

Monroe County Overdoses in CLEAN Target Area 2019

Data Analysis for Project CLEAN

CLEAN-2020-02

March 31, 2020



Zahal Kohistani, MLFP
zxkgcj@rit.edu

Janelle Duda-Banwar, PhD, MSW
jmdgci@rit.edu

Irshad Altheimer, PhD
Director, Center for Public Safety Initiatives
iaxgcj@rit.edu

John Klofas, PhD
Director *Emeritus*, Center for Public Safety Initiatives
John.Klofas@rit.edu

Introduction

The focus of this paper is on opioid overdoses for 2019. The data presented in this paper are from the Monroe Crime Analysis Center’s Heroin Task Force Overdose Database. The data were analyzed as part of the Center for Public Safety Initiatives ongoing work with Project CLEAN, a federally funded program run through Ibero-American Development Corporation to disrupt the open-air heroin market in Northeast Rochester. The focus of this paper is on the overdose data for 2019 in the CLEAN Target Area. This data is compared with the overdose data for 2018. The data represents only overdoses known to law enforcement. It is unknown how many overdoses occurred without emergency personnel being contacted.

Overdose Incidence

In 2019, there were 470 overdoses in Rochester, compared to 729 in 2018, this is a 36% decrease in the number of overdoses. Of 470 overdoses in 2019, 67 occurred in the CLEAN target area, of which 11% (n=8) were fatal. In 2018, a total of 95 overdoses occurred in the CLEAN TA, of which 5% (n=5) were fatal. This is a 29% decrease in the number of overdoses in the CLEAN TA from 2018 to 2019.

As seen in the table below, in 2019 there were 403 overdoses in Rochester, excluding the CLEAN TA, of which 19% (n=63) were fatal, compared to 634 in Rochester, excluding CLEAN TA in 2018, of which 18% (n=86) were fatal. Overall, there is a decrease of 36% in the number of overdoses in Rochester, excluding CLEAN TA from 2018 to 2019. The reductions in overdoses could be associated with the increased availability of the opioid reversal medication, Narcan, potentially reducing the likelihood of calling 911 for an overdose.

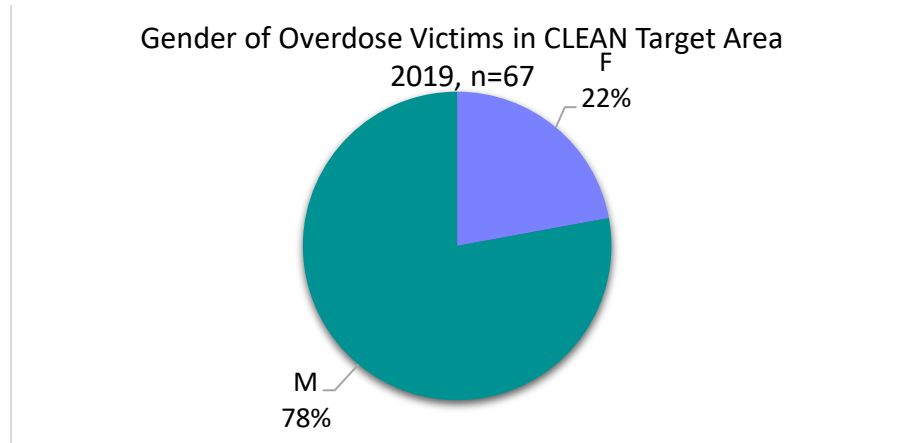
	2019						2018					
	Fatal		NonFatal		Total		Fatal		Nonfatal		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Rochester (excluding CLEAN TA)	63	89%	340	85%	403	86%	86	95%	548	86%	634	87%
CLEAN TA	8	11%	59	15%	67	14%	5	5%	90	14%	95	13%
Rochester Total	71	100%	399	100%	470	100%	91	100%	638	100%	729	100%

Data Note: As the country and local jurisdictions were being hit with the sharply increasing opioid problem, new ways of tracking these overdoses were developed and refined over time. Because of the nature of overdoses, it is difficult to confidently identify what type of drug led to the overdose based on the 911 response. Initially the Monroe County Heroin Task Force collected data on what type of drug they reasonably thought had led to the overdose; over 90% of the overdoses were categorized as opioid overdoses. The Heroin Task Force stopped tracking this variable in the most recent year. While we will present the data as opioid overdoses, it is possible that for some overdoses, the main contributor is another drug, such as cocaine.

In the following sections, we provide data on gender, race/ethnicity, and age of overdose victims for 2019. We then provide information on month, time, day of week, town residence, and responding RPD car beat. We then provide a map of the location of the overdoses and conclude with the location type of the overdoses.

Gender

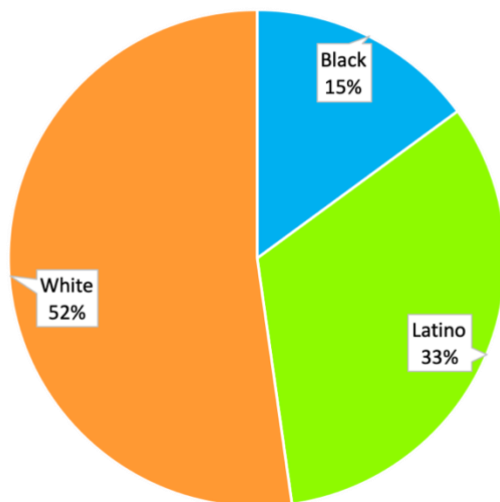
The majority of overdose victims in the Target Area continue to be male and this is consistent with the 2019 data in the TA. This is also consistent with overdoses across the County and City.



