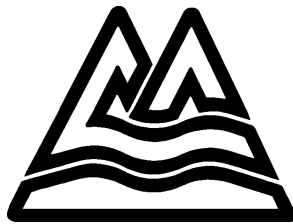


# **Trends in Multnomah County Alcohol & Drug Related Deaths**

Reducing Crime Benchmark Analysis  
Multnomah County, Oregon



Department of Support Services

**MAY 1999**

*[www.multnomah.lib.or.us/budget/eru](http://www.multnomah.lib.or.us/budget/eru)*

# Trends in Multnomah County Alcohol & Drug Related Deaths



May 7, 1999

Prepared by Department of Support Services  
Evaluation/Research Unit  
With data from the Multnomah County  
Medical Examiners Office and the  
Center for Health Statistics,  
Oregon Health Division

Medical Examiners Office

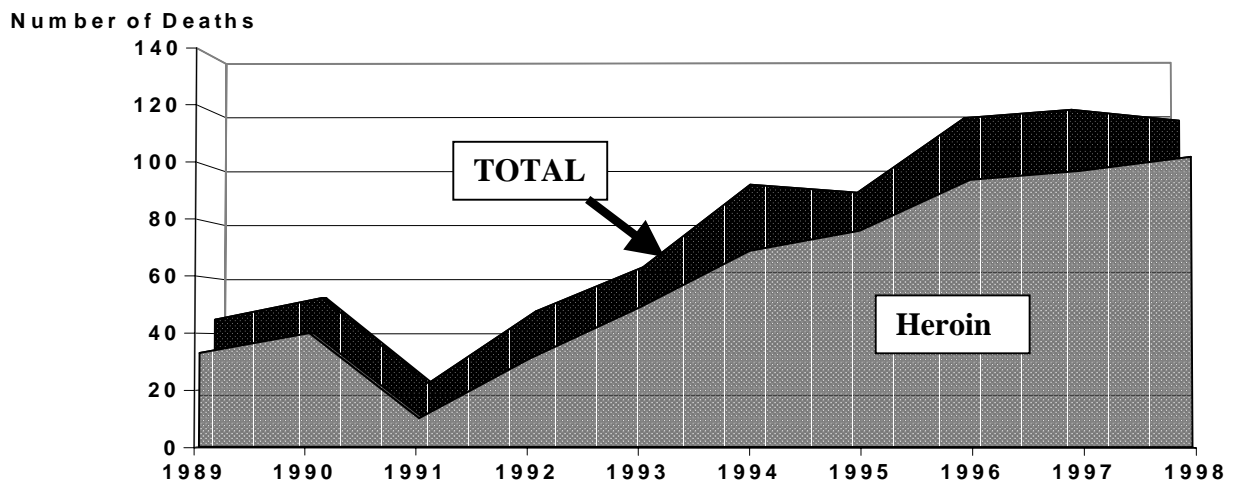
Drug related deaths are determined from toxicology tests performed by the Multnomah County Medical Examiners Office. Results of the last ten years of testing are shown in the following table. A death may be tallied more than once under separate drugs. For example, a deceased testing positive for both heroin and methamphetamine would be tallied under heroin, under methamphetamine, and under the combination of drugs columns. The total column shows an unduplicated count.

**Multnomah County Drug Related Deaths**

	Heroin	Cocaine	Methamphetamine	Combination of Drugs	TOTAL
1989	33	16	7	11	45
1990	40	14	7	10	53
1991	10	15	0	3	22
1992	31	24	2	9	48
1993	49	21	7	13	64
1994	69	22	12	9	94
1995	76	22	11	16	91
1996	94	35	13	24	118
1997	97	36	11	23	121
1998	102	39	9	33	117
Percent increase from 1989 to 1998	<b>209%</b>	<b>144%</b>	<b>29%</b>	<b>200%</b>	<b>160%</b>

The following graph shows both heroin and total deaths.

**Multnomah County Drug Related Deaths**



Oregon Health Division

Data on both drug and alcohol related deaths is gathered on death certificates and is available from the Oregon Health Division. This data is sent to the federal government for processing so there is a considerable lag. Data for 1997 is still provisional. The data on drug deaths differs somewhat from that reported by the Medical Examiner's Office but the trend is the same.

It is clear from the following chart that the number of drug related deaths are increasing relative to alcohol.

