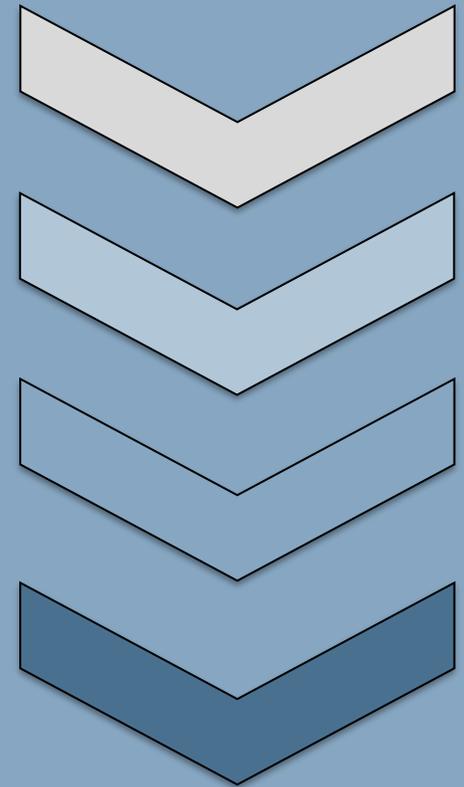# THE MISSISSIPPI OPIOID AND HEROIN DATA COLLABORATIVE

Provisional Data Report

Calendar Year 2018

Mississippi Board of Pharmacy

Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

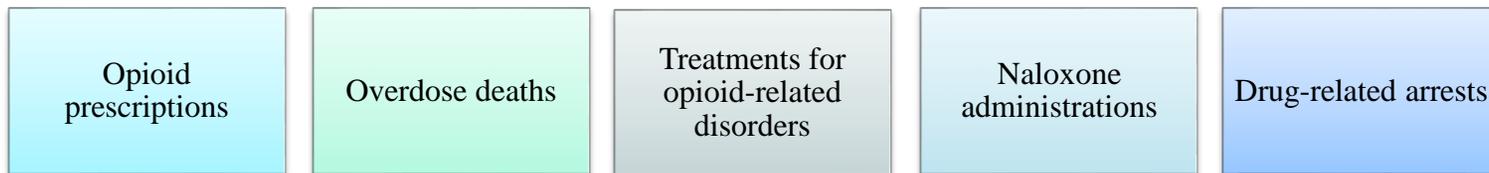Mississippi State Department of Health

Mississippi Department of Mental Health

The University of Southern Mississippi

4/17/2019

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 administration by Emergency Medical Services for suspected overdoses, drug-related arrests, and treatment for opioid-related disorders within facilities certified by the Mississippi Department of Mental Health.

➢ The goal of this report is to provide the public and policy makers with timely information on key indicators measuring the scope of the opioid epidemic in Mississippi.

➢ Most of the statistics presented in this report are based on available data. The report is updated quarterly. We strive 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 15.

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

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

PRESCRIPTION MONITORING PROGRAM DATA

FINDINGS

➢ During 2018, nearly 2.8 million opioid prescriptions and more than 145.7 million opioid dosage units (e.g., pills) were dispensed in Mississippi.

➢ Reductions in number of opioid prescriptions (-2.8%) and dispensed dosage units (-5.3%) were observed from the first to the fourth quarter of 2018.

➢ Compared to 2017, there were 522,657 fewer opioid prescriptions dispensed during 2018, representing a 15.8% decrease. The number of dosage units dispensed decreased by 20.3% or 37,138,558 pills.

Figure 1. Number of Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed in MS, 2018

Q1 2018	698,737
Q2 2018	700,136
Q3 2018	702,365
Q4 2018	678,984

Figure 2. Number of Opioid Dosage Units Dispensed in MS, 2018

Q1 2018	37,487,485
Q2 2018	36,325,735
Q3 2018	36,427,097
Q4 2018	35,503,569

Opioid Prescriptions, 2018

- Total number: 2,780,222
- Average number per month: 231,685.2
- Average number per day: 7,617.1
- The rate was 93 opioid prescriptions per 100 persons – enough for approximately 9 out of 10 people in Mississippi to have 1 opioid prescription.

Opioid Dosage Units, 2018

- Total number: 145,743,886
- Average number per month: 12,145,323.8
- Average number per day: 399,298.3
- The rate was 4,880 opioid dosage units per 100 persons – enough for each person in Mississippi to have a supply of 48 opioid dosage units.

CONSIDERATIONS: This report identified a considerable decline in the number of opioid prescriptions from 2017. Such downward movement could be driven, in part, by statewide educational initiatives. For example, the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics along with the Board of Pharmacy and the Mississippi Department of Mental Health have organized numerous town hall meetings to educate communities about the dangers of opioid overconsumption during the last year. In addition, the Mississippi State Department of Health has campaigned actively about opioid abuse risks throughout the Mississippi medical community since early 2017. Recent encouraging trends in opioid prescriptions highlight the importance of such data-driven educational events. Nonetheless, Mississippi's prescription rates remain high and warrant continuous educational outreach and preventive efforts. It should also be noted that The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure revised its regulations on prescribing opioids and other controlled substances in late October of 2018. Information about the new regulations can be found at The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure's website.[1]

SUSPECTED DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS

FINDINGS

➢ There were 7.0 opioid-related overdose deaths per 100,000 persons reported to the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN) in 2018.

➢ In 2018, 210 (61.4%) of the 342 suspected overdose deaths reported to the MBN were opioid-related. The number of opioid-related overdose deaths was 22.1% higher in 2018 than in 2017, and the overall total number of suspected overdose deaths was 34.1% higher in 2018 compared to 2017.