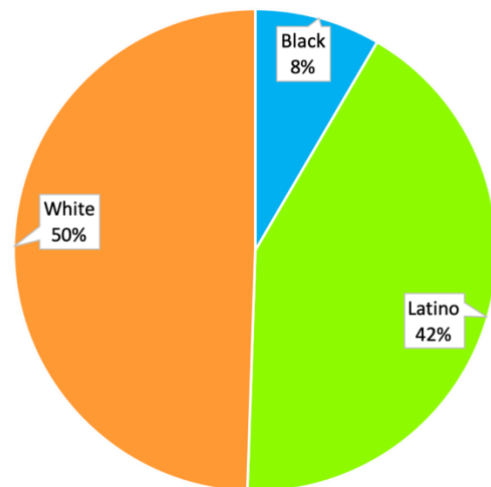
Race/ethnicity

In the CLEAN TA, the majority of overdose victims continue to be white, and this is also consistent with the 2018 data in the TA. However, the proportion of overdose victims that are Latino has decreased, from 42% in 2018 to 33% in 2019. The percent of Black overdose victims has increased from 8% in 2018 to 15% in 2019. The CLEAN TA overdose victims continue to be different from the rest of the city and county in terms of race/ethnicity, since only 21 % of the victims were identified as Latino in Rochester (excluding CLEAN TA) in 2019, whereas, it is 33% in the CLEAN TA.

Race/Ethnicity of Overdose Victims in CLEAN Target Area, 2019
n = 67

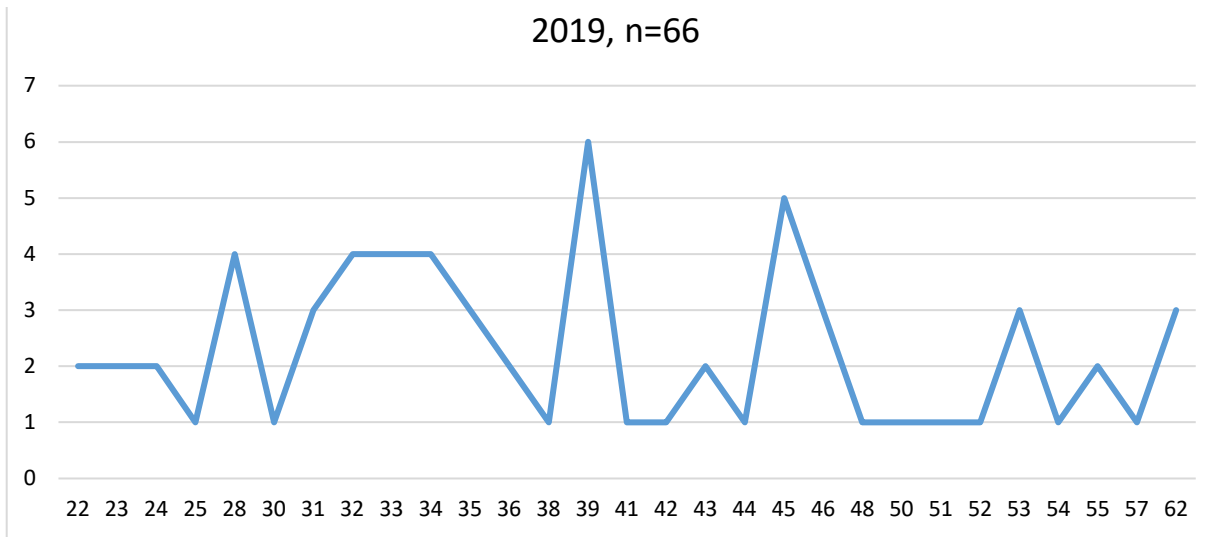


Race/Ethnicity of Overdose Victims in CLEAN Target Area, 2018
n = 95



Age

In 2019, the most common age (mode) and the average age of overdoses victims in the target area was 39 years old, which is slightly higher than in 2018 (mode = 38 years old) and the average age was 28 years old. The most common age (40 years old) and average age (40 years old) of overdoses victims were also higher for Rochester excluding CLEAN Target Area in 2019 compared to 2018, which was reported at 28 years old, and 38 years old, respectively. This data indicates that the age of overdose victims is increasing.



County of Residence

In 2019, 55 of the 67 overdose victims (82%) in the TA were Monroe County residents followed by Wayne County (n = 4). In 2018, 83 of the 95 overdose victims (87%) in the TA were Monroe County residents followed by Genesee County (n = 4) and Ontario County (n = 2) residents.

Town of Residence

For 2019, the majority of overdose victims were Rochester residents (by zip code). However, there were 16 different cities/towns represented. This was similar for 2018, but with 21 different towns/cities represented. Caution should be taken with interpreting the meaning here, because town residence is determined by mailing address, which is a poor indicator of the actual town the individual lives in. For example, someone can have a Rochester zip code (e.g., 14625, 14621, and 14615) but live in Penfield, Irondequoit, or Greece.

