Involved Substance, MS, 2020\***

|  | Q1 2020* | Q2 2020* | Q3 2020* | Q4 2020* | 2020 Total* |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Prescription opioid-related deaths | 15 | 14 | 17 | 6 | 52 |
| Fentanyl-related deaths | 22 | 48 | 28 | 15 | 113 |
| Fentanyl and prescription-related deaths | 13 | 23 | 31 | 12 | 79 |
| Heroin-related deaths | 4 | 9 | 5 | 10 | 28 |
| Heroin and prescription related deaths | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 |
| Heroin and fentanyl related deaths | 12 | 18 | 6 | 9 | 45 |
| Total opioid related overdose deaths | 69 | 114 | 88 | 53 | 324 |
| Other related overdose deaths | 25 | 22 | 27 | 9 | 83 |
| Prescription related overdose deaths | 13 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 36 |
| Total non-opioid related overdose deaths | 38 | 27 | 35 | 19 | 119 |
| **Overall total suspected overdose deaths** | **107** | **141** | **123** | **72** | **443** |

*Data for 2020 are not final due to pending lab results.

**CONSIDERATIONS:** The accurate assessment of drug-related fatalities depends on complete and high quality data. The reliability of mortality data, however, is impacted by several constraints such as insufficient resources, training, or time for performing thorough death investigations. In addition, Mississippi lacks a centralized system for connecting different entities involved in the compilation and reporting of mortality data. Efficient collaboration among state agencies, educational outreach for coroners, and standardized protocols for drug overdose investigation and reporting are measures that can improve drug-related mortality surveillance.[4] It should also be noted that the MBN does not include a death in the count until a toxicology report has been completed; therefore, currently pending cases will result in increased numbers in the future.

**NOTE:** In 2020, 171 of the 443 overall total suspected overdose deaths also involved methamphetamines, and 105 of the 324 total opioid-related overdose deaths involved methamphetamine.

## EMS NALOXONE ADMINISTRATIONS

### FINDINGS

➢ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data revealed that naloxone was administered 2,065 times during 2020, which is 54.8% higher than the number of administrations in 2019 (1,334).

➢ There were 69.4 EMS naloxone administrations per 100,000 persons in Mississippi in 2020.

➢ On average, 172.1 naloxone administrations were reported in Mississippi each month during 2020.

➢ Of the individuals who received naloxone and provided demographic information, 57.6% were male, and 64.5% were white. Over 30.0% of patients were aged 55 years or older. Nearly 85.0% of the 2,048 individuals who provided geographic information were administered naloxone in their home county. These values are similar to 2019 data. Table 2 on p. 5 features demographic information of individuals who received naloxone from EMS in 2020.

**Figure 5. Naloxone Administration by EMS: Number of Cases, MS, 2020\***
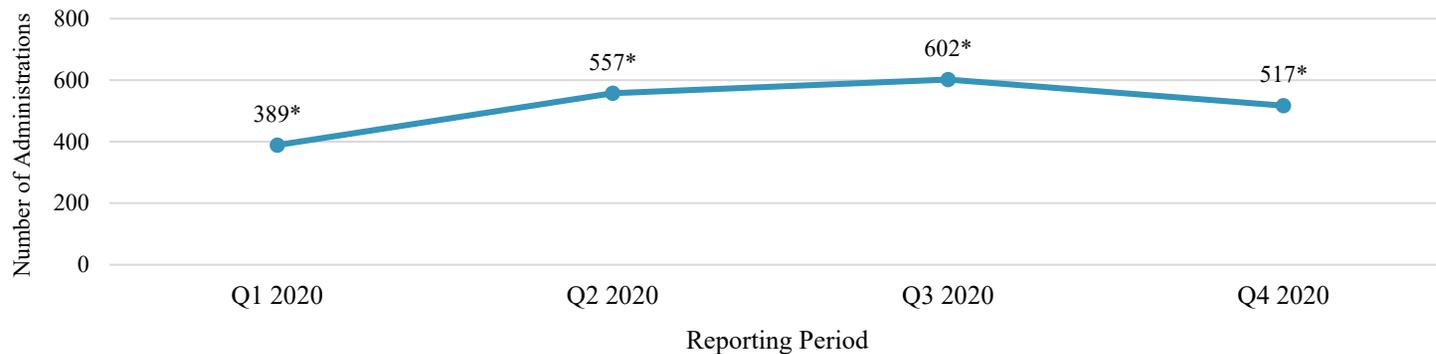


*Transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates

**CONSIDERATIONS:** The life-saving drug naloxone, an opioid antagonist, is used to reverse opioid overdose. The emergence and growing popularity of highly toxic synthetic opioid substances require the following state-level actions:

- Facilitating and expanding access to naloxone for patients with opioid use disorders.
- Providing training on naloxone administration for all first responders and all persons at risk for opioid-related overdoses as well as their families, friends, and community members.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE**: Figure 5 documents naloxone distributed through EMS only. Additional distribution occurs through the State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) grant and a standing order. In May 2018, State Health Officer of Mississippi, Dr. Mary Currier, signed a standing order that covers, without a prescription, the dispensing and administration of naloxone. The standing order was re-signed by Dr. Paul Byers, State Epidemiologist, in May 2021.

# EMS NALOXONE ADMINISTRATIONS – Additional Information

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided the following data about the 2,065 individuals to whom naloxone was administered during 2020. Note that some individuals may have been encountered more than once and that not all information was available for each person.

**Table 2. Characteristics of Individuals Who Received Naloxone from EMS, MS, 2020**

|  | Q1 | Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | 2020 Totals |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **Total # of administrations** | 385 | 568 | 602 | 510 | 2,065 |
| **Sex** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Female** | 178 | 234 | 257 | 206 | 875 (42.4%) |
| **Male** | 207 | 334 | 344 | 304 | 1,189 (57.6%) |
| Total | 385 | 568 | 601 | 510 | 2,064 |
| Missing | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| **Race** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **Black/African American** | 122 | 170 | 182 | 169 | 643 (32.0%) |
| **White** | 240 | 362 | 378 | 314 | 1,294 (64.5%) |
| **Other Race** | 10 | 16 | 17 | 27 | 70 (3.5%) |
| Total | 372 | 548 | 577 | 510 | 2,007 |
| Missing | 13 | 20 | 25 | 0 | 58 |
| **Age** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **< 18 years** | 8 | 9 | 11 | 14 | 42 (2.0%) |
| **18-24 years** | 33 | 34 | 42 | 29 | 138 (6.7%) |
| **25-34 years** | 81 | 131 | 113 | 118 | 443 (21.5%) |
| **35-44 years** | 65 | 131 | 128 | 104 | 428 (20.8%) |
| **45-54 years** | 76 | 106 | 110 | 93 | 385 (18.7%) |
| **55-64 years** | 58 | 75 | 111 | 70 | 314 (15.2%) |
| **65+ years** | 64 | 79 | 86 | 82 | 311 (15.1%) |
| Total | 385 | 565 | 601 | 510 | 2,061 |
| Missing | 0 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 4 |
| **Incident County = Home County** |  |  |  |  |  |
| **No** | 54 | 73 | 106 | 78 | 311 (15.2%) |
| **Yes** | 330 | 489 | 488 | 430 | 1,737 (84.8%) |
| Total | 384 | 562 | 594 | 508 | 2,048 |
| Missing | 1 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 17 |

Note: Subcategory percentages may not total to 100 due to rounding.

