

REPORT ON MARYLAND DEATHS BY DRUG INTOXICATION

- A total of 1,259 overdose deaths occurred in Maryland in 2015. The number of intoxication deaths has nearly doubled since 2010.
- Eighty-six percent of all overdose deaths in 2015 involved opioids – which include heroin, fentanyl and such prescription drugs as oxycodone and methadone. Large increases in the number of deaths involving heroin and fentanyl were responsible for the overall increase in opioid-related deaths:
 - Between 2014 and 2015, the number of heroin-related deaths increased by 29 percent (from 578 to 748), the number of fentanyl-related deaths nearly doubled (from 186 to 340), and the number of prescription-opioid related deaths increased by 6 percent (from 330 to 351).
 - The number of fentanyl-related deaths began increasing in late 2013 as a result of overdoses involving non-pharmaceutical fentanyl, that is, non-prescription fentanyl produced in clandestine laboratories and mixed with, or substituted for, heroin or other illicit substances. Fentanyl is many times more potent than heroin, and greatly increases the risk of an overdose death. The number of deaths caused by fentanyl has increased 12-fold since 2012.

For Talbot County there were 5 deaths by drug intoxication in 2015: 3 by heroin and 2 by prescription opioid drugs.

Major findings from the report are posted at <http://goo.gl/l4OnKY>.