



Opioids and Methamphetamine in Billings, MT

Amy Trad

Applies a systems-approach to problem solving that allows for more comprehensive and sustainable solutions to complex problems.



Longwood, FL

Just north of Orlando



Furman University

*Sustainability Science
and Philosophy*



AmeriCorps VISTA

*Community-Wide Opioid
and Methamphetamine
Response Initiative*

Nick Fonte

Possesses a passion for building relationships and destigmatizing mental health issues which has facilitated multiple avenues for the project's collaboration throughout Billings.



Freehold, NJ

Central New Jersey



Furman University

*Political Science and
International Affairs*



AmeriCorps VISTA

*Community-Wide Opioid
and Methamphetamine
Response Initiative*

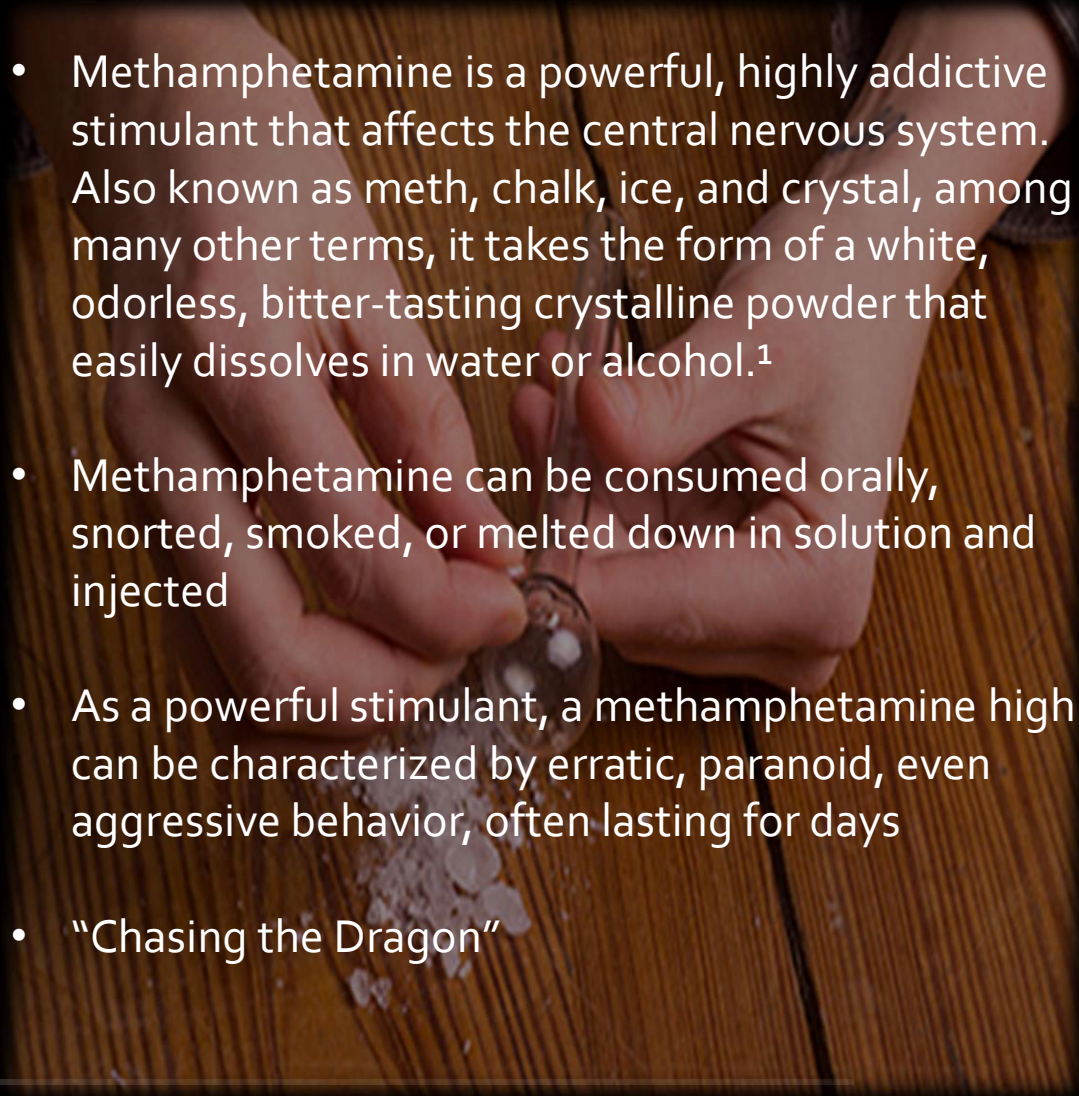
Community-Wide Opioid and Methamphetamine Response Initiative



- BMVP founded in 2009 by Community Development Division
- Sponsored by Corporation for National and Community Service
- Focus on **capacity-building** to alleviate poverty
- Foundation of a three year project
- Assessment, Education, Prevention, and Intervention
 - Community Assessment
 - Resource Mapping
 - Data Collection