## SUSPECTED OVERDOSE DEATHS AND NALOXONE ADMINISTRATIONS BY COUNTY

➢ **Suspected Overdose Deaths:** The top 3 counties, Jackson (54), Hinds (52), and Harrison (49), accounted for 35.0% of all suspected overdose deaths in 2020. The 3 counties with the highest rates of overdose deaths per 100,000 persons in 2020 were Pearl River (37.81), Jackson (37.60), and Yalobusha (33.04).

➢ **Naloxone Administrations:** The top 3 counties, Harrison (334), Hinds (281), and DeSoto (166), accounted for 37.8% of all EMS naloxone administrations in 2020. The 3 counties with the highest rates of naloxone administrations per 100,000 persons in 2020 were Tunica (176.50), Harrison (160.52), and Winston (139.24).
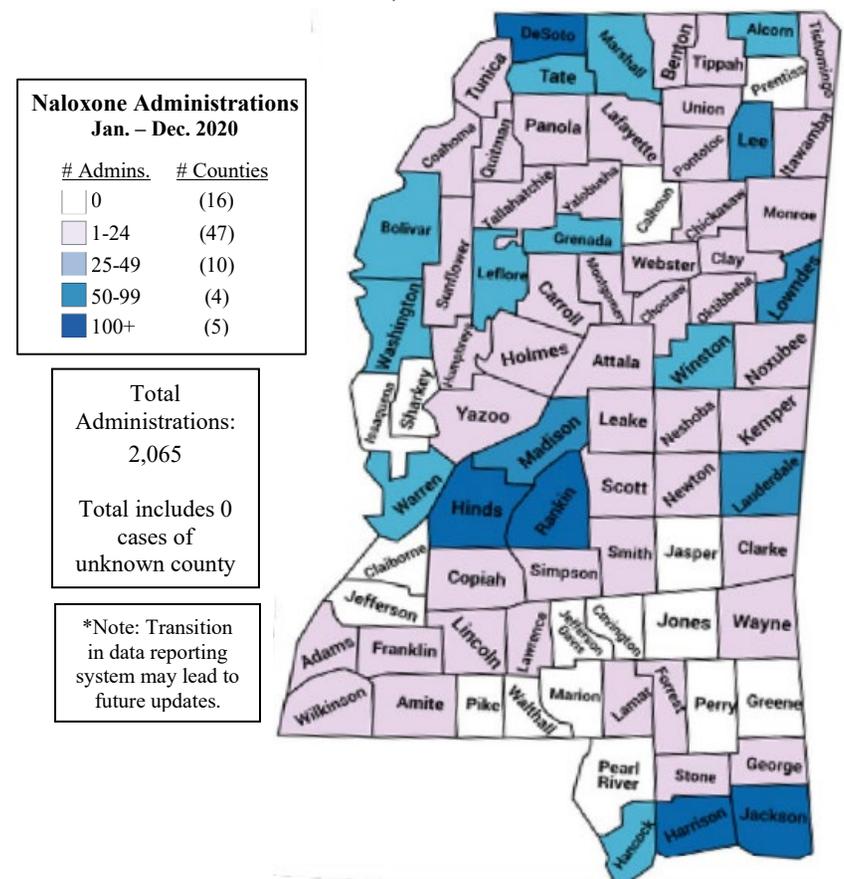
**Figure 6. Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths by County, MS, 2020**
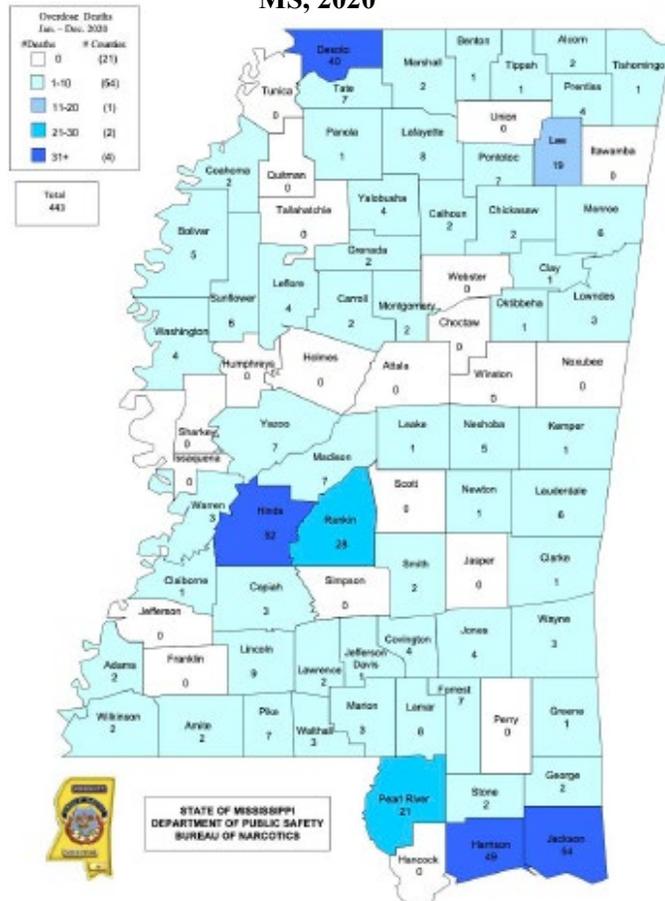


Data Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Refer to p. 3 of this provisional data report for a breakdown of deaths by type of substance.