2019 Town Residence for TA Overdoses (n = 67)

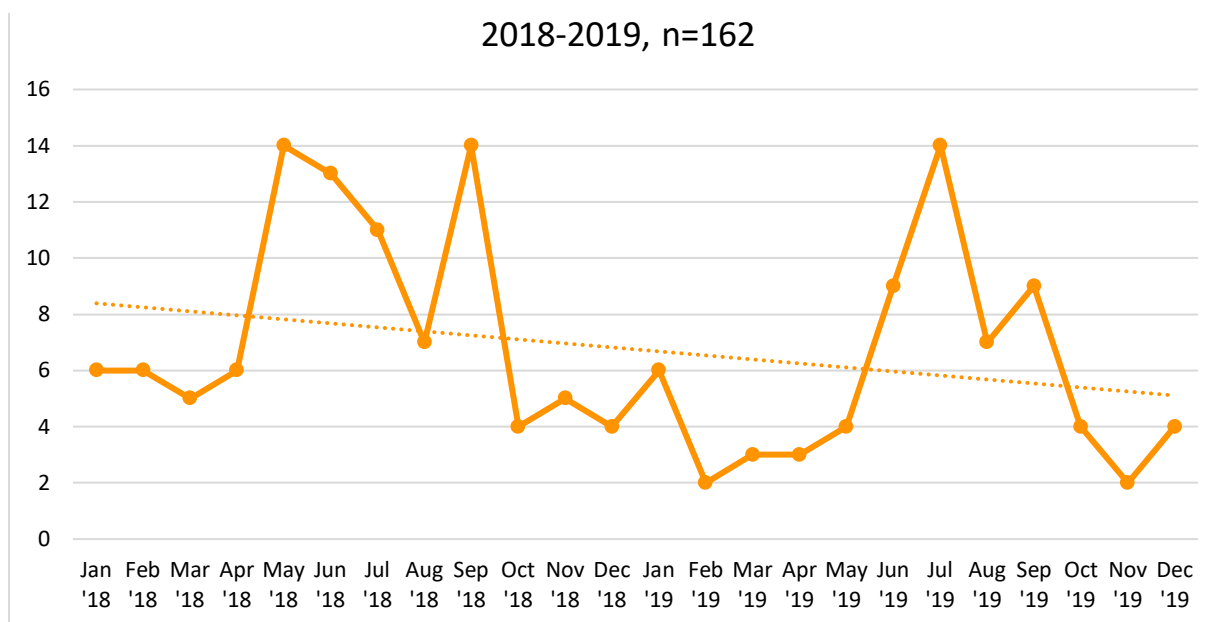
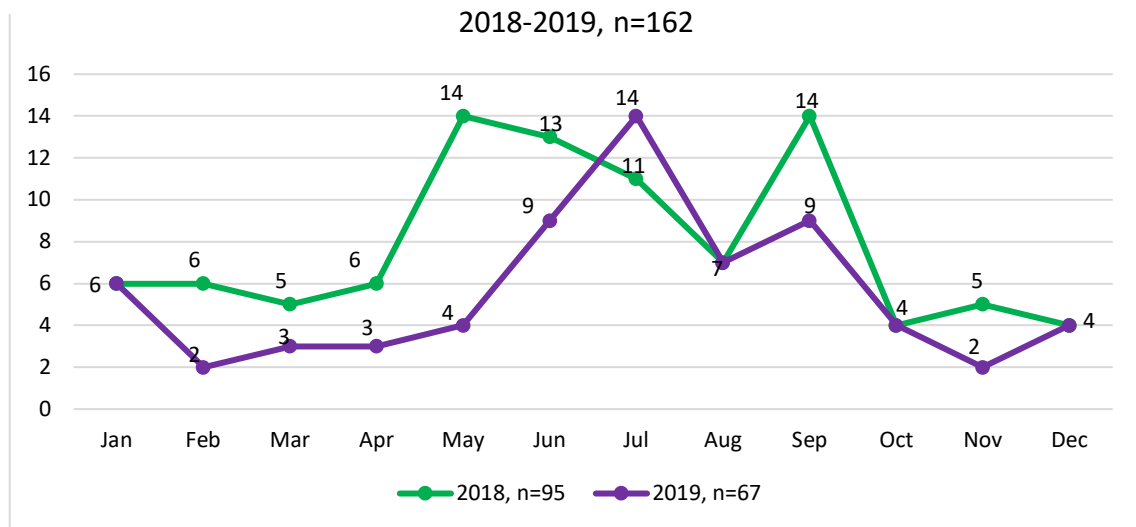
Town Residence	Frequency	Percent of Total
Rochester	47	70.15%
Greece	3	4.48%
Henrietta	2	2.99%
Ontario	2	2.99%
Brighton	2	2.99%
Remainder	11	16.42%

2018 Town Residence for TA Overdoses (n = 95)

Town Residence	Frequency	Percent of Total
Rochester	71	74.74%
Greece	4	4.21%
Penfield	2	2.11%
Brighton	1	1.05%
Henrietta	1	1.05%
Remainder	16	16.84%