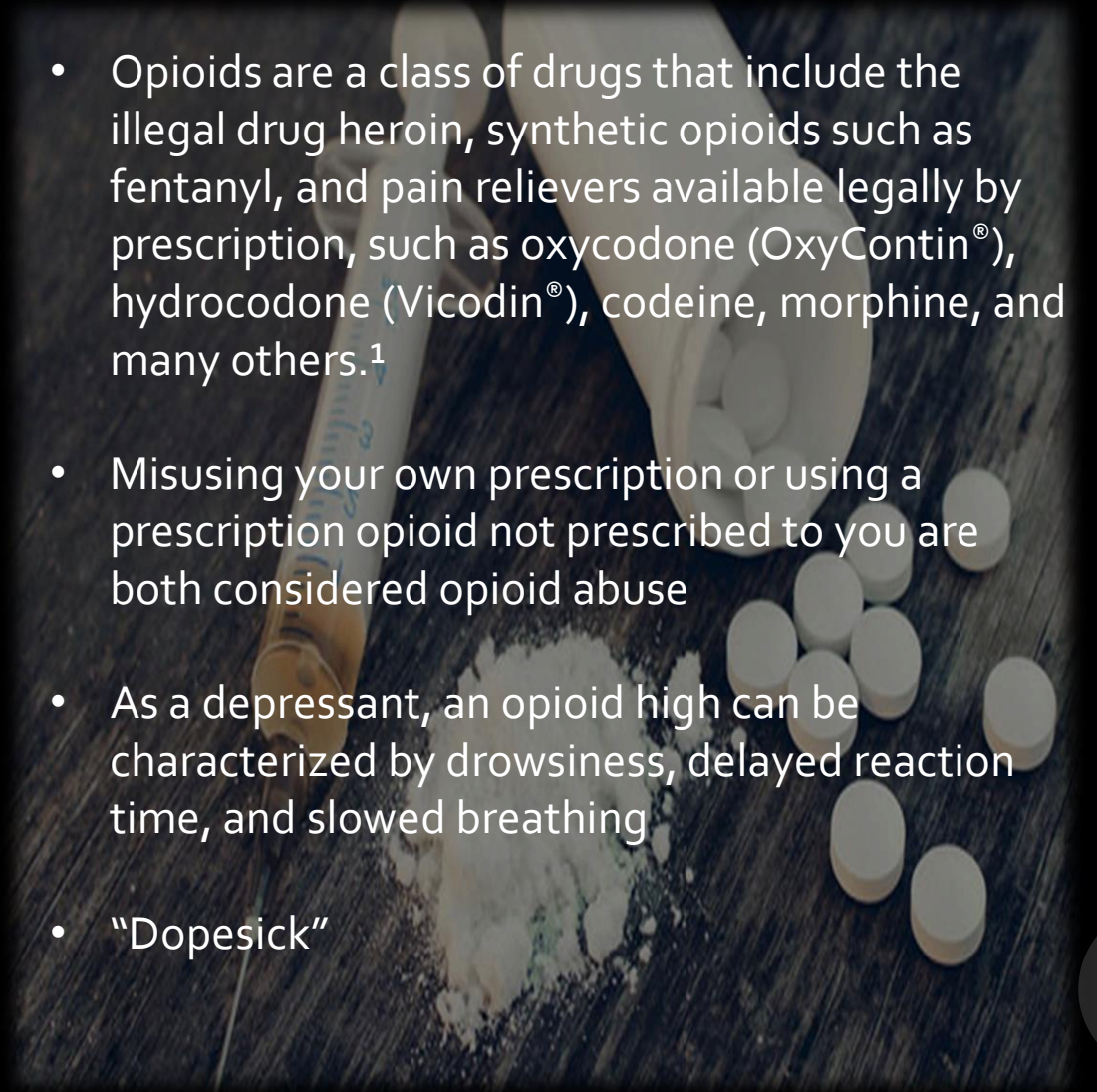
Methamphetamine

- Methamphetamine is a powerful, highly addictive stimulant that affects the central nervous system. Also known as meth, chalk, ice, and crystal, among many other terms, it takes the form of a white, odorless, bitter-tasting crystalline powder that easily dissolves in water or alcohol.¹
- Methamphetamine can be consumed orally, snorted, smoked, or melted down in solution and injected
- As a powerful stimulant, a methamphetamine high can be characterized by erratic, paranoid, even aggressive behavior, often lasting for days
- “Chasing the Dragon”



Opioids

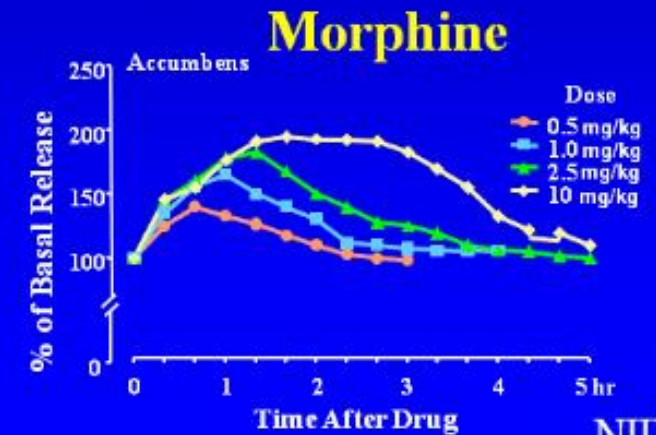
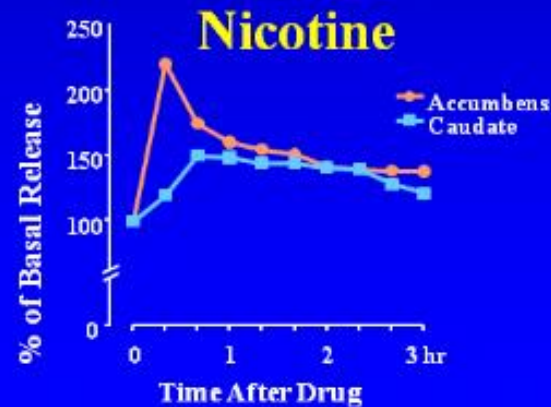
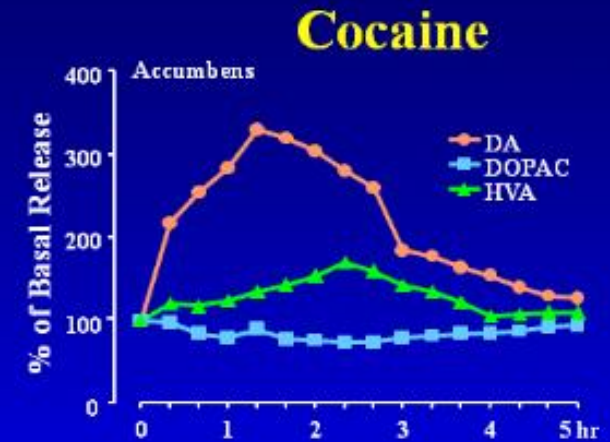
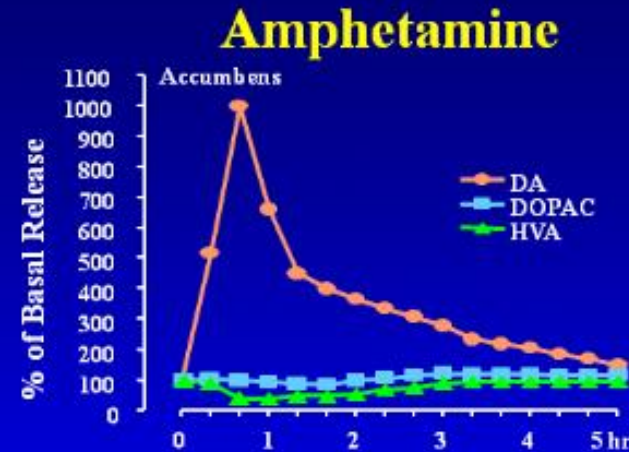
- Opioids are a class of drugs that include the illegal drug heroin, synthetic opioids such as fentanyl, and pain relievers available legally by prescription, such as oxycodone (OxyContin®), hydrocodone (Vicodin®), codeine, morphine, and many others.¹
- Misusing your own prescription or using a prescription opioid not prescribed to you are both considered opioid abuse
- As a depressant, an opioid high can be characterized by drowsiness, delayed reaction time, and slowed breathing
- “Dopesick”



Dopamine

- Dopamine (DA) is one of the brain's neurotransmitters—a chemical that ferries information between neurons. Dopamine helps regulate movement, attention, learning, and emotional responses. It also enables us not only to see rewards, but to take action to move toward them. Since dopamine contributes to feelings of pleasures and satisfaction as part of the reward system, the neurotransmitter also plays a part in addiction.²

Effects of Drugs on Dopamine Release



Di Chiara and Imperato, PNAS, 1988

NIDA



Perception

What impact do drugs like prescription opioids and methamphetamine have on the Billings Community?