**Figure 7. Number of EMS Naloxone Administrations by County, MS, 2020\***



Data Source: Mississippi State Department of Health - EMS

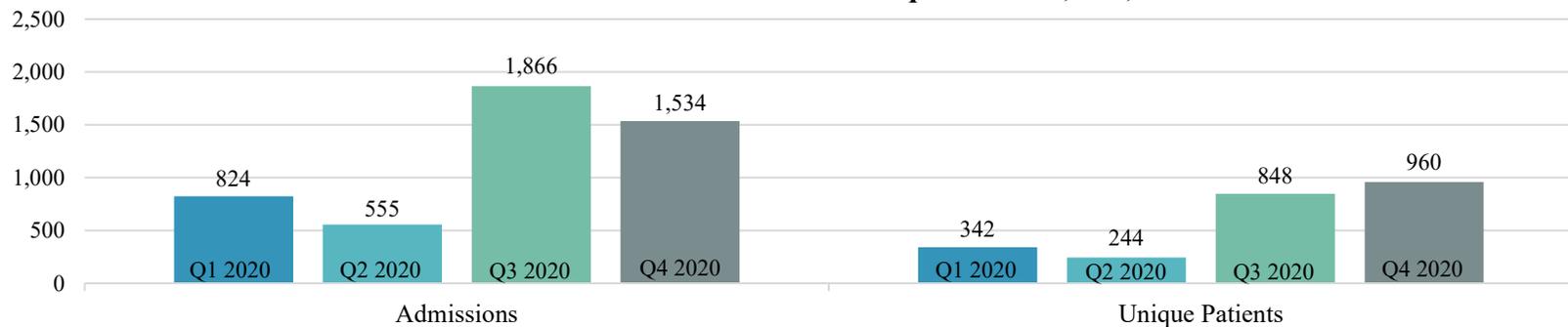## TREATMENT ADMISSIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDERS

### FINDINGS

➢ Table 3 and Figure 8 report opioid-related admissions to facilities certified by the Department of Mental Health (DMH). During 2020, DMH transitioned to a more comprehensive universal data source for opioid admission data.

➢ Table 3 indicates that, on average, there were 2.0 admissions per patient during 2020, a decrease compared to 2019 (3.1 adm/pt).

➢ Opioids were listed as the primary substance for 58.4% of the 2,394 unique patients admitted in 2020. This 2020 percentage is similar to its 2019 counterpart. In 2019, opioids were the primary substance for 58.5% of the 2,295 unique patients.

➢ Figure 8 displays the total (primary, secondary, and tertiary) admissions and unique patients. There were decreases in both total number of admissions and unique patients in each of the first two quarters compared to 2019, but there were increases in the last two quarters compared to 2019. Fluctuations in 2020 data are likely attributable to a transition in data reporting system.

**Table 3. Number of Admissions and Unique Patients, Department of Mental Health, MS, 2020\***

| Opioids were… | Q1 2020* | | Q2 2020* | | Q3 2020* | | Q4 2020* | | 2020 Totals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. |
| **Primary** Drug of Choice | 507 | 218 | 373 | 167 | 787 | 494 | 844 | 519 | 2,511 | 1,398 |
| **Secondary** Drug of Choice | 221 | 82 | 118 | 51 | 353 | 250 | 484 | 302 | 1,176 | 685 |
| **Tertiary** Drug of Choice | 96 | 42 | 64 | 26 | 726 | 104 | 206 | 139 | 1,092 | 311 |
| **Total** | **824** | **342** | **555** | **244** | **1,866** | **848** | **1,534** | **960** | **4,779** | **2,394** |

*Transition in data reporting system may contribute to variations in expected counts. These 2020 data are provisional.

**Figure 8. Substance Use Disorders:**
**Number of Total Admissions and Unique Patients, MS, 2020**



**NOTE:** The number of admissions is consistently higher than the number of patients because patients can be admitted to multiple programs or relapse.

## TREATMENT ADMISSIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDERS: TYPE OF OPIOID

### FINDINGS

➤ Table 4 and Figure 9 categorize the type of opioid involved in opioid-related admissions to facilities certified by the DMH.

➤ The "other opioids" category includes prescription opioids and constituted 82.1% of all opioid-related admissions in 2020, an increase from 64.0% in 2019. Heroin represented 17.1% of admissions in 2020 (compared to 35.3% in 2019), and methadone represented 0.9% (compared to 0.7% in 2019).

➤ In 2020, the proportion of unique patients admitted for "other opioids" was 82.0%, an increase from 63.6% in 2019. The proportion of patients admitted for heroin was 17.5% in 2020 (compared to 35.7% in 2019) and 0.5% for methadone (0.7% in 2019).

**Table 4. Number of Admissions and Unique Patients by Type of Opioid, MS, 2020***

|  | Q1 2020* | | Q2 2020* | | Q3 2020* | | Q4 2020* | | 2020 Totals* | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
|  | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. | Adm. | Pts. |
| Heroin | 327 | 140 | 188 | 94 | 133 | 82 | 167 | 103 | 815 | 419 |
| Methadone | 17 | 4 | 17 | 3 | 5 | 4 | 2 | 1 | 41 | 12 |
| Other Opioids | 480 | 198 | 350 | 147 | 1,728 | 762 | 1,365 | 856 | 3,923 | 1,963 |
| **Total** | **824** | **342** | **555** | **244** | **1,866** | **848** | **1,534** | **960** | **4,779** | **2,394** |

*Transition in data reporting system may contribute to variations in expected counts. These 2020 data are provisional.

**Figure 9. Treatment Admissions and Unique Patients by Type of Opioid: MS, 2020**
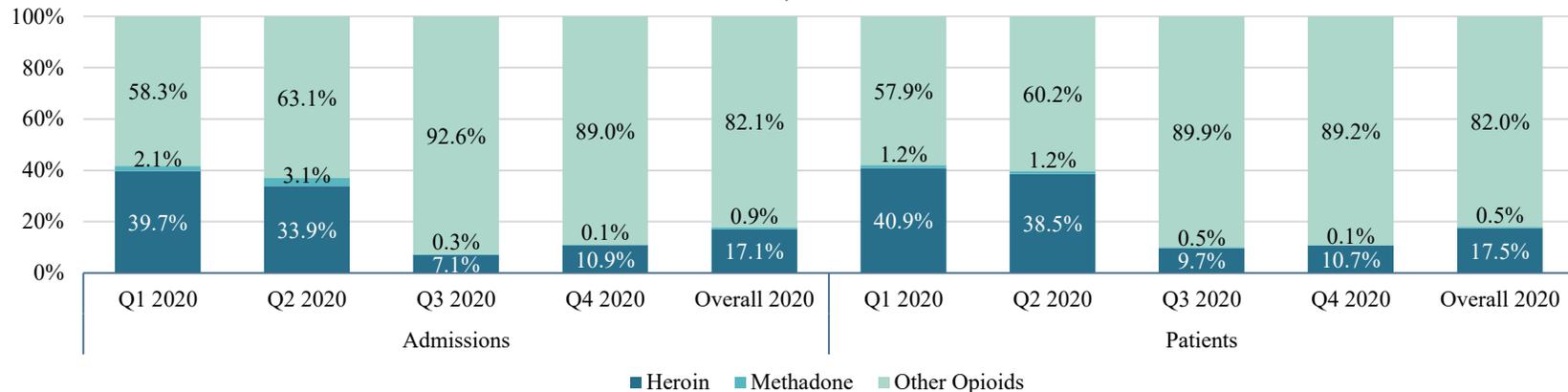
## DRUG-RELATED CRIME DATA

### FINDINGS

**Drug-Related Arrests:**

➢ The total number of drug-related arrests reported in 2020 was 16,523, which is 4.4% lower than in 2019 (17,278 drug-related arrests).

