

2019 HAWAII DRUG RELATED DEATHS AND OVERDOSE REPORT



Hawaii HIDTA April 2019

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INTRODUCTION:

Producing a narrative to the compilation of raw numbers into organized charts and graphs is always a challenge, and further compounded by the fact that statistics will always be interpreted and reinterpreted ad nauseum, depending on the researcher's/presenter's agenda. To this end, the following charts and statistics are presented purely as representations of the data collected from the County Coroner Physicians and Medical Examiner representing the four counties of Hawaii during Calendar Year 2019. The data is taken directly from County Coroner Physicians' and Medical Examiner's reports, as opposed to CDC drug-related death reporting sourced from death certificates.

Before going too much further, it is necessary to acknowledge the tireless and never-ending efforts by Hawaii HIDTA Director Gary Yabuta, and the past Supervisor of the Hawaii HIDTA ISC, DEA IA Supervisor Robert Melesciuc, who convinced the Coroners of Hawaii (neighbor island Police Chiefs), their physicians and the Honolulu Medical Examiner to release the information regarding drug-related deaths from 2016 to 2019. Last year's 2018 Hawaii HIDTA drug death statistical report was the beginning of this reporting methodology, which implemented a baseline from 2016. These annual reports, compiled into charts and graphs for analysis, are made public to better serve our law enforcement, criminal justice, treatment and prevention disciplines. This reporting methodology was made possible from the intense effort and diligent work of the Hawaii HIDTA ISC.

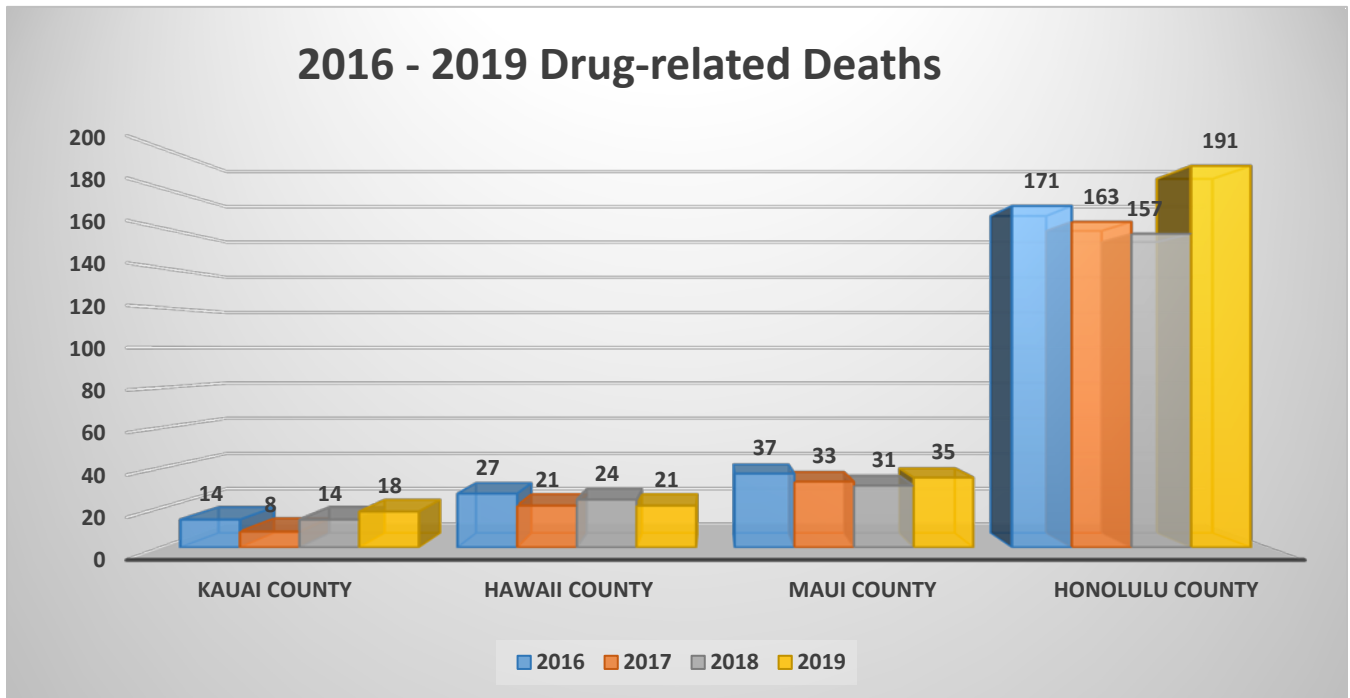
The Hawaii HIDTA wishes to thank MPD Chief Tivoli Faaumu, KPD Chief Todd Raybuck and Hawaii County Chief Ferreira for authorizing release of the drug-related death reports in their jurisdictions. And without the efforts and professionalism of County Coroner Physician Martin Ishikawa (representing neighbor-islands) and Honolulu Medical Examiner Masahiko Kobayashi, this annual reporting process wouldn't be possible.

Finally, any document presenting statistical analysis should be prefaced with the following quote from the *Journal of the Royal Statistical Society* (1896) and attributed to the Baron Courtney of Penwith:

*"We may quote to one another with a chuckle the words of the Wise Statesman- **lies, damned lies and statistics** -, still there are some easy figures which the simplest must understand but the astutest cannot wriggle out of."*

These are the figures we have done our best to simplify and set intelligibly before you. The way is now clear for the wriggling...

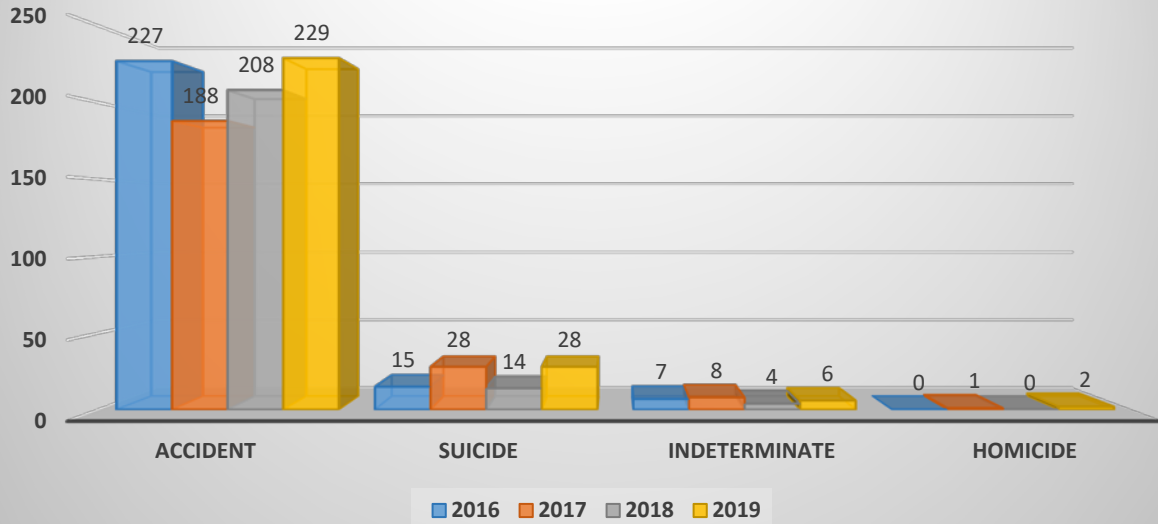
GENERAL OVERALL DRUG DEATH STATISTICS:



