



2022 Report Card

Methamphetamine Strike Force



The Status of Methamphetamine Use in San Diego County

The Methamphetamine Strike Force (MSF) was established by the San Diego County Board of Supervisors in 1996. Today the MSF is a collaboration at federal, state and local levels, with contributions from more than 70 participating agencies. The annual MSF Report Card provides data from 2021 on leading indicators of methamphetamine problems. All data sources are identified on page 2.

Indicator		2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
1.	Unintentional Methamphetamine-Caused Deaths ^a	271	328	379	553	756
	• Rate per 100,000 residents	8.2	9.8	11.3	16.5	22.8
2.	Amphetamine- Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits ^b	12,951	13,151	16,204	16,536	Available in 2023
	• Rate per 100,000 Residents	391	395	483	495	
3.	Amphetamine-Related Hospitalizations ^b	11,871	12,599	12,131	12,454	
	• Rate per 100,000 Residents	359	378	362	373	
4.	Methamphetamine Primary Substance Used	4,911	6,906 ^c	6,591	4,740	4,909
	• Percent of all Public Drug Treatment Program Admissions	37%	30%	33%	31%	32%
5.	Positive Methamphetamine Tests					
	• Adult Arrestees	56%	57%	59%	56%	54%
	• Juvenile Arrestees	11%	10%	11%	8%	3%
6.	Number of Arrests for Methamphetamine Sales and Possession ^d	9,293	10,156	11,313	7,211	10,948
7.	Availability Measures					
	• “Easy to Get” ^e	89%	89%	88%	84%	89%
	• Price per Ounce	\$120-250	\$150 -300	\$150-325	\$150-300	\$90-250
	• Methamphetamine Seizures at Border Points of Entry	13,831 kg.	19,171 kg.	34,182 kg.	42,087 kg.	60,508 kg.

- a. These deaths are accidental overdose deaths in which methamphetamine alone or with other drugs and/or alcohol was a causative factor in death.
- b. Diagnoses are coded for any mention of amphetamine misuse and amphetamine dependence in the encounter record; it is likely that most amphetamine mentions among ED discharges and hospitalizations are in fact methamphetamine. Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department and Patient Discharge Data, 2009-2020.
- c. The Organized Delivery System Drug-Medical (ODS-DMC) implementation began July 2018 which increased access to treatment facilities throughout San Diego County. This change may account for the increased number of treatment admissions.
- d. This total includes both felony and misdemeanor arrests and citations.
- e. When considering Substance Abuse Monitoring (SAM) statistics for 2020, please note that while the interviews were able to continue, administrative procedures and survey methodologies were refined to ensure the health and safety of both the interviewers and those being interviewed. These changes, coupled with changes in terms of who was booked into jails at this time, may affect the statistics presented here and limit the validity of comparisons to prior years.



Report Card Indicator Details and Source(s)

1. **Unintentional Methamphetamine-Caused Deaths.** These deaths are accidental overdose deaths in which methamphetamine alone or with other drugs and/or alcohol was a causative factor in death. Source: County of San Diego Department of the Medical Examiner. Population estimates source: SANDAG, Current Estimates, 2021.
2. **Amphetamine-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits.** Diagnoses are coded for any mention of amphetamine misuse and amphetamine dependence in the encounter record; it is likely that most amphetamine mentions among ED discharges and hospitalizations are in fact methamphetamine. Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department and Patient Discharge Data, 2009-2020.
3. **Amphetamine-Related Hospitalizations.** Diagnoses are coded for any mention of amphetamine misuse and amphetamine dependence in the encounter record; it is likely that most amphetamine mentions among ED discharges and hospitalizations are in fact methamphetamine. Source: California Department of Health Care Access and Information (HCAI), Emergency Department and Patient Discharge Data, 2009-2020.
4. **Methamphetamine Primary Substance Used.** Total admissions to publicly funded drug treatment in San Diego County that identified methamphetamine as their primary substance used. Source: *County of San Diego, Health and Human Services; Behavioral Health Services Data Book.*
5. **Positive methamphetamine tests.** Percent of methamphetamine positive tests from a sample of interviews and drug tests among adult and juveniles at time of booking. Source: *Substance Abuse Monitoring, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).*
6. **Number of Misdemeanor/Felony Arrests for Methamphetamine Sales and Possession.** Source: *Automated Regional Justice Information System (ARJIS).*
7. **Availability Measures:**
 - Methamphetamine “easy to get” percent from jail interviewees. Source: *Substance Abuse Monitoring, San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG).*
 - Price per ounce. Price of methamphetamine samples acquired during arrests/ investigations. Source: *San Diego Law Enforcement Coordination Center (SD-LECC).*
 - Methamphetamine seizures as Border Points of Entry. Crystal and Ice Methamphetamine Seizures at San Ysidro, Otay Mesa and Tecate. Source: *Customs and Border Protection.*