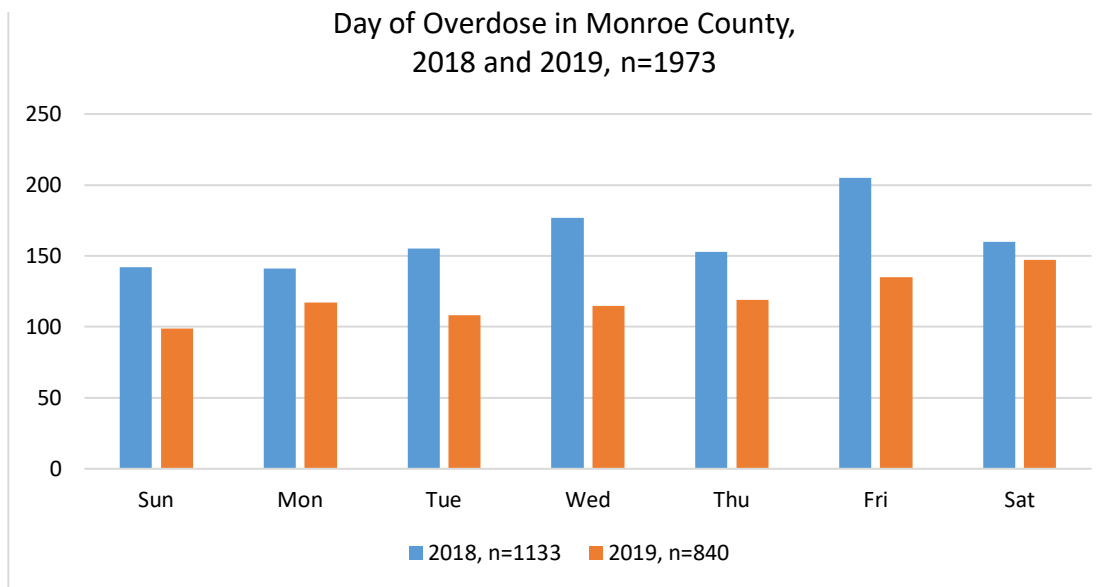
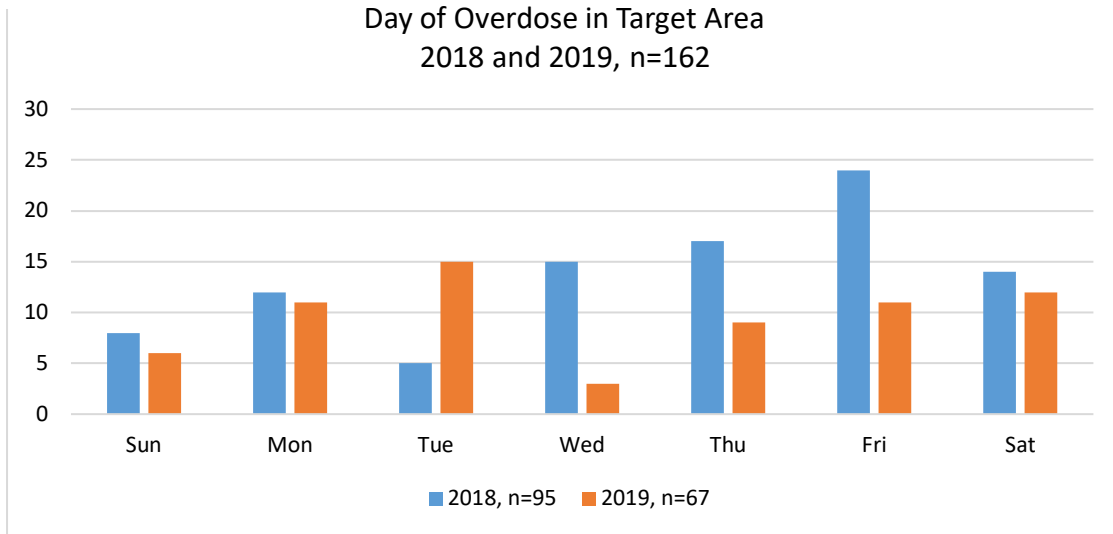
Month

In the target area in 2019, July had the highest number of overdoses (n=14), followed by June (n=9) and September (n=9); with February (n=2), and November (n=2) having the lowest number. In 2018, in the TA, September (n=14), May (n=14), and June (13) had the highest number of overdoses; with October (n=4) and December (n=4) having the lowest. The pattern that emerged is similar to the previous year with decreases in the colder months and increases in the warmer months. This pattern also follows the County overdoses as a whole and overdoses across Rochester excluding the target area.