<i>Drug-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kauai County	14	8	14	18
Hawaii County	27	21	24	21
Maui County	37	33	31	35
Honolulu County	171	163	157	191
Total	249	225	226	265

<i>Deaths - All Causes</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kauai County	553	570	545	506
Hawaii County	1,586	1,705	1,673	1,450
Maui County	1,064	1,136	1,161	1,070
Honolulu County	7,806	8,094	8,143	6,959
Total	11,009	11,505	11,522	11743

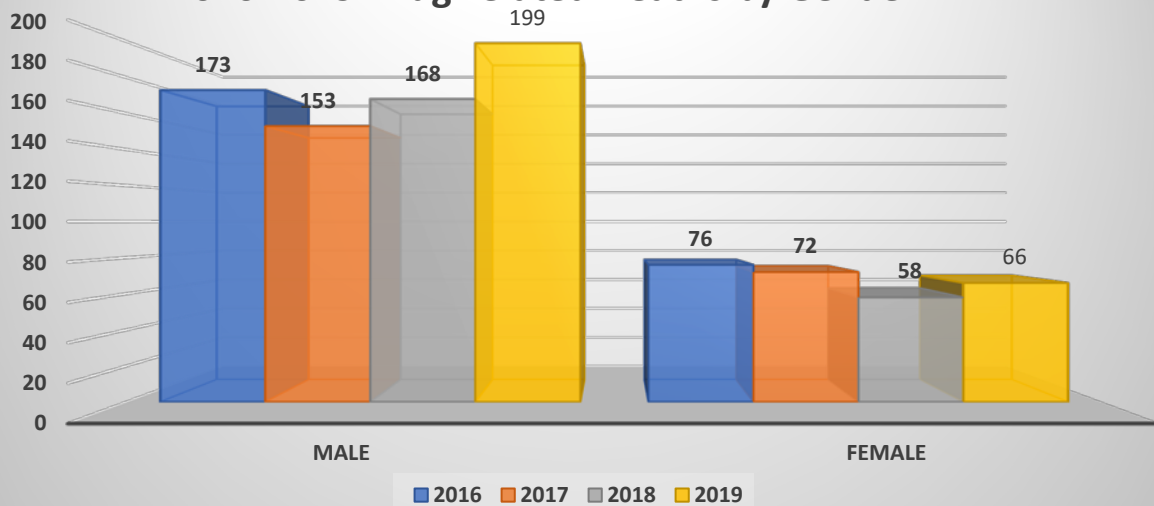
2016-2019 Drug-related Deaths by Type



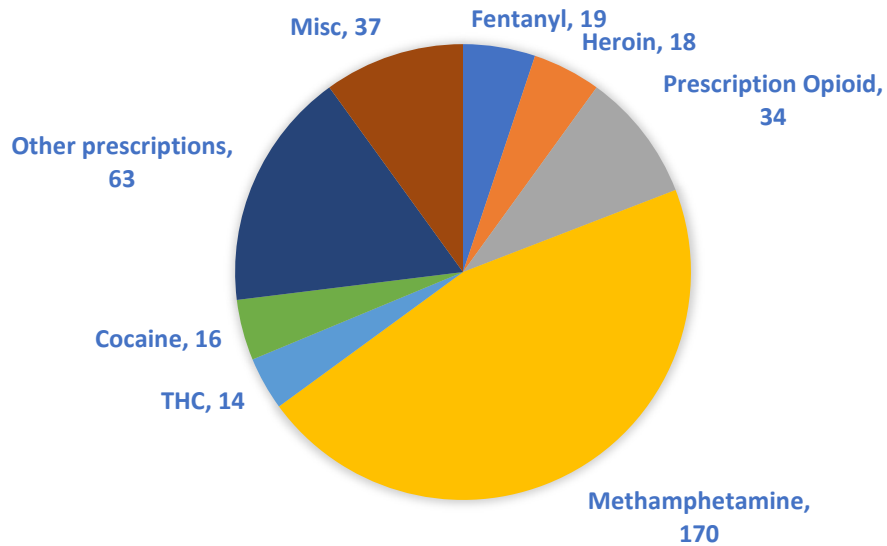
Cause of Death	2016	2017	2018	2019
Accident	227	188	208	229
Suicide	15	28	14	28
Indeterminate	7	8	4	6
Homicide	0	1	0	2

Drug Deaths - Gender	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	173	153	168	199
Female	76	72	58	66