Facilitation services for the Methamphetamine Strike Force (MSF) are provided through HHSA, Behavioral Health Services, in a contract with the Center for Community Research. Website maintenance is provided by the San Diego and Imperial County High Intensity Drug Tracking Area.

2021 MSF Addendum

A. Death Details

Table 1. Unintentional Methamphetamine-Caused Deaths by Race/Ethnicity, 2021

Race/Ethnicity	Number	Rate per 100,000*
American Indian/Alaska Native	16	106.7
Black/African American	81	51.2
White	434	28.6
Other	2	--
Two or More Races	26	22.9
Hispanic/Latino	178	15.6
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	2	--
Asian	13	3.7
Unknown	4	--
Grand Total	756	22.8

*Rates not reported for fewer than 5 cases.

Table 2: Unintentional Methamphetamine-Caused Deaths by Age and Gender, 2021

Age	Total Number of Deaths			Rate per 100,000*		
	Female	Male	Total	Female	Male	Total
0-14	0	0	0	-	-	-
15-24	9	27	36	4.0	10.1	7.3
25-34	33	106	139	17.0	49.8	34.1
35-44	32	123	155	15.1	54.9	35.5
45-54	40	128	168	20.1	63.8	42.0
55-64	47	159	206	23.2	81.3	51.8
65+	8	44	52	2.7	18.5	9.8
Total	169	587	756	10.3	35.1	22.8

*Rates not reported for fewer than 5 cases.

B. 2021 Substance Use Disorder Admissions

Table 3. County Publicly Funded Treatment Program Admissions by Primary Substance Used

Primary Substance Used	Number of Admissions	Percent of Admissions
Methamphetamine	4,909	32%
Heroin	3,099	20%
Alcohol	3,605	23%
Other Opioids	1,767	11%
Marijuana	1,404	9%
Cocaine/Crack	390	3%
Other	365	2%

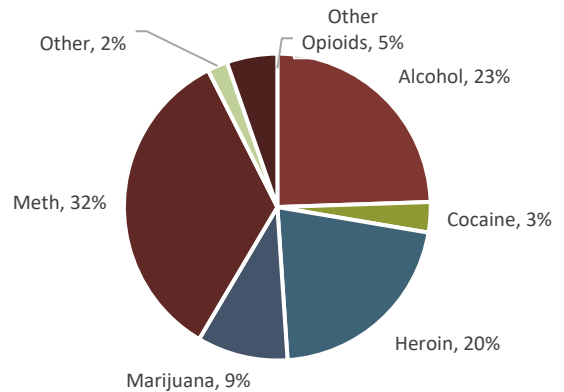


Table 4. Treatment Admissions in which Methamphetamine was the Primary Substance Used by Gender

Gender	Admits	%
Male	2,986	61%
Female	1,920	39%



Table 5. Treatment Admissions in which Methamphetamine was the Primary Substance Used by Age

Age	Admits	%
Age 12 to 17	20	0%
Age 18 to 25	505	10%
Age 26 to 59	4,267	87%
Age 60 +	117	2%

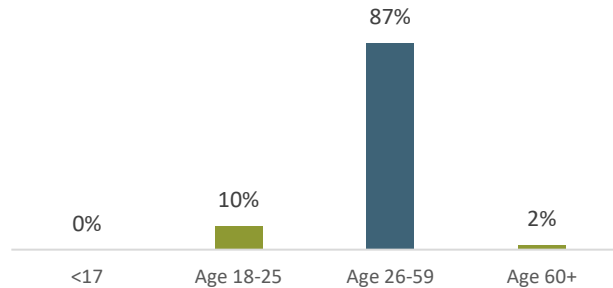
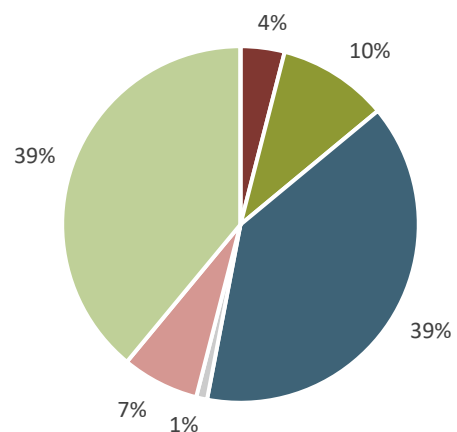


