MEMORANDUM

Date: June 26, 2017

To: The Honorable Chair and Members
Pima County Board of Supervisors

From: C.H. Huckelberry
County Administrator

Re: **Opioids and Overdose Deaths**

Attached is a First Quarter 2017 report from the Medical Examiner regarding overdose deaths in Pima County for the period January 1 through March 31, 2017. The report is self-explanatory.

There are no new trends – either increases or decreases – with regard to overdose deaths in Pima County. This data gathering is part of a more intensive analysis associated with opioid overdose related public health issues, as well as overdose deaths in Pima County. Our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Francisco Garcia, is currently gathering information regarding utilization of emergency departments related to overdoses from alcohol and other substances.

CHH/mjk

Attachment

c: Jan Lesher, Chief Deputy County Administrator
Dr. Francisco Garcia, Assistant County Administrator for Community and Health Services
Dr. Greg Hess, Chief Medical Examiner

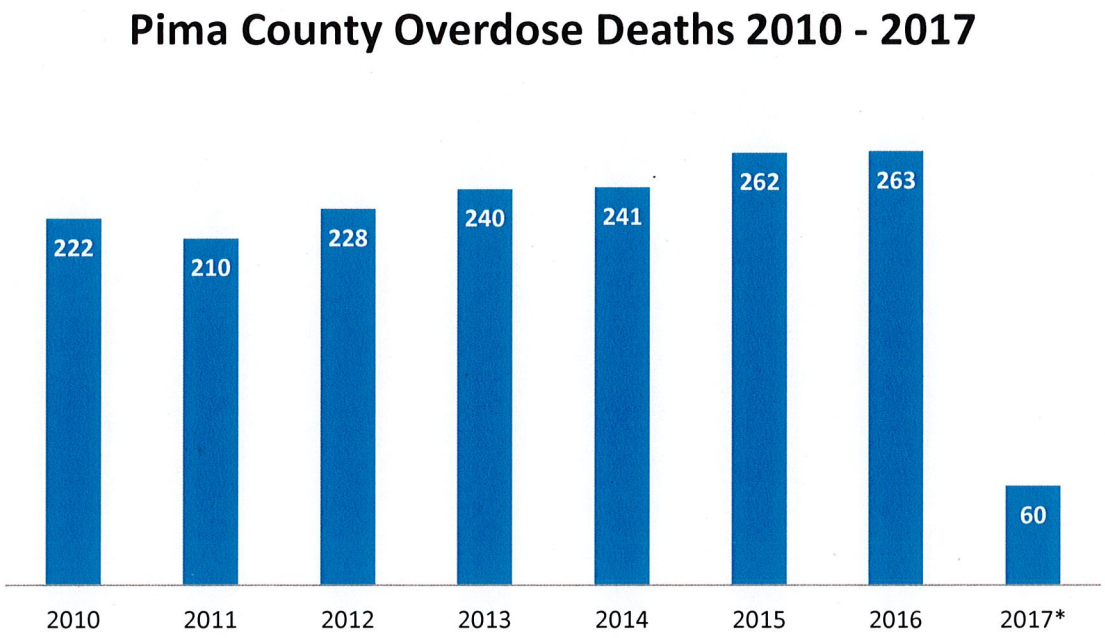
PIMA COUNTY OVERDOSE DEATHS – 2017 QUARTERLY REPORT
JANUARY – MARCH 2017

The Pima County Office of the Medical Examiner (PCOME), in cooperation with the Health Department, will provide County administration with quarterly updates and trend analysis of overdose deaths to include deaths related to opiate compounds.

BACKGROUND

Overdose deaths in Pima County have increased by 18% overall from 2010 (222) to 2016 (263), punctuated by plateaus from 2013 (240) to 2014 (241) and again from 2015 (262) to 2016 (263) (**F1**). The PCOME has not historically reported overdose deaths in which an opiate compound was a component of the death separately from the total number of overdose deaths. That stated, 2016 overdose deaths were re-examined and an opiate compound contributed to 175 (67%) of the 263 total overdose deaths in 2016 either as a single or poly drug overdose. At this time, Pima County has not been subject to the wave of synthetic opiate deaths (fentanyl analogs such as carfentanil) that other regions of the country have experienced.