Figure 3. Percentage of Total Suspected Overdose Deaths by Type of Involved Substance, MS, 2018
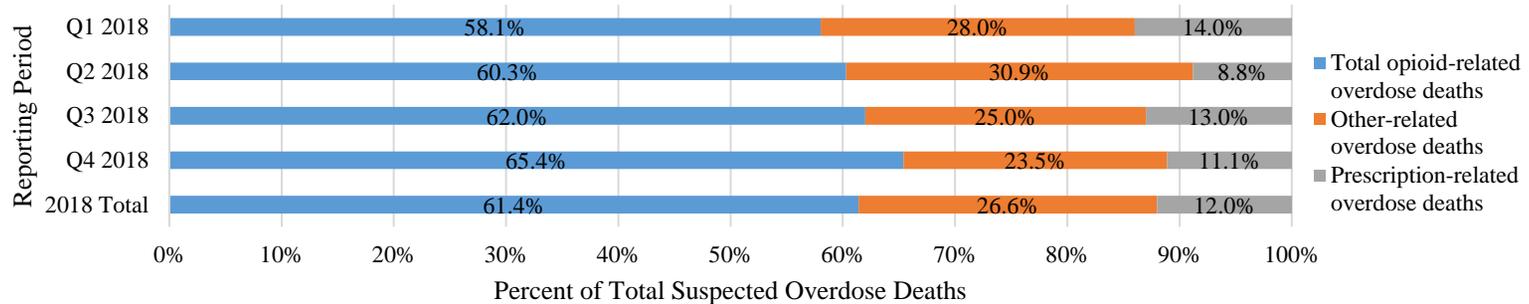

Table 1. Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths Reported to Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics by Type of Involved Substance, MS, 2018

	Q1 2018	Q2 2018	Q3 2018	Q4 2018	2018 Total
Prescription opioid-related	33	23	29	26	111
Fentanyl-related	3	2	8	5	18
Fentanyl and prescription-related	7	7	4	8	26
Heroin-related	6	3	9	6	24
Heroin and prescription-related	0	3	5	6	14
Heroin and fentanyl-related	5	3	7	2	17
Total opioid-related overdose deaths	54	41	62	53	210
Other-related overdose deaths	26	21	25	19	91
Prescription-related overdose deaths	13	6	13	9	41
Overall total suspected overdose deaths	**93**	**68**	**100**	**81**	**342**

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.[2] 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 2018, 127 of the 342 overall total overdose deaths also involved methamphetamines, as did 59 of the 210 total opioid-related overdose deaths.

EMS NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION

FINDINGS

➢ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) data revealed that naloxone was administered 1,740 times during 2018, which is 16.6% less than the number of administrations in 2017.

➢ There were 58.3 EMS naloxone administrations per 100,000 persons in Mississippi in 2018.

➢ The number of naloxone administrations reported by EMS decreased by 32.7% from the first to the fourth quarter of 2018.

➢ On average, 145 naloxone administrations were reported in Mississippi each month during 2018.

Figure 4. Naloxone Administration by EMS: Number of Cases, MS, 2018*
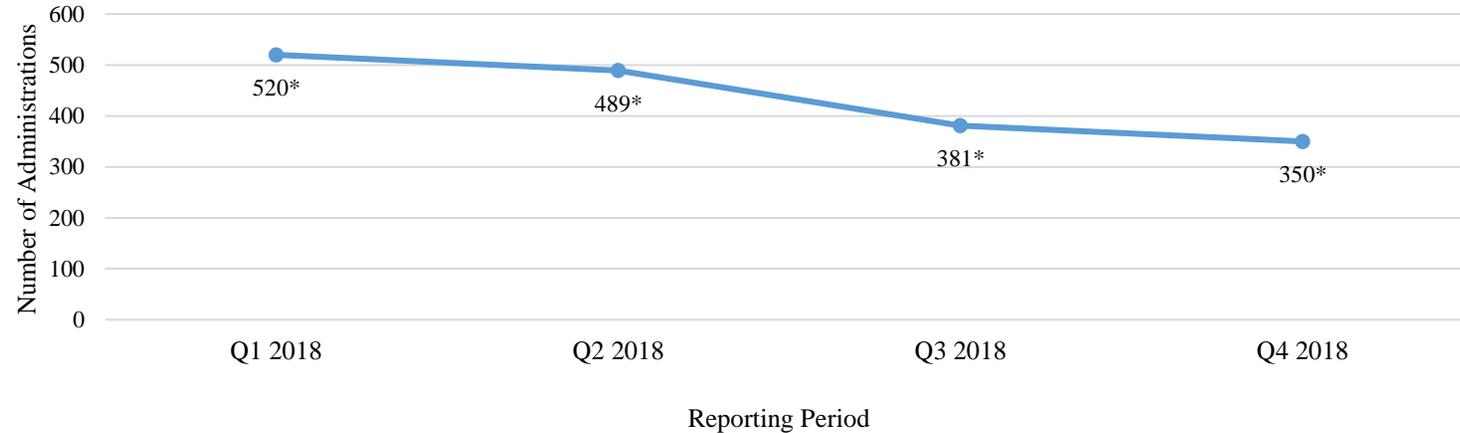
*Transition in data reporting system may lead to future updates

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 4 documents only naloxone distributed through EMS. 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.