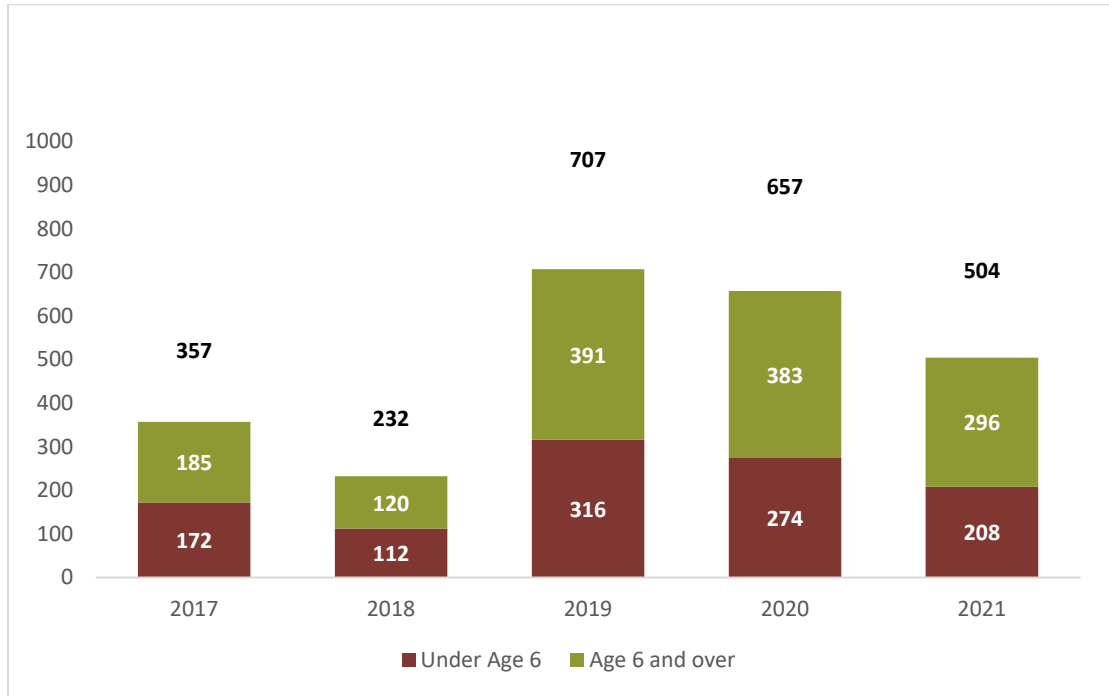
Table 6. Treatment Admissions in which Methamphetamine was the Primary Substance Used by Race/Ethnicity

Race/Ethnicity	Admits	%
Asian/Pacific Islander	185	4%
Black/African American	504	10%
Hispanic	1,918	39%
Native American	65	1%
Other/Multi-Race	324	7%
White	1,910	39%
Unknown	3	0%



C. Methamphetamine and Family Impacts

Figure 1. Children on Drug Endangered Children (DEC) Referrals in San Diego County



Notes:

- 1) Beginning in 2005, Child Welfare Services (CWS) began using data from their case management system with special codes for Drug Endangered Children (DEC) cases. These include Level 1, where children are exposed to manufacturing of methamphetamine, and Level 2, the majority of cases, where children are exposed from either parental use or dealing to a variety of substances in the home.
- 2) The large increases in numbers beginning in 2009 are attributed, in part, to improved tracking and data entry, training of police officers and improved collaboration.

Domestic Violence: The County of San Diego Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (DVFRT) selects five to seven domestic violence fatality cases each year for in-depth, multidisciplinary review in order to identify needed improvements in areas such as policy, programming, resource development and awareness. Included in the table below are the findings for methamphetamine use - current and history by the perpetrators and victims in these cases.