FIGURE 1 (F1)



*01/01/2017 – 03/31/2017

2017 TRENDS AND SPECIFICS

For the first quarter of 2017, opiate compounds contributed to 41 (68%) (**F2**) of the 60 total overdose deaths (**F1 & F3**). Specific drugs contributing to first quarter overdoses are listed in Figure 4 (**F4**). Select individual drugs by month are depicted in Figures 5-12 (**F5-F12**).

FIGURE 2 (F2)

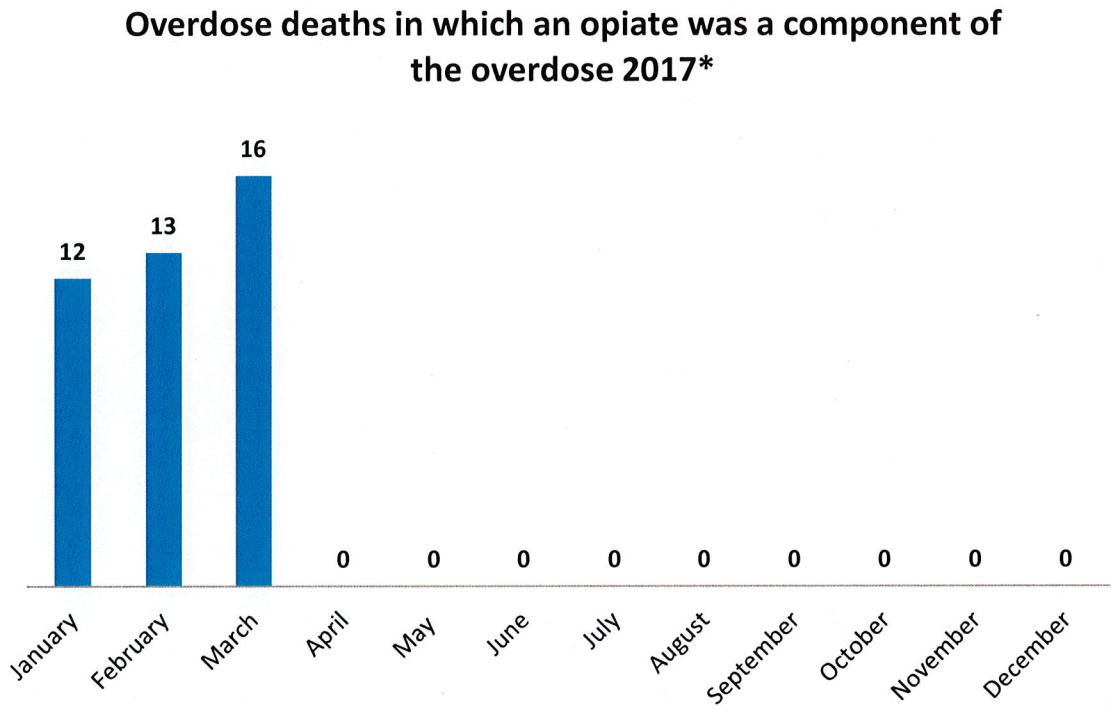
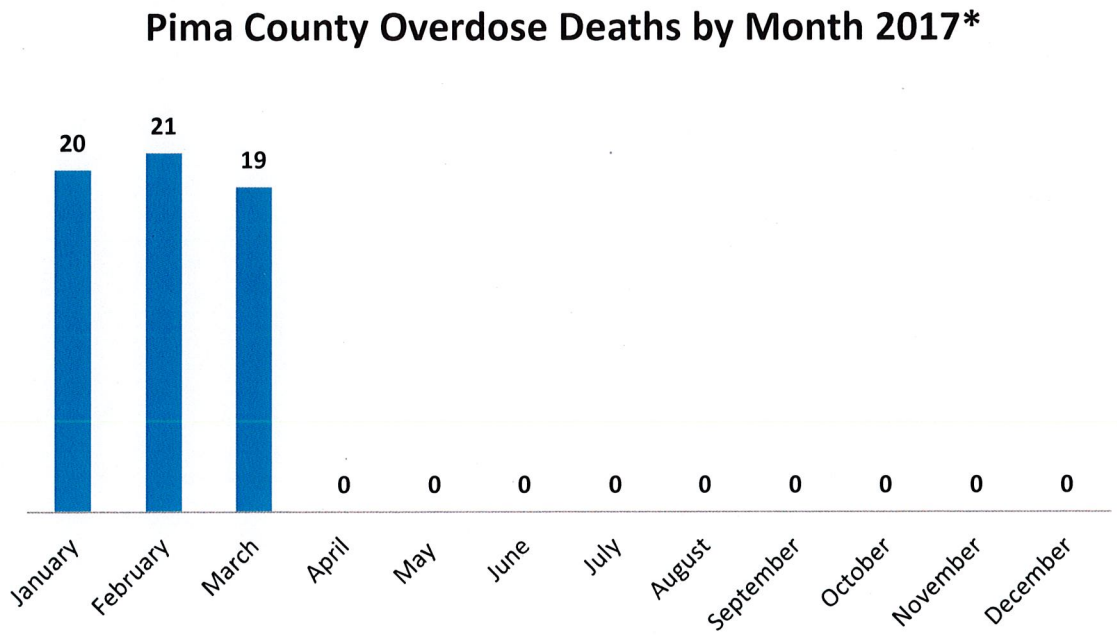
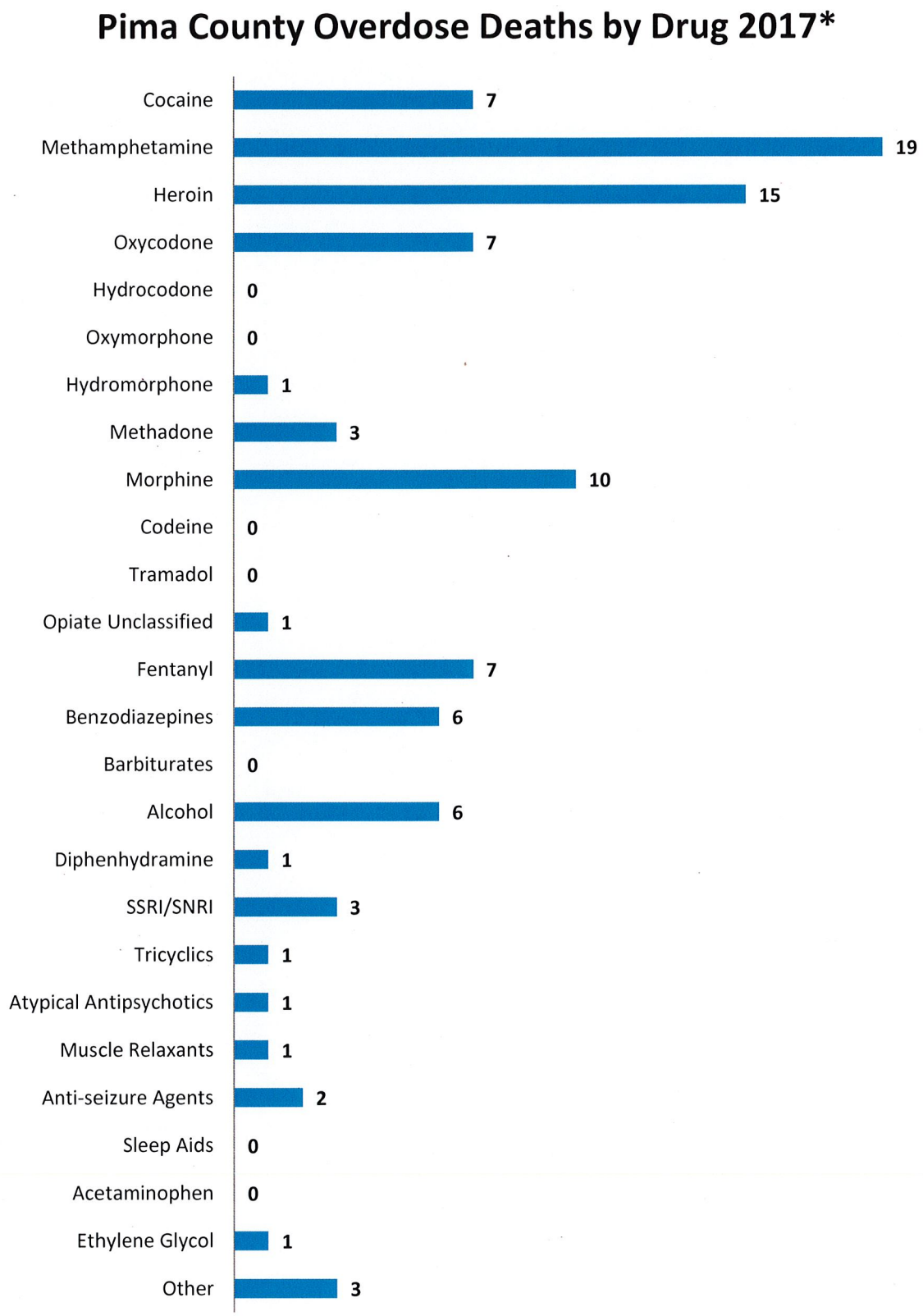