How many Billings Police Department drug offense cases were there in October of 2018?



Out of 787 Yellowstone County high school students surveyed, how many have used either heroin, meth, or misused a prescription opioid?



Of 5,908 treatment admissions in 2015, in order, what were the top 5 primary substances of abuse?



69 cases were drug offenses



157*



1. Alcohol
2. Methamphetamine
3. Marijuana
4. Opiates
5. Heroin

*some students using one drug, may be using more than one and are counted twice

Data gathered from BPD LERMS, YRBS 2017, and TEDS



Investigating Impact



BPD: Project Safe
Neighborhoods

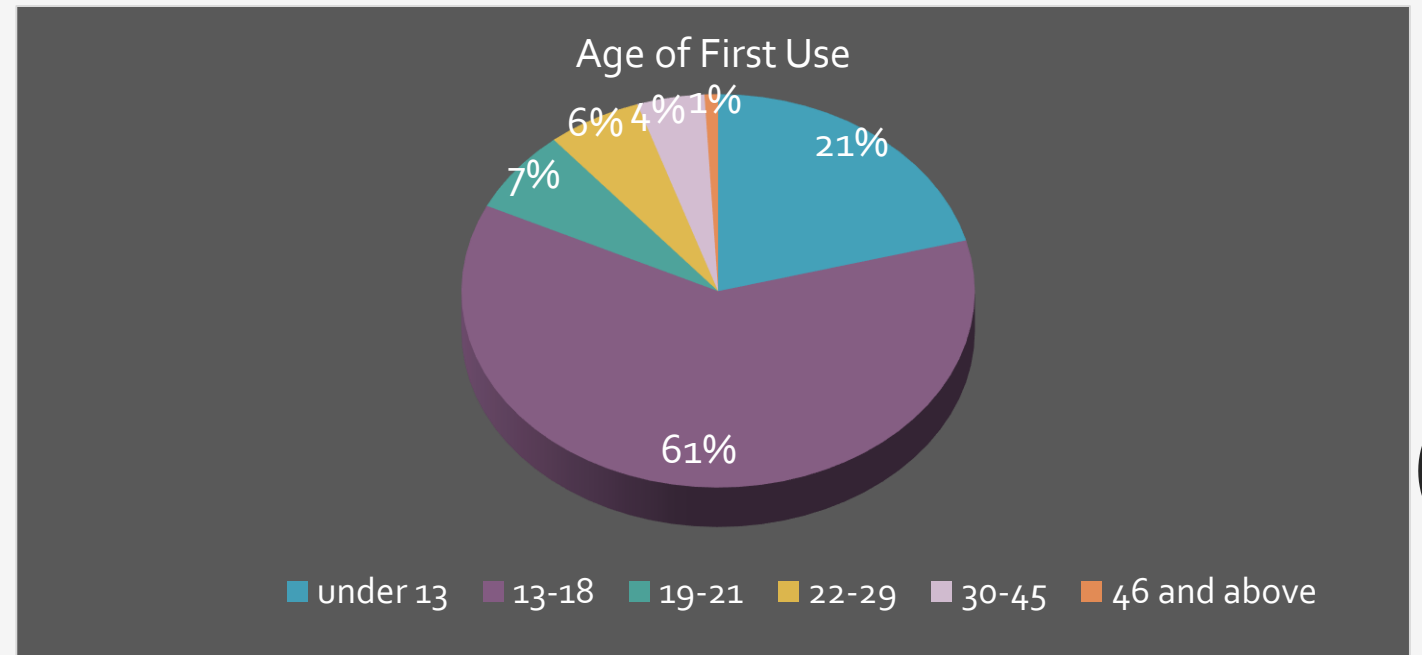
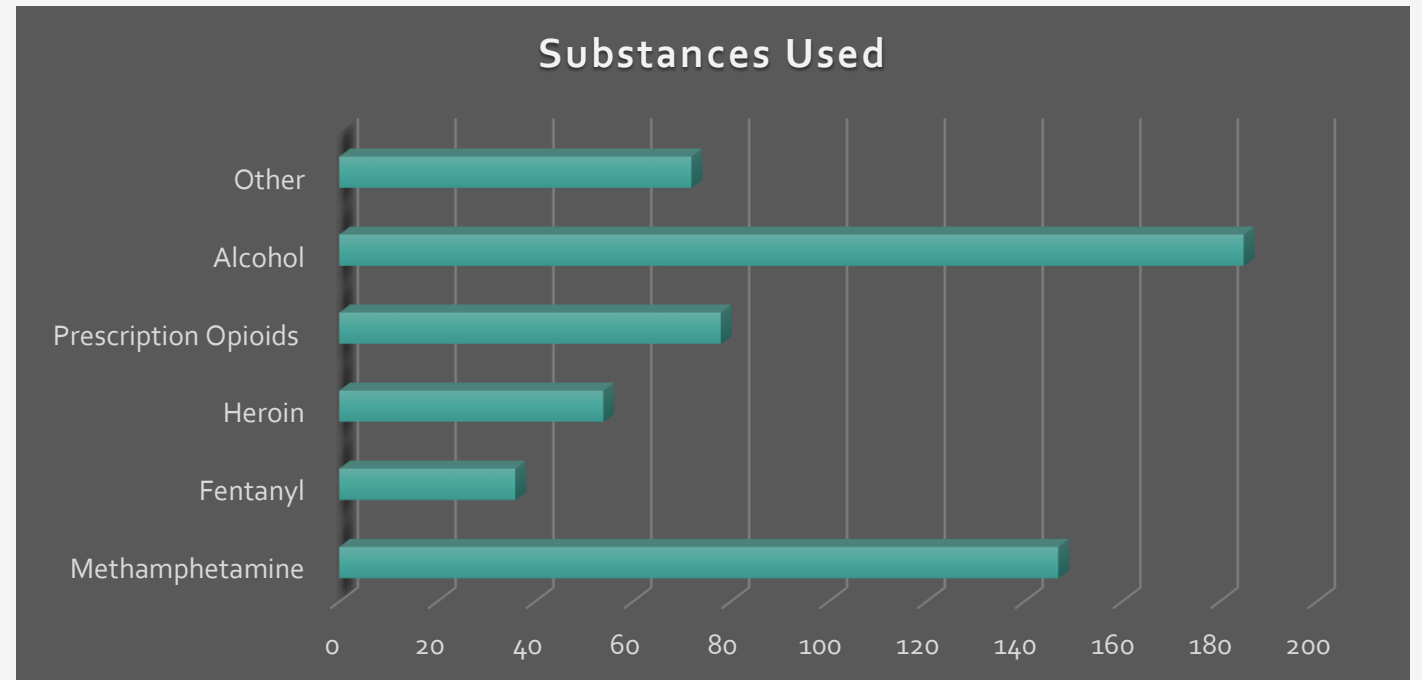