2016-2019 Drug-related Deaths by Gender

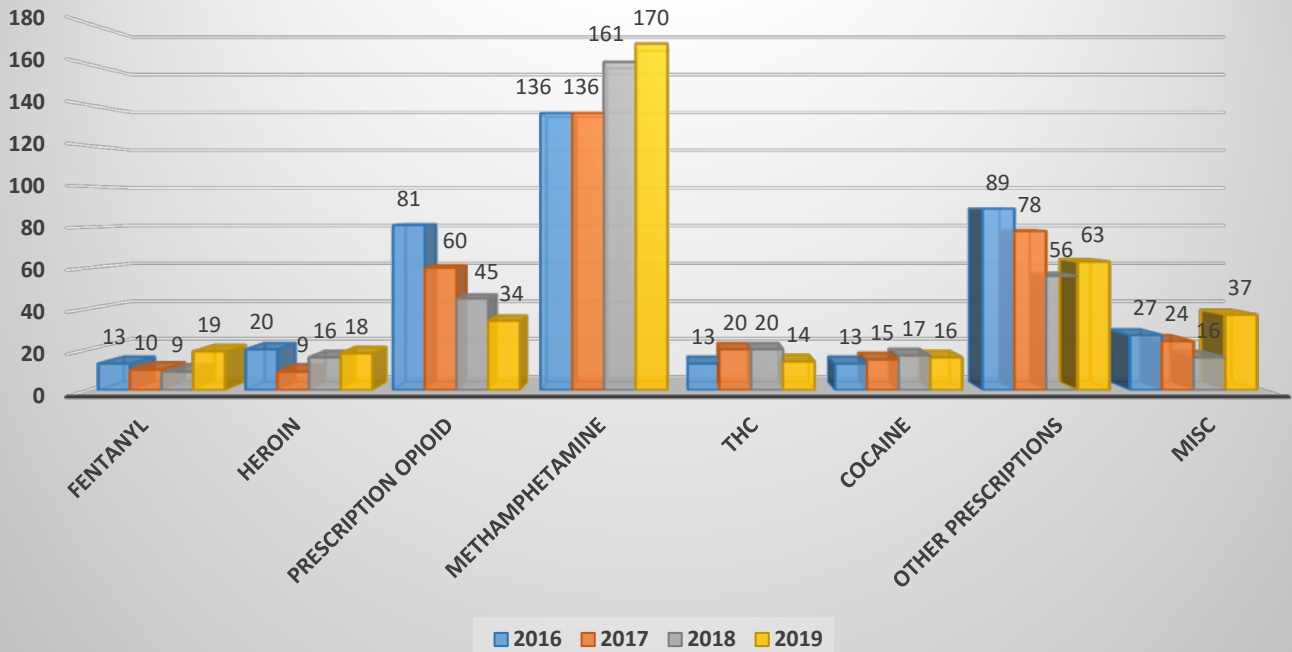


2019 DRUG-RELATED DEATHS BY DRUG CATEGORY



Drug Deaths by Category	2016	2017	2018	2019
Fentanyl	13	10	9	19
Heroin	20	9	16	18
Prescription Opioid	81	60	45	34
Methamphetamine	136	136	161	170
THC	13	20	20	14
Cocaine	13	15	17	16
Other prescriptions	89	78	56	63
Misc.	27	24	16	37

2016-2019 Drug-related Deaths by Drug Category



Summary of 2019 Drug Death Statistics:

<u>Total drug related deaths</u>	265	Accidental:	229
		Suicide:	28
Total Meth related	170	Homicide:	2
Meth only	142	Undetermined:	6
Meth Mixed	28		
Fentanyl Totals	19		
Fentanyl Only	3		
Fentanyl Mix	16		
Heroin Totals	18		
Heroin Only	5		
Heroin Mix	13		
Cocaine Totals	16		
Cocaine Only	7		
Cocaine Mix	9		
All Other Drugs & Alcohol	42		

* The description as (drug) only and (drug) mixed, refer to the (drug) as principal cause of death vs. a mix or cocktail of drugs immediately leading to the death.

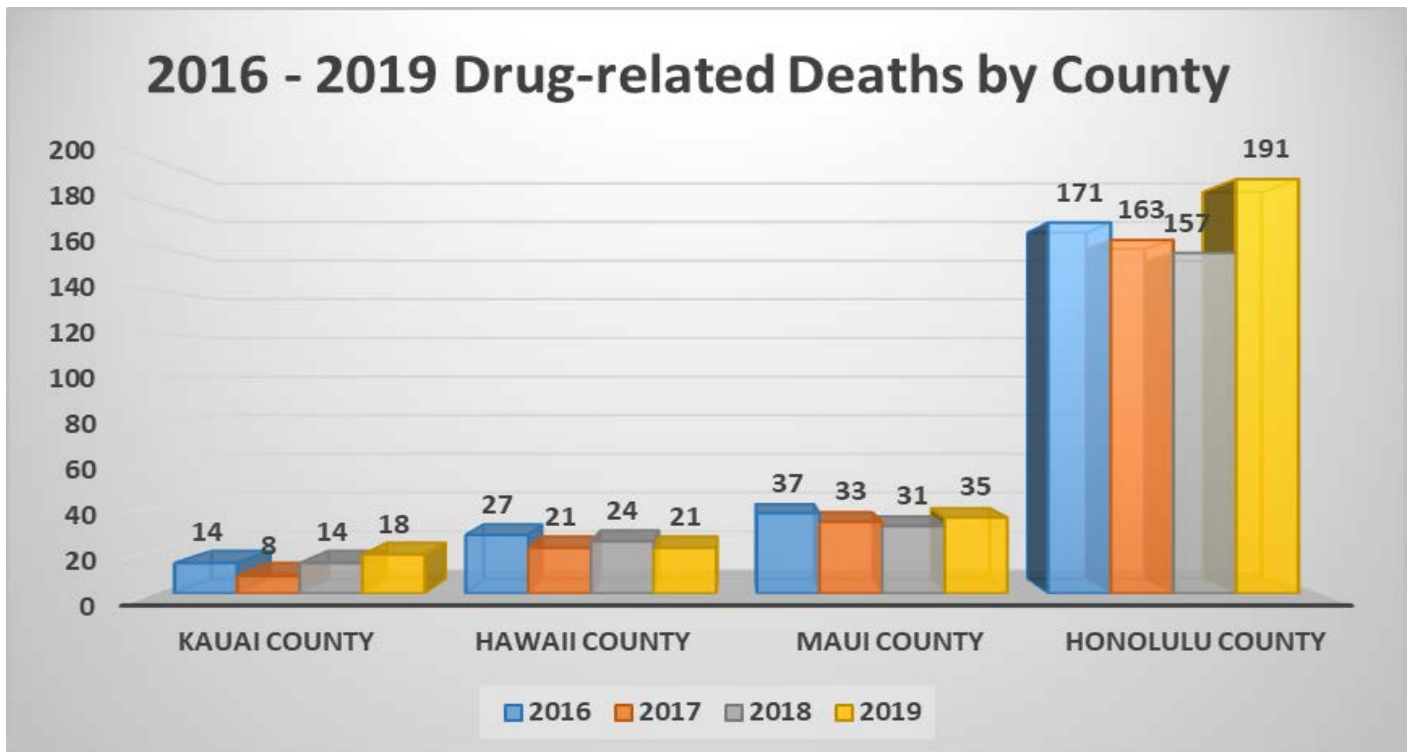
DRUG RELATED DEATHS BY COUNTY :

<i>Kauai County Drug-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	11	4	12	12
Female	3	4	2	6
	14	8	14	18
Male	79%	50%	86%	67%
Female	21%	50%	14%	33%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residents	14	7		
Visitors	0	0		
Unknown	0	1		
	14	8		
Accident	12	5	14	12
Suicide	2	3	0	6
Indeterminate	0	0	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0
	14	8	14	18
Average Age	45	51	48	56

<i>Maui County Drug-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	17	21	22	27
Female	20	12	9	8
	37	33	31	35
Male	46%	64%	71%	77%
Female	54%	36%	29%	23%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residents	28	33		
Visitors	5	0		
Unknown	4	0		
	37	33		
Accident	30	26	25	29
Suicide	4	5	6	5
Indeterminate	3	2	0	1
Homicide	0	0	0	0
	37	33	31	35
Average Age	51	55	55	51

