

INCIDENT FACTS

REPORT #:

71-202-2020

REPORT DATE:

December 1, 2020

INCIDENT DATE:

August 5, 2020

VICTIM:

53 years old

INDUSTRY:

Painting contractors

OCCUPATION:

Painter

SCENE:

Apartment building complex

EVENT TYPE:

Accidental drug overdose

Painter Dies from Accidental Drug Overdose

SUMMARY

A 53-year-old painter died from an accidental drug overdose at a job site.

Coworkers found him unresponsive in a company van parked at a job site. The medical examiner determined that he died from acute methamphetamine intoxication and that the manner of death was accidental.

Methamphetamines were responsible for 40% (531) of drug-related deaths in Washington State in 2018, more than any other drug. Methamphetamine-related death rates increased from 1.3 in 2008 to 7.2 per 100,000 residents in 2018 according to an analysis by the Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute at the University of Washington.

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, Census of Fatal Occupational Injuries, nationally in 2018, “unintentional overdoses due to nonmedical use of drugs or alcohol while at work increased 12 percent from 272 to 305.” This is the sixth consecutive annual increase.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Drug-Free Workplace Toolkit created by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration provides step-by-step guidance for starting and maintaining drug-free workplace policies and programs.

[Workplace Prevention Basics](#)

[Build a team](#)

[Assess your workplace](#)

[Develop a policy](#)

[Plan and implement a program](#)

[Evaluate your program](#)

[Provide support](#)

RESOURCES

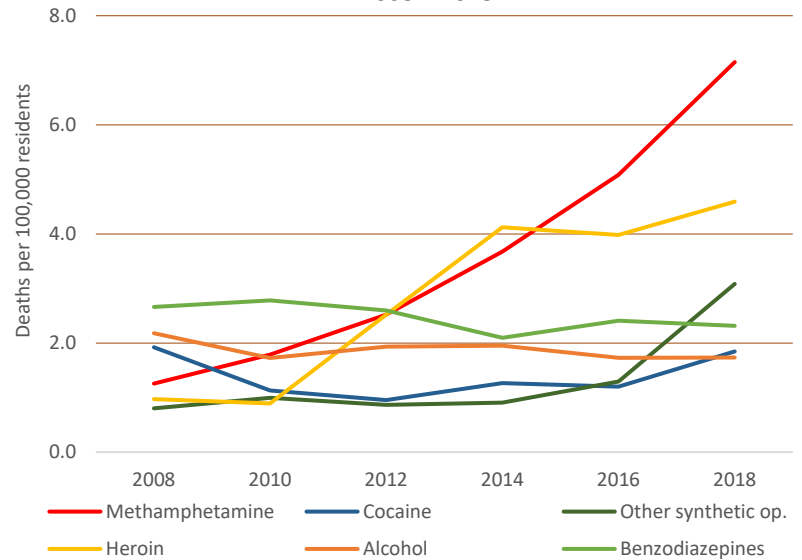
Drug-free Workplace Programs. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). www.samhsa.gov/workplace

Construction workers most likely to use opioids and cocaine (article).

www.ohsonline.com/Articles/2019/11/18/Construction-Workers-Most-Likely-to-Use-Opioids-and-Cocaine.aspx?m=1&p=1

Drug Caused Deaths Across Washington State, University of Washington, Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute (ADAI). www.adai.washington.edu/WAdata/major_drug_deaths.htm

Major drug deaths (per 100,000 residents) in Washington State, 2008 – 2018



Source: University of Washington Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute.