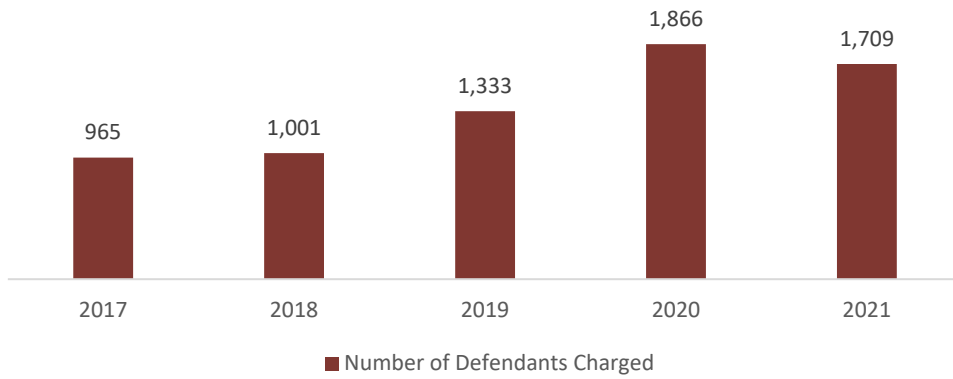
Table 7. Methamphetamine Involvement in Domestic Violence Fatalities: Findings from Case Reviews CY 2015-2021

	Intimate Partner Victims (n= 40)	Perpetrators (n=40)
Current Methamphetamine Use*	9 (22.5%)	7 (17.5%)
No Current Methamphetamine Use	31 (77.5%)	33 (82.5%)
History of Methamphetamine Use**	10 (25%)	14 (35%)
No History of Methamphetamine Use	30 (75%)	26 (65%)

* Methamphetamine detected at the time of death, as indicated by toxicology screen results.
 ** Determined when the individual has been known to use methamphetamines at some point in their life, as documented through a review of multidisciplinary case records.

Older Adults – Adult Protective Service Data: In 2021, there were 225 confirmed elder abuse cases where the suspected abuser was using methamphetamine.

Figure 2. Federal Methamphetamine Charges*



*Federal charges included in the total count include: drug trafficking; simple drug possession; organized crime drug enforcement task force (OCDETF); and money laundering/structuring (narcotics).

Source: United States Attorney's Office, 2022

Table 8a. Number of Arrests and Citations (Misdemeanor and Felony) San Diego Region CY 2017-2021

Year	Total Arrests	Methamphetamine Related Arrests	% of Total
2017	95,409	9,286	9.7%
2018	94,273	10,141	10.8%
2019	104,104	11,313	11.2%
2020	89,497	7,214	8.1%
2021	83,893	10,948	13.1%

Sources: ARJIS

Table 8b. Number of Arrests and Citations (Misdemeanor and Felony) for Methamphetamine, San Diego County Sheriff's Department: CY 2017-2021

Sheriff Department	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change (20-21)	Rate per 100,000
City of Del Mar	4	2	4	0	5	--	--
City of Encinitas	166	137	142	80	196	+145.0%	317.9
City of Imperial Beach	115	116	116	95	135	+42.1%	489.7
City of Lemon Grove	144	121	267	84	166	+94.6%	634.1
City of Poway	79	50	81	16	74	+362.5%	151.7
City of San Marcos	293	240	200	159	255	+60.4%	267.1
City of Santee	223	211	288	120	216	+80.0%	380.6
City of Solana Beach	16	12	10	3	19	--	--
City of Vista	471	452	516	244	477	+95.5%	463.4
Sheriff Unincorporated Total	2,286	2,014	2,114	1,162	2,373	+104.2%	259.8
<i>Unincorporated – East Region</i>	--	--	--	--	1,314	--	--
<i>Unincorporated – North Region</i>	--	--	--	--	813	--	--
<i>Unincorporated – South Region</i>	--	--	--	--	152	--	--
<i>Unincorporated – Central Region</i>	--	--	--	--	71	--	--
<i>Unincorporated – Other</i>	--	--	--	--	23	--	--
Sheriff Total	3,797	3,355	3,738	1,963	3,916	+99.5%	234.8

Data Source: ARJIS; SANDAG, 2020 Jurisdiction Demographic/Economic Estimates.

-Field (i.e., non-warrant) arrests; 11377/11378/11379 HS (and variants) only.