FIGURE 3 (F3)



*01/01/2017 – 03/31/2017

FIGURE 4 (F4)



*01/01/2017 – 03/31/2017

FIGURE 5 (F5)

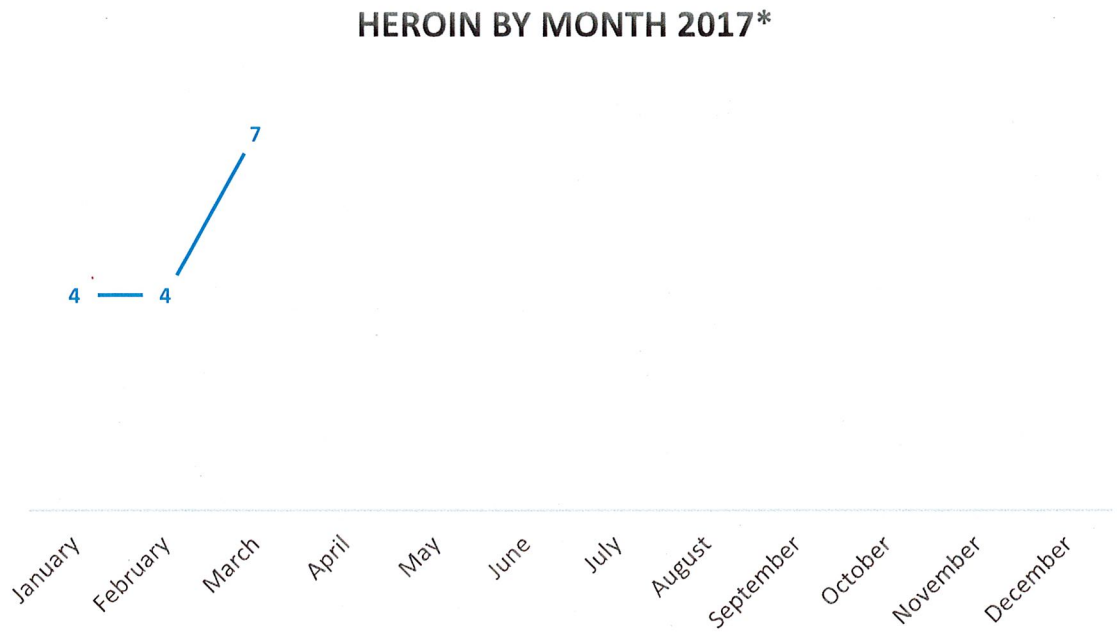
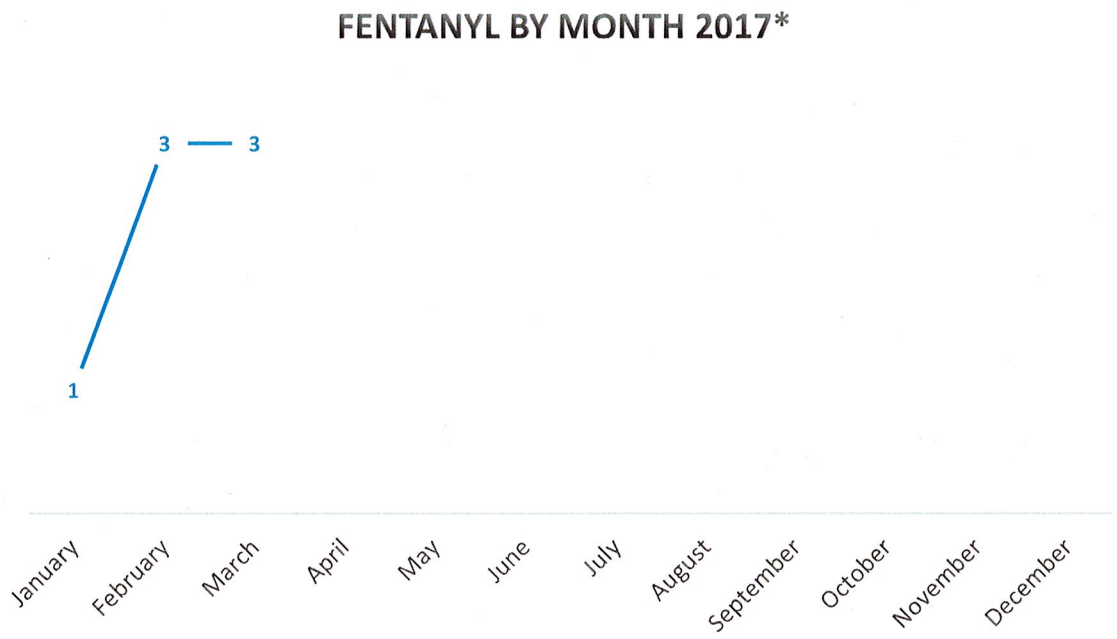


