INCREASE IN FATAL DRUG OVERDOSE ACROSS THE USA DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

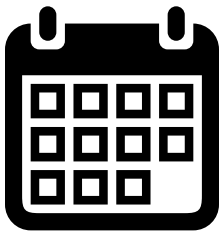
Know the facts:

Background

According to available data from the CDC (Centers for Disease Control), approximately 81,230 drug overdose deaths occurred in a 12-month period ending in May 2020

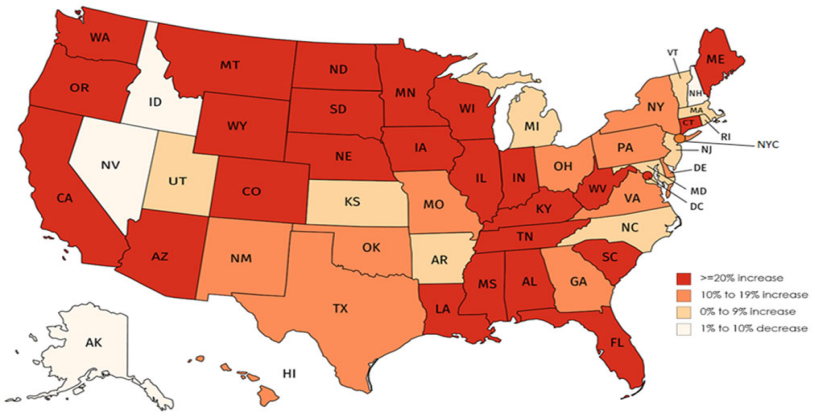
The effect of COVID-19

Increases in drug overdose deaths accelerated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the greatest increases in deaths occurring in March, April, and May 2020



Cause for concern

The reported increases in overdose deaths in one month are the largest increases documented since January 2015



Take a closer look:

The map on the left shows the percent change in fatal drug overdoses from June 2019 to May 2020. In more than half the county there was greater than or equal to a 20% increase in overdose deaths.

Source:HAN Archive - 00438 [Internet]. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; 2020 [cited 2021Jan8]. Available from: https://emergency.cdc.gov/han/2020/han00438.asp?ACSTrackingID=USCDC_1026-DM45245&ACSTrackingLabel=December+2020+Drug+Overdose+Updates&deliveryName=USCDC_1026-DM45245

UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND SCHOOL OF PHARMACY

BHRT
The Behavioral Health Resources & Technical Assistance Program