Prevention Needs
Assessment, Youth
Risk Behavior Survey,
& Treatment Episode
Data Set

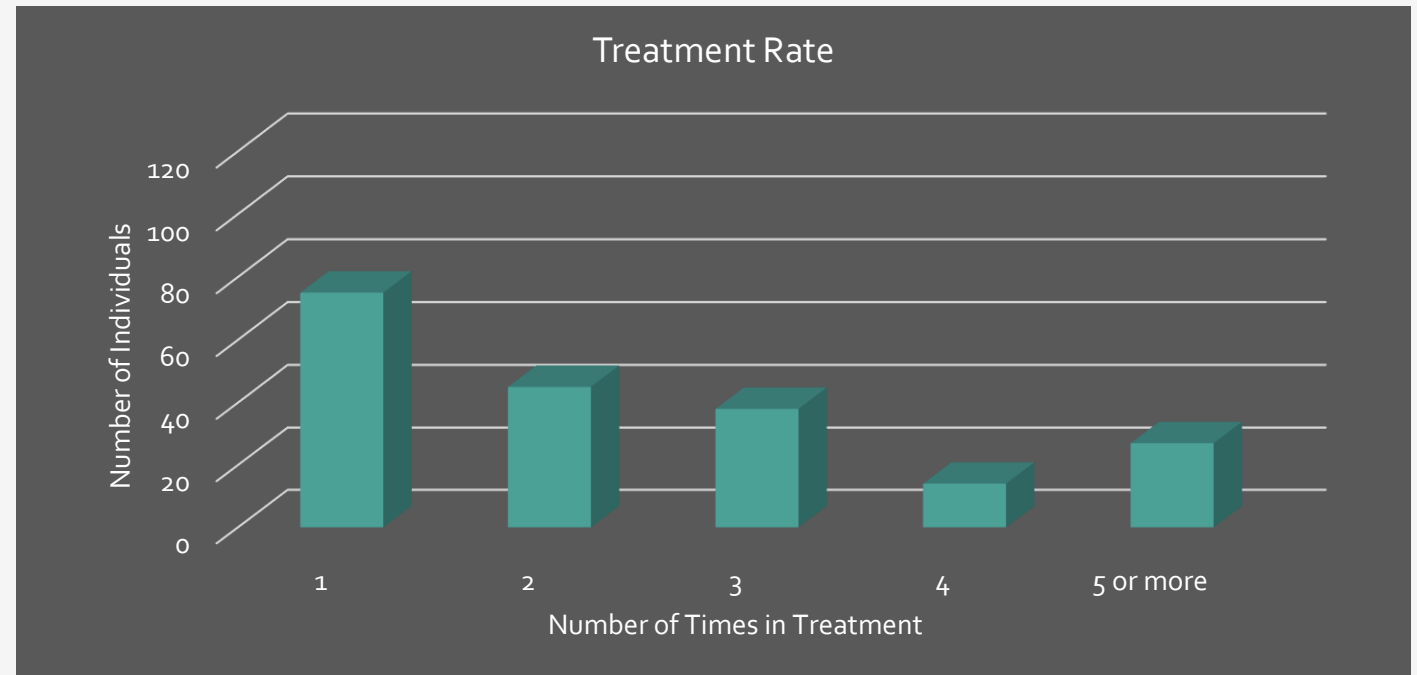
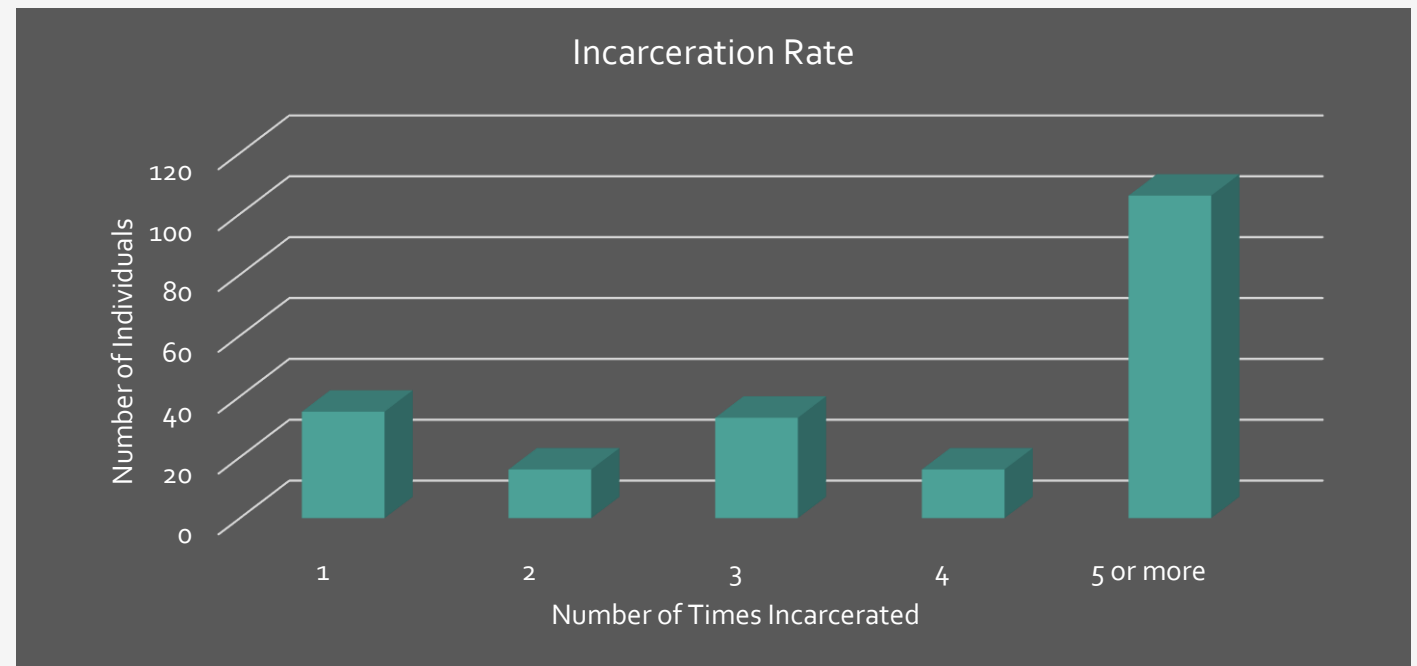


