

2020 Year-End Overdose Brief



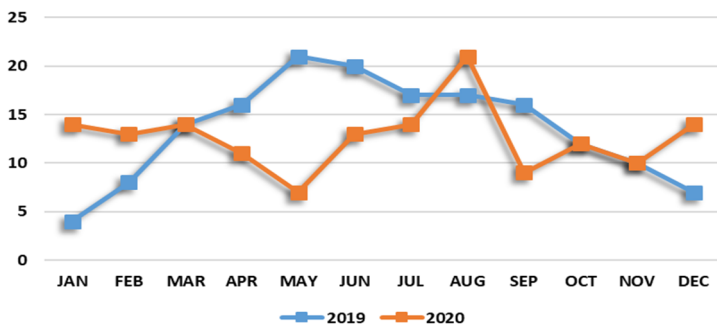
ATTLEBORO POLICE



Executive Summary

There were ten fewer victims of overdoses across every drug type according to police records in 2020 (n=152). While there was a 6% decline in overdoses in 2020 vs 2019, the number of overdoses stayed consistent when compared to the five-year historical average. Overdose events involving heroin dropped by 12%, while overdoses involving prescription pills increased this year. In addition, opioid-suspected deaths dropped with 14 fewer deaths reported in 2020 (n=6). White males continue to make up the majority of victims (63%) followed by white females (33%) with the ages between 25 and 44 having the highest risk. Trends noted in recent years continued into 2020. One-out-of-three victims overdosed in a public setting while the city's lone hotel became the number one spot for overdoses. Repeat victimization fell after it saw a sharp increase in 2019, but these individuals still accounted for one-quarter of all events in 2020. In addition, there were sixteen locations in the city where 30% of all overdoses occurred. A map of overdose events for 2019 / 2020 is provided.

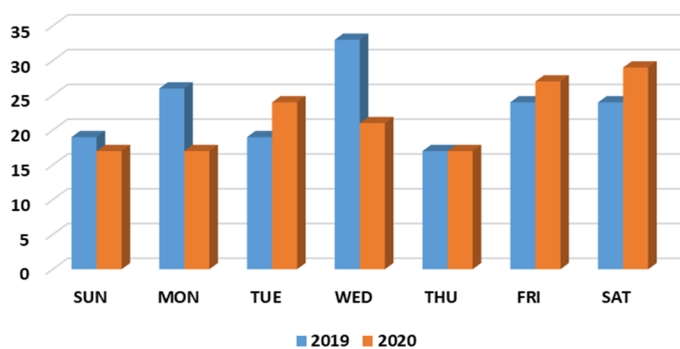
Overdose Events by Month



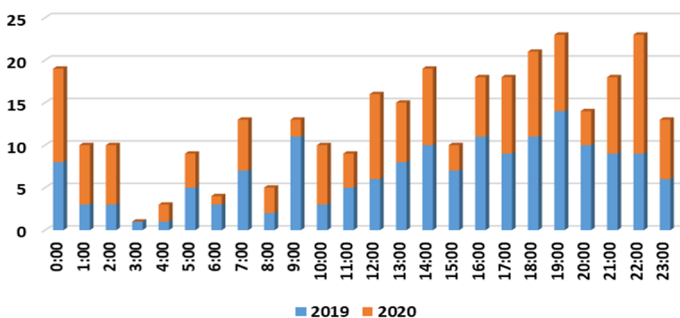
2020 Year-End Analysis

- 152 OD events reported in 2020, ten fewer than 2019, and of which at least 100 are suspected opioid-related events.
- There were six opioid-suspected deaths in 2020, which is a decline from the twenty deaths reported in 2019.
- At least sixty-six percent of overdoses in 2020 were due to suspected opioids – that percentage in 2019 was 70%. The second highest number of overdoses was due to prescription pills at 21%, an increase from the 14% reported by victims the previous year in 2019.
- Overdose events remained steady throughout the year with a single spike noted in August. That month recorded the third-highest number of overdoses in the last five years.
- One out of every three victims overdosed in a public setting, an increasing trend that was only at 26% in 2017.
- Even though the number of overdose events remained steady when compared to 2019, the number of repeat victims dropped from 23 to 15 in 2020. These 15 individuals accounted for 24% of all overdoses citywide.
- There were 122 addresses where overdoses occurred in 2020, and with sixteen of those addresses experiencing repeat service calls for these overdoses last year. Thirty percent of overdoses in 2020 occurred at one of those 16 locations, which mirrors a similar number of overdoses experienced at certain locations in 2019 (35%).