➢ There were 555.2 drug-related arrests per 100,000 persons reported to the MBN in 2020.

➢ In 2020, an average of 1,377 drug-related arrests were reported each month in Mississippi.

➢ During 2020, the greatest numbers of drug-related arrests were reported in DeSoto (2,056), Hinds (1,076), and Rankin (1,055) counties. These arrests accounted for 25.3% of all drug-related arrests in Mississippi.

**Pharmacy Burglaries:**

➢ The total number of completed pharmacy burglaries reported in 2020 was 30, which was a 36.4% increase compared to 2019 (22 burglaries).

➢ Eight (26.7%) of the 30 pharmacy burglaries in the state in 2020 occurred in Lowndes County.

➢ More than 90.0% of all pharmacy burglaries occurred on a weekday in 2020: Monday (16.7%), Tuesday (23.3%), Wednesday (20.0%), Thursday, (23.3%), and Friday (10.0%).

**Figure 10. Number of Drug-Related Arrests by County, MS, 2020**
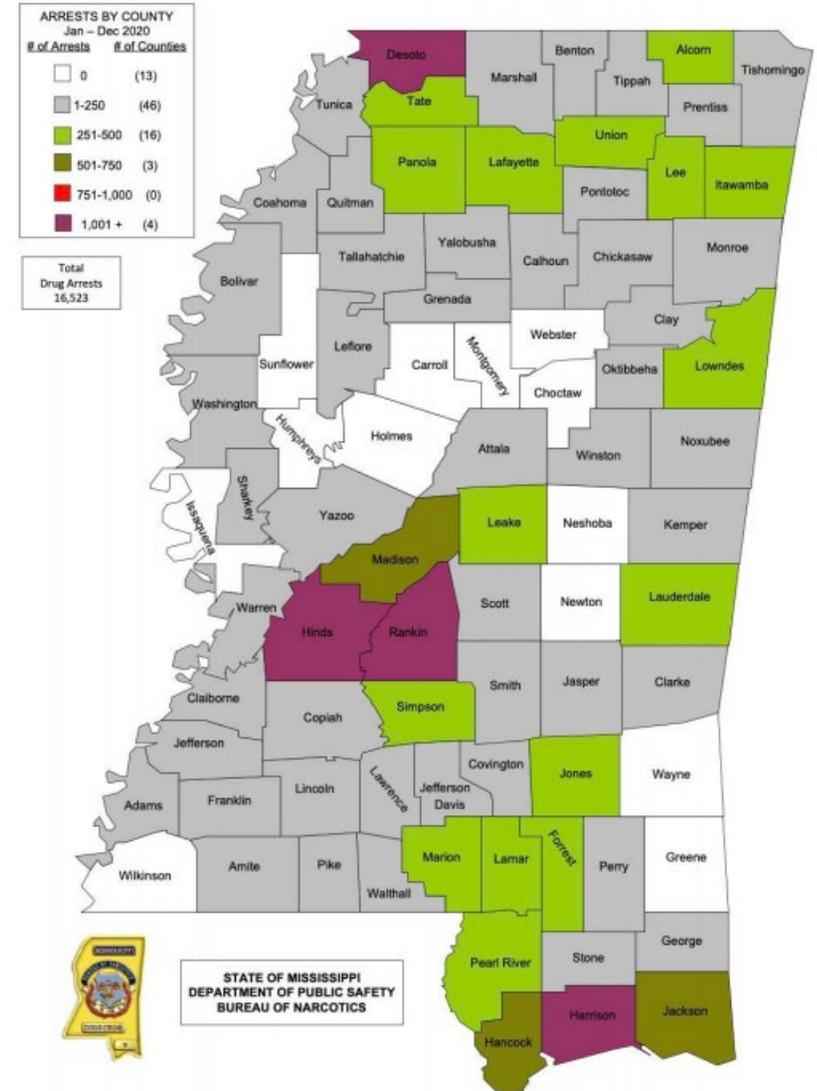


**Figure 11. Drug-Related Arrests and Pharmacy Burglaries by Quarter: MS, 2020**
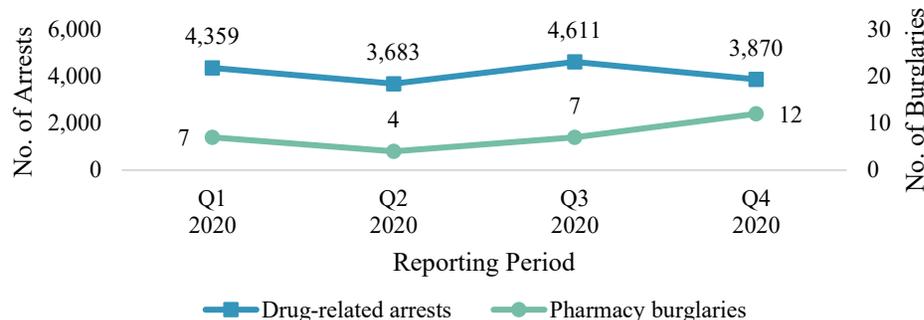
## DRUG TAKE BACK

### UPCOMING DRUG TAKE BACK DAY:
### October 23, 2021

➢ The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) holds a National Prescription Drug Take Back Day each year in April and October in order to collect unused prescription medications. Since its inception, nearly 6,850 tons of drugs have been collected nationwide, with 24.9 tons collected in Mississippi alone.[6]

➢ In October 2020, a total of 985,392 pounds of drugs were collected from 4,587 sites across the United States.[6] During the same event, 8,222 pounds were collected from 57 sites in Mississippi.

### Figure 12. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Results
Number of Collection Sites and Weight Collected, United States
April 2018 - October 2020
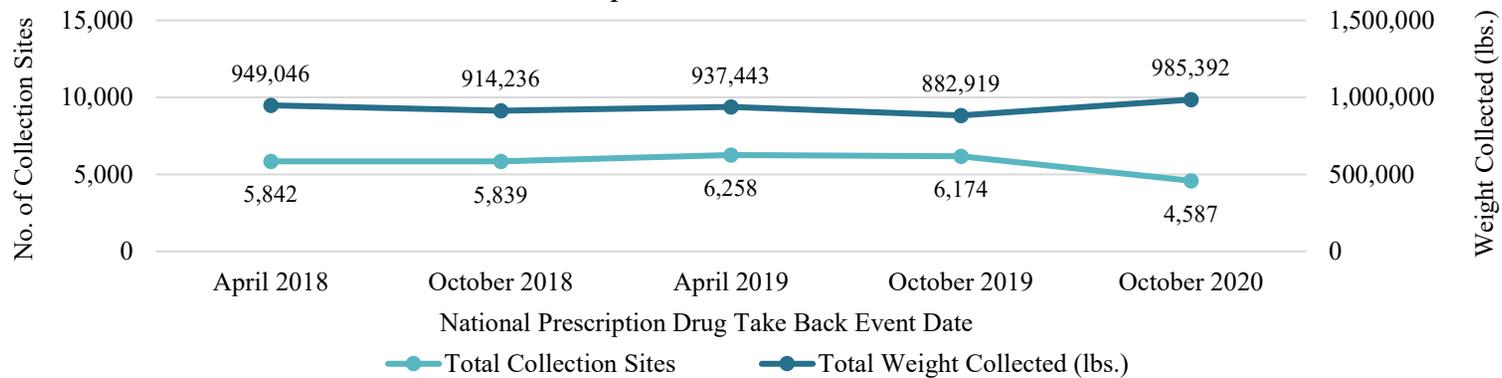


➢ The Collection Site Locator on the DEA's website can be used to find public collection sites between Take Back Days.[7]

➢ Prescription drop boxes are also available year-round at school and law enforcement locations in the following areas in Mississippi:[8,9]

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bay St. Louis PD | Jackson PD Headquarters | Louisville PD | MHP – Meridian | Ocean Springs PD | Vicksburg PD |
| Biloxi PD | Jackson PD – Precinct 1 | McComb PD | MHP – Pearl | Oxford PD | Waveland PD |
| Brandon PD | Jackson PD – Precinct 2 | MHP – Batesville | MHP – Starkville | Pascagoula PD | |
| Byram PD | Jackson PD – Precinct 3 | MHP – Biloxi | MHP – Tupelo | Pass Christian PD | |
| Columbus PD | Jackson PD – Precinct 4 | MHP – Brookhaven | Moss Point PD | Pearl PD | |
| D'Iberville PD | Kemper Co. School District | MHP – Hattiesburg | Mississippi State University | Ridgeland PD | |
| Gulfport PD | Long Beach PD | MHP – Jackson I-55 | Campus PD | Smith Co. SD | |

*PD = Police Department / MHP = Mississippi Highway Patrol / SD = Sheriff's Department*

# COUNTY-LEVEL DATA: 2020

**Table 5. Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths, EMS Naloxone Administrations, and Drug-Related Arrests by County, MS, 2020**

| County | Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths | Number of EMS Naloxone Admins* | Number of Reported Drug-Related Arrests | County | Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths | Number of EMS Naloxone Admins* | Number of Reported Drug-Related Arrests |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Adams | 2 | 17 | 205 | Leflore | 4 | 38 | 36 |
| Alcorn | 2 | 32 | 352 | Lincoln | 9 | 11 | 104 |
| Amite | 2 | 7 | 35 | Lowndes | 3 | 50 | 463 |
| Attala | 0 | 2 | 43 | Madison | 7 | 78 | 731 |
| Benton | 1 | 8 | 49 | Marion | 3 | 0 | 325 |
| Bolivar | 5 | 26 | 28 | Marshall | 2 | 31 | 208 |
| Calhoun | 2 | 0 | 36 | Monroe | 6 | 15 | 123 |
| Carroll | 2 | 3 | 0 | Montgomery | 2 | 12 | 0 |
| Chickasaw | 2 | 2 | 121 | Neshoba | 5 | 6 | 0 |
| Choctaw | 0 | 1 | 0 | Newton | 1 | 5 | 0 |
| Claiborne | 1 | 0 | 12 | Noxubee | 0 | 1 | 15 |
| Clarke | 1 | 4 | 73 | Oktibbeha | 1 | 17 | 42 |
| Clay | 1 | 4 | 34 | Panola | 1 | 14 | 284 |
| Coahoma | 2 | 22 | 14 | Pearl River | 21 | 0 | 435 |
| Copiah | 3 | 1 | 26 | Perry | 0 | 0 | 223 |
| Covington | 4 | 0 | 56 | Pike | 7 | 0 | 248 |
| DeSoto | 40 | 166 | 2,056 | Pontotoc | 7 | 14 | 68 |
| Forrest | 7 | 2 | 419 | Prentiss | 4 | 0 | 140 |
| Franklin | 0 | 1 | 209 | Quitman | 0 | 1 | 54 |
| George | 2 | 2 | 23 | Rankin | 28 | 122 | 1,055 |
| Greene | 1 | 0 | 0 | Scott | 0 | 10 | 45 |
| Grenada | 2 | 27 | 19 | Sharkey | 0 | 0 | 19 |
| Hancock | 0 | 49 | 668 | Simpson | 0 | 11 | 274 |
| Harrison | 49 | 334 | 1,002 | Smith | 2 | 10 | 32 |
| Hinds | 52 | 281 | 1,076 | Stone | 2 | 21 | 63 |
| Holmes | 0 | 8 | 0 | Sunflower | 6 | 17 | 0 |
| Humphreys | 0 | 5 | 0 | Tallahatchie | 0 | 8 | 25 |
| Issaquena | 0 | 0 | 0 | Tate | 7 | 31 | 304 |
| Itawamba | 0 | 12 | 384 | Tippah | 1 | 9 | 92 |
| Jackson | 54 | 163 | 731 | Tishomingo | 1 | 14 | 179 |
| Jasper | 0 | 0 | 81 | Tunica | 0 | 17 | 88 |
| Jefferson | 0 | 0 | 6 | Union | 0 | 1 | 267 |
| Jefferson Davis | 1 | 0 | 26 | Walthall | 3 | 0 | 103 |
| Jones | 4 | 0 | 483 | Warren | 3 | 27 | 198 |
| Kemper | 1 | 2 | 6 | Washington | 4 | 29 | 69 |
| Lafayette | 8 | 17 | 262 | Wayne | 3 | 1 | 0 |
| Lamar | 8 | 17 | 449 | Webster | 0 | 2 | 0 |
| Lauderdale | 6 | 86 | 308 | Wilkinson | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Lawrence | 2 | 6 | 112 | Winston | 0 | 25 | 10 |
| Leake | 1 | 10 | 382 | Yalobusha | 4 | 15 | 4 |
| Lee | 19 | 69 | 402 | Yazoo | 7 | 14 | 9 |

Note: The zero values in this table may signify either that cases of overdose deaths, naloxone administrations, and drug-related crimes have not occurred or that such cases did occur but were not reported by the relevant authorities. Overdose death data for 2020 are not final due to pending lab results.  /  *Transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates.

# COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS: 2020

**Table 6. Rank of Counties: Rates of Drug-Related Arrests, EMS Naloxone Administrations, Suspected Overdose Deaths**

| | Suspected Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Persons by County, MS, 2020* | |
|---|---|---|
| **Rank** | **County** | **Suspected Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Persons** |
| 1 | Pearl River | 37.81 |
| 2 | Jackson | 37.60 |
| 3 | Yalobusha | 33.04 |
| 4 | Lincoln | 26.35 |
| 5 | Tate | 24.72 |

*Overdose death data for 2020 are not final due to pending lab results.

| | EMS Naloxone Administrations per 100,000 Persons by County, MS, 2020* | |
|---|---|---|
| **Rank** | **County** | **Naloxone Administrations per 100,000 Persons** |
| 1 | Tunica | 176.50 |
| 2 | Harrison | 160.52 |
| 3 | Winston | 139.24 |
| 4 | Leflore | 134.83 |
| 5 | Grenada | 130.07 |

*Transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates.

| | Drug-Related Arrests per 100,000 Persons by County, MS, 2020 | |
|---|---|---|
| **Rank** | **County** | **Drug-Related Arrests per 100,000 Persons** |
| 1 | Franklin | 2,709.71 |
| 2 | Perry | 1,862.52 |
| 3 | Leake | 1,676.47 |
| 4 | Itawamba | 1,641.73 |
| 5 | Hancock | 1,402.42 |

## MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS PUBLIC SAFETY DISTRICTS

➢ Figure 13 displays the 9 public safety districts (PSDs) used by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN).
➢ Table 7 displays the 5 districts with the highest rates of suspected overdose deaths, EMS naloxone administrations, and drug-related arrests in 2020.

**Table 7. Rank of Public Safety Districts: Rates of Suspected Overdose Deaths, EMS Naloxone Administrations, Drug-Related Arrests, MS, 2020**

| Suspected Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Persons by PSD District, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | MBN District | Suspected Overdose Deaths per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 8 | 25.72 |
| 2 | 9 | 16.20 |
| 3 | 3 | 15.95 |
| 4 | 1 | 15.84 |
| 5 | 4 | 12.43 |

| EMS Naloxone Administrations per 100,000 Persons by PSD District, MS, 2020* | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | MBN District | Administrations per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 8 | 114.33 |
| 2 | 1 | 83.72 |
| 3 | 3 | 80.25 |
| 4 | 2 | 78.94 |
| 5 | 6 | 57.14 |

*Transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates.

| Drug-Related Arrests per 100,000 Persons by PSD District, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | MBN District | Drug-Related Arrests per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 3 | 822.21 |
| 2 | 4 | 686.55 |
| 3 | 7 | 646.50 |
| 4 | 9 | 613.31 |
| 5 | 8 | 587.10 |

**Figure 13. Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Public Safety Districts**
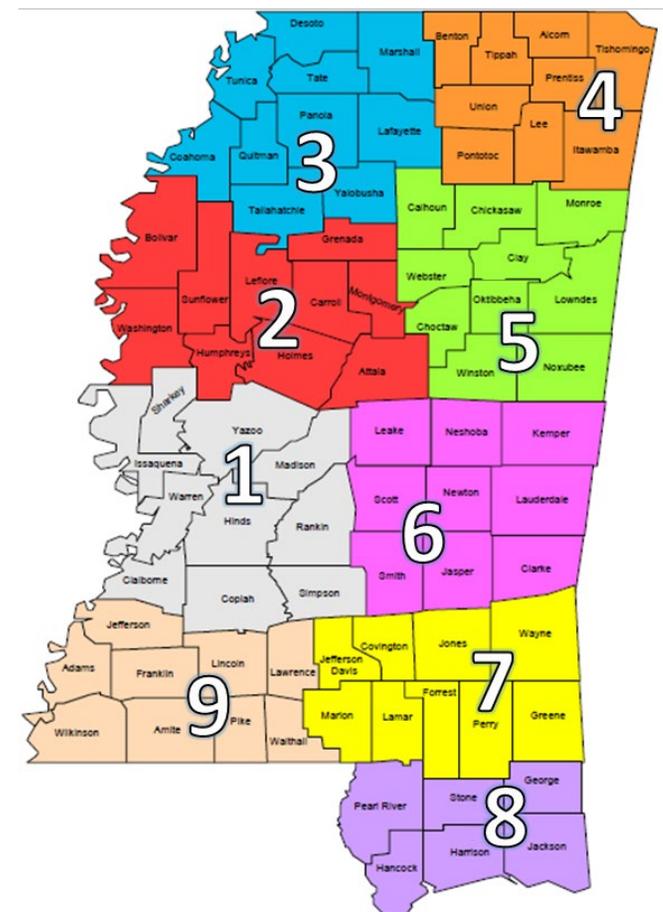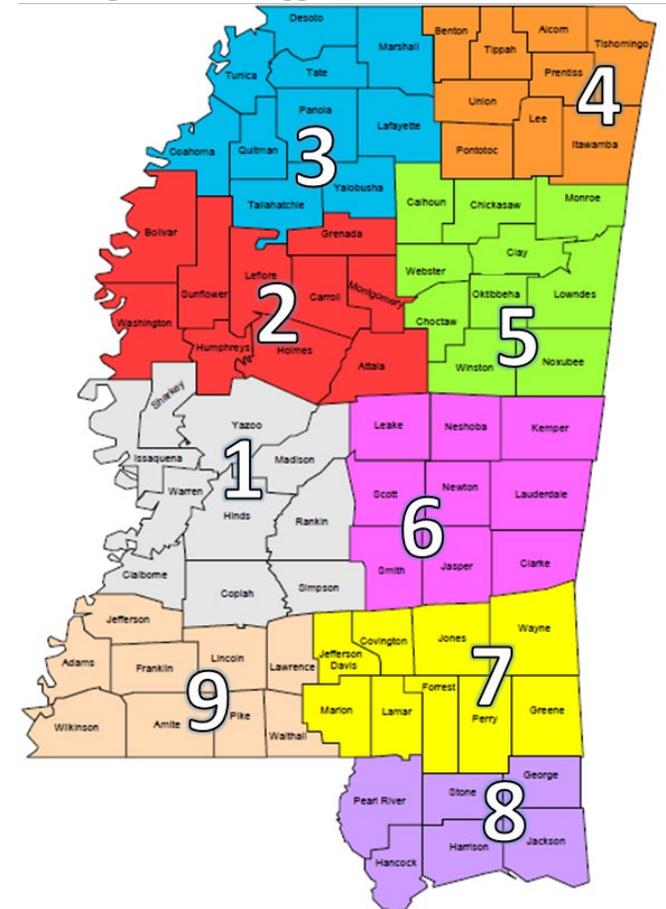


Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

## Provisional Syndromic Surveillance Emergency Department Drug Overdose Data, MS, 2020

### Table 8. Rank of Public Safety Districts (PSDs): Rates of Overdoses, MS, 2020

| Suspected All Drug Overdoses per 100,000 Persons by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | PSD | Suspected All Drug Overdoses per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 8 | 325.50 |
| 2 | 2 | 229.25 |
| 3 | 4 | 217.72 |
| 4 | 3 | 216.58 |
| 5 | 7 | 194.18 |

| Suspected Opioid Overdoses per 100,000 Persons by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | PSD | Suspected Opioid Overdoses per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 8 | 85.79 |
| 2 | 3 | 50.34 |
| 3 | 2 | 35.92 |
| 4 | 7 | 33.61 |
| 5 | 4 | 32.32 |

| Suspected Heroin Overdoses per 100,000 Persons by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | PSD | Suspected Heroin Overdoses per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 8 | 33.15 |
| 2 | 2 | 10.87 |
| 3 | 9 | 9.60 |
| 4 | 1 | 9.25 |
| 5 | 3 | 8.22 |

| Suspected Stimulant Overdoses per 100,000 Persons by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Rank | PSD | Suspected Stimulant Overdoses per 100,000 Persons |
| 1 | 2 | 14.18 |
| 2 | 4 | 12.43 |
| 3 | 6 | 11.60 |
| 4 | 7 | 11.10 |
| 5 | 8 | 10.45 |



Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

**SPECIAL INTEREST:** Public Safety Districts 2 and 8 appear in the top 5 for each of the four categories of drug overdoses in Table 8. Public Safety Districts 3, 4 and 7 appear in three categories each.

## Provisional Syndromic Surveillance Emergency Department Drug Overdose Data, MS, 2020

### Table 9. Rank of Public Safety Districts (PSDs): Counts of Overdoses, MS, 2020

| Suspected All Drug Overdoses by Count and by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rank | PSD | Count of Suspected All Drug Overdoses |
| 1 | 1 | 1,173 |
| 2 | 8 | 1,620 |
| 3 | 3 | 869 |
| 4 | 4 | 613 |
| 5 | 7 | 595 |

| Suspected Opioid Overdoses by Count and by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rank | PSD | Count of Suspected Opioid Overdoses |
| 1 | 8 | 427 |
| 2 | 3 | 202 |
| 3 | 1 | 196 |
| 4 | 7 | 103 |
| 5 | 4 | 91 |

| Suspected Heroin Overdoses by Count and by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rank | PSD | Count of Suspected Heroin Overdoses |
| 1 | 8 | 165 |
| 2 | 1 | 59 |
| 3 | 3 | 33 |
| 4 | 2 | 23 |
| 5 | 9 | 16 |

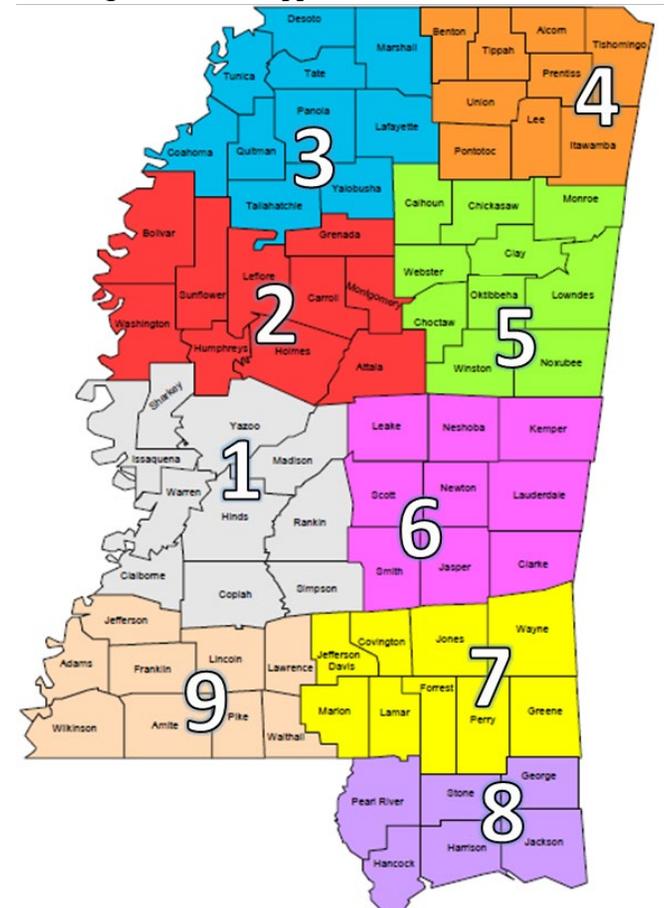| Suspected Stimulant Overdoses by Count and by PSD, MS, 2020 | | |
|---|---|---|
| Rank | PSD | Count of Suspected Stimulant Overdoses |
| 1 | 8 | 52 |
| 2 | 4 | 35 |
| 3 | 7 | 34 |
| 4 | 1 | 31 |
| 5 | 2 | 30 |



Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

**SPECIAL INTEREST:** Public Safety Districts 1 and 8 appear in the top 5 for each of the four categories of drug overdoses in Table 9. Public Safety Districts 3, 4 and 7 appear in three categories each.

# Provisional Syndromic Surveillance Emergency Department Drug Overdose Data, MS, 2020

**Table 10. SynS Drug Overdose Rates per 100,000 by Public Safety District, MS, 2020**

| Public Safety District | Rate per 100,000 | Population of PSD |
|---|---|---|
| **District 1** | | 637,813 |
| All Drug | 183.91 | |
| Opioid | 30.73 | |
| Heroin | 9.25 | |
| Stimulants | 4.86 | |
| **District 2** | | 211,558 |
| All Drug | 229.25 | |
| Opioid | 35.92 | |
| Heroin | 10.87 | |
| Stimulants | 14.18 | |
| **District 3** | | 401,236 |
| All Drug | 216.58 | |
| Opioid | 50.34 | |
| Heroin | 8.22 | |
| Stimulants | 6.98 | |
| **District 4** | | 281,551 |
| All Drug | 217.72 | |
| Opioid | 32.32 | |
| Heroin | 3.20 | |
| Stimulants | 12.43 | |
| **District 5** | | 240,485 |
| All Drug | 169.24 | |
| Opioid | 20.38 | |
| Heroin | 3.33 | |
| Stimulants | 3.74 | |
| **District 6** | | 232,753 |
| All Drug | 151.66 | |
| Opioid | 32.22 | |
| Heroin | 2.15 | |
| Stimulants | 11.60 | |
| **District 7** | | 306,417 |
| All Drug | 194.18 | |
| Opioid | 33.61 | |
| Heroin | 4.90 | |
| Stimulants | 11.10 | |
| **District 8** | | 497,700 |
| All Drug | 325.50 | |
| Opioid | 85.79 | |
| Heroin | 33.15 | |
| Stimulants | 10.45 | |
| **District 9** | | 166,636 |
| All Drug | 175.83 | |
| Opioid | 29.41 | |
| Heroin | 9.60 | |
| Stimulants | 6.00 | |

