Fake News in Overdose Blues

It’s not just an Opioid Crisis

Kevin McVaney, MD
Denver Paramedics
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OVERDOSE EPIDEMIC

SURGEON GENERAL: OPIOID OVERDOSES AN EPIDEMIC
So... Does Denver Have an Opioid Crisis?
Denver Opioids

![Bar chart showing Heroin Or Rx. Opioids Per 100,000 from 2008 to 2018.](chart.png)
So.. ..What’s the Fake News?
Denver Drug-related Deaths
2018 Deaths Per 100,000 By Type

Drug-related
Suicide
Homicide
Traffic
Meth-Involved Deaths Increasing Quickly
Denver’s Drug Story Is Polysubstance Deaths

Number of Drugs Present

1 18%
2 21%
3 20%
4 17%
5 24%
5 or more
I think we should call it a drug abuse crisis.
We clean pipes, bongs & hookahs.
End
End
Vancouver Appears To Be In Crisis

Vancouver Deaths Per 100,000 Residents

- 2008
- 2010
- 2012
- 2014
- 2016
- 2018
Opioid-Involved Deaths Declining
Heroin-Involved Deaths Increasing Slowly