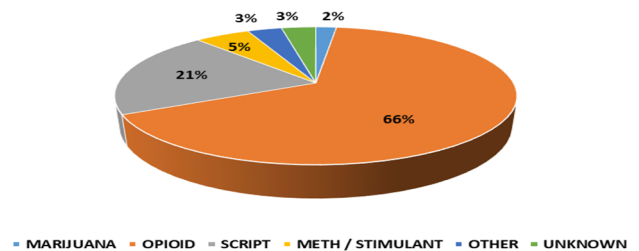
Overdose Events by Day



Overdose Event Timeframe



Suspected Drug Type

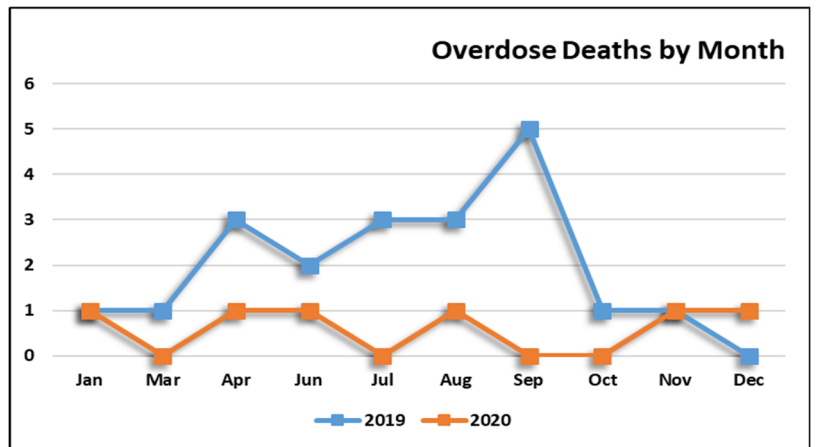
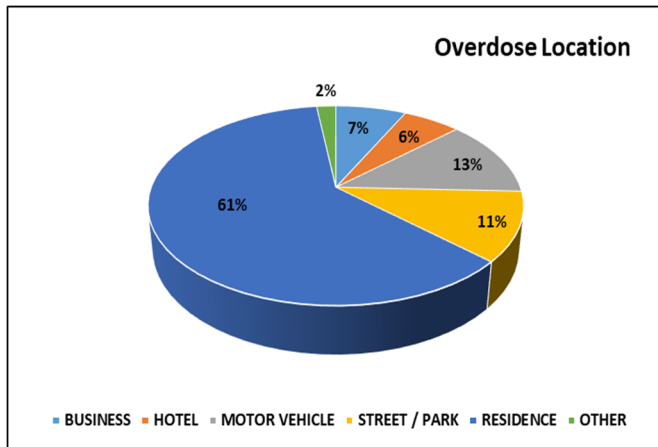
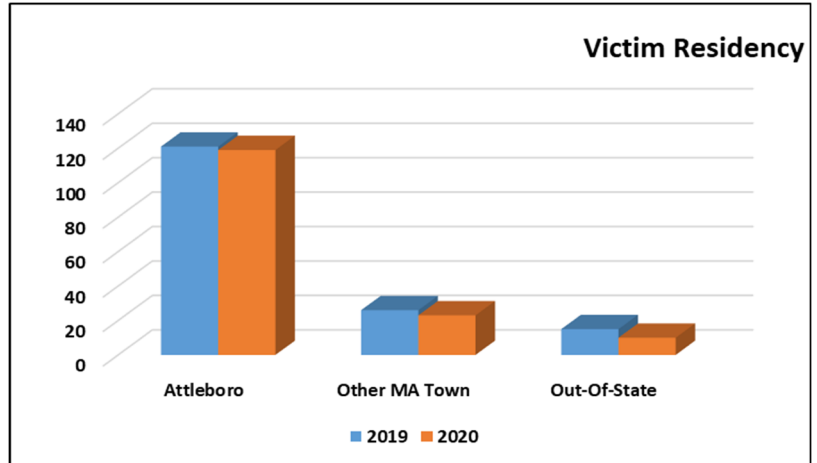
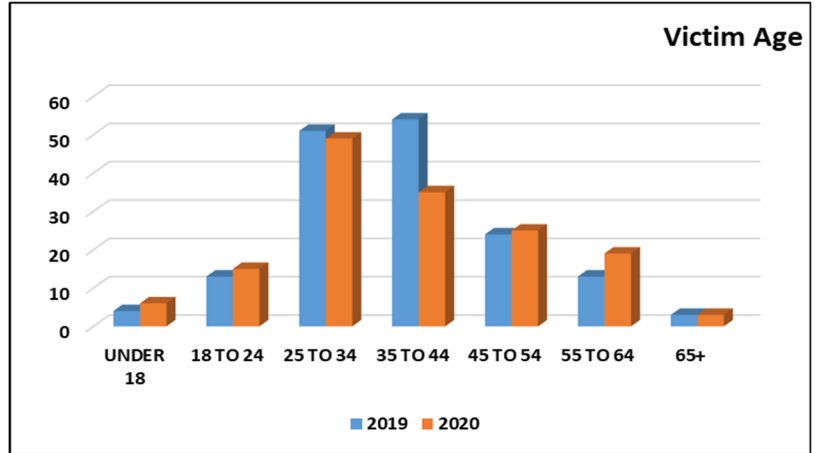
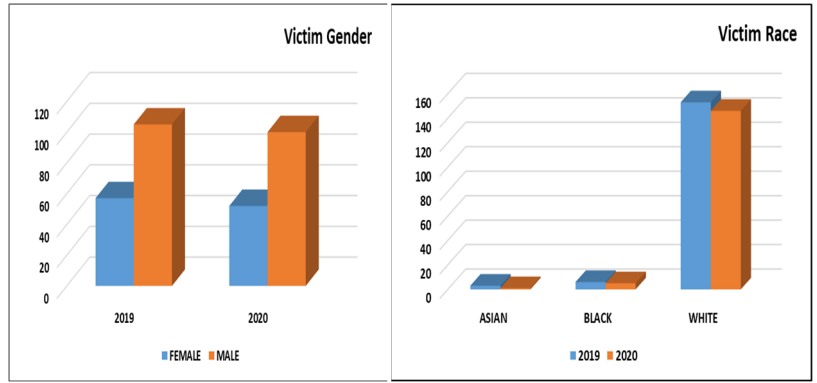