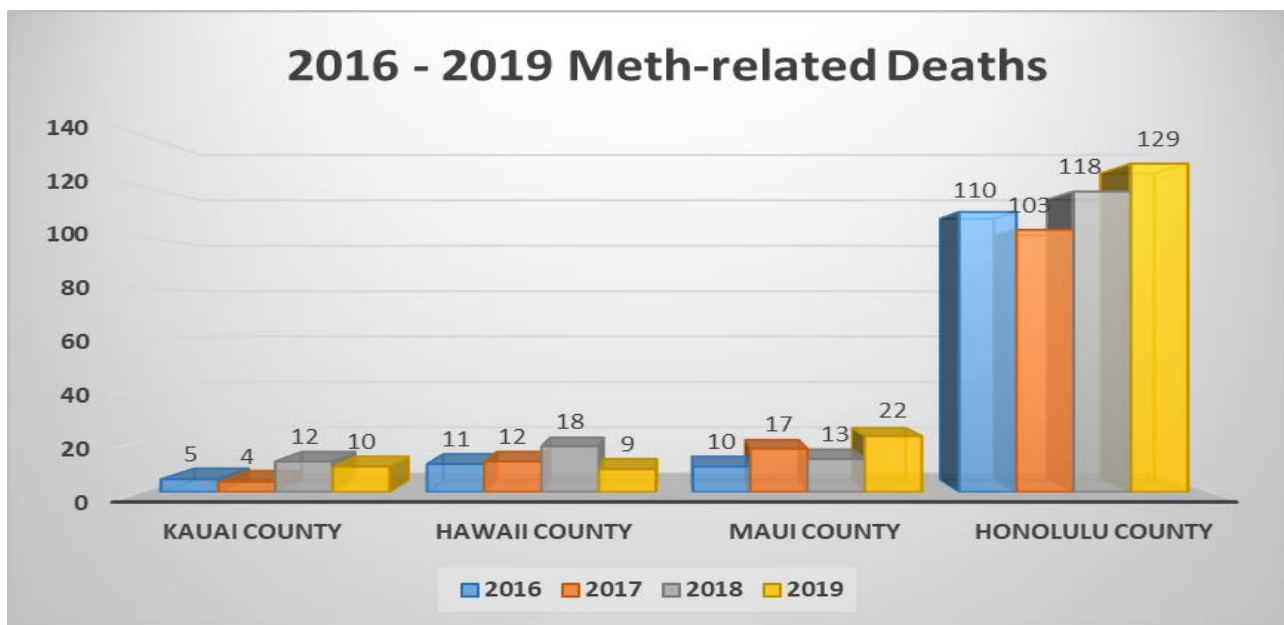
<i>Honolulu County Drug-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	124	111	116	142
Female	47	52	41	49
	171	163	157	191
Male	73%	68%	74%	74%
Female	27%	32%	26%	26%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residents	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Visitors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Unknown	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Accident	161	139	146	171
Suicide	7	19	7	13
Indeterminate	3	4	4	5
Homicide	0	1	0	2
	171	163	157	191
Average Age	50	49	49	52

<i>Hawaii County Drug-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Male	21	17	18	18
Female	6	4	6	3
	27	21	24	21
Male	78%	81%	75%	86%
Female	22%	19%	25%	14%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residents	N/A	N/A		
Visitors	N/A	N/A		
Unknown	N/A	N/A		
Accident	24	18	23	17
Suicide	2	1	1	4
Indeterminate	1	2	0	0
Homicide	0	0	0	0
	27	21	24	0
Average Age	47	49	46	46

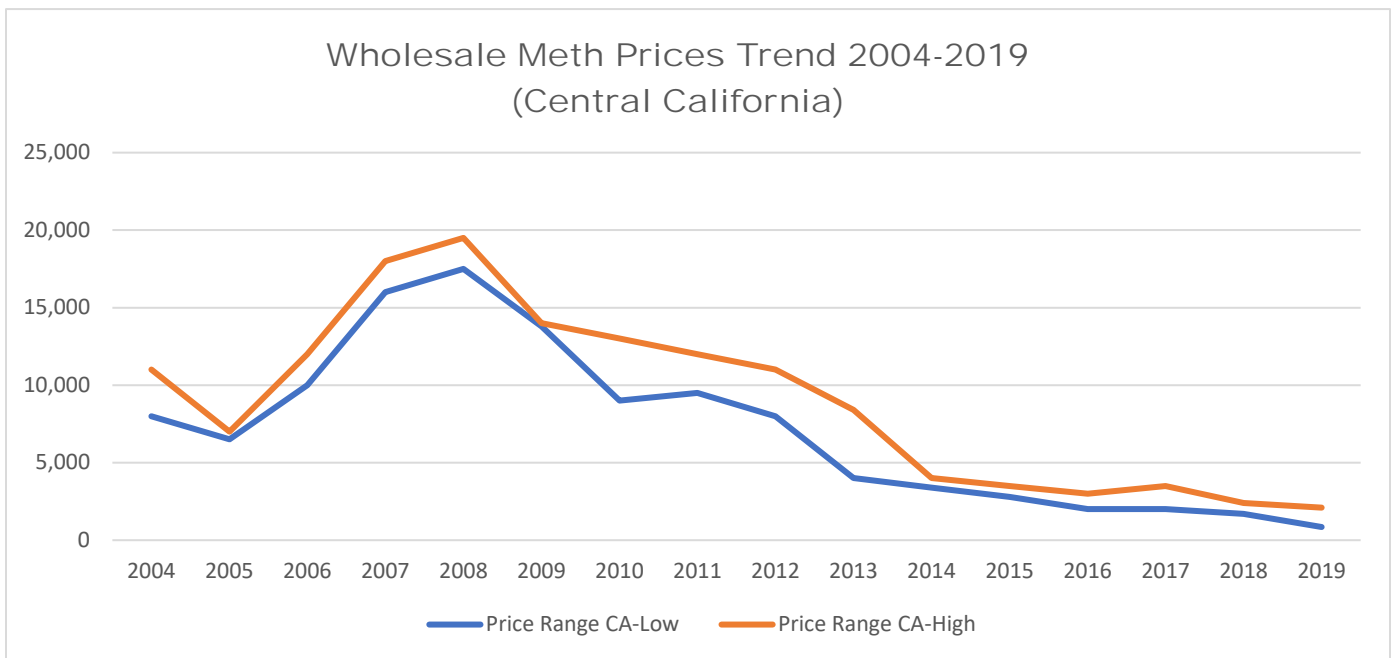
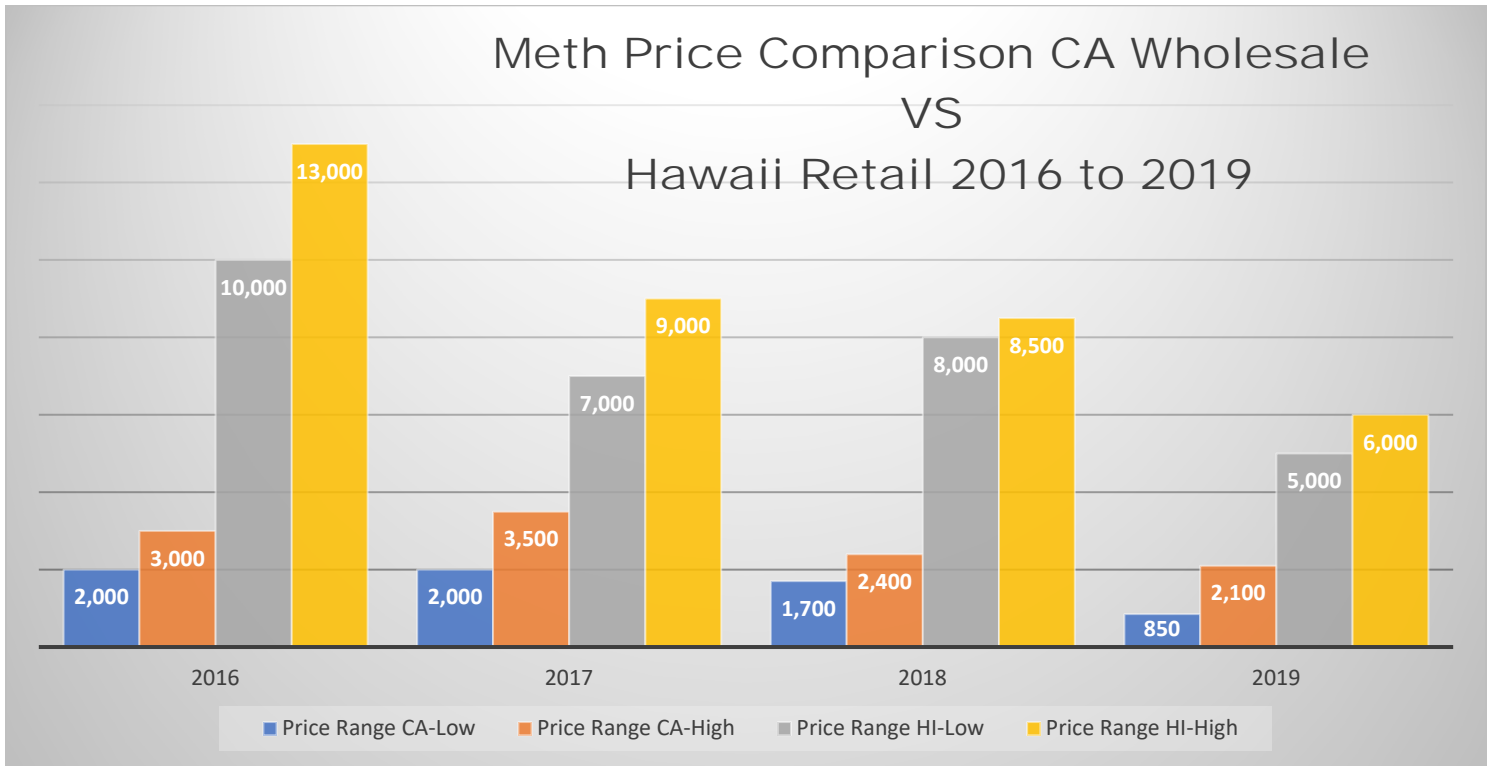


