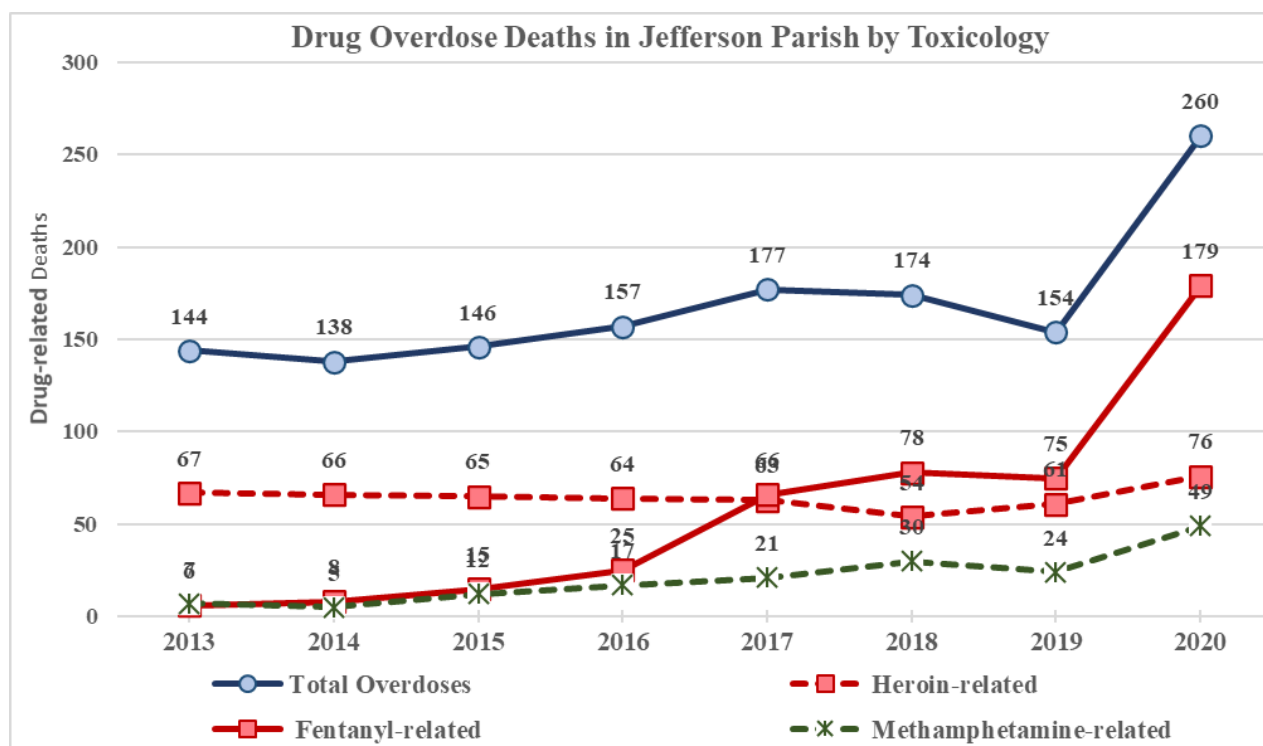


**Drug Overdose Deaths in Jefferson Parish,  
2013 through 2020 (eight years), based  
on the Jefferson Parish Coroner  
2020 Annual Report<sup>1</sup>**

Coroners are required to determine the cause for deaths occurring within their jurisdiction for those deaths specified in Louisiana Law (RS 13:5713) and to report those deaths to the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH). In addition, investigations are required in cases that may be homicide, suicide, deaths that are the result of an accident, sudden or unexplained deaths. (This includes accidental drug-related deaths.) Investigations of certain cases may take a month or longer to complete and require updating of preliminary data reported to LDH.

Among deaths from unnatural causes in 2020, the Jefferson Parish Coroner Office (JPCO) reported 260 drug overdose deaths, including 179 fentanyl-related, 76 heroin-related and 49 methamphetamine-related deaths. Multiple drugs are often found to contribute to an individual's death. Therefore, counts for specific drugs are not mutually exclusive. For instance, fentanyl is often found mixed with other opiates or cocaine.



- From 2016 through 2019 the total annual number of drug-overdose deaths in Jefferson Parish remained relatively constant, between 154 and 177. Then, **between 2019 and 2020 total drug-overdose deaths in Jefferson Parish increased 69%, from 154 to 260.**
- Fentanyl-related overdose deaths rose from 25 in 2016 to between 66 and 78 for 2017 through 2019. Then, **from 2019 to 2020 fentanyl-related overdose deaths more than doubled, from 75 to 179 (a 139% increase).**

<sup>1</sup> Page 15. Last revised June 28, 2021: [http://jpcoroner.com/2013\\_Annual-Reports](http://jpcoroner.com/2013_Annual-Reports).

- For 2019 fentanyl was found in almost half of all drug overdose deaths (49%) while **in 2020 fentanyl was found in over two-thirds of drug overdose deaths (69%)**.
- The number of fentanyl-related overdose deaths increased by 104 cases between 2019 and 2020, while the total drug overdose deaths increase by about the same number, 106. Thus, **the increase in total drug-overdose deaths (2019 to 2020) is principally attributable to an increase in fentanyl-related overdose deaths**.
- During the period 2013 through 2020, the number of heroin-related overdose deaths remained relatively stable, between 54 and 67 annually, but then increased about 25% to 76 in 2020. **In 2020, heroin was found in 29% of drug overdose deaths**.
- From 2013 through 2020, methamphetamine-related overdose deaths increased from 7 to 49 (a 600% increase), and **in 2020 meth was found in 19% of drug overdose deaths**.

**Drug Overdose Deaths in Jefferson Parish, 2014-2020<sup>2</sup>**

| <b>Calendar Year</b> | <b>Total Overdoses</b> | <b>Heroin-related</b> | <b>Fentanyl-related</b> | <b>Methamphetamine-related</b> |
|----------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 2013                 | 144                    | 67                    | 6                       | 7                              |
| 2014                 | 138                    | 66                    | 8                       | 5                              |
| 2015                 | 146                    | 65                    | 15                      | 12                             |
| 2016                 | 157                    | 64                    | 25                      | 17                             |
| 2017                 | 177                    | 63                    | 66                      | 21                             |
| 2018                 | 174                    | 54                    | 78                      | 30                             |
| 2019                 | 154                    | 61                    | 75                      | 24                             |
| 2020                 | 260                    | 76                    | 179                     | 49                             |

<sup>2</sup> Jefferson Parish Coroner. 2020 Annual Report, last revised June 28, 2021, page 12.  
[http://jpcoroner.com/CMS/Resources/documents/annual\\_report\\_2020.pdf](http://jpcoroner.com/CMS/Resources/documents/annual_report_2020.pdf)