FIGURE 6 (F6)



*01/01/2017 – 03/31/2017

FIGURE 7 (F7)

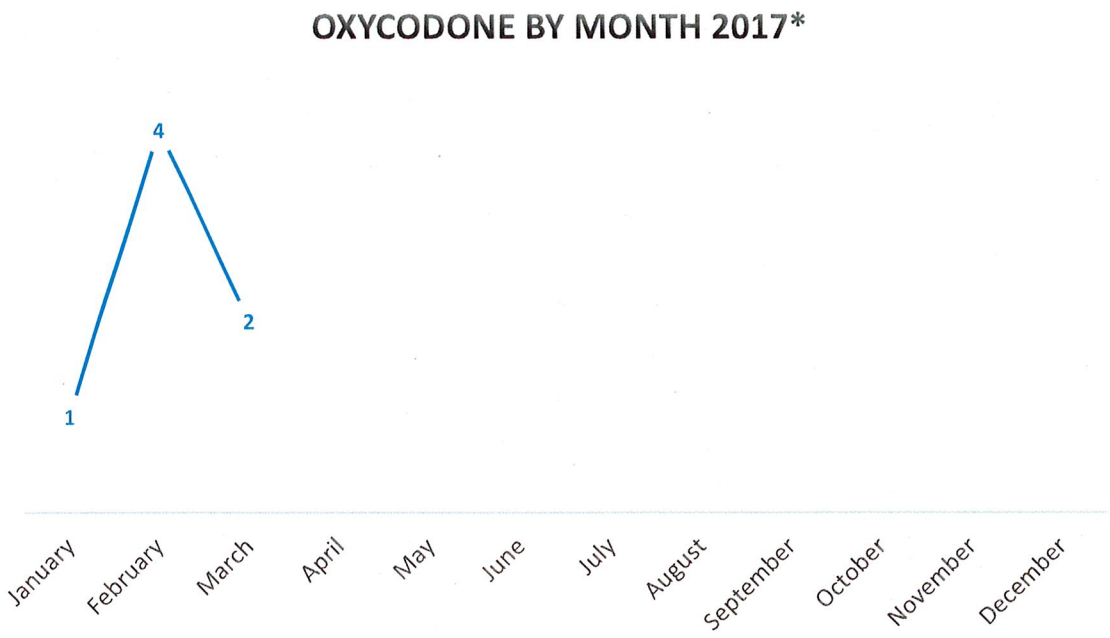


FIGURE 8 (F8)

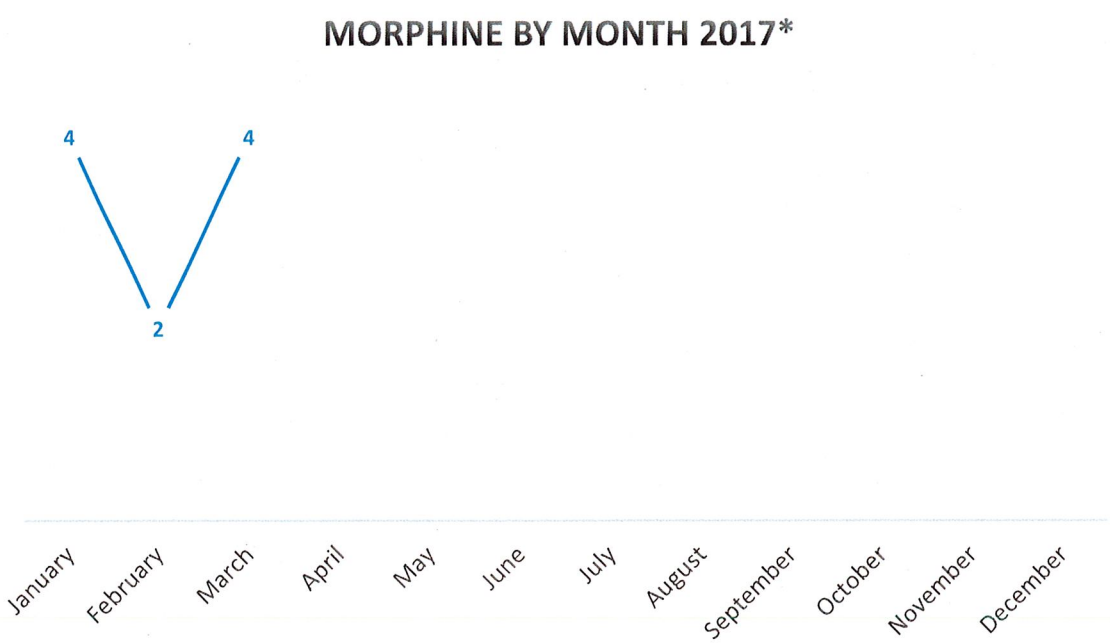


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FIGURE 9 (F9)

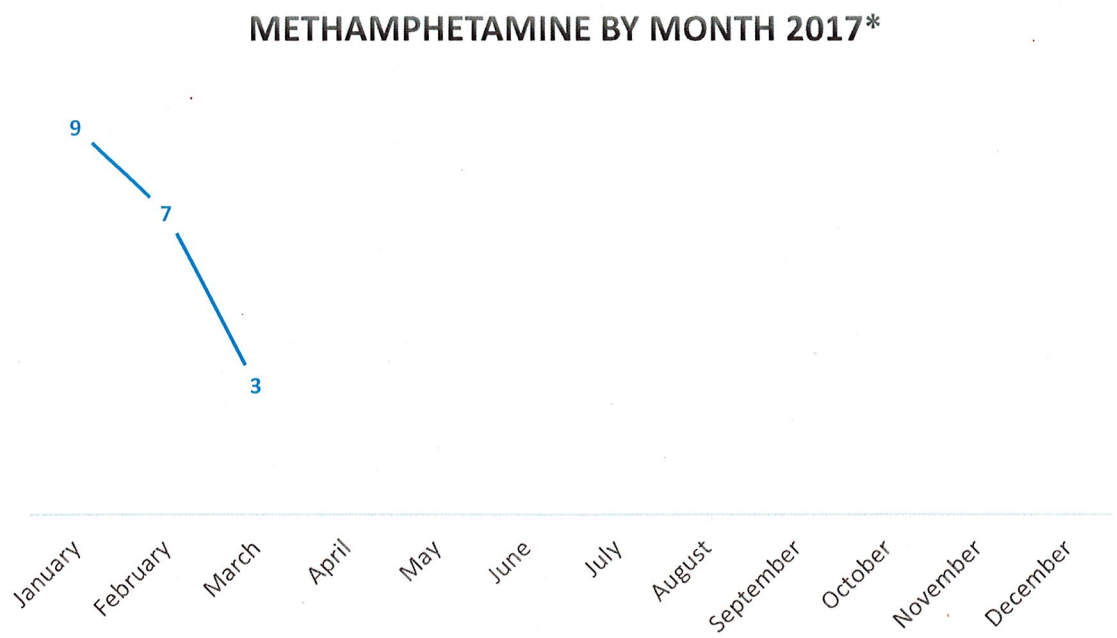

FIGURE 10 (F10)

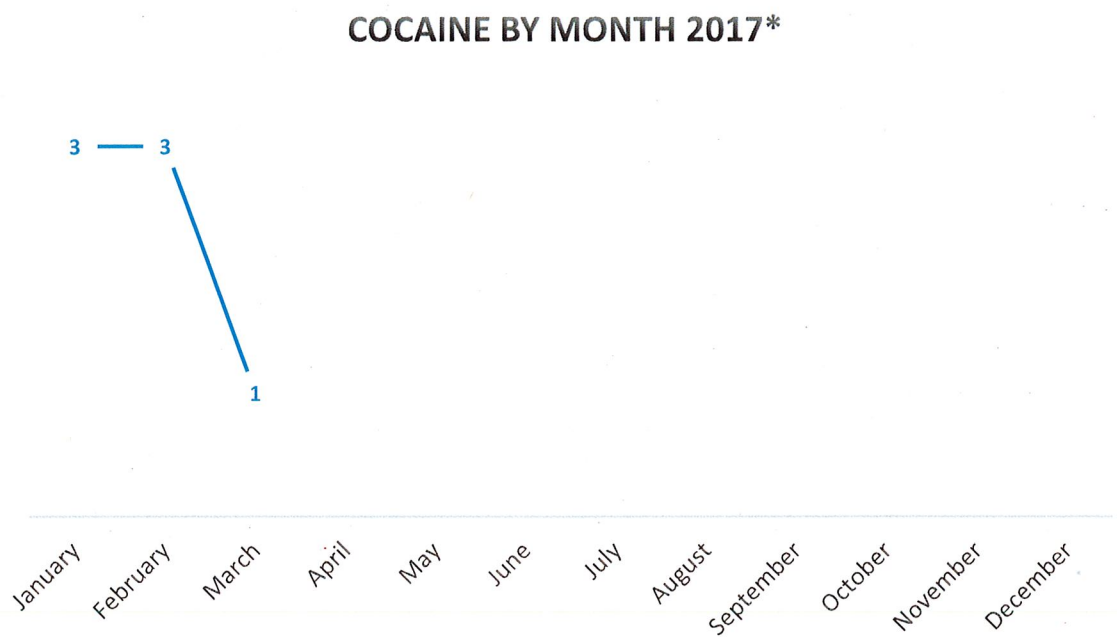

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FIGURE 11 (F11)

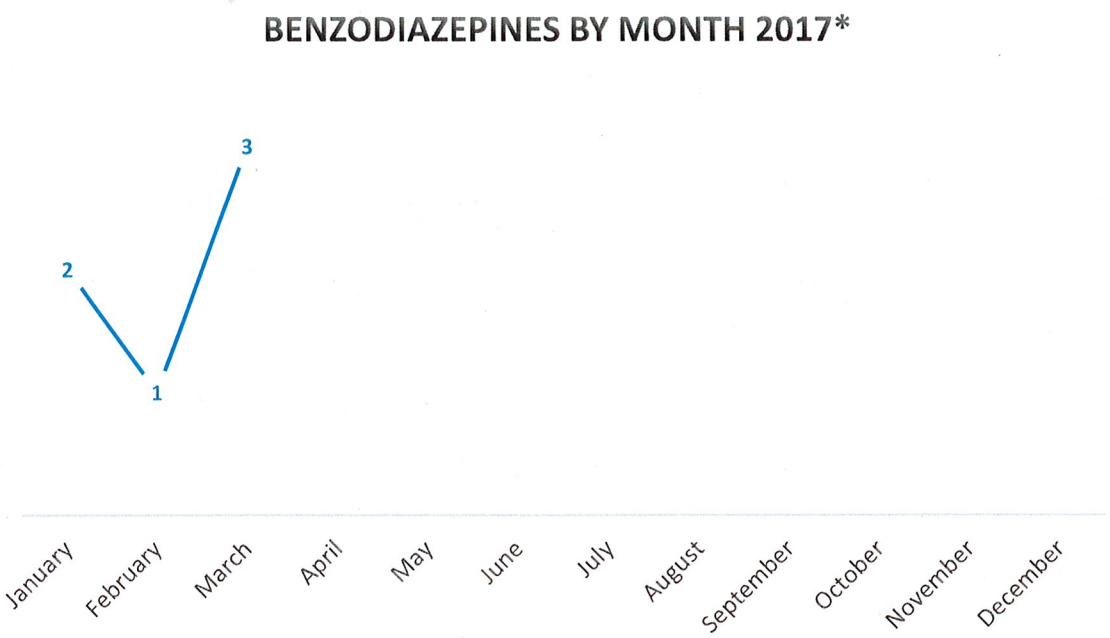
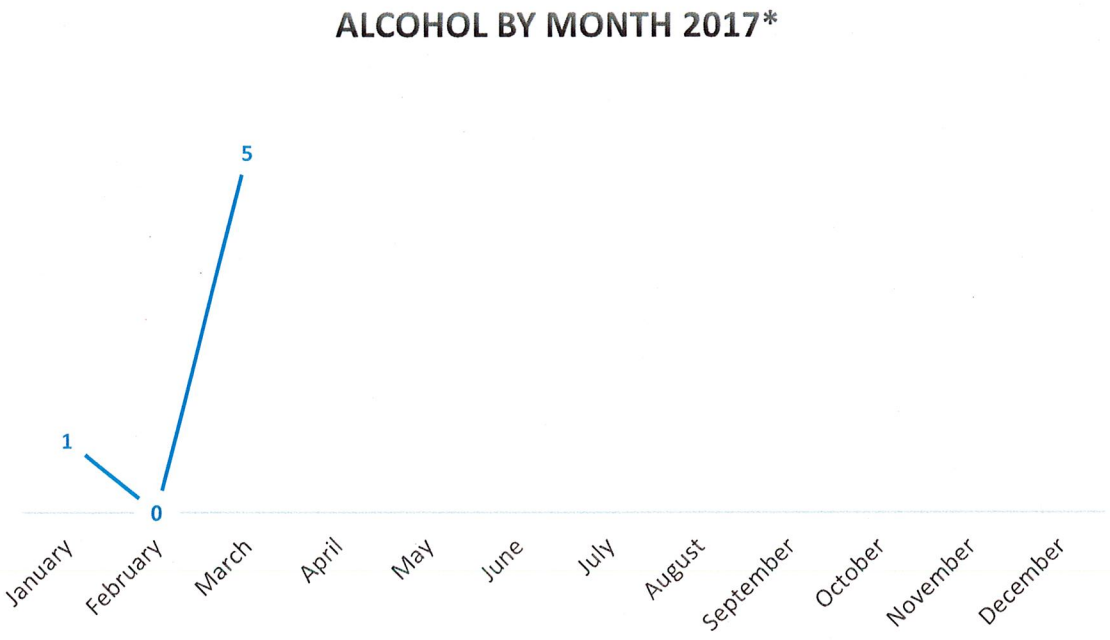


FIGURE 12 (F12)



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SUMMARY

I do not see any new or alarming trends beyond the norm upon review of these 2017 1st quarter overdose data. If first quarter trends were to be considered a barometer for the remainder of the calendar year, I would project 240 total overdose deaths, approximately 70% of which may involve an opiate compound. This would place the total number of deaths similar to 2013 and 2014 numbers. Please expect to see an updated analysis to include data through the end of June 2017 towards the end of the third quarter 2017.

*01/01/2017 – 03/31/2017