EMS NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION – Additional Information

➢ Emergency Medical Services (EMS) provided the following data about the 1,740 individuals to whom naloxone was administered during 2018. Note that some individuals may have been encountered more than once and that not all information was available for each person.
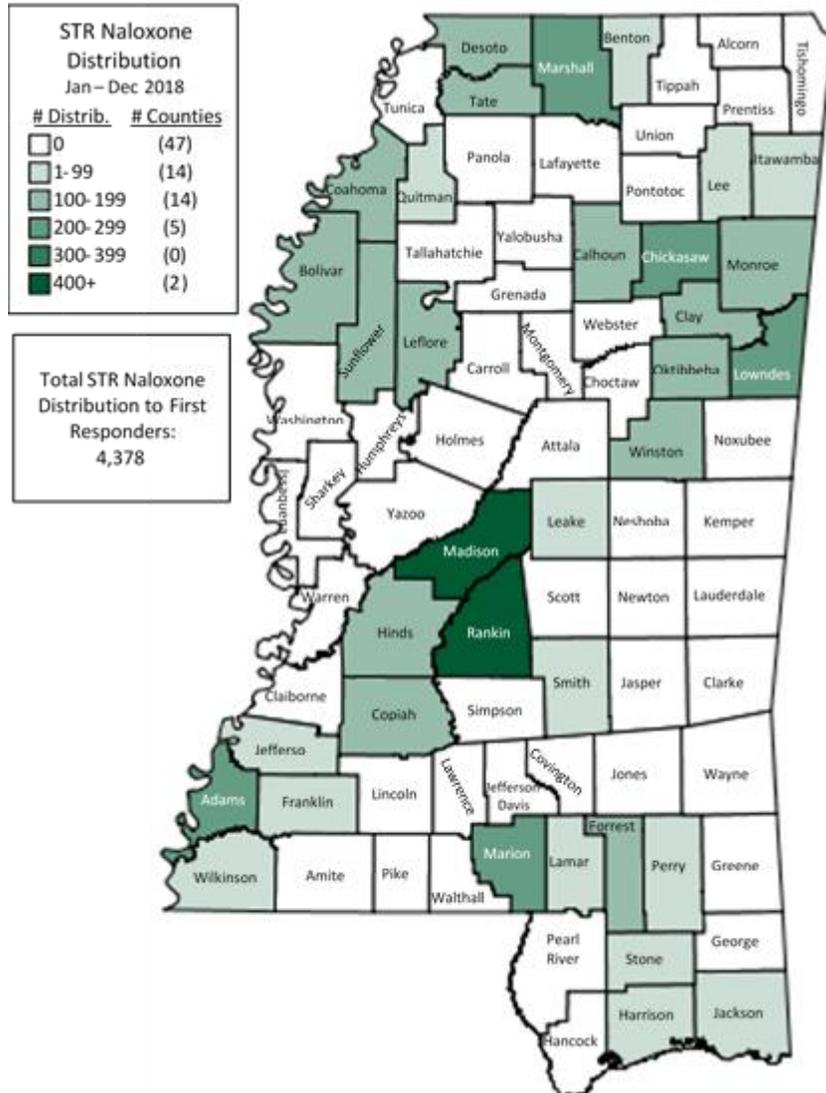
Table 2. Characteristics of Individuals Who Received Naloxone from EMS, MS, 2018

	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	2018 Totals
Total # of administrations	520	489	381	350	1,740
Sex					
Female	241	237	200	182	860 (49.9%)
Male	275	244	180	163	862 (50.1%)
Total	516	481	380	345	1,722
Missing	4	8	1	5	18
Race					
Black/African American	144	138	90	90	462 (28.3%)
White	336	314	267	231	1,148 (70.4%)
Other Race	8	5	6	2	21 (1.3%)
Total	488	457	363	323	1,631
Missing	32	32	18	27	109
Age					
< 18 years	11	11	9	5	36 (2.1%)
18-24 years	39	36	37	27	139 (8.0%)
25-34 years	80	88	60	62	290 (16.7%)
35-44 years	81	80	78	63	302 (17.4%)
45-54 years	91	71	47	40	249 (14.3%)
55-64 years	97	90	70	55	312 (18.0%)
65+ years	120	112	80	97	409 (23.6%)
Total	519	488	381	349	1,737
Missing	1	1	0	1	3
Incident County = Home County					
No	58	72	43	49	222 (14.6%)
Yes	402	354	281	264	1,301 (85.4%)
Total	460	426	324	313	1,523
Missing	60	63	57	37	217

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

NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION – STR GRANT

Figure 5. Number of STR Naloxone Doses Distributed to First Responders by County, MS, 2018

STR Naloxone Distribution
Jan – Dec 2018

# Distrib.	# Counties
0	(47)
1-99	(14)
100-199	(14)
200-299	(5)
300-399	(0)
400+	(2)

Total STR Naloxone Distribution to First Responders: 4,378

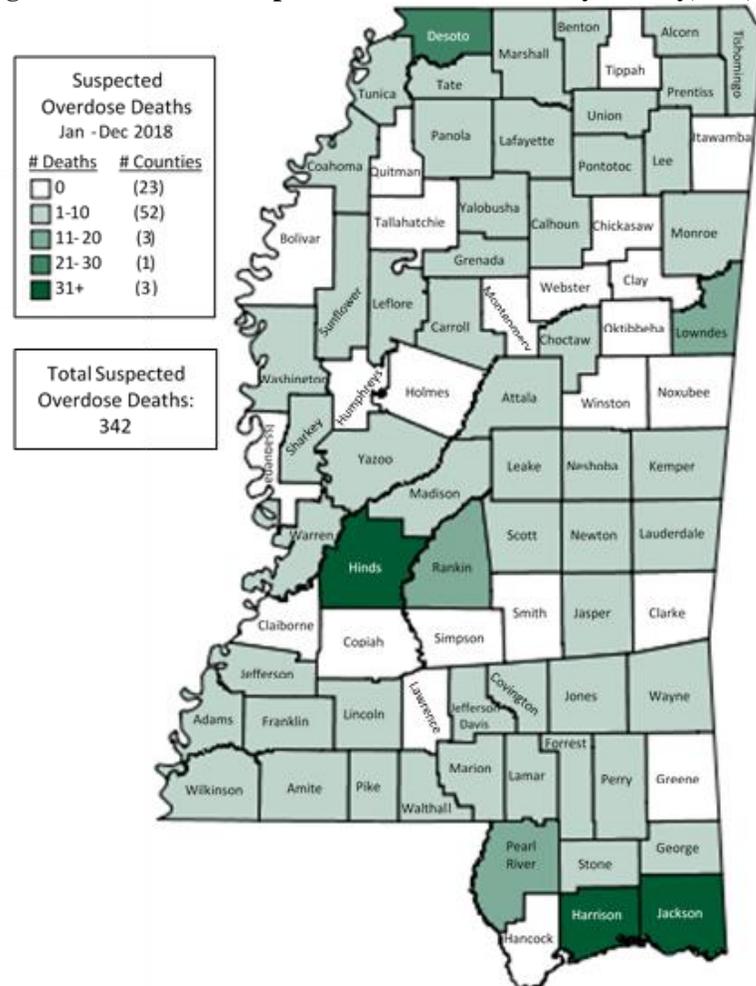Data Source: Mississippi Department of Mental Health