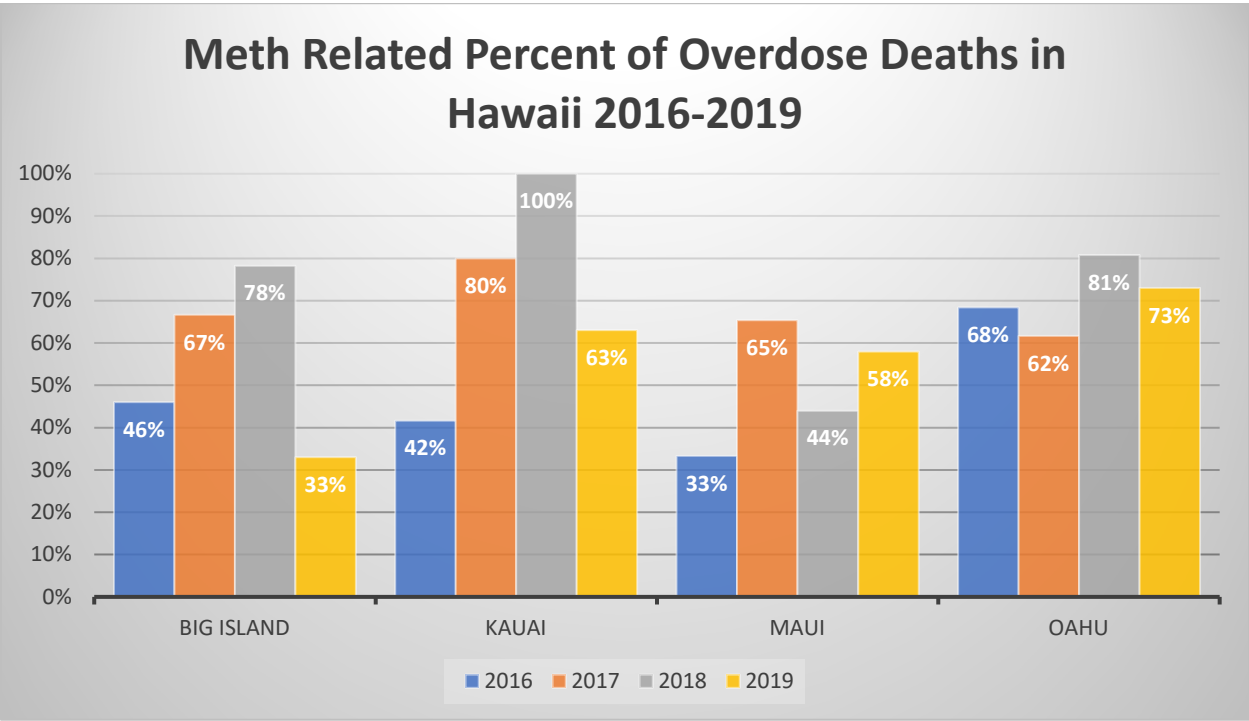
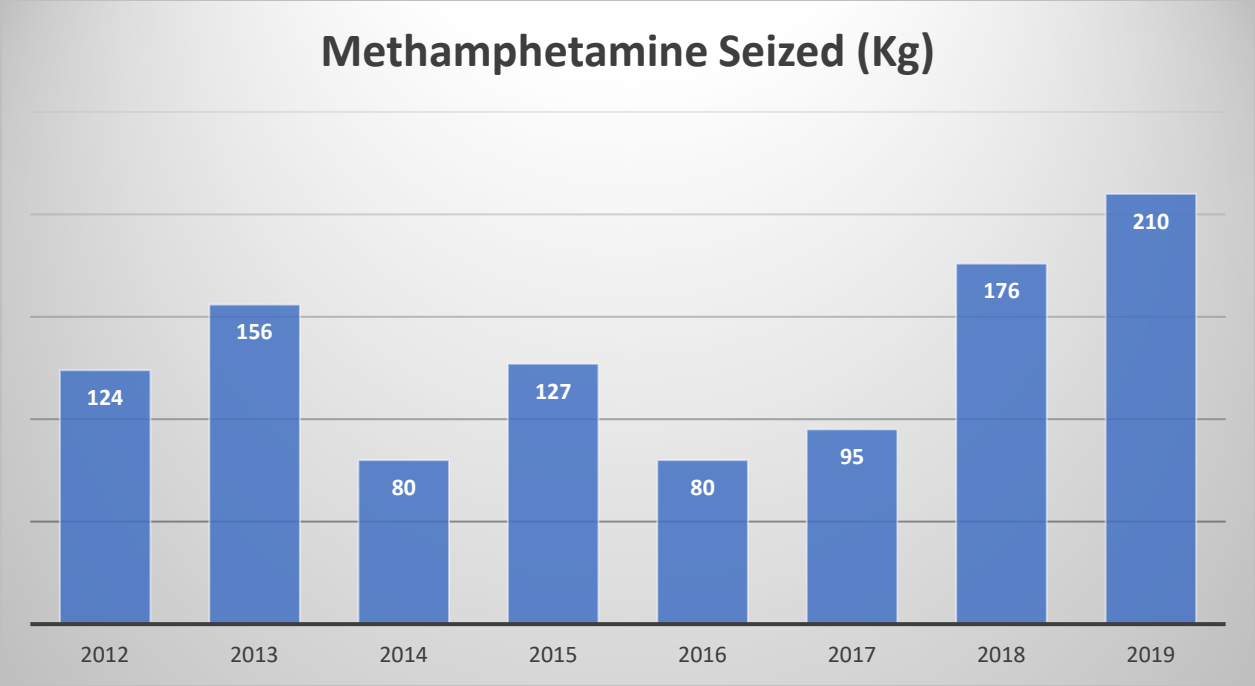
METHAMPHETAMINE RELATED DRUG DEATHS:

Meth-Related Deaths	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kauai County	5	4	12	10
Hawaii County	11	12	18	9
Maui County	10	17	13	22
Honolulu County	110	103	118	129
Total	136	136	161	170
Male			120	126
Female			41	44
	0	0	161	170
Male	0%	0%	75%	74%
Female	0%	0%	25%	26%
			100%	100%
Accident			158	165
Suicide			0	3
Indeterminate			3	1
Homicide			0	1
	0	0	161	170
Average Age			49	51



METHAMPHETAMINE RELATED STATISTICS:





* Please refer to the section regarding Overdose Deaths in Hawaii for further explanation.

FENTANYL RELATED DRUG DEATHS:

<i>Fentanyl-Related Deaths</i>	2016	2017	2018	2019
Kauai County	1	0	0	1
Hawaii County	4	3	6	3
Maui County	3	3	2	3
Honolulu County	5	4	1	12
Total	13	10	9	19
Male	9	6	6	15
Female	4	4	3	4
	13	10	9	19
Male	69%	60%	67%	79%
Female	31%	40%	33%	21%
	100%	100%	100%	100%
Residents	9	10		
Visitors	4	0		
Unknown	0	0		
	13	10		
Accident	13	8	9	18
Suicide	0	0	0	0
Indeterminate	0	1	0	0
Homicide	0	1	0	0
	13	10	9	19
Average Age	39	53	42	50

Fentanyl Seizures By HIDTA Groups * :

<u>Fentanyl Presentation</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019*</u>
Fentanyl Powder	0	37.8	11.8	61.6
Fentanyl Patch	3	5	0	76
Oxy/Fentanyl Pills	1387	429	471	1177

Powder expressed in milligrams(mg);

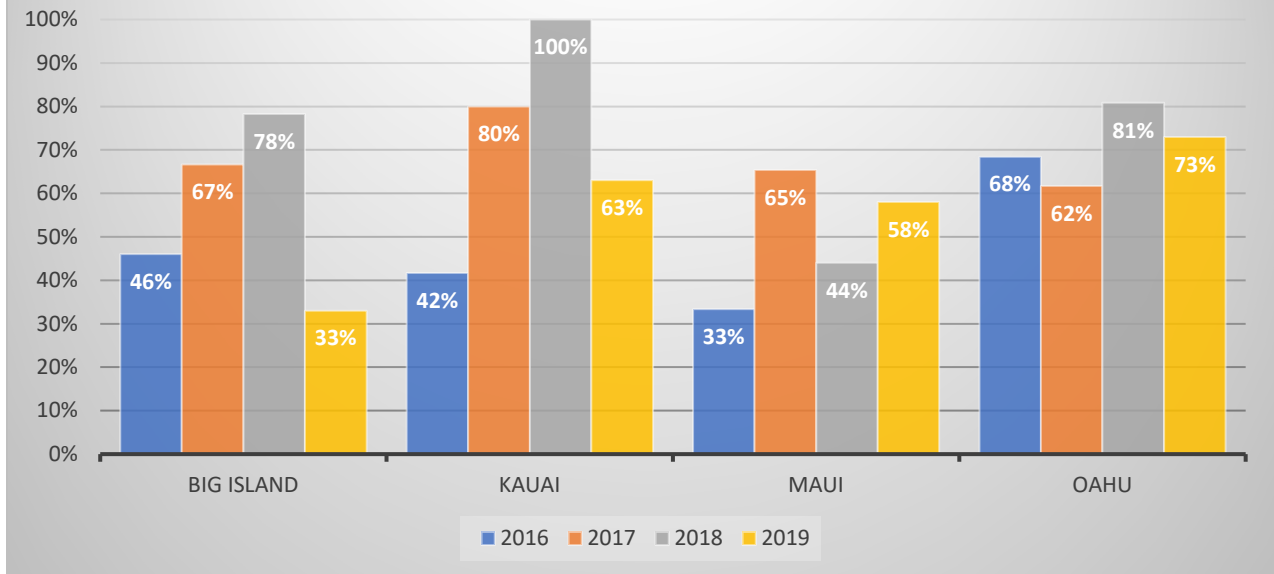
Patches expressed in Dosage Units (DU)

***These figures do not represent all law enforcement agencies in Hawaii, only those participating directly in HIDTA.**

2019 MEDICAL EXAMINER DEATH/OVERDOSE UPDATED INFORMATION:

In the initial 2019 Drug Related Death Report, Meth related percent of Overdose (OD) deaths in Hawaii were only charted until 2018, but since publication, the Hawaii HIDTA ISC was able to obtain the complete data for 2019 and conducted a follow-up calculation of Hawaii's Medical Examiner/Coroner Physicians' data, including calendar year 2019. These findings are now depicted in this report to properly emphasize the impact of methamphetamine abuse in Hawaii to date.