**Table 11. SynS Drug Overdose Counts by Public Safety District, MS, 2020**

| Public Safety District | Count | Population of PSD |
|---|---|---|
| **District 1** | | 637,813 |
| All Drug | 1,173 | |
| Opioid | 196 | |
| Heroin | 59 | |
| Stimulants | 31 | |
| **District 2** | | 211,558 |
| All Drug | 485 | |
| Opioid | 76 | |
| Heroin | 23 | |
| Stimulants | 30 | |
| **District 3** | | 401,236 |
| All Drug | 869 | |
| Opioid | 202 | |
| Heroin | 33 | |
| Stimulants | 28 | |
| **District 4** | | 281,551 |
| All Drug | 613 | |
| Opioid | 91 | |
| Heroin | 9 | |
| Stimulants | 35 | |
| **District 5** | | 240,485 |
| All Drug | 407 | |
| Opioid | 49 | |
| Heroin | 8 | |
| Stimulants | 9 | |
| **District 6** | | 232,753 |
| All Drug | 353 | |
| Opioid | 75 | |
| Heroin | 5 | |
| Stimulants | 27 | |
| **District 7** | | 306,417 |
| All Drug | 595 | |
| Opioid | 103 | |
| Heroin | 15 | |
| Stimulants | 34 | |
| **District 8** | | 497,700 |
| All Drug | 1,620 | |
| Opioid | 427 | |
| Heroin | 165 | |
| Stimulants | 52 | |
| **District 9** | | 166,636 |
| All Drug | 293 | |
| Opioid | 49 | |
| Heroin | 16 | |
| Stimulants | 10 | |
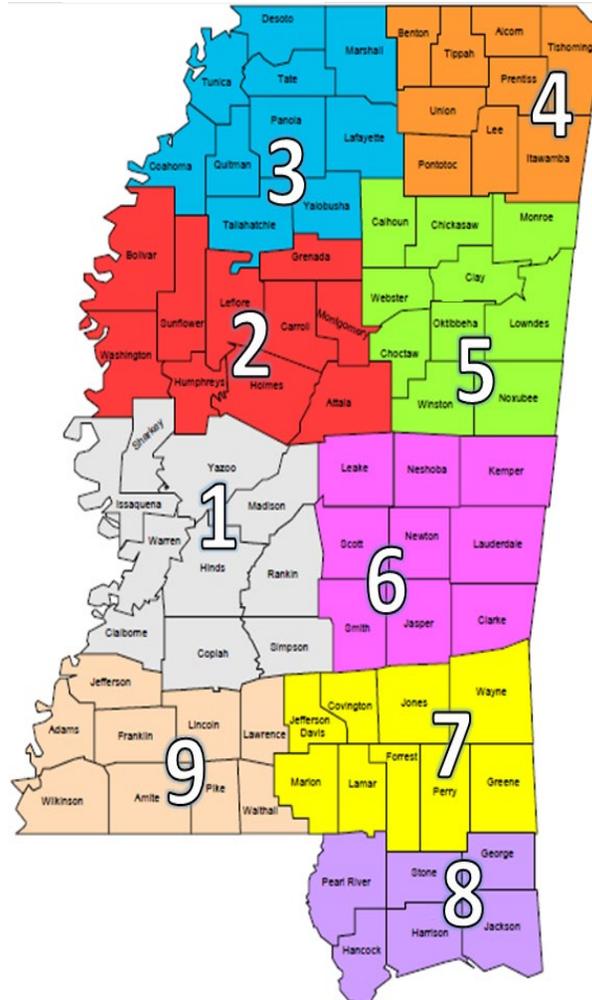


Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

## TECHNICAL NOTES

### DATA SOURCES

**Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP):** The PMP is a statewide electronic database designed to collect information on the dispensing of controlled substances. These data are used to inform the public about current trends in prescription drug use and assist medical professionals in making informed clinical decisions while preventing the illegitimate use of controlled substances. PMP data are collected by the Mississippi Board of Pharmacy. The findings presented in this report include prescriptions for opioid analgesics and opioid-containing cough medications.

**Drug-Related Mortality Data:** The Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics collects data on overdose deaths from reports filed by coroners. Deaths are reported for the quarter the coroner's report was received, regardless of when the death occurred. Additionally, not all coroners may report data on overdose deaths. Therefore, the reported data on overdose death counts may be incomplete, thereby creating a possible undercount.

**Mississippi Emergency Medical Services Data:** The Mississippi State Department of Health collects state-level data and maintains a cutting-edge database on all episodes of emergency medical care delivered by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The data set contains structured data elements such as incident date and county, patient demographics, main patient complaint, and medications administered. It should be noted that transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates of these data.

**Treatment Admissions for Opioid Use Disorder:** Data include admissions reported by substance use disorder treatment providers that are certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health (DMH). Data represent outpatient and inpatient services, including medication-assisted treatment, reported to DMH's Central Data Repository (CDR). Treatments within non-DMH certified facilities and general hospital admissions for substance use disorders are not a part of this report.

**Drug-Related Crime Data:** The arrest data reflect all drug-related offenses including the manufacture, sales, and possession of any controlled substance. These data may not be complete because of underreporting by local police departments. Additionally, crime statistics are influenced by the scope of law enforcement activities. Greater law enforcement capacity, for example, may lead to increased arrest rates for particular offenses.

**Population Estimates for Mississippi:** Rates were calculated using the 2019 Mississippi population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed on 4/12/2021 at  https://www.census.gov/data/datasets/time-series/demo/popest/2010s-counties-total.html

**Syndromic Surveillance Emergency Department Data**: Syndromic surveillance provides public health officials with a timely system for detecting, understanding, and monitoring health events. By tracking symptoms of patients in emergency departments—before a diagnosis is confirmed—public health can detect unusual levels of illness to determine whether a response is warranted. Syndromic data can serve as an early warning system for public health concerns and can allow public health officials to characterize the extent of opioid and other drug-related overdoses in communities. **Note:** As of 8/6/2021, there are 52 health systems submitting SynS Emergency Department data in Mississippi. This does not mean just 52 hospitals. For instance, Baptist Memorial is counted as one of the 52 systems; however, they have many hospitals and clinics under the one health system. Similarly, The University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) is also counted as one of the 52 systems; however, they have multiple emergency rooms in the Jackson hospital as well as a hospital in Grenada.

**Historical Data:** An appendix of previous years' data can be found at the Mississippi State Department of Health website: https://msdh.ms.gov/msdhsite/_static/44,0,382,740.html

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## THE PROJECT: DESCRIPTION AND GOALS

## THE MISSISSIPPI OPIOID AND HEROIN DATA COLLABORATIVE (MS-OHDC)

Five state agencies have united to transform one of the most formidable drug-related challenges Mississippi has ever faced into an opportunity for developing data-driven policy changes aimed at combating the current opioid epidemic and preventing future drug-related crises.

## GOALS

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Improve Data Collection and Data Sharing | Perform Epidemiological Research | Disseminate Information | Educate and Prevent |
| Expand Treatment Capacity | Save Lives | Reduce Drug-Related Crimes | Build Community Support |