



Opioid Crisis: A Local Perspective

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Overview

- 2018 Overdose Statistics
- 2018 in Comparison
- What's Trending?
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 - First Responders
 - The Crime Scene
 - Investigations
 - Corrections
- What Action is Being Taken?
 - MAT Program
 - How the Community Can Engage





2018 Overdose Statistics

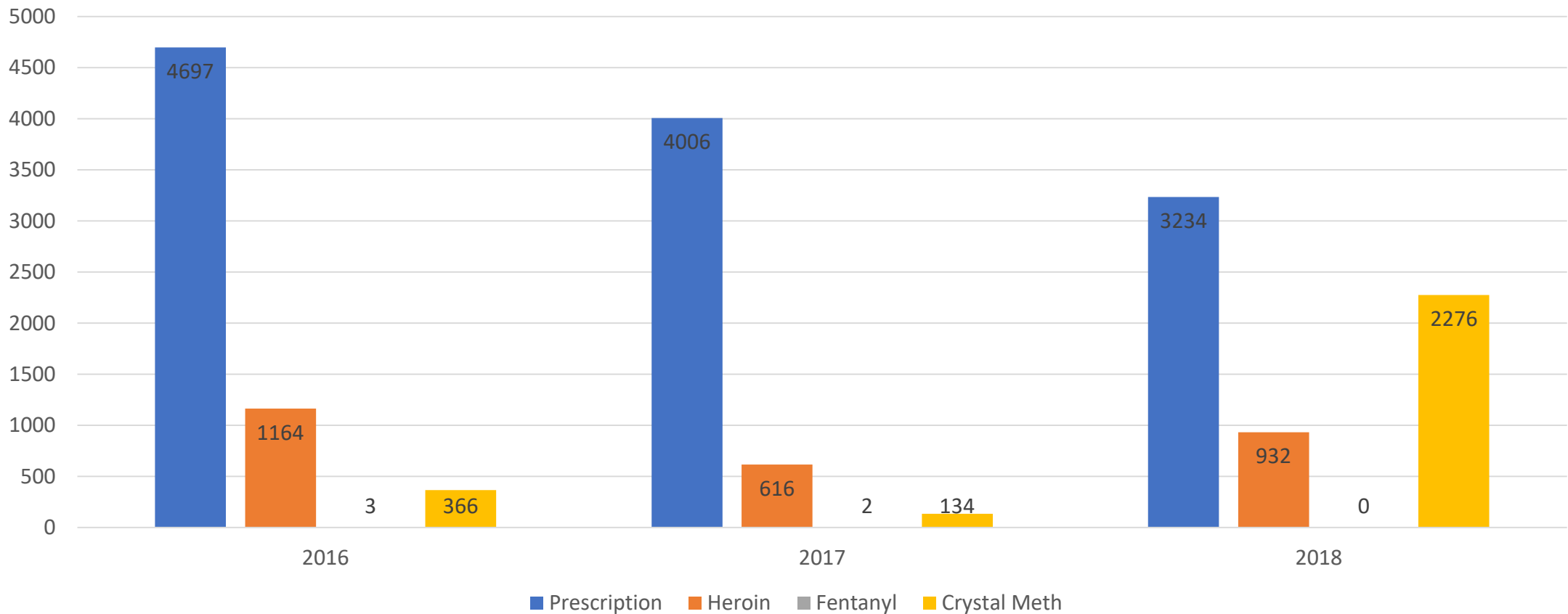
- Heroin related overdoses: 46
- Heroin related deaths: 11
- Narcan deployments: 20
- Narcan saves: 18
- Narcan deployed but fatality occurred: 2