-Arrest rate per 100,000 population.

-Data reflects the site of the arrest, not the residence of the arrestee. Meaning these data are based on where the arrest occurred, not where the individual arrested resides.

Note: Rates and percent change not calculated for cells with less than 30 cases or Unincorporated Regions.

Table 8c. Number of Arrests and Citations (Misdemeanor and Felony) for Methamphetamine, San Diego Police Department (SDPD): CY 2017-2021

San Diego Police Department	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change (20-21)	Rate per 100,000
Northern Division	--	--	--	--	304	--	--
Northeastern Division	--	--	--	--	63	--	--
Eastern Division	--	--	--	--	353	--	--
Southeastern Division	--	--	--	--	237	--	--
Central Division	--	--	--	--	927	--	--
Western Division	--	--	--	--	732	--	--
Southern Division	--	--	--	--	195	--	--
Mid-City Division	--	--	--	--	340	--	--
Northwestern Division	--	--	--	--	47	--	--
Other	--	--	--	--	27	--	--
SDPD Total	2,201	2,493	3,455	2,140	3,225	+50.7%	234.8

Data Source: ARJIS; SANDAG, 2020 Jurisdiction Demographic/Economic Estimates.

-Field (i.e., non-warrant) arrests; 11377/11378/11379 HS (and variants) only.

-Arrest rate per 100,000 population.

-Data reflects the site of the arrest, not the residence of the arrestee. Meaning these data are based on where the arrest occurred, not where the individual arrested resides.

Note: Rates not calculated for cells with less than 30 cases.

Table 8d: Number of Arrests and Citations (Misdemeanor and Felony) for Methamphetamine, All Remaining San Diego County Law Enforcement Agencies: CY 2017-2021

Law Enforcement Agency	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	% Change (20-21)	Rate per 100,000
Carlsbad	159	233	214	276	274	-0.7%	241.3
Chula Vista	782	870	770	486	539	+10.9%	199.2
Coronado	18	30	30	22	30	+36.4%	170.9
El Cajon	367	538	721	528	653	+23.7%	640.8
Escondido	724	660	697	504	1,074	+113.1%	713.0
La Mesa	632	1,014	544	158	145	-8.2%	244.5
Harbor Police	--	--	--	--	137	N/A	N/A
National City	188	204	202	123	127	+3.3%	226.5
Oceanside	418	744	942	1,011	828	-18.1%	469.4
Grand Total	3,288	4,293	4,120	3,108	3,807	+22.4%	402.4

Data Source: ARJIS; SANDAG, 2020 Jurisdiction Demographic/Economic Estimates.

-Field (i.e., non-warrant) arrests; 11377/11378/11379 HS (and variants) only.

-Arrest rate per 100,000 population.

-Data reflects the site of the arrest, not the residence of the arrestee. Meaning these data are based on where the arrest occurred, not where the individual arrested resides.

Note: Rates not calculated for cells with less than 30 cases.

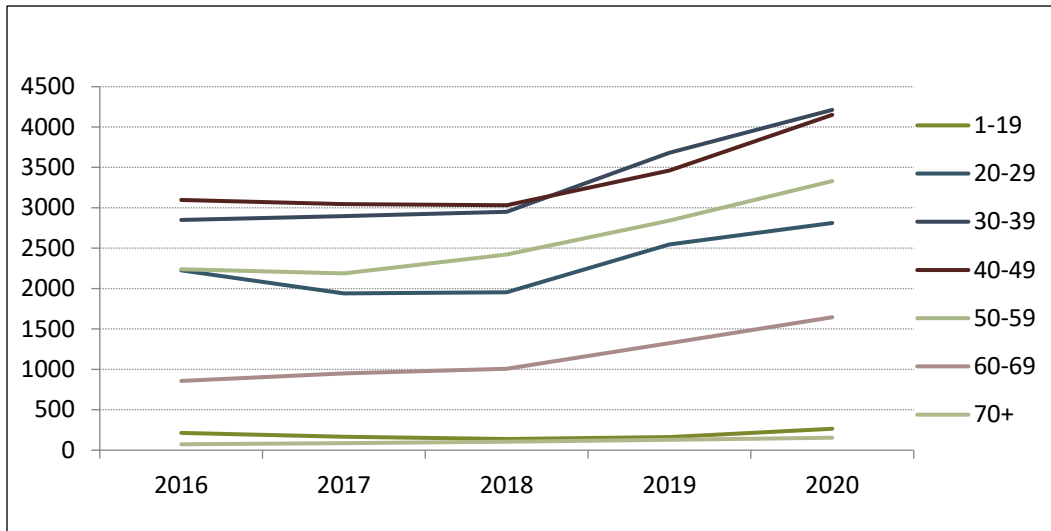
Table 9. Amphetamine-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits in San Diego County by Hospital, 2016– 2020