VISTA Individual
Survey

Individual Survey: Substances Used and Age of First Use



Individual Survey: Incarceration vs. Treatment Rates

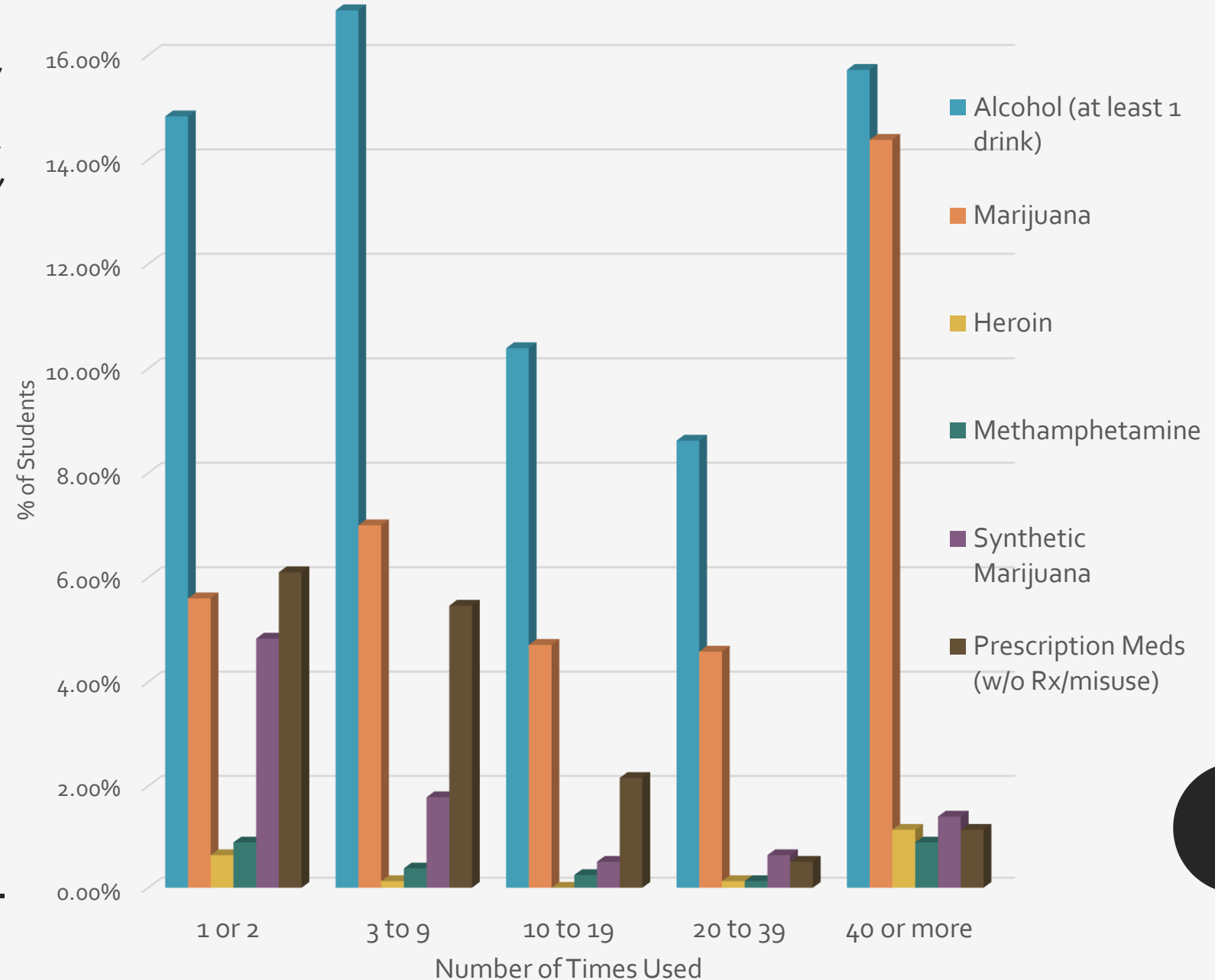


PNA Youth Survey Data

Question from PNA Survey 2018	Total (#)	Total
Has anyone in your family ever had severe alcohol or drug problems? [Answered Yes]	191	37%
Use methamphetamines (meth, ice, crystal, or speed) [answered no risk]?	20	3.6%
Have 5 or more drinks of an alcoholic beverage once or twice a week [answered no risk].	50	9%
Use prescription drugs that are not prescribed to you [answered no risk].	23	4.1%

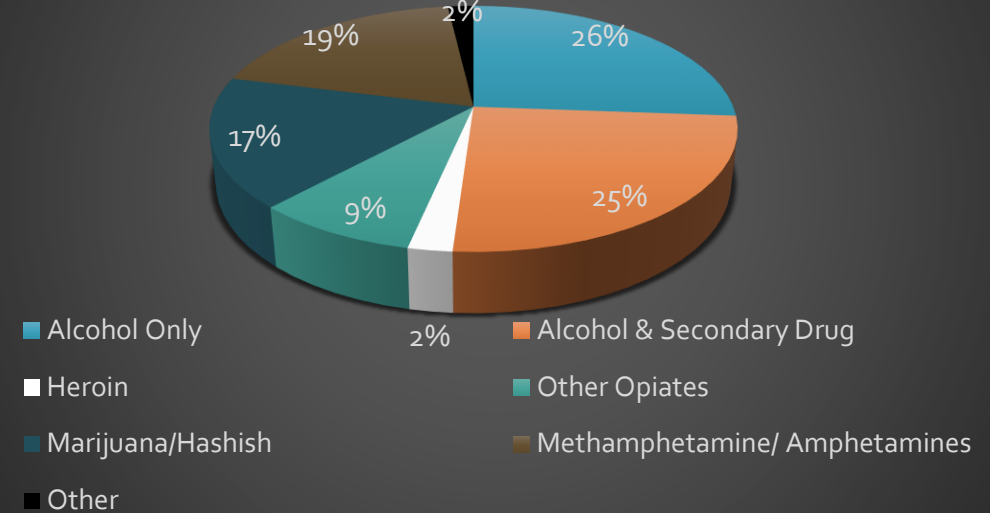
Grade	8 (%) County	10 (%) County	12 (%) County
Risk Factors			
<i>Community</i> - Laws and Norms Favorable to Drug Use	39.1	47.9	57.6
<i>Community</i> - Perceived Availability of Drugs	28.2	42.5	43.9
<i>Family</i> - Parental Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use	24	40.8	40
<i>Peer/Individual</i> - Early Initiation of Drug Use	18.6	29.6	40.3
<i>Peer/Individual</i> - Attitudes Favorable to Drug Use	26.6	57.8	54.7
<i>Peer/Individual</i> - Perceived Risk of Drug Use	55.4	72.1	68.4
<i>Peer/Individual</i> - Intention to Use Drugs	28.2	52.1	64
<i>Peer/Individual</i> - Friend's Use of Drugs	27.6	39.2	32.4
Students at High Risk	30.9	44.4	44.2

YRBS Youth Survey Data

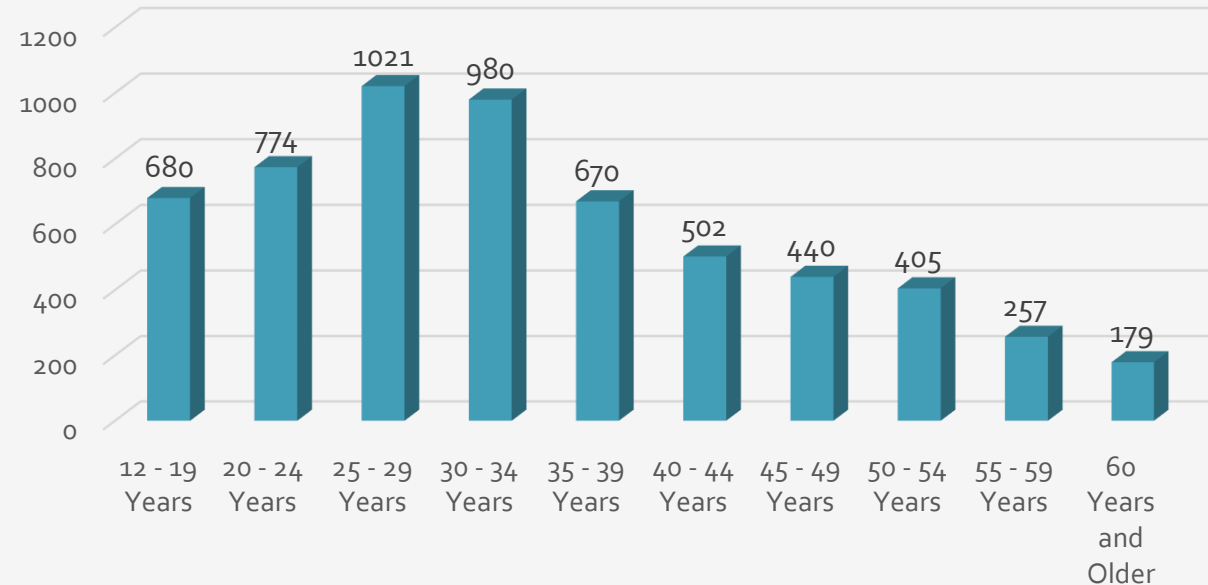


Montana Treatment Episode Data Set

Montana Treatment Admissions Aged 12 and Older (Primary Substance of Abuse)



Montana Total Treatment Admissions by Age



BPD Drug Data Dive:

October 2018 Results

Drug Type	Number of Charges	Weight/Amount
Methamphetamines	51	203 g
Amphetamines	3	102 g
Marijuana	54	51.8 g
Heroin	2	46 g
Cocaine	1	4.2 g
Prescription Opioids	6	51.5 pills
Other Pills	2	43 pills
Clonazepam	2	20 pills
Alprazolam	4	19 pills
Benzonatate	1	15 pills
Ecstasy	1	2 pills

Total Drug Offense Cases in October 2018	69
Total Cases in October 2018	1446
Percentage that were Drug Offense Cases	4.77%

BPD Drug Data Dive:

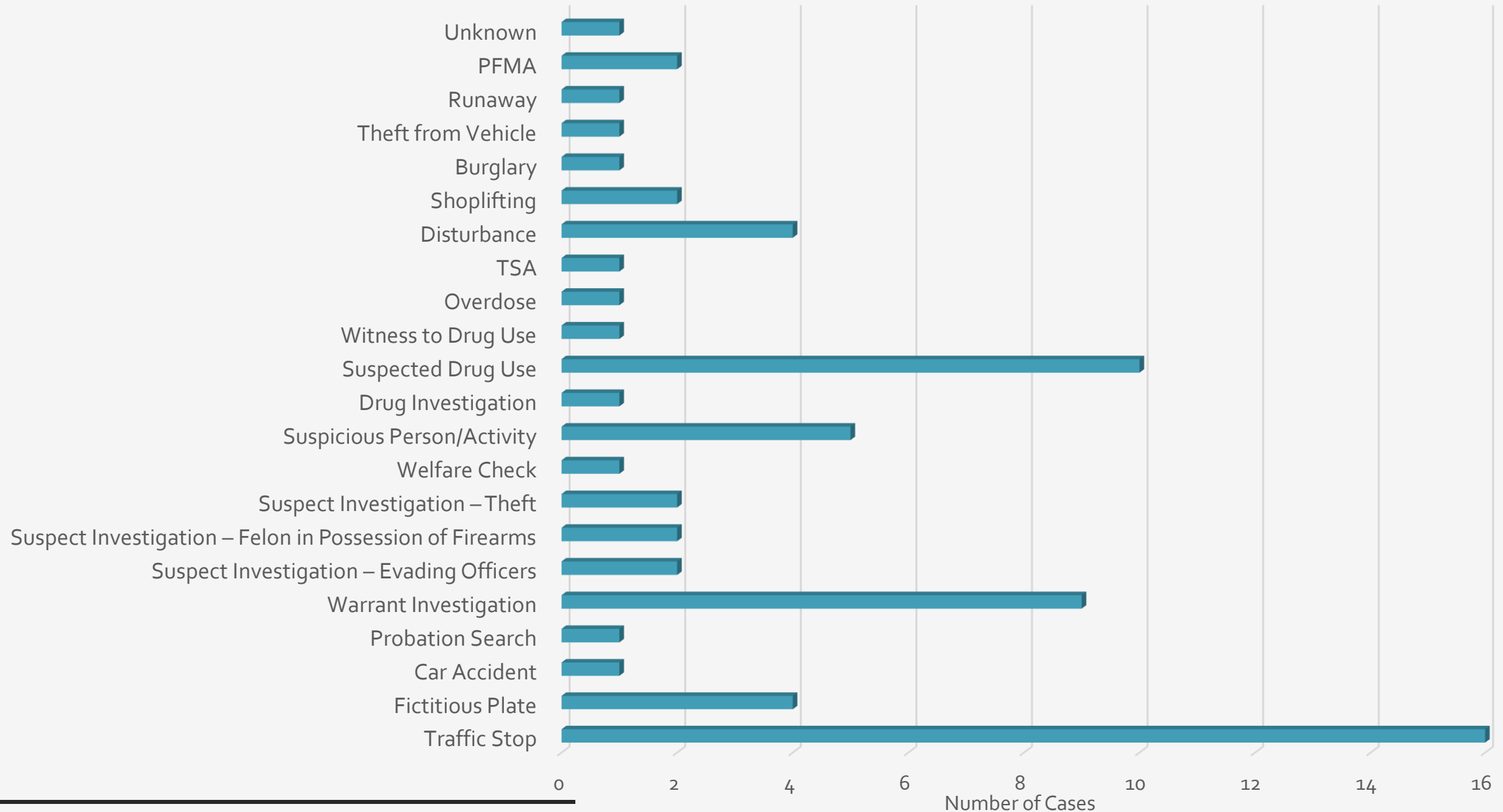
November 2018 Results

Drug Type	Number of Charges	Weight
Methamphetamines	48	43.1 g
Methamphetamines – Liquid	2	10 mL
Amphetamines – Liquid	1	30 mL
Marijuana	35	168.35 g
Heroin	8	4.4 g
Heroin – Liquid	1	60 mL
Cocaine	2	0.2 g
Psilocybin Mushrooms	1	3.1 g
Prescription Opioids	8	97 pills
Fentanyl	1	32 pills
Prescription ADHD Medication	2	10 pills
Prescription Sedatives	6	24 pills
Antidepressants	3	39.5 pills
Prescription Muscle Relaxant	2	5 pills
Gabapentin	2	4 pills
MDMA	1	n/a

Total Drug Offense Cases in November 2018	82
Total Cases in November 2018	1505
Percentage of Drug Offense Cases	5.45%

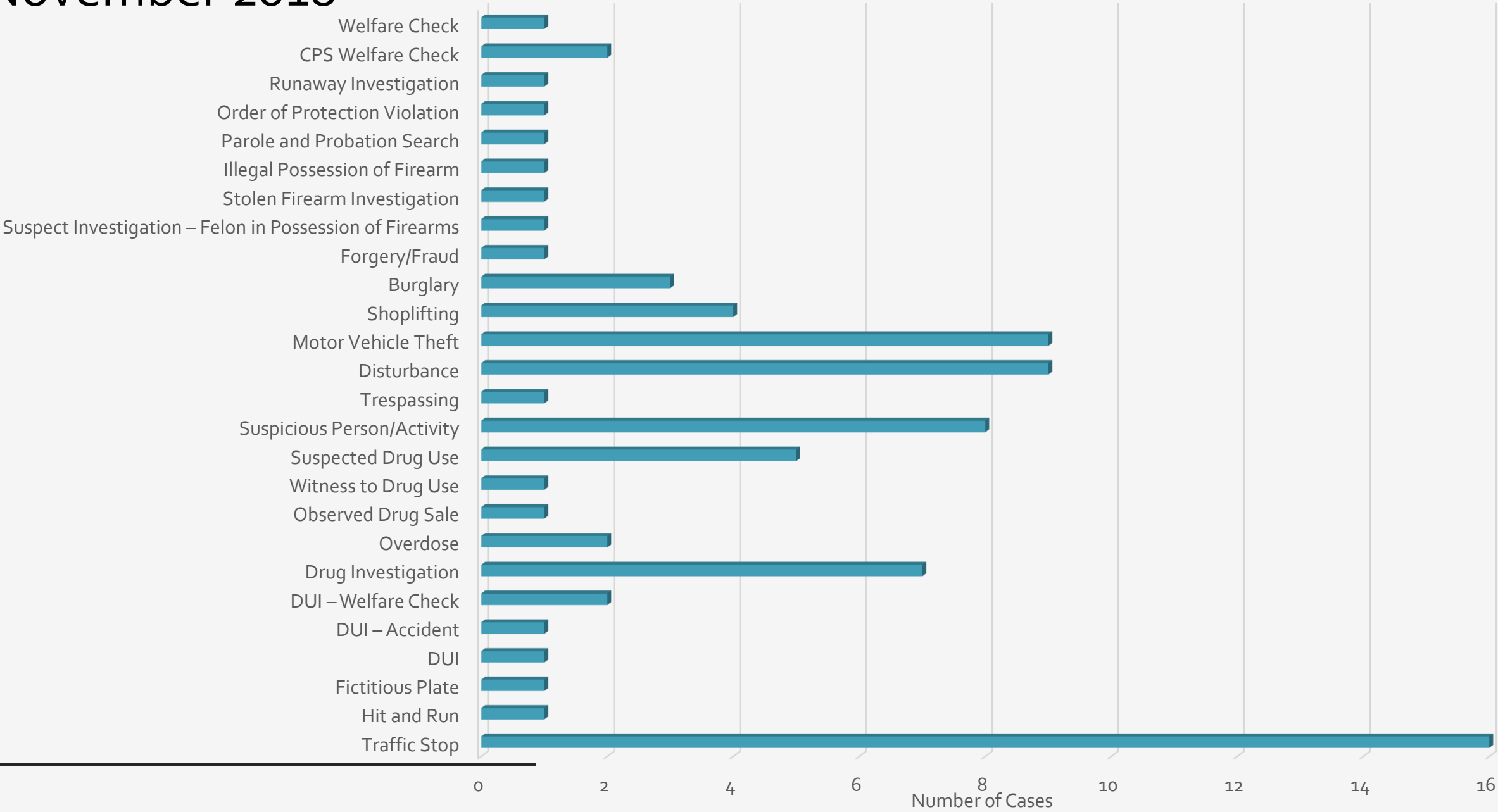
October 2018

Initial Cause of Drug Offense Incident



November 2018

Initial Cause of Drug Offense Incident



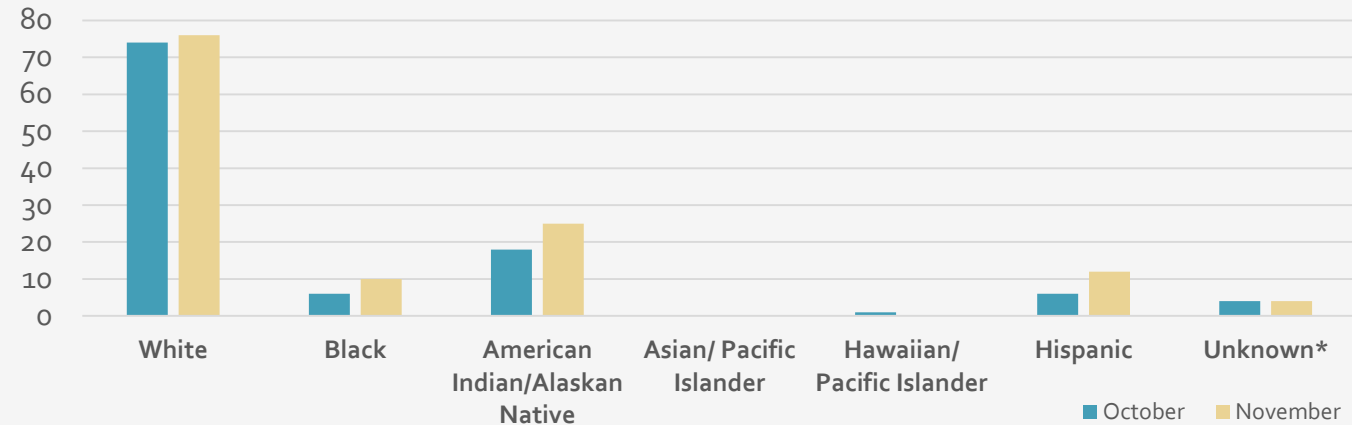
BPD Drug Data Dive:

Demographic Results

Resident Status	Number of Case Suspects*	
	October	November
Resident (Billings)	82	92
Transient	12	21
Resident (County)	3	3
Non-Resident	11	9
Unknown	1	2

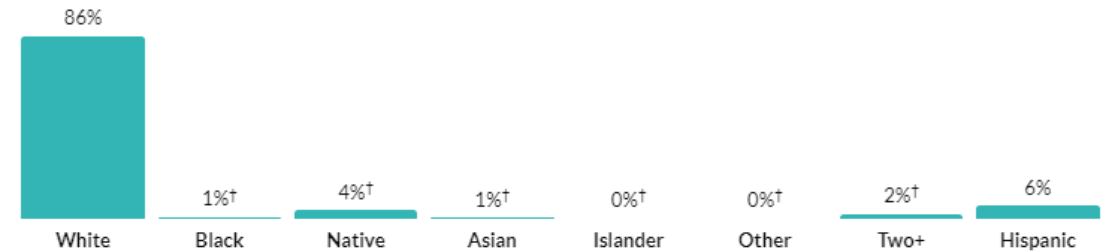
*One of the "unknown" race individuals was the owner of a found purse containing drugs and paraphernalia with no ID, while the remaining three "unknown" race, race was unknown.
 1 American Indian and 7 White individuals were classified as informational (7 males and 1 female), and 3 White and 1 Hawaiian/ Pacific Islander were classified as witnesses however all were present at time of crime and involved.

Race of Case Suspects



Billings, MT Racial Breakdown³

Race & Ethnicity



* Hispanic includes respondents of any race. Other categories are non-Hispanic.; ACS 2017 5-year data

[Hide data / Embed](#)

Age	Number of Case Suspects* in Age Range	
	October	November
13-17	14	8
18-21	16	10
22-29	24	32
30-40	36	46
41-50	17	19
51 and above	2	10
Average (mean) Age of Suspect	31	33



Building on our Conclusions

Successes and Shortcomings

*If you are in
recovery, what
has helped you
most?*

Individual Survey Responses



Successes



- **Conversations**
 - Community Innovations
 - Substance Abuse Connect
- **Law Enforcement Initiatives**
 - Pro-active Policing
 - Project Safe Neighborhoods
- **Intervention Strategies**
 - Treatment
 - Peer recovery groups
 - Meetings
 - Drug Treatment Court
- **Availability of Resources**
 - Food, Clothing, Shelter

*What recovery
services have
you been
unable to find
in Billings?*

Individual Survey Responses

A word cloud on a blue background displaying various survey responses. The words are arranged in a circular pattern, with some words appearing larger and bolder than others. The responses include:

- Housing for felons, violent offenders, past users
- Connections Corrections
- Alternatives to AA/NA
- getting a birth certificate
- Sober people
- Places that are fun that don't serve alcohol
- public transportation**
- inpatient treatment without waitlist
- help to find a steady, good-paying job
- Mental health services outside the emergency room
- Help with housing
- methadone suboxone treatment
- housing for felons
- recovery services for returning to school
- money for rent
- Aftercare
- payment
- affordable housing for felons
- long-term treatment
- employment to fit with treatment
- sober housing**
- people who genuinely understand Meth help
- places to go at night while under the influence
- Needle exchange**
- psychiatric care
- better sources for getting education
- asking for help
- open bed in a treatment facility
- sober housing for women without children
- jobs for felons
- places to sleep and shower
- Housing**
- help getting a job
- psychiatric help
- help without stigma
- help to become stable
- short-term inpatient treatment
- full-family treatment
- affordable sober housing
- meetings
- Affordable treatment
- mental health services
- peer to peer recovery
- an open bed without a long waitlist
- counseling for mental health

Gaps Identified




- **Resource Maps**
 - Increasing Accessibility
 - Updated organization information forms for MT211
- **Education and Prevention**
 - Gen Z Influence Meter: “Parents ranked highest for delivering effective anti-smoking, anti-alcohol, and anti-drug messages” with teachers ranking at a close second
- **Intervention**
 - 17.6% of individuals surveyed, report having contracted an illness from unsterile intravenous drug use (i.e. Hepatitis C, HIV)
 - Medicaid
 - Sober housing
 - Aftercare and gradual transitions
- **Stigma**
 - 38% of individuals surveyed identified “asking for help” as one of the most difficult aspects of recovery.
 - 28% identified “feeling judged” as one of the most difficult aspects
 - Awareness campaign: Cash handouts

Questions?

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- Introduction Image: <http://mtnelec.com/>
- Beach Image: <https://www.atlantisbahamas.com/thingstodo/pools-beaches/beaches>
- Furman Belltower Image: <https://www.scpictureproject.org/greenville-county/furman-bell-tower.html>
- Meth Definition: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/methamphetamine/what-methamphetamine> (1)
- Meth Watermark Image: <https://sunrisehouse.com/blog/nj-methamphetamine-abuse-spikes/>
- Opioids Definition: <https://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/opioids> (1)
- Opioids Watermark Image: <https://overthedosevt.com/opioids-and-heroin>
- Dopamine Information: <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/basics/dopamine> (2) and <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/85/14/5274.full.pdf>
- Billings Skyline Slide 7: <https://www.uwmtpsytrack.org/>
- Handcuff Image: <https://fedsoc.org/commentary/blog-posts/nlc-what-should-be-done-to-address-rising-crime-rates>
- School Building Image: <https://www.stamfordpublicschools.org/hart-elementary-school/bulletins/hart-magnet-elementary-school>
- Red Cross Logo: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/American_Red_Cross
- Billings PD Patrol Car Image: <https://simplyfamilymagazine.com/2014/09/ride-along-close-billings-pd/>
- Backpack Image: <https://www.travelinglifestyle.net/backpacking-tips-and-hacks-beginners/>
- Alcohol and Drugs Image: <https://today.uconn.edu/2017/01/substance-abuse-the-case-for-early-intervention/>
- Data Image: <https://www.infoworld.com/article/3235182/analytics/dremio-simpler-and-faster-data-analytics.html>
- Neighborhood Streets Image: <https://www.auction.com/blog/alternative-perspective-neighborhood-stabilization/>
- Survey Image: <http://berkshirechildren.org/survey/>
- SAMHSA Logo: <https://www.youtube.com/samhsa>
- MSUB Logo: <https://twitter.com/msubsports>
- VISTA logo with Black Background: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npGnWka8kFc>
- MT Board of Crime Control Logo: <http://mbcc.mt.gov/Data/Crime-Data-Maps/MTIBRS-Online-Reporting>
- Billings Population Demographic Data: <https://censusreporter.org/profiles/16000US3006550-billings-mt/> (3)
- 2018 Prevention Needs Assessment
- 2017 Youth Risk Behavior Survey
- 2015 Montana Treatment Episode Data Set
- VISTA Opioid and Meth Response Initiative Individual Survey
- Project Safe Neighborhoods, BPD Drug Data Dive
- Building Construction Image: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifoJLMYnZho>
- Billings at Night Image: https://www.tripadvisor.com/LocationPhotoDirectLink-g45086-i105405860-Billings_Montana.html
- Bighorn Canyon Image: <http://coltonstifflephotography.com/store/bighorn-canyon-storm>