Meth Related Percent of Overdose Deaths in Hawaii 2016-2019

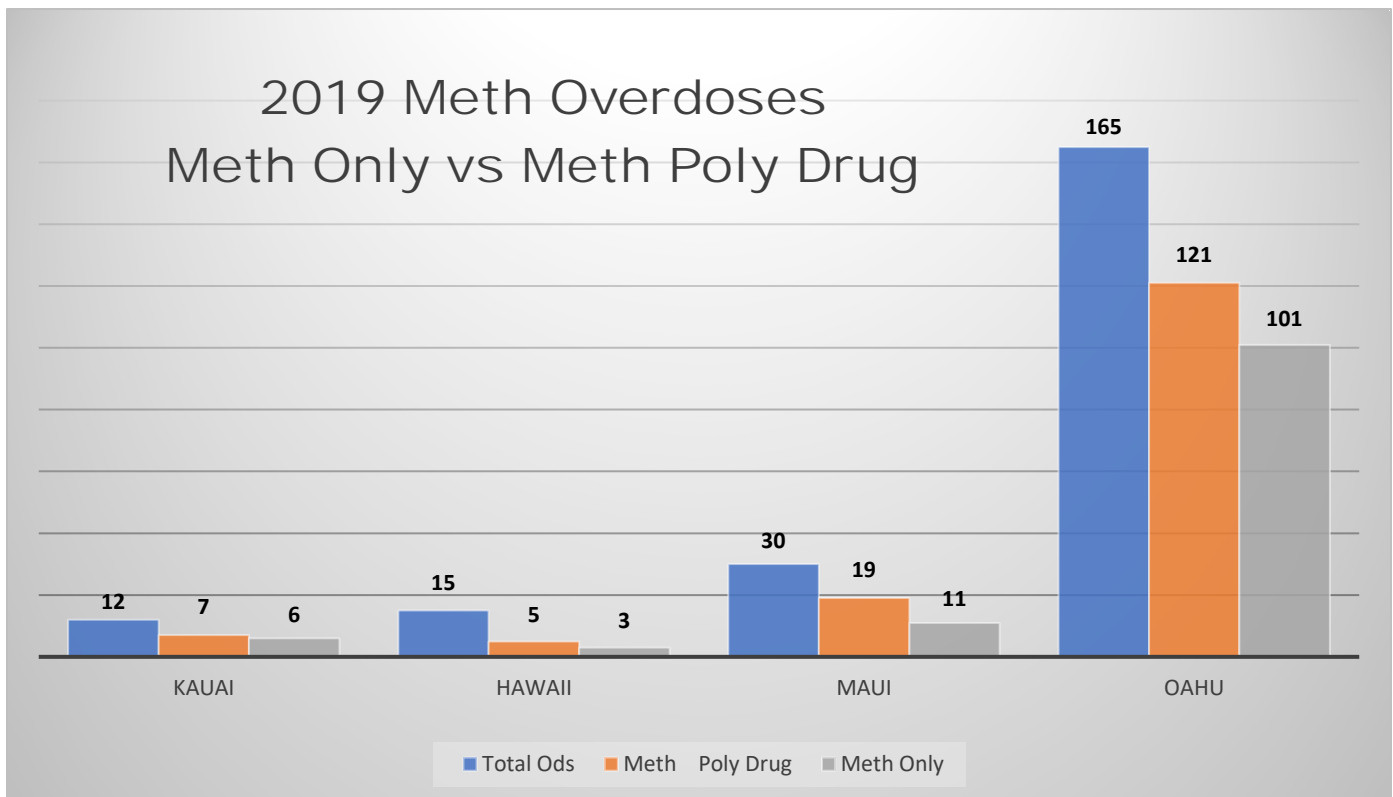


The above Meth Related Percent of ODs in Hawaii chart represents the percentage of methamphetamine related deaths in terms of sole or polydrug meth toxicity. The percentage numbers represented in the above chart are based on the total number of (autopsied) drug-related OD deaths compared to the total number of meth drug-related deaths. To be clear, the percentage values represented in this graph chart are based on the sum of all overdoses caused by methamphetamine (sole drug or polydrug) and isolated by county and year. (Drug Overdose (OD) defined as death attributed to acute drug toxicity by the Medical Examiner/Coroner Physicians.)

The above chart illustrates a more precise breakdown of the methamphetamine attributed overdose data reported by the Medical Examiner/Coroner Physicians of all four counties in Hawaii. The Hawaii HIDTA ISC analysts separated the numbers of meth related overdoses between those that were caused by acute methamphetamine toxicity alone and those which were caused by a polydrug toxicity with a component of methamphetamine.

While some institutions may require more in-depth analysis and testing protocols necessary to substantiate a conclusion, this study and this report attempted to avoid the pitfalls of frequently data-overloaded graphs which many times result in very confusing and possibly misleading information. To simplify matters, the below Meth Overdose - Meth Only vs. Meth Poly Drug chart indicates a 2016- 2019 analysis of the number of sole methamphetamine toxicity OD deaths compared to the number of ODs caused by poly drug (including meth) toxicity deaths.

The figures for comparison of total overdose deaths at the Hawaii counties' level are Kauai **12**; Hawaii **15**; Maui **30**; Oahu **165**. An indicator of 222 drug related OD deaths in Hawaii out of the total of 265 drug related deaths for 2019. Remember, these figures are the overdose deaths reported by the Medical Examiners only; this does not include ant overdose deaths reported by other institutions.

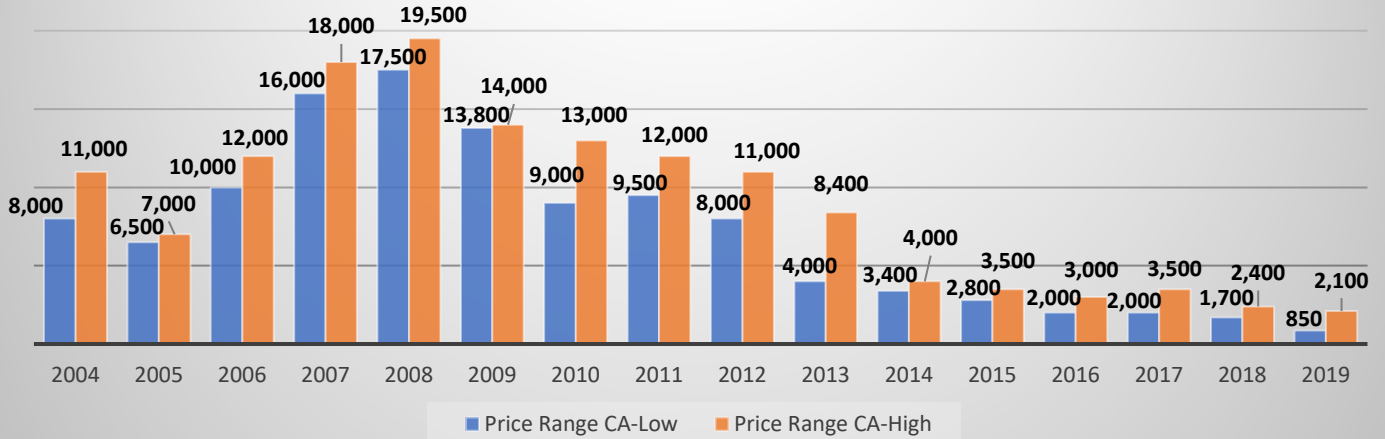


Origin of baselines for drug related death data vs. drug pricing data.

