



Public Health Alert: Increase in Drug Overdose Activity

June 24, 2022

This alert is intended for ED personnel, EMS, AOD providers, and Law Enforcement.

San Mateo County is seeing increasing drug overdose activity and a spike in drug related deaths. We are not fully sure of the causes, but fentanyl appears to be playing a large role.

Recommended Actions:

- Increase knowledge of [fentanyl](https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/) (<https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/>) use and [overdose prevention tips](https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/fentanyl-use-overdose-prevention-tips/) (<https://harmreduction.org/issues/fentanyl/fentanyl-use-overdose-prevention-tips/>)
- Offer patient education
- Increase distribution of [Naloxone](https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/Naloxone_Distribution_Project.aspx) (Narcan) for patients and connected communities (https://www.dhcs.ca.gov/individuals/Pages/Naloxone_Distribution_Project.aspx)
- Encourage harm reduction measures for your patients / clients:
 - Do not use alone
 - Carry Narcan
 - Test substances prior to consumption using fentanyl test strips

Contact IMAT at San Mateo Medical Center for help getting treatment and/or test strips at (650) 573.2735:

English: https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/imat_info_flyer_english11_21.pdf?1643418877

Spanish: https://www.smchealth.org/sites/main/files/file-attachments/imat_info_flyer_spanish_final.pdf?1643418875

Background:

The San Mateo County Public Health Department conducts on-going drug-related overdose surveillance. Over the past weekend (June 17 to June 20, 2022) a higher-than-average number of drug overdoses and deaths were noted. Due to the number of overdoses in a short period of time, we are sending this alert to increase your situational awareness.

After reviewing 6 cases that occurred last weekend, here is a summary of key findings:

- Ages range from 23 years old to 44 years old
- 70% male, 30% female
- 50% of patients died at the scene
- Suspected drugs include fentanyl, and fentanyl + stimulant(s)
- 50% of events occurred in North County, 30% in Mid-County, and 20% in South County
- 50% were outdoors/in a vehicle and 50% were in a residence





SAN MATEO COUNTY HEALTH

**PUBLIC HEALTH,
POLICY & PLANNING**

Dr. Scott Morrow, Health Officer
Marc Meulman, Director

Public Health, Policy & Planning
225 37th Avenue
San Mateo, CA 94403
smchealth.org

In July, County Health's Epidemiology program will begin an effort to collect current drug-testing processes across every hospital within San Mateo County via a survey.

The goal of the survey is to increase understanding of current ED drug testing and tracking as well as develop potential reporting and learning opportunities. This effort aligns with the County's goal to combat community-wide risks of drug-related overdoses and deaths.

###