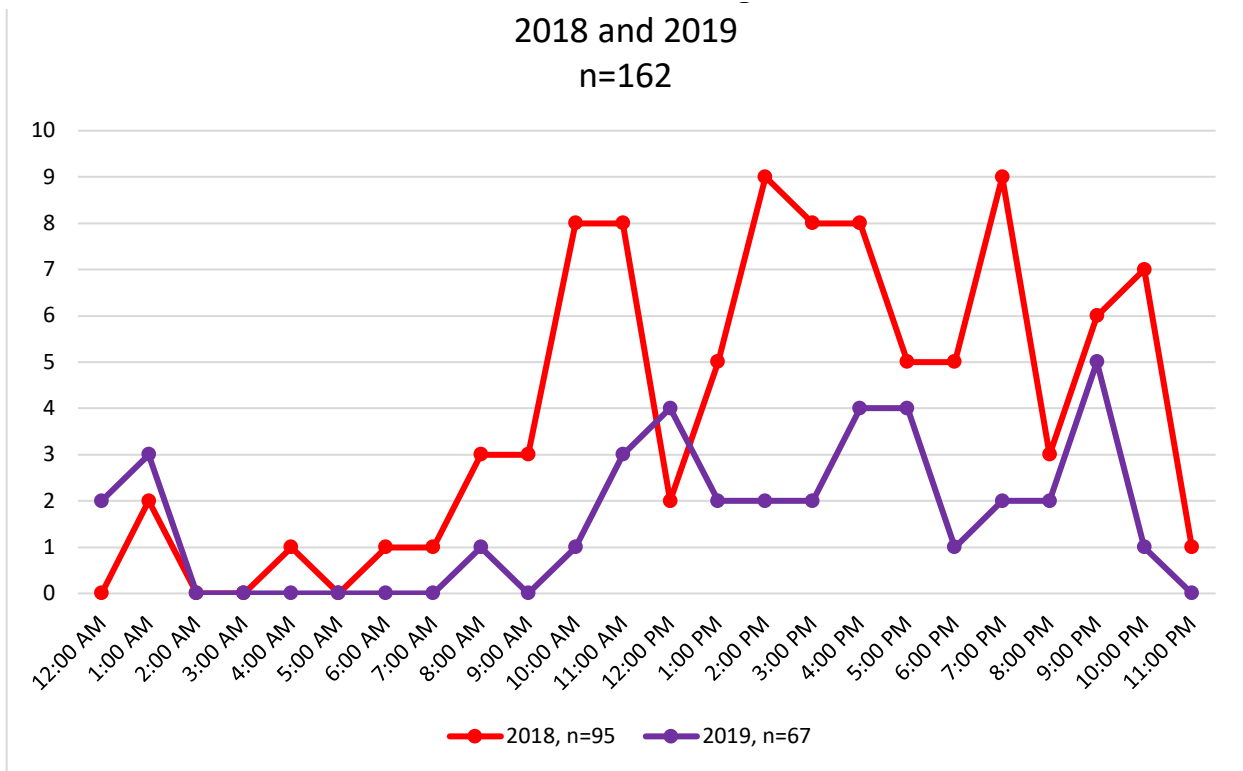
Day of Week

In 2019, the lowest number of overdoses occurred Wednesdays (n=3) in the target area; and the highest occurred on Tuesdays (n=15), followed by Saturdays (n=12), Mondays (n=11), and Fridays (n= 11). In 2018, the lowest number of overdoses occurred on and Tuesdays (n=5), and the highest number occurred on Fridays (n=24), Thursdays (n=17), Wednesdays (n=15), and Saturdays (n=14).



Time of Overdose

In 2019, between the hours of 11PM and 9AM, there were zero reports of overdoses, except at 1AM (n=2), and 8AM (n=1). The peak of time of overdoses occurred at 9PM, and there seems to be an increase in overdoses during “breakfast” (11AM-12PM) and “lunch” (4PM-5PM). Similarly, in 2018 overdoses were less frequent between 11PM and 9PM, and overdoses peaked at 2PM and 7PM.



*28 overdoses (2019) were missing the time

Rochester Overdoses by Car Beat

Of the 470 overdoses that occurred within the city of Rochester in 2019, car beats 277, 247, and 291 responded to the highest volume. This was consistent with 2018 for car beats 277 and 247 (both in Clinton Patrol Section). Car beat 291 (in Lake Patrol Section) doubled in proportion of OD responses from 2018 (3%) to 2019 (6%). This beat covers Lyle, Jay, and Child Streets. During 2019, 15.5% of all Rochester overdoses occurred in car beats 247 and 277 (Clinton Section); 14.7% of Rochester overdoses occurred in these two beats in 2018. This area continues to have the highest concentration of overdoses known to law enforcement across the county.

Clinton Section

Project CLEAN efforts are focused in the Clinton section of RPD, particularly car beats 277 and 247. This section and these car beats respond to the highest proportion of overdoses across the County. This is true for both 2019 and 2018.

Just Clinton Section 2019:

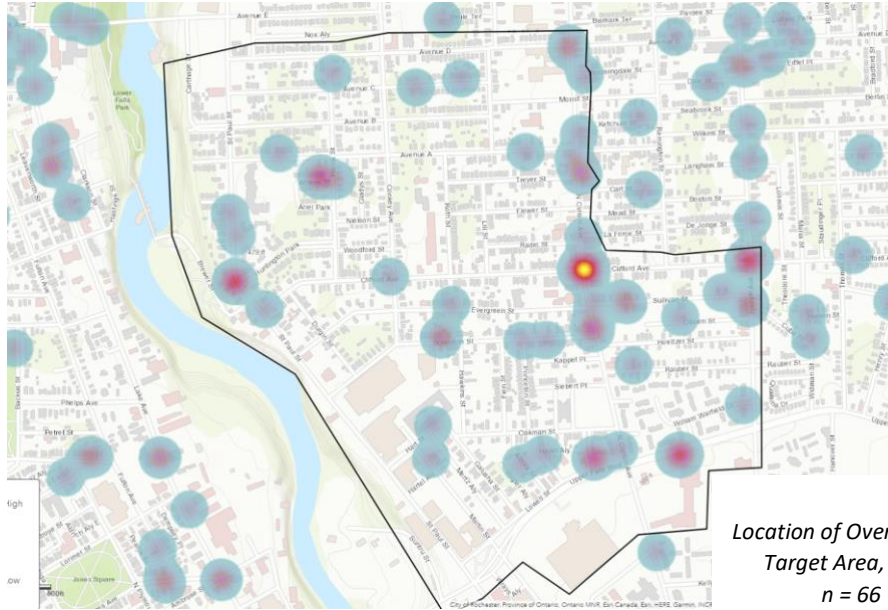
Car Beat	2019 Frequency	% of Roc ODs in the Car Beat
277	43	9.1%
247	30	6.4%
227	22	4.7%
287	16	3.4%
257	15	3.2%
217	13	2.8%
237	9	1.9%
207	7	1.5%
267	4	0.9%
297	3	0.6%
Clinton Total	162	34.5%
Roc (Incl. Clinton) Total	470	100.0%