FINDINGS

➢ Since May 2017, more than 14,000 doses of naloxone have been distributed over 250 entities throughout the state of Mississippi through the Mississippi Department of Mental Health's State Targeted Response to the Opioid Crisis (STR) grant.

➢ In 2018 alone, 7,855 doses of naloxone were distributed to nearly 150 entities in Mississippi through the STR.

➢ More than half (55.7%) of these doses were distributed to first response agencies, including county sheriff's offices, non-campus police departments, fire departments, and EMS (see Figure 5).

➢ The remaining doses (44.3%) were distributed to other agencies, such as government organizations (20.6%); treatment centers and community mental health centers (17.5%); schools, community colleges, and universities (2.5%); drug courts, youth courts, and probation offices (1.8%); and adult detention centers and correctional institutions (1.8%).

➢ Rankin and Madison counties received the highest quantities of naloxone doses through the STR grant in 2018. Both counties also ranked in the top 5 counties in Mississippi for number of naloxone administrations by EMS and in the top 10 counties for drug-related arrests per 1,000 people.

SUSPECTED OVERDOSE DEATHS & EMS NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION BY COUNTY

➢ **Suspected Overdose Deaths:** The top 3 counties, Harrison (34), Jackson (31), and Hinds (31), accounted for 28.1% of all suspected overdose deaths in 2018. The 3 counties with the highest numbers of overdose deaths per 1,000 persons in 2018 were Yalobusha (0.32), Pearl River (0.31), and Tunica (0.30).

➢ **Naloxone Administrations:** The top 3 counties, Harrison (265), DeSoto (224), and Rankin (141), accounted for 36.2% of all EMS naloxone administrations in 2018. The 3 counties with the highest numbers of naloxone administrations per 1,000 persons in 2018 were Yalobusha (1.52), Tate (1.34), and Itawamba (1.32).

Figure 6. Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths by County, MS, 2018

Data Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Figure 7. Number of EMS Naloxone Administrations by County, MS, 2018*
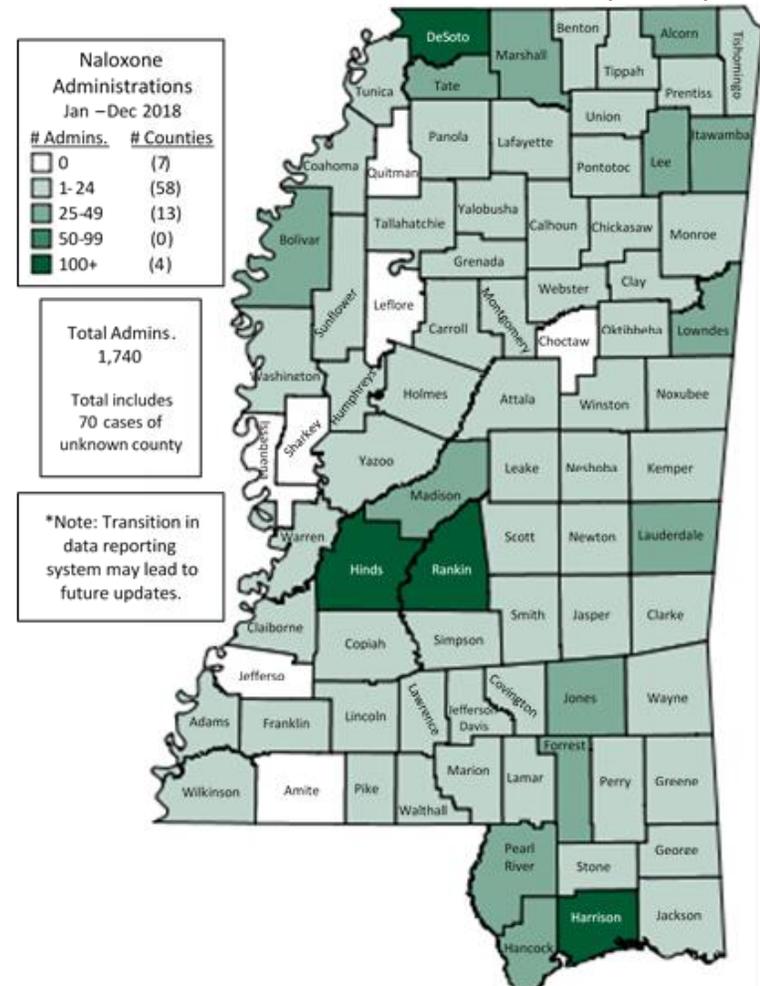
Data Source: Mississippi State Department of Health - EMS

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).
➢ Table 3 indicates that, on average, there were 2.8 admissions per patient during 2018, a 6.7% decrease compared to 2017.
➢ Figure 8 displays the total (primary, secondary, and tertiary) admissions. Opioids were listed as the primary substance for 62.0% of all 2,548 patients admitted in 2018.
➢ The total number of admissions for 2018 was 8.2% lower than the overall admission total for 2017, and the total number of unique patients was 0.7% lower than the overall unique patient total for 2017.

