

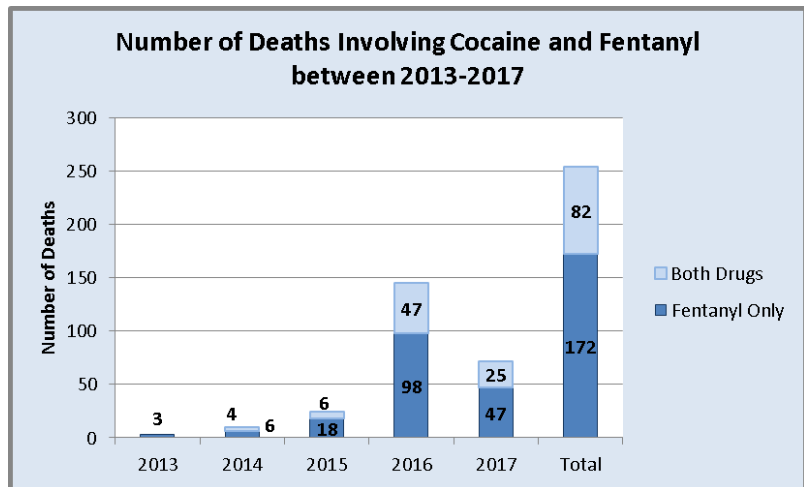


Cocaine and Fentanyl related Fatal Overdoses: January 1, 2013 to May 31, 2017¹
 Report Updated: July 13, 2017

The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) investigated a total of **254** deaths due to use of cocaine or fentanyl from January 1, 2013 through May 31st, 2017. This report examines the presence of **cocaine and fentanyl or fentanyl analogs²** in the deaths observed at the OCME. The manner of death can be either accident, suicide or undetermined. The tables and graphs below present the decedent information by trends and demographics. The data presented within this report represents deaths occurring exclusively within the District of Columbia for which the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has jurisdiction. The data does not represent ALL deaths of DC residents. The decedent’s place of residence or location of injury may be outside of the District

Incidence by Year

The table to the right depicts the number of deaths due to cocaine or fentanyl/fentanyl analog use by year. There appears to be a greater number of deaths in 2016 and 2017 compared to previous years. However, the OCME did not begin testing for fentanyl analogs until in 2015, which may account for some of the increased prevalence from 2013-2015.



Race/Ethnicity

The graphs to the right display the race/ethnicity of the decedents. Both cocaine and fentanyl/fentanyl analogs was found in 32% of the decedents. When examining the race/ethnicity of the decedents that had cocaine and fentanyl/fentanyl analogs involved, 85% were Black. The same percentage was observed when examining the race/ethnicity of decedents that had just fentanyl or fentanyl analogs onboard (in the graph on the far right).

Race	Total
Black	70
White	10
Hispanic	2
Total	82

Race	Total
Black	147
White	22
Hispanic	2
Other	1
Total	172

¹ Data for 2017 is inconclusive and subject to change due to cases where cause and manner of death is “Pending Further Investigation”

² This report highlights cases involving cocaine and fentanyl/fentanyl analogs. However, the lists of drugs involved are not exhaustive, other drugs or alcohol may have also be present in the cases.



The graph below displays the number of fentanyl and fentanyl and cocaine related deaths by race and year. The dotted lines display the data of deaths containing both drugs.

Number of Deaths Involving Fentanyl and Cocaine by Race and Year