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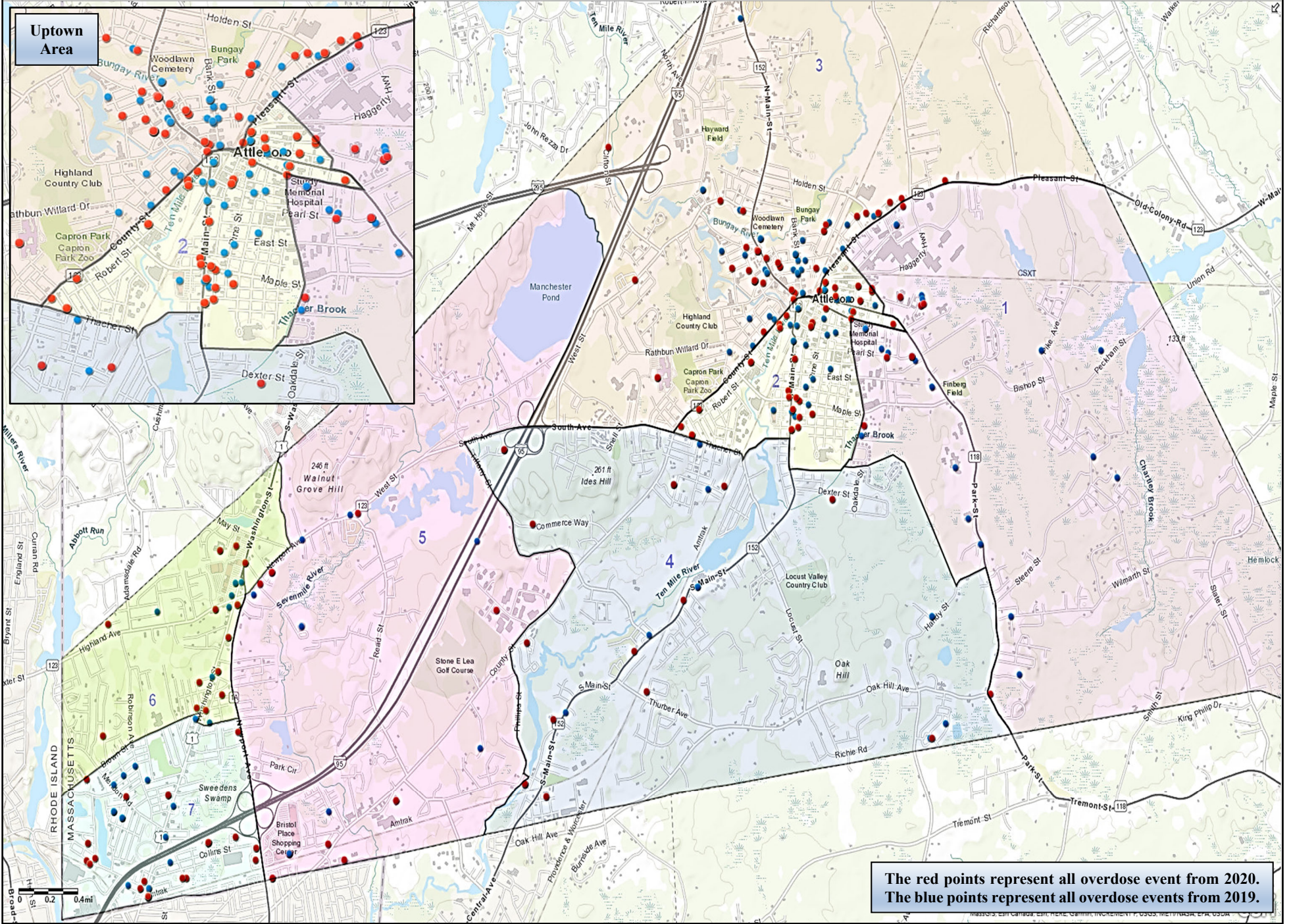
2020 Victim Demographics

