Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board

Accidental Overdose Death Cases Reviewed for 2017
July 2018
The Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board (OFRB) was developed in August 2016, in order to address the Opioid Crisis.

The goal of the Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board is to prevent overdose deaths by:

- Identifying overdose trends in Yavapai County;
- Identifying commonalities in overdose deaths;
- Making recommendations based on OFRB findings;
- Developing action steps that improve policies and programs to prevent overdose deaths.

Members of the Board include representatives from:

- Arizona Attorney General’s Office
- Arizona Department of Child Safety
- Arizona Department of Public Safety
- Central Arizona Fire District
- Cottonwood Police Department
- First Things First
- Life Line Ambulance
- MATFORCE
- Partners Against Narcotic Trafficking
- Prescott Fire Department
- Prescott Police Department
- Prescott Valley Police Department
- Southwest Behavioral & Health Services
- Verde Valley Fire District
- West Yavapai Guidance Clinic
- Yavapai Family Advocacy Center
- Yavapai College Police Department
- Yavapai County Adult Probation
- Yavapai County Attorney’s Office
- Yavapai County Community Health Services
- Yavapai County Medical Examiner’s Office
- Yavapai County Public Defender’s Office
- Yavapai County Sheriff’s Office
- Yavapai County Superior Court
- Local pharmacists

The OFRB reviews selected, unintentional overdose cases. The OFRB examines the Medical Examiner’s report, police report, mental health history, medical history and the legal history of the decedent.

When possible the family is interviewed to gather additional information on drug and alcohol use history, employment, education, family dynamics, etc. The responding police officer also attends the OFRB review when possible.
The Yavapai County Overdose Fatality Review Board examined a total of 22 accidental overdose deaths that occurred in Yavapai County in 2017. Of the 22 deaths, 12 of the cases were completely reviewed.

Demographics for 12 Overdose Cases Reviewed

Location of deaths:

- 6 Deaths in Prescott
- 1 Death in Cottonwood
- 5 Deaths in Prescott Valley

In the twelve deaths, the causes of death as listed by the Medical Examiner are as follows:

- 5 Cases: Mixed drug intoxication
- 2 Cases: Mixed heroin and methamphetamine intoxication
- 1 Case: Methamphetamine and ethanol Intoxication
- 1 Case: Mixed drug (fentanyl) intoxication
- 1 Case: Acute methamphetamine intoxication
- 1 Case: Acute heroin intoxication
- 1 Case: Mixed drug and ethanol intoxication
Drug-Related Deaths in Yavapai County

Commonalities of Decedents identified by the Overdose Fatality Review Board

**Behavioral Health**
- 11 of 12 had a reported mental illness

**Criminal History**
- 5 of 12 were on probation or parole at the time of death
- 6 of 12 had spent time in jail and or prison

**Substance Abuse Treatment**
- 10 of 12 had received outpatient treatment
- 10 of 12 had received inpatient treatment
- 1 of 12 had received Medication Assisted Treatment
- 3 of 12 came to Yavapai County for treatment

**Family History of Substance Abuse**
- 3 of 12 had family members with a history of drug and alcohol addiction
- 2 of 12 had a significant other who died from a drug overdose

**Employment & Housing**
- 6 of 12 were unemployed at time of death
- 3 of 12 were homeless at time of death

Please Note: This information is a snapshot of the total deaths and is not inclusive of all overdose deaths in Yavapai County.
2 of 12 had a history of suicide attempts

9 of 12 used alcohol and marijuana at an early age

Drug-Related Deaths in Yavapai County

Commonalities of Decedents
identified by the Overdose Fatality Review Board

10 of 12 were prescribed opioids by a doctor at some time

8 of 12 had significant medical issues

Please Note: This information is a snapshot of the total deaths and is not inclusive of all overdose deaths in Yavapai County.