Table 3. Number of Admissions and Unique Patients, Department of Mental Health, MS, 2018

	Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		2018 Totals	
	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients
Primary	1,404	417	1,075	428	1,019	376	817	360	4,315	1,581
Secondary	572	182	513	172	384	164	428	151	1,897	669
Tertiary	280	92	196	72	251	68	161	66	888	298
Total	**2,256**	**691**	**1,784**	**672**	**1,654**	**608**	**1,406**	**577**	**7,100**	**2,548**

Figure 8. Substance Use Disorders:
Number of Total Admissions and Unique Patients, MS, 2018
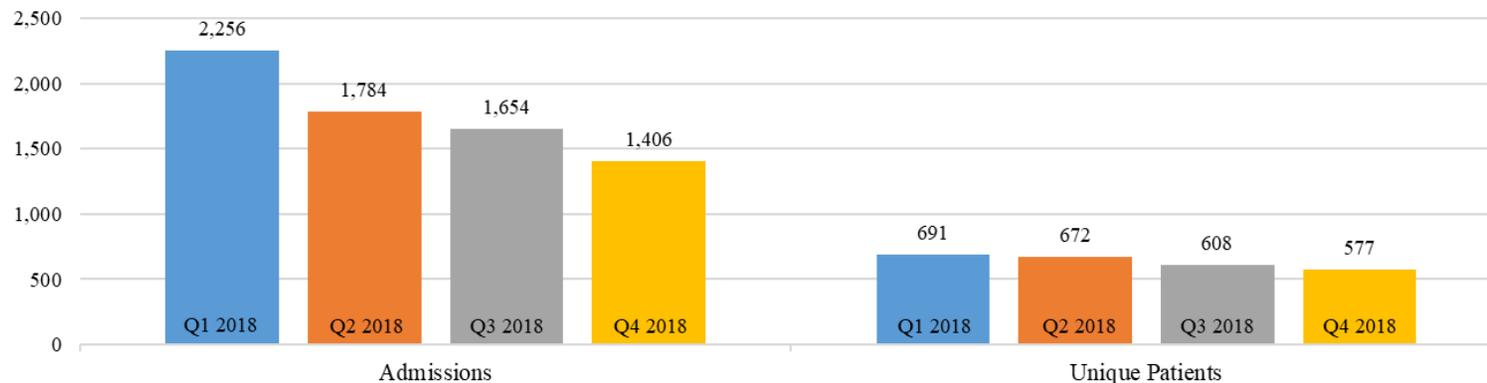
NOTE: The number of admissions is consistently higher than the number of patients because patients can be admitted to multiple programs or relapse.

## 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.
- The "other opioids" category includes prescription opioids and constituted 71.1% of all opioid-related admissions in 2018. Heroin represented 27.6% of admissions, and methadone represented 1.3%. These figures are similar to 2017 totals.
- In 2018, the proportion of unique patients admitted for "other opioids" was 69.7% and was 28.6% for heroin and 1.7% for methadone. These figures are also similar to 2017 totals.

Table 4. Number of Admissions and Unique Patients by Type of Opioid, MS, 2018

	Q1 2018		Q2 2018		Q3 2018		Q4 2018		2018 Totals	
	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients	Admissions	Patients
Heroin	591	187	393	199	576	165	400	179	1,960	730
Methadone	28	9	25	13	13	13	26	8	92	43
Other Opioids	1,637	495	1,366	460	1,065	430	980	390	5,048	1,775
Total	**2,256**	**691**	**1,784**	**672**	**1,654**	**608**	**1,406**	**577**	**7,100**	**2,548**

Figure 9. Treatment Admissions and Unique Patients by Type of Opioid: MS, 2018
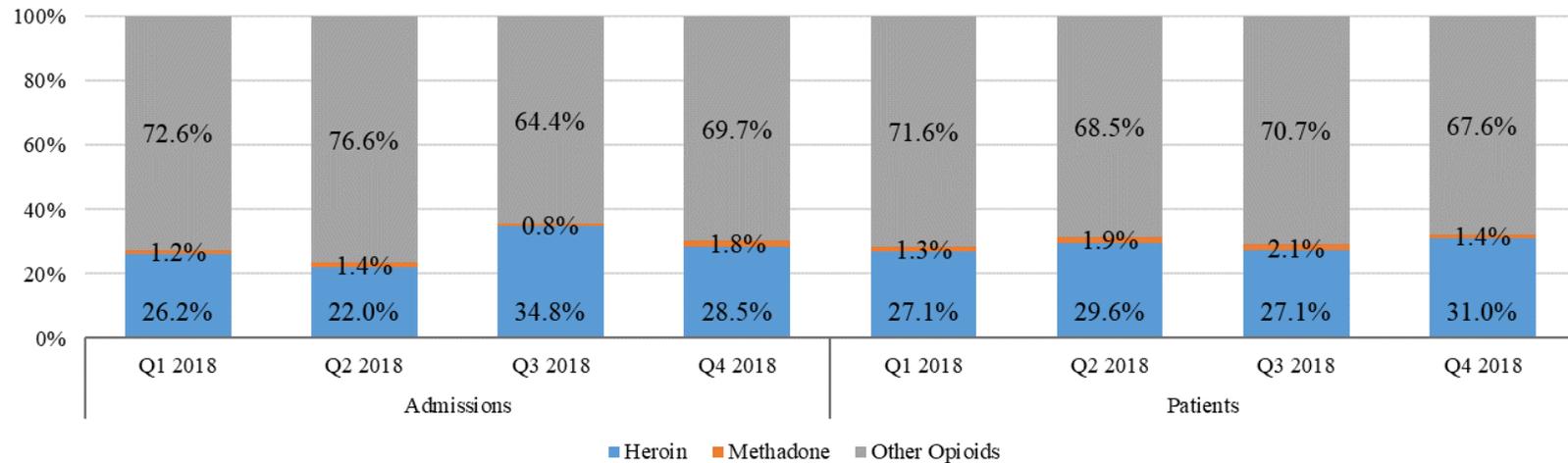
CONSIDERATIONS: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) estimates that 121,000 Mississippians are in need of substance use disorder treatment services.[3] Currently, Mississippi does not have the capacity to provide treatment for all the patients in need.