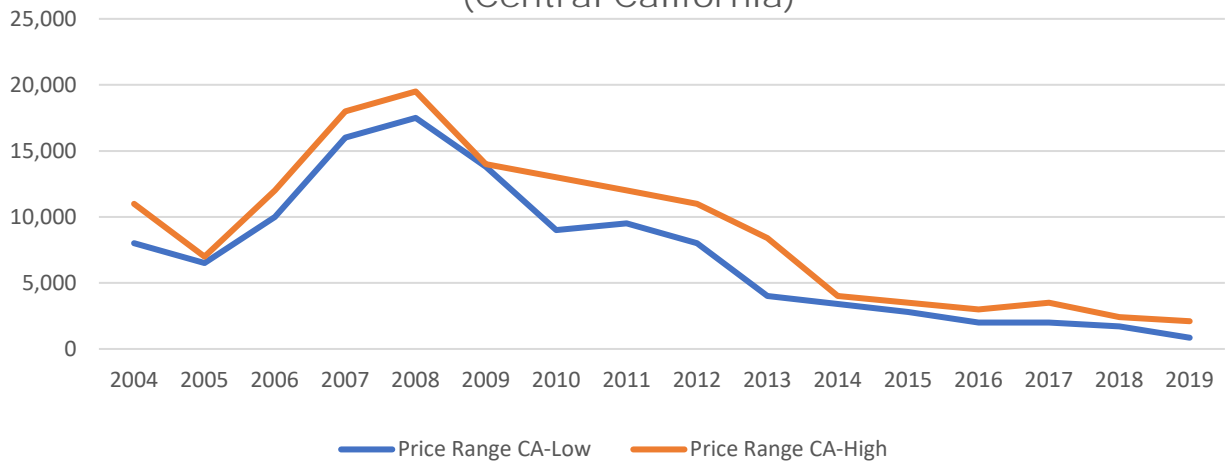
Beginning with Medical Examiner drug related death data, the Hawaii HIDTA ISC was able to establish a statewide drug related death baseline beginning in 2016 (in cooperation with the 4 counties' medical examiner and coroner physicians). That is not to say that records were not maintained or recorded prior to 2016, but that the Hawaii HIDTA ISC was limited to Hawaii Medical Examiner records/Coroner Physician drug related death data from 2016 forward only.

Drug price indexing from California-based HIDTA regions began in 2004 and is captured in the below chart;

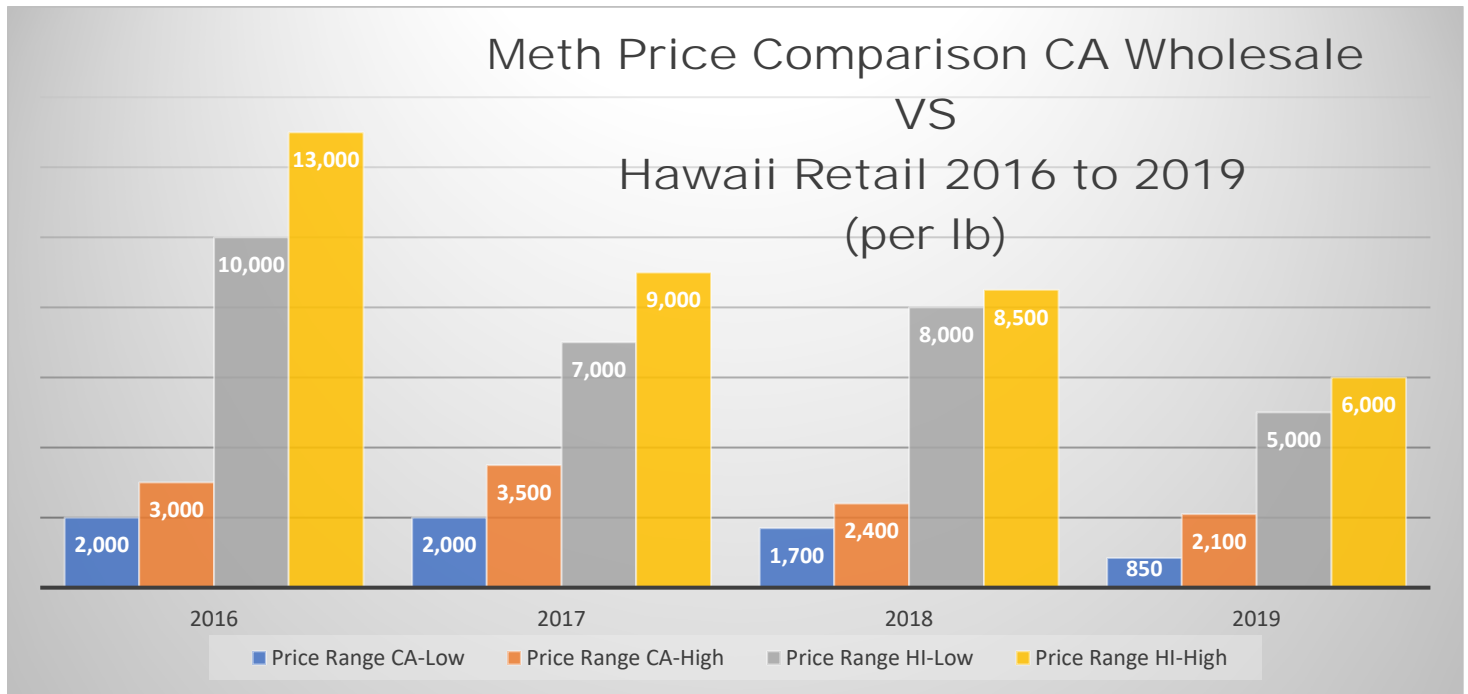
Methamphetamine Wholesale Price Ranges 2004 - 2019 (Los Angeles)



Wholesale Meth Prices Trend 2004-2019 (per lb) (Central California)



However, Hawaii HIDTA collection and analysis of localized drug pricing initiated in 2016 (where the Hawaii Drug Pricing baseline originates).



The above Meth Price Comparison CA vs Hawaii 2016 to 2019 chart illustrates the correlation between California and Hawaii Meth prices. In general, Hawaii meth is sourced from California DTOs and local meth prices are determined by California wholesale meth pricing trends.

PRICE UPDATE September 2020:

Since the original publishing of the data contained in this report in two different publications, there has been some time to observe the changes brought on by the SARS COV 2 Pandemic regarding the pricing of methamphetamine in both California and Hawaii. Up until March of 2020 the prices of methamphetamine in LA were holding at very low rates, \$1,000 to \$1,500 per pound (wholesale). Since June's last recording by LA HIDTA the wholesale price has gone up to \$3,100 per pound. On Oahu, the price per pound is around \$8,000 currently with eight balls going from \$160 to \$220 per; in April they were \$80 to \$120 p/eight ball. Keep in mind that local prices vary by area and amount of drug on the market. Around the beginning of the lock-down obviously supplies dwindled and prices got a bit out of hand but now appear to be settling down but remain much higher than pre-SARS COV 2 travel restrictions.

Conclusion: The principal reason for the emphasis made by all of the presented statistics and for the energy to focus on methamphetamine in Hawaii by reviewing all of the data available, is to it make perfectly clear and plain to see that it is the abuse of this malicious drug known as crystal methamphetamine that produces the highest level of drug related deaths and overdose deaths in Hawaii. All of the other drugs pale in comparison. This fact is best represented by the following and final graphic which bears repeating:

