

January 20, 2022



Center for Substance Abuse Research

Denver Health Medical Center

New Quarterly Drug Test Results from the Hospital's Electronic Health Records Released, October-December 2021

Denver Health Medical Center submitted results for 76 patients tested by the hospital between October 1, 2021-December 31, 2021, data series now extends from January 2017-December 2021.

Highlights

- Amphetamines (29%) and benzodiazepines (25%) are the most prevalent drugs detected in October-December 2021. However, benzodiazepines dropped from their highest level of 47% reached in April-June 2021 to their lowest level of 25% in October-December 2021 (T-1, F-2).
- Benzodiazepines, opiates, and methadone are at/near the bottom of their 5-year ranges (F-1).

The Emergency Department Drug Surveillance (EDDS) project is funded by the Executive Office of the President, Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP), Cooperative Agreement #G2099ONDCP09A awarded to Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) at University of Maryland, College Park. The information and opinions expressed herein are the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of ONDCP or any other agency of the Federal Government. For additional data: <https://cesar.umd.edu/landing/EDDS>.

**Table 1: Drugs Detected in Specimens from Denver Health Medical Center
Emergency Department (ED) Drug Overdose Patients, By Quarter**

(N=2,075 specimens collected from January 2017 through December 2021)

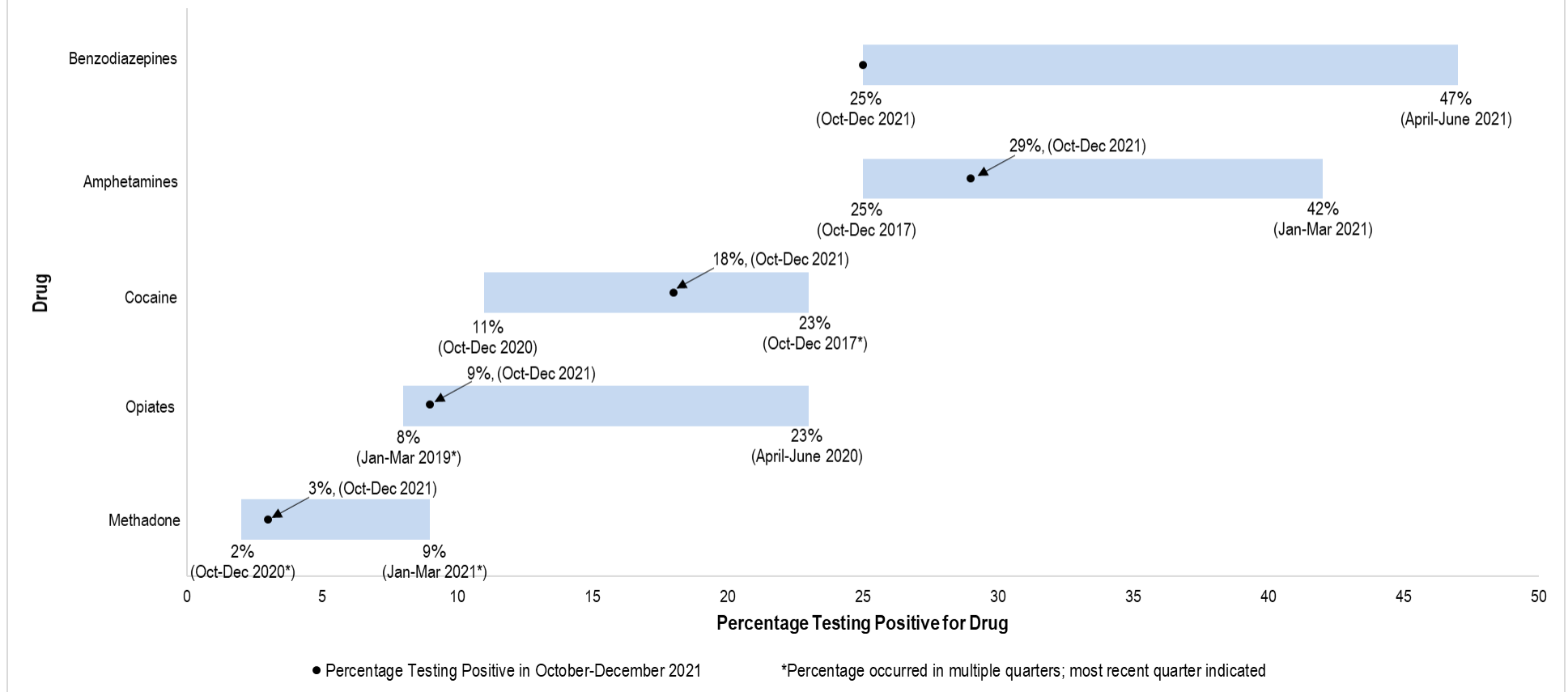
Quarter (N of specimens tested)	Benzodiazepines %	Amphetamines %	Opiates %	Cocaine %	Methadone %
January-March 2017 (111)	31	27	15	23	5
April-June 2017 (104)	31	34	22	14	3
July-September 2017 (98)	31	32	19	17	4
October-December 2017 (96)	27	25 L	17	23 H	9
January-March 2018 (111)	31	29	13	18	3
April-June 2018 (103)	38	39	13	15	4
July-September 2018 (102)	33	31	8	17	2
October-December 2018 (107)	31	28	11	16	8
January-March 2019 (121)	38	36	8 L	17	4
April-June 2019 (117)	41	36	18	17	8
July-September 2019 (129)	28	40	9	18	5
October-December 2019 (107)	34	32	19	18	3
January-March 2020 (88)	32	38	16	22	9
April-June 2020 (89)	34	32	23 H	14	9
July-September 2020 (97)	38	37	12	22	3
October-December 2020 (120)	38	38	9	11 L	2 L
January-March 2021 (94)	34	42 H	16	22	9 H
April-June 2021 (106)	47 H	41	9	18	4
July-September 2021 (99)	32	36	11	19	6
October-December 2021 (76)	25 L	29	9	18	3

Notes: H: Highest %. L: Lowest %. If there are multiple highs or lows, the most recent quarter is selected as the high/low.

Amphetamines (29%) and benzodiazepines (25%) are the most prevalent drugs detected in October-December 2021. However, benzodiazepines dropped from their highest level of 47% reached in April-June 2021 to their lowest level of 25% in October-December 2021.

Figure 1: Range of the High and Low of Quarterly Percentages Testing Positive for Each Drug at the Denver Health Medical Center Emergency Department (ED), January 2017-December 2021

(N=2,075 specimens collected from drug overdose patients)



Benzodiazepines, opiates, and methadone are at/near the bottom of their 5-year ranges.

Figure 2: Percentage of Drugs Detected in Patients Administered Urine Drug Screens for ED Visits Involving Drug Overdoses, 2017-2021

CESAR EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT DRUG SURVEILLANCE (EDDS) SYSTEM

DENVER, COLORADO: Denver Health Medical Center

SELECT DRUG(S)^:

All

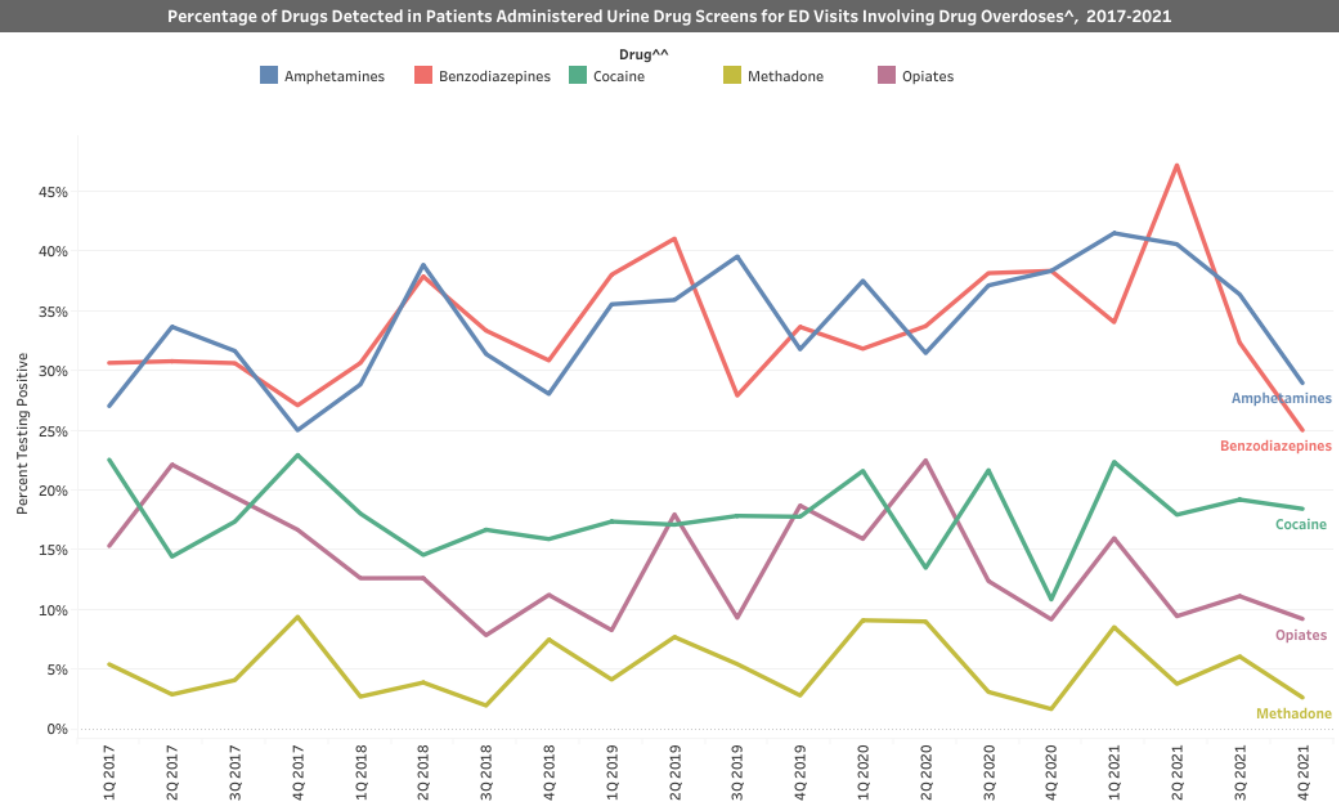
SELECT TIME PERIOD:

Quarter

NOTE: The definition of an EDDS case may vary by site. The Denver Health Medical Center EDDS dashboards are based on drug-involved emergency department (ED) visits defined below. Also note that persons who visit the ED multiple times are counted each time as a separate visit.

^ED Visits for Drug Overdoses: Defined as any ED visit involving a patient 18 years or older with a complaint of "overdose" and/or any ICD 10-CM T36-T50 initial encounter diagnosis code of poisoning with accidental (unintentional), intentional self-harm, or undetermined intent.

^^Drug (included in Urine Drug Screens): Denver Health Medical Center routinely administers a urine drug screen that detects the presence of the following drugs: Amphetamines, Benzodiazepines, Cocaine, Methadone, and Opiates. Also note that some ED visits may have been screened more than once; a positive drug test result is defined as having a positive result for a drug on any urine drug screen.



Total number of drug screens conducted from Jan 2017 through Dec 2021 = 2,075

Source: Adapted by the Center for Substance Abuse Research (CESAR) from data provided by Denver Health Medical Center; data last submitted January 5, 2022.

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Interact with this Denver Health Medical Center data dashboard on the CESAR EDDS site at: <https://data.cesaresearch.org/edds/p-1/co/denver/denverhealth/drug-positive-trends/>

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