DRUG-RELATED CRIME DATA

FINDINGS

Drug-Related Arrests:

➢ The total number of drug-related arrests reported in 2018 was 16,985, which is 13.6% less than in 2017.

➢ There were 568.7 drug-related arrests per 100,000 persons reported to the MBN in 2018.

➢ On average, 1,415 drug-related arrests were reported in Mississippi each month during 2018.

➢ There were 608 fewer drug-related arrests in Q4 2018 compared to Q1 2018, representing a 13.7% decrease.

Pharmacy Burglaries:

➢ The total number of completed pharmacy burglaries reported in 2018 was 18, which was a 52.6% decrease compared 2017.

➢ Six (33.3%) of the 18 pharmacy burglaries in the state in 2018 occurred in DeSoto County.

➢ More than half of all pharmacy burglaries occurred on Sunday (22.2%) or Monday (38.9%) in 2018.

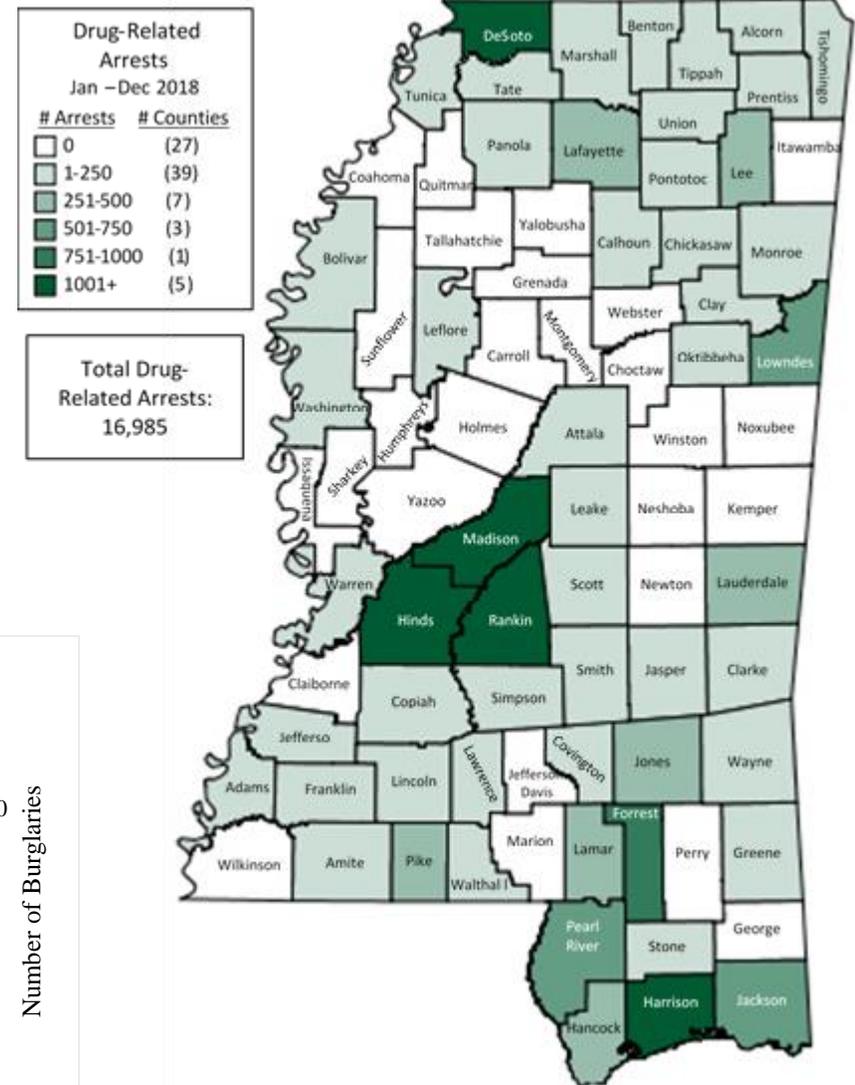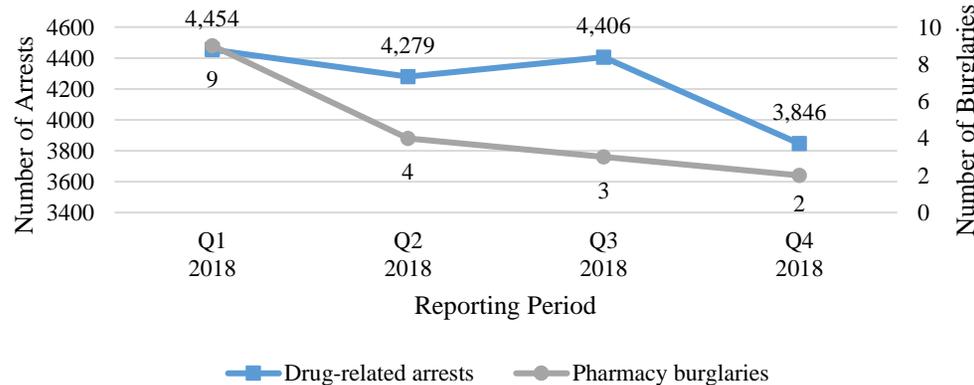**Figure 10. Number of Drug-Related Arrests by County, MS, 2018**

Data Source: Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics

Figure 11. Drug-Related Arrests and Pharmacy Burglaries by Quarter: Mississippi, 2018

DRUG TAKE-BACK

UPCOMING DRUG TAKE-BACK DAY:
APRIL 27, 2019

➢ 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.

➢ In April and October 2018 combined, a total of 1,863,282 pounds of drugs were collected across the United States.[4] During the same events, 9,568 pounds were collected in Mississippi.

Figure 12. National Prescription Drug Take Back Day Results
Number of Collection Sites and Weight Collected
United States, May 2016 - October 2018
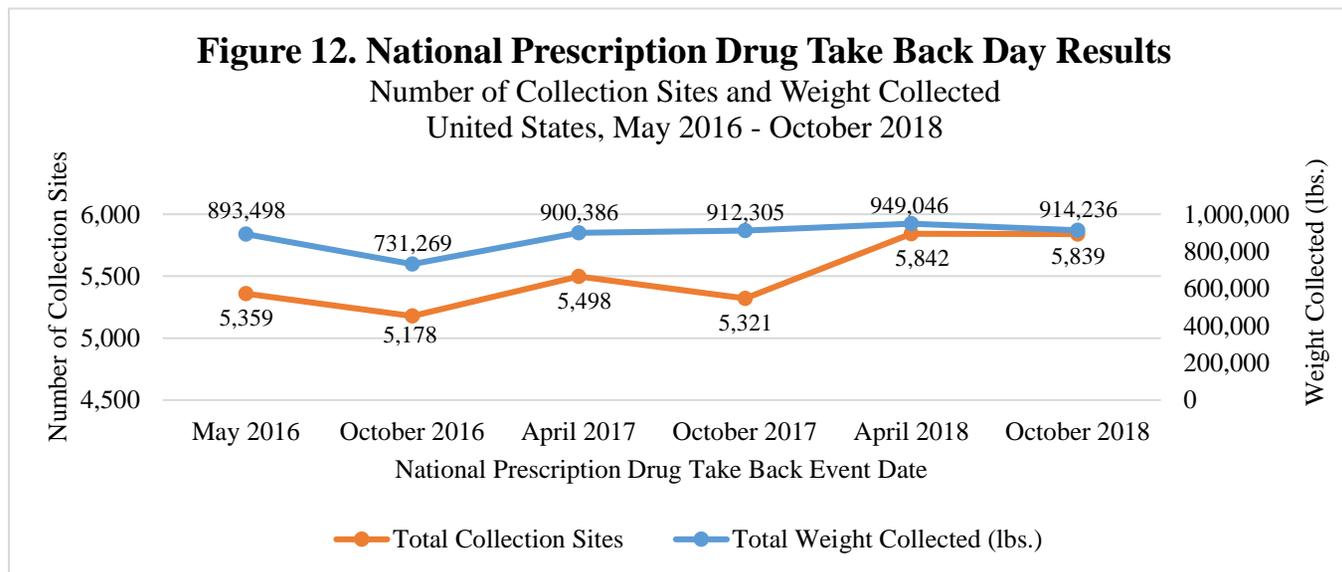
➢ In addition to the national events, prescription drop boxes are available year-round at law enforcement locations in the following areas in Mississippi:[5]

Bay St. Louis	Byram	Gulfport	Louisville	Moss Point	Oxford	Ridgeland	Waveland
Biloxi	Columbus	Kemper Co.	McComb	Natchez	Pascagoula	Smith Co.	
Brandon	D'Iberville	Long Beach	Woolmarket	Ocean Springs	Pass Christian	Vicksburg	

COUNTY-LEVEL DATA: 2018

Table 5. Suspected Overdose Deaths, EMS Naloxone Administrations, and Drug-Related Arrests Reported by County, MS, 2018

County	Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths	Number of EMS Naloxone Administrations*	Number of Reported Drug-Related Arrests	County	Number of Suspected Overdose Deaths	Number of EMS Naloxone Administrations*	Number of Reported Drug-Related Arrests
Adams	4	4	224	Leflore	1	0	48
Alcorn	7	28	67	Lincoln	1	3	90
Amite	1	0	88	Lowndes	11	32	597
Attala	1	2	25	Madison	7	49	1,044
Benton	1	8	10	Marion	5	6	0
Bolivar	0	26	46	Marshall	2	32	205
Calhoun	1	5	6	Monroe	2	7	33
Carroll	1	3	0	Montgomery	0	1	0
Chickasaw	0	7	69	Neshoba	2	4	0
Choctaw	2	0	0	Newton	1	17	0
Claiborne	0	3	0	Noxubee	0	2	0
Clarke	0	4	24	Oktibbeha	0	8	50
Clay	0	2	84	Panola	6	5	60
Coahoma	3	14	0	Pearl River	17	49	729
Copiah	0	4	100	Perry	2	3	0
Covington	5	12	50	Pike	4	16	291
DeSoto	25	224	2,724	Pontotoc	5	20	15
Forrest	9	41	968	Prentiss	3	18	2
Franklin	1	1	6	Quitman	0	0	0
George	4	11	0	Rankin	18	141	1,480
Greene	0	3	55	Scott	4	13	165
Grenada	3	1	0	Sharkey	1	0	0
Hancock	0	47	267	Simpson	0	9	66
Harrison	34	265	1,150	Smith	0	4	62
Hinds	31	116	2,013	Stone	2	17	131
Holmes	0	2	0	Sunflower	2	1	0
Humphreys	0	3	0	Tallahatchie	0	5	0
Issaquena	0	0	0	Tate	7	38	198
Itawamba	0	31	0	Tippah	0	16	4
Jackson	31	1	565	Tishomingo	1	16	155
Jasper	2	8	158	Tunica	3	11	9
Jefferson	2	0	34	Union	4	11	141
Jefferson Davis	1	3	0	Walthall	3	6	39
Jones	6	32	435	Warren	2	18	125
Kemper	2	7	0	Washington	4	13	139
Lafayette	6	22	402	Wayne	4	2	144
Lamar	8	1	406	Webster	0	4	0
Lauderdale	8	43	353	Wilkinson	1	4	0
Lawrence	0	4	4	Winston	0	8	0
Leake	2	6	203	Yalobusha	4	19	0
Lee	9	39	427	Yazoo	3	9	0

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.