- 66% of victims in 2020 were male, with similar findings in 2017 (66%) and 2019 (65%)
- The number of non-white victims dropped again in 2020 and only accounted for 3.9% of victims. They accounted for 5.5% of victims in 2019 and 10% of victims in 2018. Victims of Hispanic descent accounted for 9% of the victim population, which is an increase from the 6% reported in 2019.
- Millennial individuals (25 to 34) were the most affected age group in 2020 after being overtaken by the “Gen-X” age group for the first time in 2019. They accounted for 32% of victims while the 35 to 44 age group was the second most affected group and accounted for 23% of victims in 2020.
- Attleboro residents continue to make up the bulk of victims (78%), a trend that continues from prior years – 2019 (77%); 2018 (76%) and 2017 (76%).
- Thirteen victims who overdosed in 2020 also overdosed the prior year in 2019. Similar trends were also noted in 2019 (n=14), 2018 (n=13) and 2017 (n=12).
- There were 6 suspected opioid-related deaths in 2020*, which is 14 fewer deaths than 2019. All deceased victims were non-Hispanic, white parties (4 Male / 2 Female) of various ages between 19 and 58.
- Narcan administration by AFD personnel and private citizens (as noted in police department records) was noted in 52% of incidents, an increase from the 42% noted in reports from 2019.

*The number of deaths may change based on future information from the Massachusetts Office of the Chief Medical Examiner.



The information contained within this brief should be considered preliminary and is solely intended to identify any trends and patterns in the city of Attleboro. The number of overdoses reported includes only those incidents that were reported to the Police Department and to which APD responded. These numbers may not represent all overdoses and should not be considered a final or comprehensive count of overdoses events.



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