Just Clinton Section 2018:

RPD Car Beat	2018 Frequency	% of Roc ODs in the Car Beat
277	58	8.0%
247	49	6.7%
217	44	6.0%
287	33	4.5%
207	31	4.3%
227	29	4.0%
257	27	3.7%
237	11	1.5%
267	10	1.4%
297	9	1.2%
Clinton Total	301	41.3%
Roc (Incl. Clinton) Total	729	100.0%

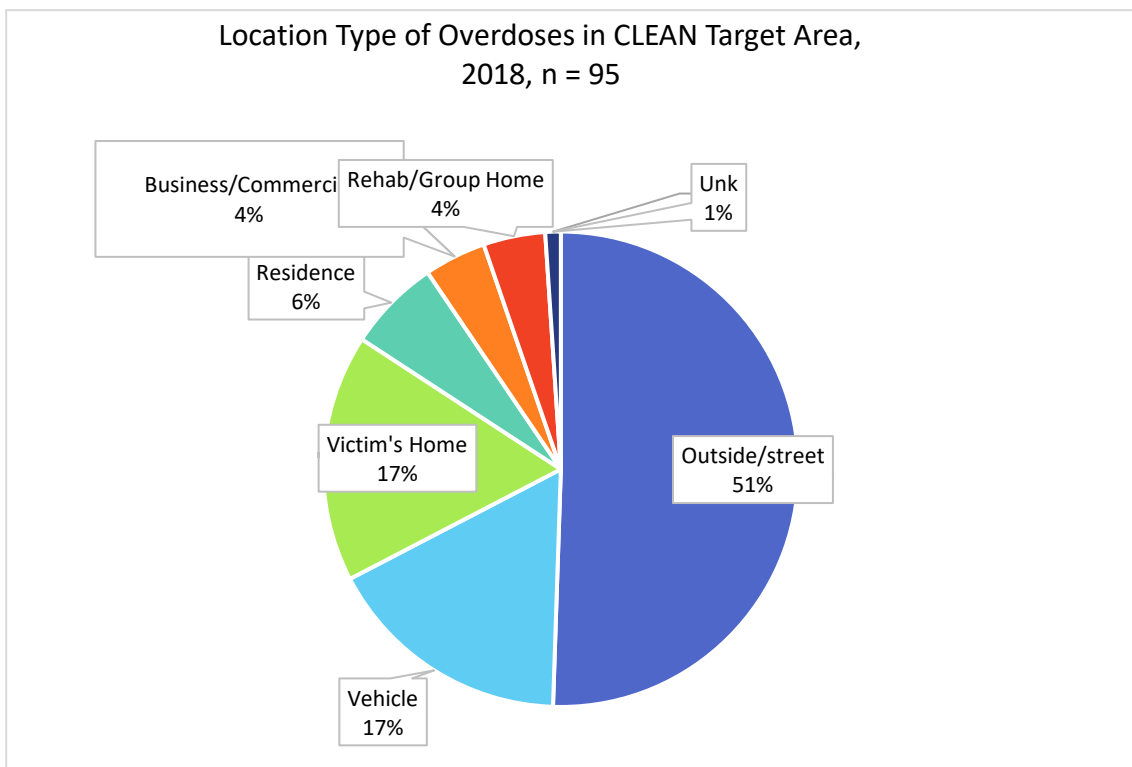
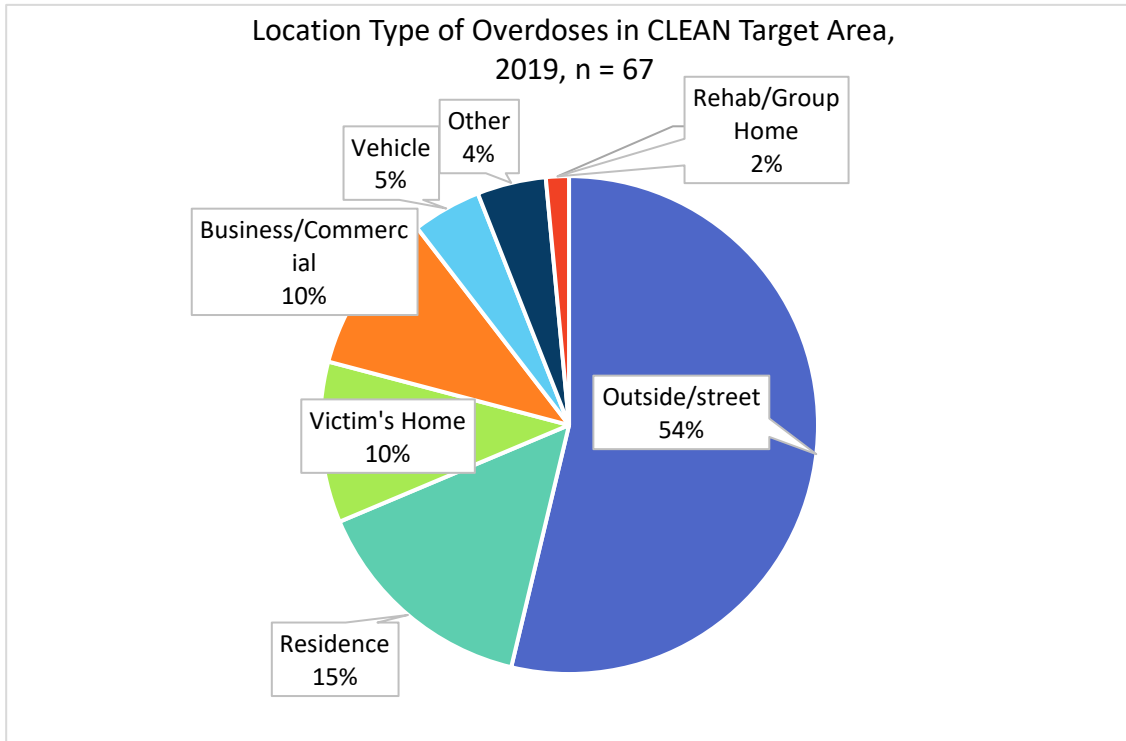
Location of Overdoses

The maps below show the concentration of overdoses across the CLEAN target area. In 2018, the overdoses were concentrated along the Clinton corridor, with two clear hot spots (Clinton/Clifford and Siebert/Clinton) and one more emerging hot spot at Upper Falls. The steady blue along the corridor indicated that the overdoses were mostly along the avenue. However, there has been a shift in 2019, with total number of overdoses decreasing by 29.5%, but also spreading out in the target area. Clinton/Clifford still remains a hot spot, but the overdoses have somewhat dispersed across the neighborhood.



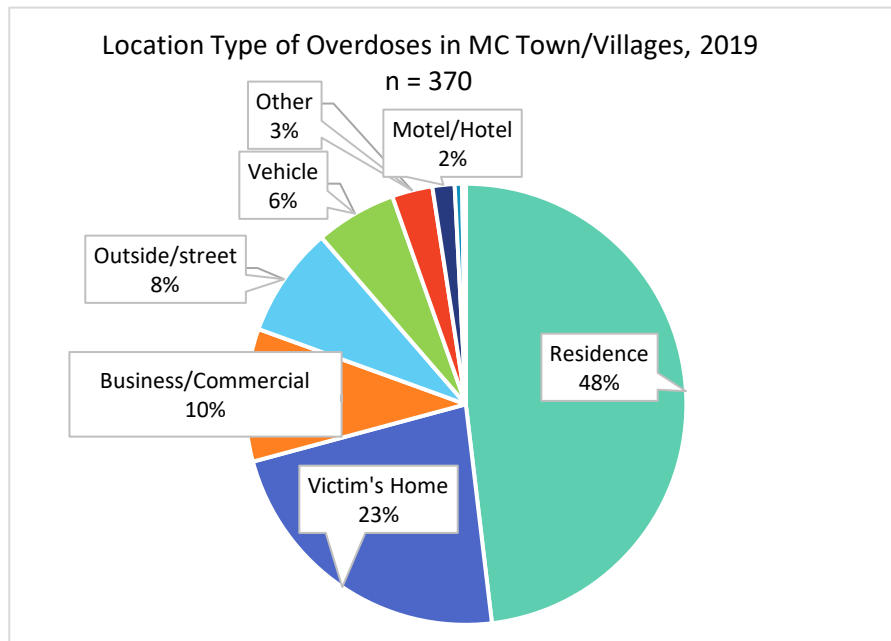
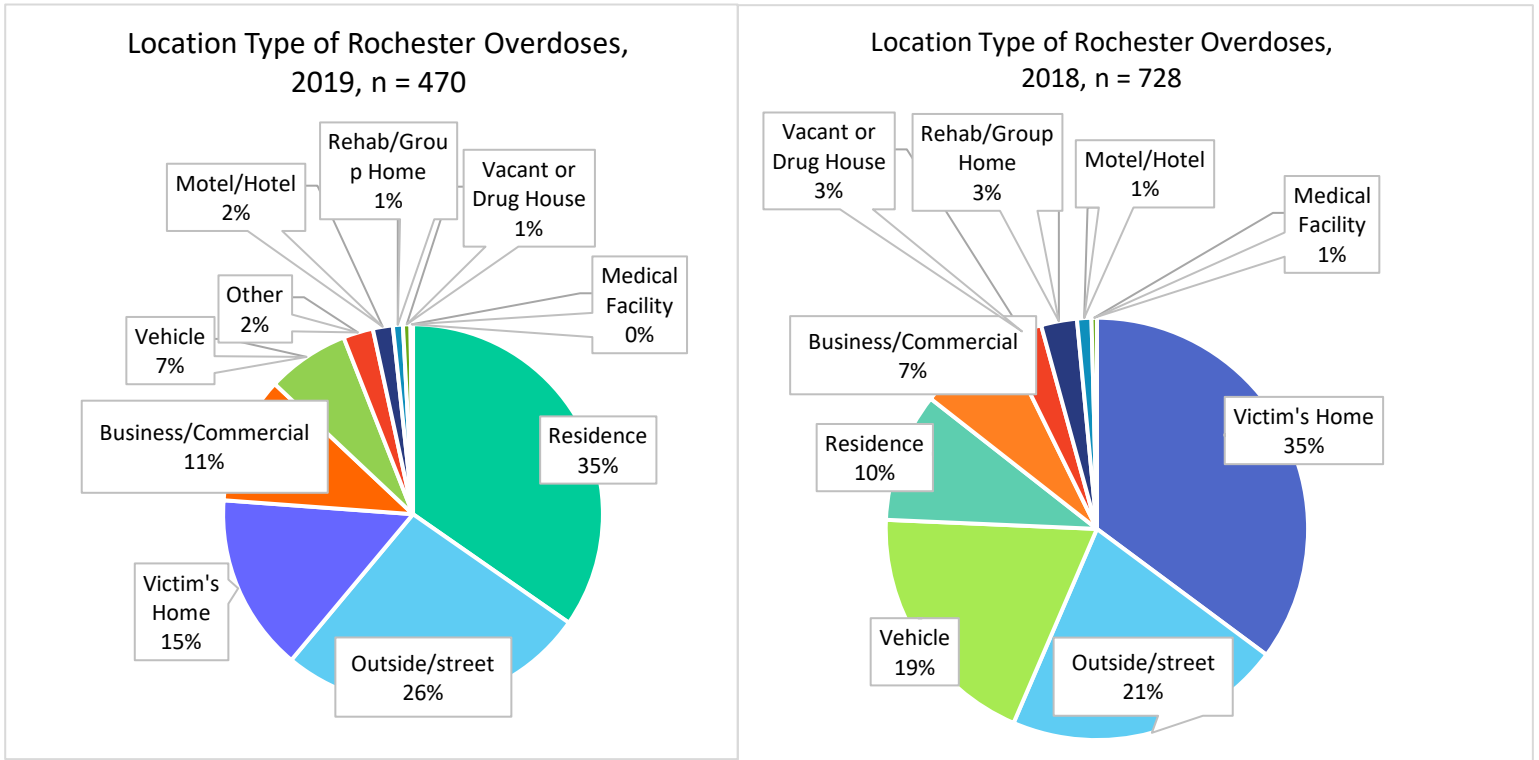
Location Type

In 2019, 36 (54%) out of 67 overdoses occurred outside/street, this proportion is slightly higher than in 2018, where 48 (51%) of 95 overdoses occurred outside/street. In 2019, the second location type with the highest overdoses to occur was residence (15%), followed by business (10%) and victim's home (10%). In 2018, the second highest overdoses to occur was vehicle (17%), and victim's home (17%).



Rochester and Monroe County Town and Villages

A pattern emerges when comparing the location type of Rochester overdoses compared to town/village overdoses. Overdoses occurring at Monroe County town and villages are the highest in residences (48%) and victim's home (23%). This indicates that nearly 71% of overdoses in the towns and villages occurred at a private residence (whether the victim's or someone else's) compared to Rochester, which reported only 45% in 2018, and 50% in 2019 that occurred in private residences.



Conclusion

Overdoses known to law enforcement significantly decreased from 2018 to 2019 in Rochester (36%), CLEAN Target Area (29%), and in Rochester, excluding CLEAN Target Area (36%). Male victims, and White victims continue to represent the majority of overdoses victims in 2018 and 2019, this is consistent for Monroe County, Rochester, and the CLEAN Target Area. However, there has also been a demographic shift, with black victims accounting for a higher proportion of overdose victims in 2019 than in 2018. Furthermore, from 2018 to 2019, the most common age and average age of overdose victims have also slightly increased in the CLEAN Target Area, as well as in Rochester excluding the CLEAN Target Area. Overdoses were less frequent during night time hours of 11 PM - 9 AM across 2018 and 2019 for CLEAN Target Area, Rochester excluding the target area, and across the County. The warmer months continue to account for a higher number of overdoses in 2018 and 2019, with the months of September and June reporting higher numbers of overdoses for both years. Saturdays and Fridays continue to represent a high number of overdoses. Moreover, the Clinton section and specifically car beats 277 and 247 (which overlap the target area) continue to respond to the highest number of overdoses across the entire city.

In the target area, more than half of the overdoses occurred outside/in the street in 2018 and 2019, continuing evidence of the open-air nature of the drug market in the project area. From 2018 to 2019, the proportion of overdoses occurring in rehab/group facilities, victims' homes, and vehicles decreased. From 2018 to 2019 the proportion of overdoses that occurred in residences significantly increased, whereas the proportion of overdoses that occurred outside/in the street slightly increased.

While the Clinton/Clifford intersection still has the highest concentration of overdoses across the county, the overdoses in the CLEAN Target Area decreased by nearly one-third from 2018 to 2019 and appear to be spreading out from the Clinton corridor. It is not known for sure what contributed to these changes, but some possibilities include the community's No Más efforts, Rochester Police Department's Community Engagement Patrols along the avenue, environmental changes made to the dumpsters behind AutoZone and Chester's, the razing of the vacant house at 8 Sullivan, and Project CLEAN business outreach, among other interventions. The wider availability of Narcan likely impacted the number of overdoses known to law enforcement because with its widespread availability, individuals may not be calling 911 when someone overdoses if they can revive them with Narcan.