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

COUNTY HIGHLIGHTS: 2018

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

Drug-Related Arrests per 1,000 Persons by County, MS, 2018		
Rank	**County**	**Drug-Related Arrests per 1,000 Persons**
1	DeSoto	15.2
2	Pearl River	13.2
3	Forrest	12.8
4	Lowndes	10.1
5	Madison	10.0

EMS Naloxone Administrations per 1,000 Persons by County, MS, 2018*		
Rank	**County**	**Naloxone Administrations per 1,000 Persons**
1	Yalobusha	1.52
2	Tate	1.34
3	Itawamba	1.32
4	Harrison	1.29
5	DeSoto	1.25

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

Suspected Overdose Deaths per 1,000 Persons by County, MS, 2018		
Rank	**County**	**Suspected Overdose Deaths per 1,000 Persons**
1	Yalobusha	0.32
2	Pearl River	0.31
3	Tunica	0.30
4	Jefferson	0.28
5	Covington	0.26

MISSISSIPPI BUREAU OF NARCOTICS DISTRICTS

- Figure 13 displays the 9 districts used by the Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics (MBN).
- Table 7 shows the 5 districts with the highest rates of suspected overdose deaths, EMS naloxone administrations, and drug-related arrests in 2018.

Figure 13. Mississippi Bureau of Narcotics Districts

Table 7. Rank of MBN Districts: Rates of Suspected Overdose Deaths, EMS Naloxone Administrations, Drug-Related Arrests, 2018
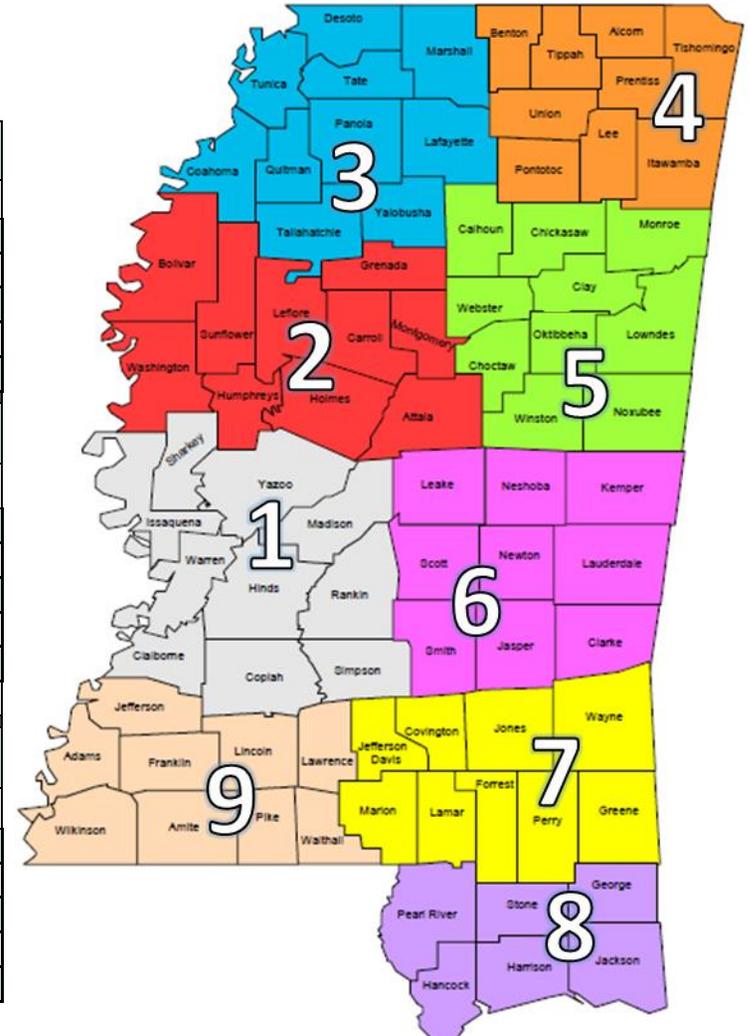
Suspected Overdose Deaths per 10,000 Persons by MBN District, MS, 2018		
Rank	MBN District	Suspected Overdose Deaths per 10,000 Persons
1	8	1.79
2	3	1.41
3	7	1.31
4	4	1.07
5	9	1.01

EMS Naloxone Administrations per 10,000 Persons by MBN District, MS, 2018*		
Rank	MBN District	Administrations per 10,000 Persons
1	3	9.29
2	8	7.93
3	4	6.66
4	1	5.45
5	6	4.49

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

Drug-Related Arrests per 10,000 Persons by MBN District, MS, 2018		
Rank	MBN District	Drug-Related Arrests per 10,000 Persons
1	3	90.35
2	1	75.41
3	7	67.24
4	8	57.80
5	9	46.13

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 all outpatient or inpatient services, including medication-assisted treatment and 665 residential beds, provided by the 39 DMH-certified treatment providers across the state. Treatments within non-DMH certified facilities and general hospital admissions for substance use disorders are not a part of this report, thereby creating a possible undercount.

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 offices. Additionally, crime statistics are influenced by the scope of law enforcement activities. An increased level of law enforcement, for example, may lead to increased arrest rates for particular offenses.

Population Estimates for Mississippi: Rates were calculated using the 2017/2018 Mississippi population estimates released by the U.S. Census Bureau. Accessed on 2/21/2019 at: https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/tableservices/jsf/pages/productview.xhtml?pid=PEP_2017_PEPANNRES&src=pt

References:

1. Prescribing Regulation Tools. The Mississippi State Board of Medical Licensure. Accessed on 3/12/2019 at https://www.msbml.ms.gov/PR_Tools
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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 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