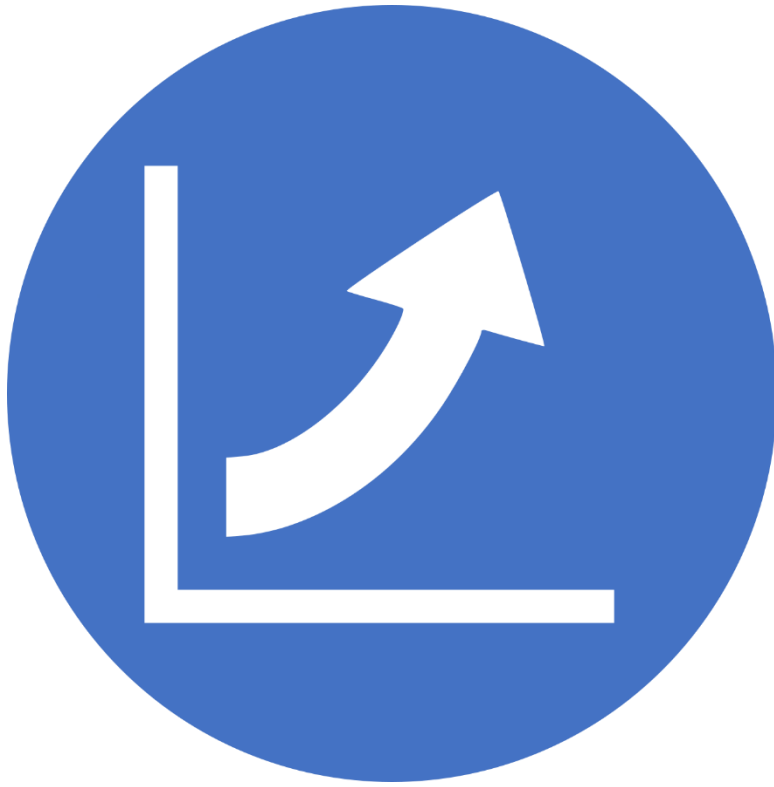
2018 in Comparison

Drug Seizures

In Dosage Units



What's Trending?



- We have seen a slight decline in heroin use, overdose, and drug seizures.
- Crystal meth use is on the rise as some people move away from heroin.
 - Many heroin users cite a fear of heroin overdose as a reason for the switch.
 - Crystal meth is considerably cheaper than heroin.
 - Crystal meth is being imported to the West Michigan area and is cheaper to buy than to make.
 - A lethal overdose from crystal meth use is relatively rare.
- Heroin street value has stayed relatively flat over the last several years.
- Cocaine costs are still high.



Street Value Comparison

Approximate Street Value in Kent County

- .25 grams of heroin: \$40
- 1 gram of heroin: \$140-\$200
- A single dose of heroin varies from user to user
- 1 gram of crystal meth: \$60



Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: The First Responder

- Some first responders in heavier hit areas have experienced PTSD from being exposed to so many deaths.
- Increased exposure to dangerous substances
 - Drug teams/K9s/SWAT teams have been injured during response.
- Increased workload (Patrol/Forensics/Investigations)
 - Only qualified VICE detectives are allowed to field test. – Results in more callouts
- Related offenses tend to increase (property crimes).
- Narcotic testing devices are available but are very expensive.



Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: The Crime Scene

- Often multiple users are present who tamper with the crime scene and are unwilling to cooperate with investigation.
- Destruction of evidence is common. Other users often “clean house” prior to calling 911 for someone experiencing an overdose.
- Witnesses who are cooperative during the medical emergency commonly try to kick investigators out of their house once the person is revived from overdose.
- Not uncommon for parents to be completely unaware their child is using.
 - “Safe stashes” are not new, but are becoming increasingly complex, and they are making it very difficult to identify drugs or contraband.



Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: Common Safe Stashes



Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: Investigations

- Physical dependence on opioids/heroin makes it difficult for person to quit long enough to work with police.
- Heroin users tend to be more difficult to work with than other drug users because they are afraid of getting sick so they don't show up for their appointments and they continue to use.
- Expansion of Good Samaritan Law has had some negative effects.
- Legalized marijuana has significantly reduced access to dealer networks.

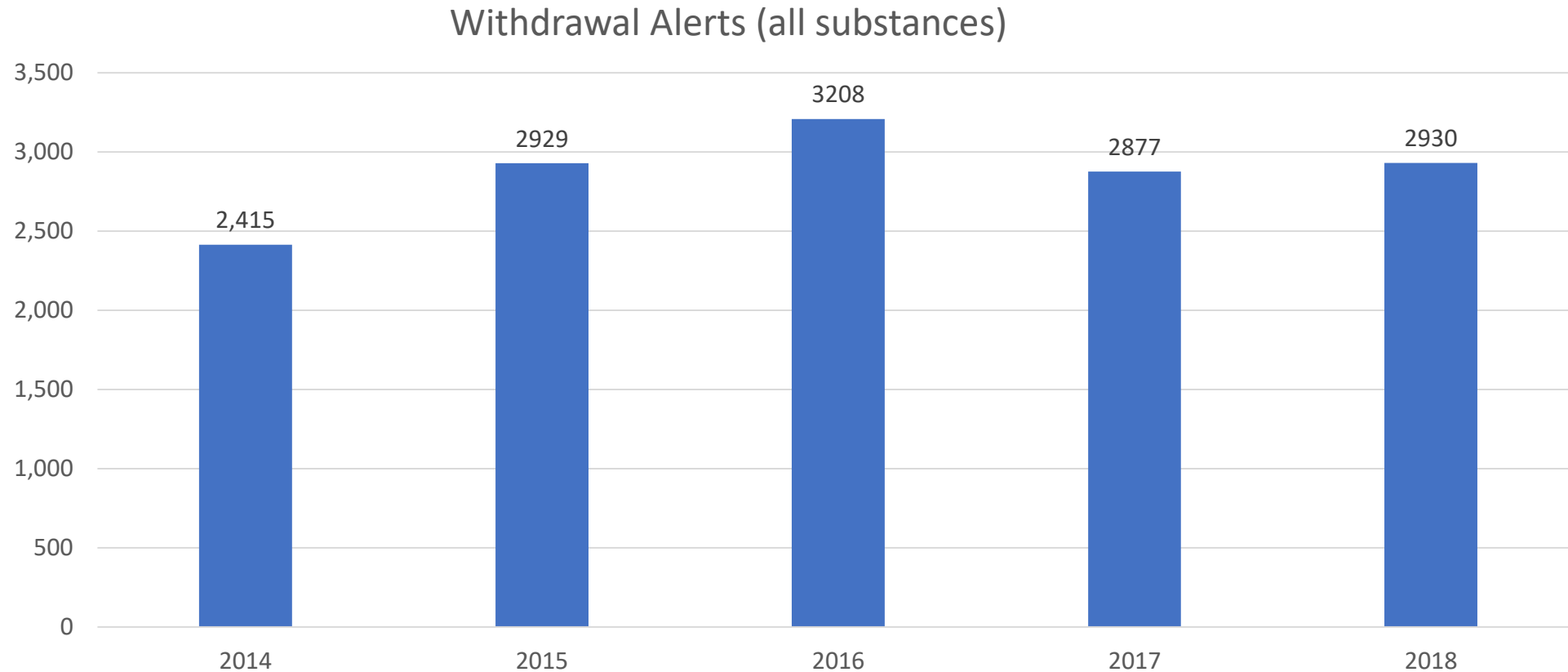


Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: Corrections

- Significant increase in withdrawal alerts in last 4 years
- Inmate being placed on withdrawal alert is largely dependent upon inmate disclosing opioid use
- An inmate experiencing opioid withdrawal is one of the highest risk inmates for suicide. Inmates experiencing withdrawal are of the most difficult to manage.
- Expanding the MAT Program in the correctional setting requires more oversight and increases risk of inmate abuse, sale, or distribution.



Challenges Facing Law Enforcement: Corrections – Withdrawal Alerts Trend





Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) Program Implementation Study

This study analyzed the deaths of all inmates released from the KCCF between 2013 and 2017 who died of overdose within 2 weeks of release, after having been in jail for at least 7 days.

- Male – 11 deaths
- Female – 11 deaths
- Average number of days between release from KCCF and overdose death – 3.8 days



What Action is Being Taken?

MAT Program (Medication-Assisted Treatment)

Phase 1: (2018) Partnership with 61st D/C. Any inmate sanctioned by the 61st District Drug Court for treatment was enrolled in the KCCF MAT pilot program.

Phase 2: (2019) If the inmate is prescribed a MAT program in the community or they still participate in drug program, that treatment will continue inside KCCF

Phase 3: (2020) New enrollment in the MAT program from within the KCCF regardless of prior involvement





Community Engagement

- Continue to educate potential future users
- Continue to teach “See something, say something.”
- Consider the effects of decriminalization on the distribution of dangerous substances.
- Continue education efforts around recognition of drug use and overdose symptoms