Region	Hospital	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	1-Year Percent Change	5-Year Percent Change
N. Coastal/N. Central/N. Inland	Kaiser*	452	557	616	443	388	-12.4%	-14%
Central/South	Scripps Mercy & Scripps Chula Vista	1,775	1,748	1,738	2,457	3,419	39.2%	93%
N. Central	Scripps La Jolla	171	164	168	188	285	51.6%	67%
Central	UCSD MC & UCSD Thornton	2,344	2,574	2,863	3,312	3,131	-5.5%	34%
N. Inland	Palomar/Pomerado Hospital	195	165	249	755	639	-15.4%	228%
N. Central	Rady Children's Hospital	19	32	18	17	23	35.3%	21%
South	Sharp Coronado	180	202	239	142	121	-14.8%	-33%
N. Central	Sharp Memorial	882	954	1,055	848	739	-12.9%	-16%
East	Sharp Grossmont	2,485	2,444	2,398	1,915	1,672	-12.7%	-33%
N. Central	Alvarado	964	783	343	693	1,077	55.4%	12%
N. Coastal	Scripps Encinitas	188	136	134	190	294	54.7%	56%
N. Coastal	Tri-City Medical Center	923	929	528	490	501	2.2%	-46%
N. Inland	Palomar Medical Center	973	739	1,067	3,155	3,158	0.1%	225%
South	Paradise Valley	1,286	1,145	1,189	1,359	998	-26.6%	-22%
South	Sharp Chula Vista	372	354	415	345	269	-22.0%	-28%
Total		13,209	12,926	13,020	16,309	16,714	2.5%	27%

*Data cannot be separated by individual location.

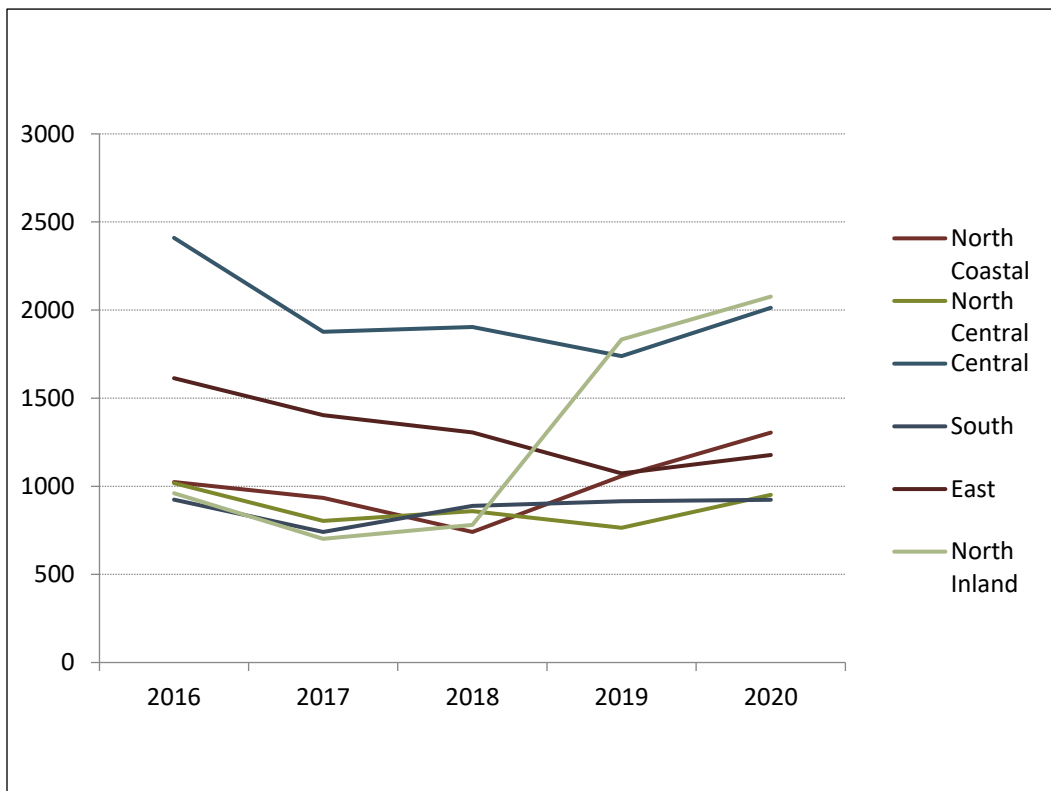
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Discharges Database (via OSHPD), 2010 - 2020.

Figure 3. Amphetamine-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Rates per 100,000, by Age Group, 2016-2020



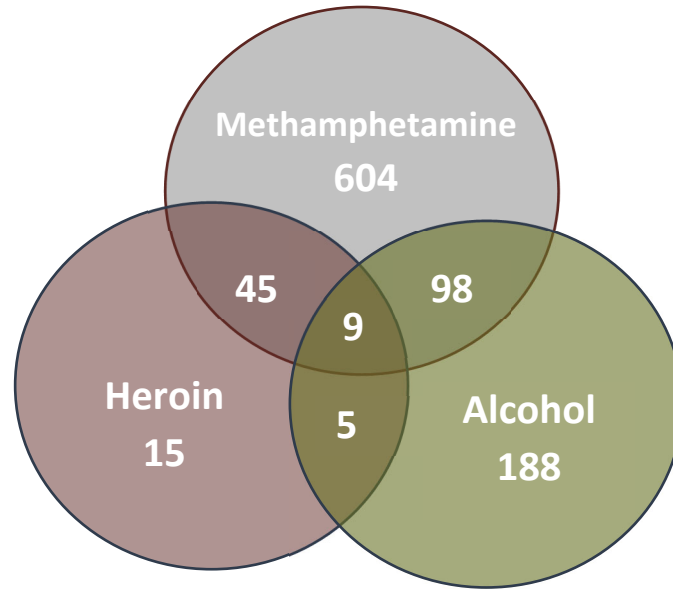
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Discharges Database, 2009-2020.
 *Rate per 100,000 ED Discharges

Figure 4. Amphetamine-Related Emergency Department (ED) Visits, Rates per 100,000, by Region, 2016-2020



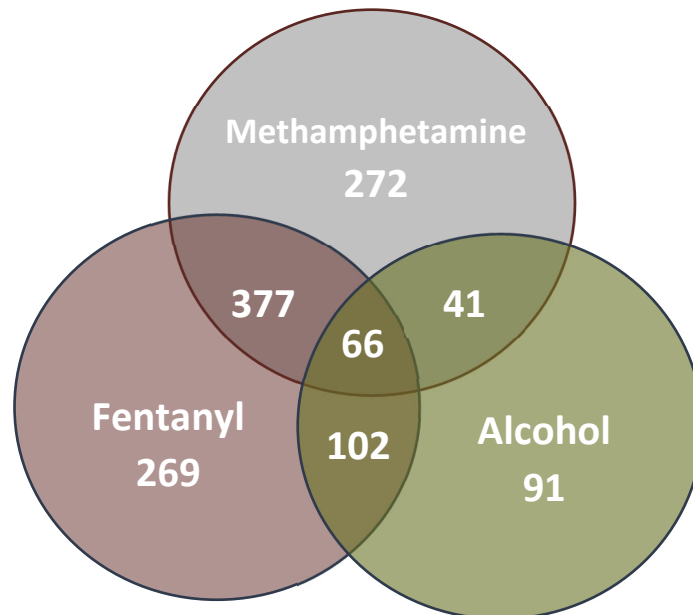
County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Department Discharges Database, 2009-2020.
 *Rate per 100,000 ED Discharges.

Figure 5. Relationship Between Unintentional Methamphetamine, Heroin, and Alcohol Caused Deaths in San Diego County, 2021



Source: San Diego County Department of the Medical Examiner, 2021.

Figure 6. Relationship Between Unintentional Methamphetamine, Fentanyl, and Alcohol Caused Deaths in San Diego County, 2021



Source: San Diego County Department of the Medical Examiner, 2021.

What is Fentanyl? Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is up to 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine.