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Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths & Narcan Use – Racine County (2014 – 2016)

Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2014 – 2016)

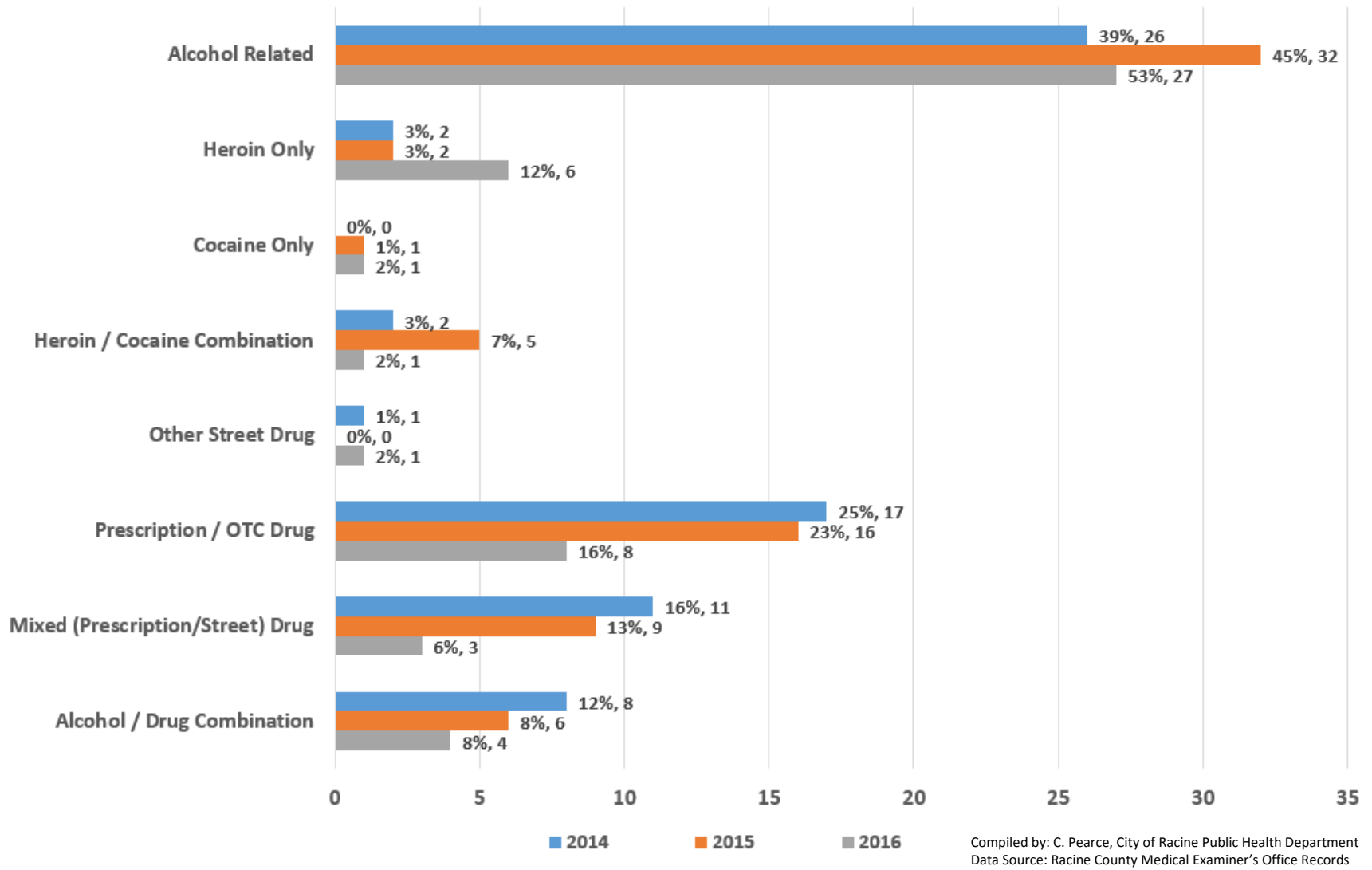
	Number of Deaths			Percent of Deaths			Average Age at Death		
	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016	2014	2015	2016
Alcohol / Drug Combination	9	5	4	13%	8%	8%	55.7	56.1	58.6
Mixed (Prescription/Street) Drug	10	10	3	15%	13%	6%	46	43.5	39.3
Prescription / OTC Drug	17	16	8	25%	23%	15%	N/A	60	46
Other Street Drug	1*	0	1*	2%	0%	2%	33	38.4	52
Heroin / Cocaine Combination	2	5	1	3%	7%	2%	36	N/A	32
Cocaine Only	0	1	1	0%	1%	2%	50.3	47.6	48
Heroin Only	2	2	6	3%	3%	12%	37.4	39	27.3
Alcohol Related	26	32	27	39%	45%	53%	46.1	53	31.3
Total	67	71	51	Average			43.5	48.2	41.8

*Meth.

*U47700

Compiled by: C. Pearce, City of Racine Public Health Department
 Data Source: Racine County Medical Examiner's Office Records

Street Drug, Prescription Drug and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2014 – 2016)



Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2014 – 2016)

The total number of deaths attributed to the use of street drugs, prescription/over-the-counter drugs, alcohol or a combination of these substances in Racine County over the last three years were 67 (2014), 71 (2015) and 51 (2016). Alcohol-related deaths were the most common, followed by prescription/over-the-counter drug use. Deaths due solely to the use of illegal street drugs (e.g. cocaine, heroin, methamphetamines, or U47700) were less frequent. More often, death resulted from the combined use of street drugs with legal substances.

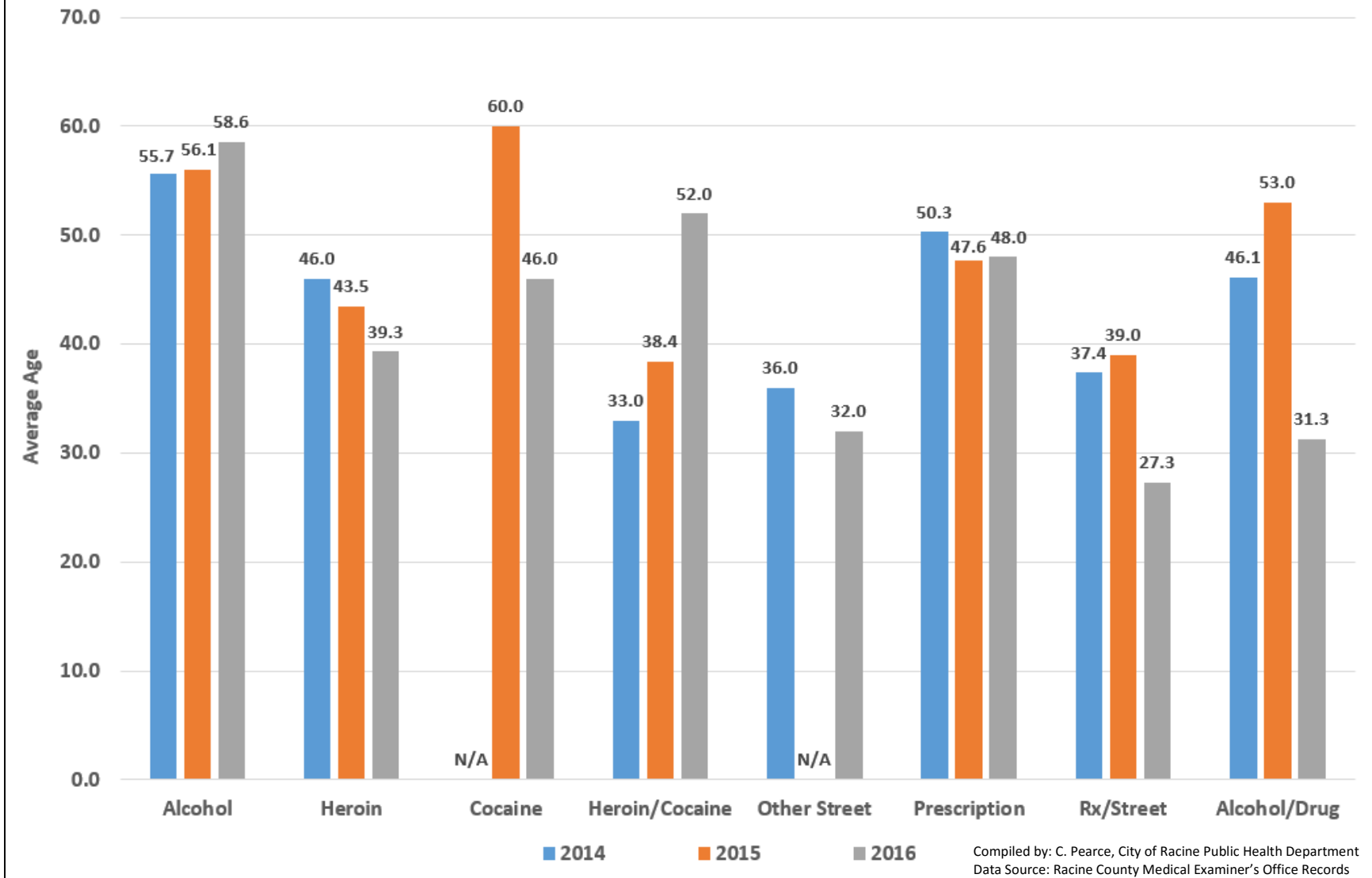
From 2014-2016 there were 17, 15, and 9 deaths, respectively, attributed in whole, or in part, to the use of heroin. Of the 41 total deaths involving heroin, just 10, or 24%, occurred from the use of heroin alone. The majority of deaths occurred when heroin was used in conjunction with alcohol, prescription/over-the-counter drugs or another street drug (e.g. cocaine).

There were two deaths from 2014 – 2016 attributed to a street drug other than heroin or cocaine; one tied to the use of methamphetamines (2014) and the other to U47700, a synthetic opioid (2016).

For the purpose of this review, drug-related deaths were categorized as follows:

- Alcohol Related: Only deaths with alcohol listed as a cause (cirrhosis, intoxication, etc.) and no other drug listed.
- Heroin Only: Only deaths with heroin as the sole cause.
- Cocaine Only: Only deaths with cocaine as the sole cause.
- Heroin / Cocaine Combination: Deaths where both heroin and cocaine, but no other drug or alcohol, were listed.
- Other Street Drug: Only deaths with the sole cause as some sort of street drug other than heroin or cocaine.
- Prescription / OTC Drug: Deaths where all contributing factors are prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs.
- Mixed (Prescription and Street) Drug: Deaths where contributing factors were some combination of prescription/OTC drug(s) and street drug(s).
- Alcohol / Drug Combination: Deaths where alcohol and street, prescription, and/or OTC drugs were listed together.

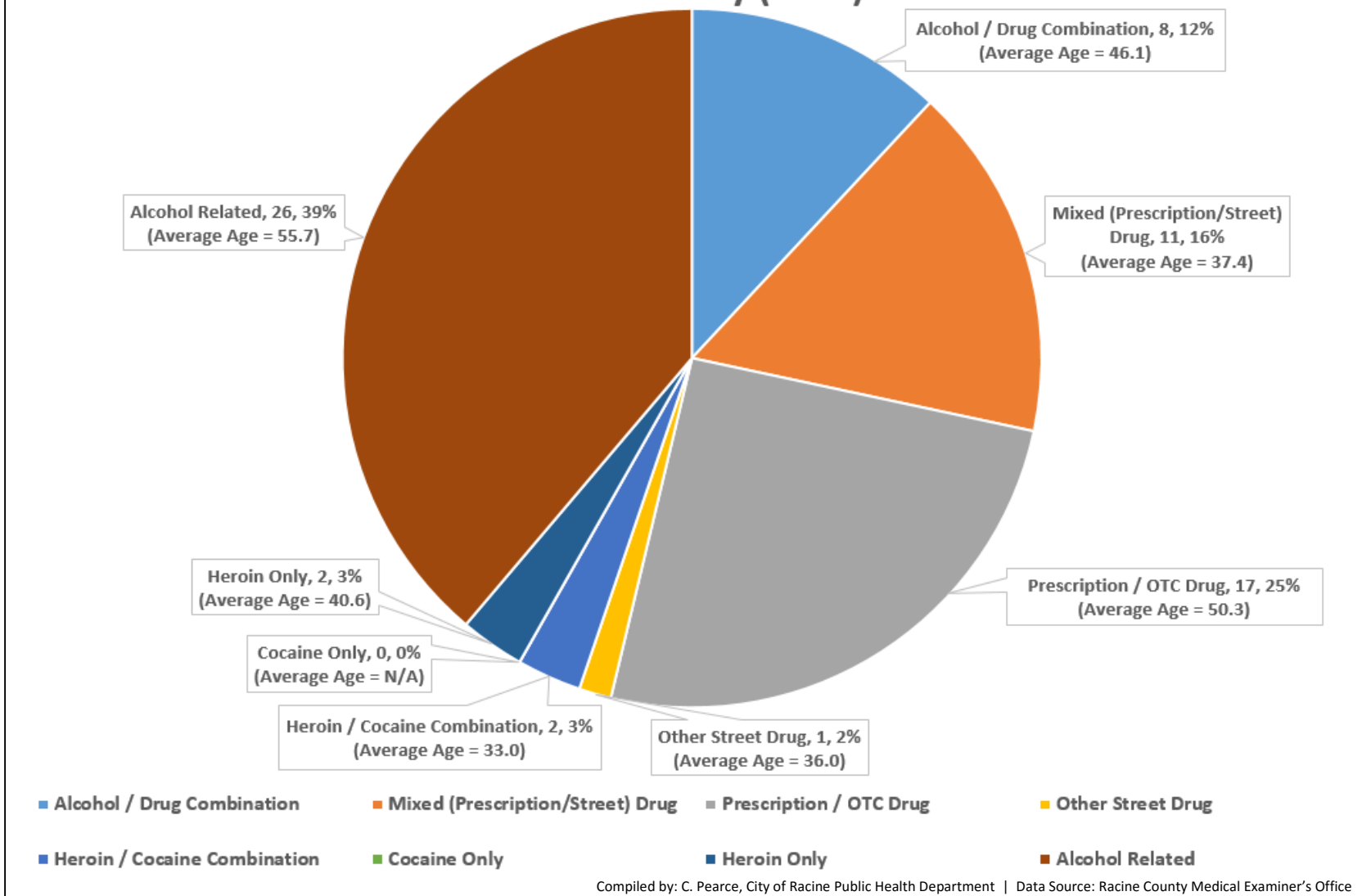
Comparison of Average Age of Death by Drug Category – Racine County (2014 – 2016)



Comparison of average age of death by drug category, 2014 - 2016.

There does not appear to be a concrete pattern among the data when viewing it year-by-year or by each category. It is worth noting that several data points, including those for “Cocaine Only” and “Other Street Drug” contain either one or no data points in each year. Overall, the sample sets are small in most categories, making it difficult to achieve good averages.

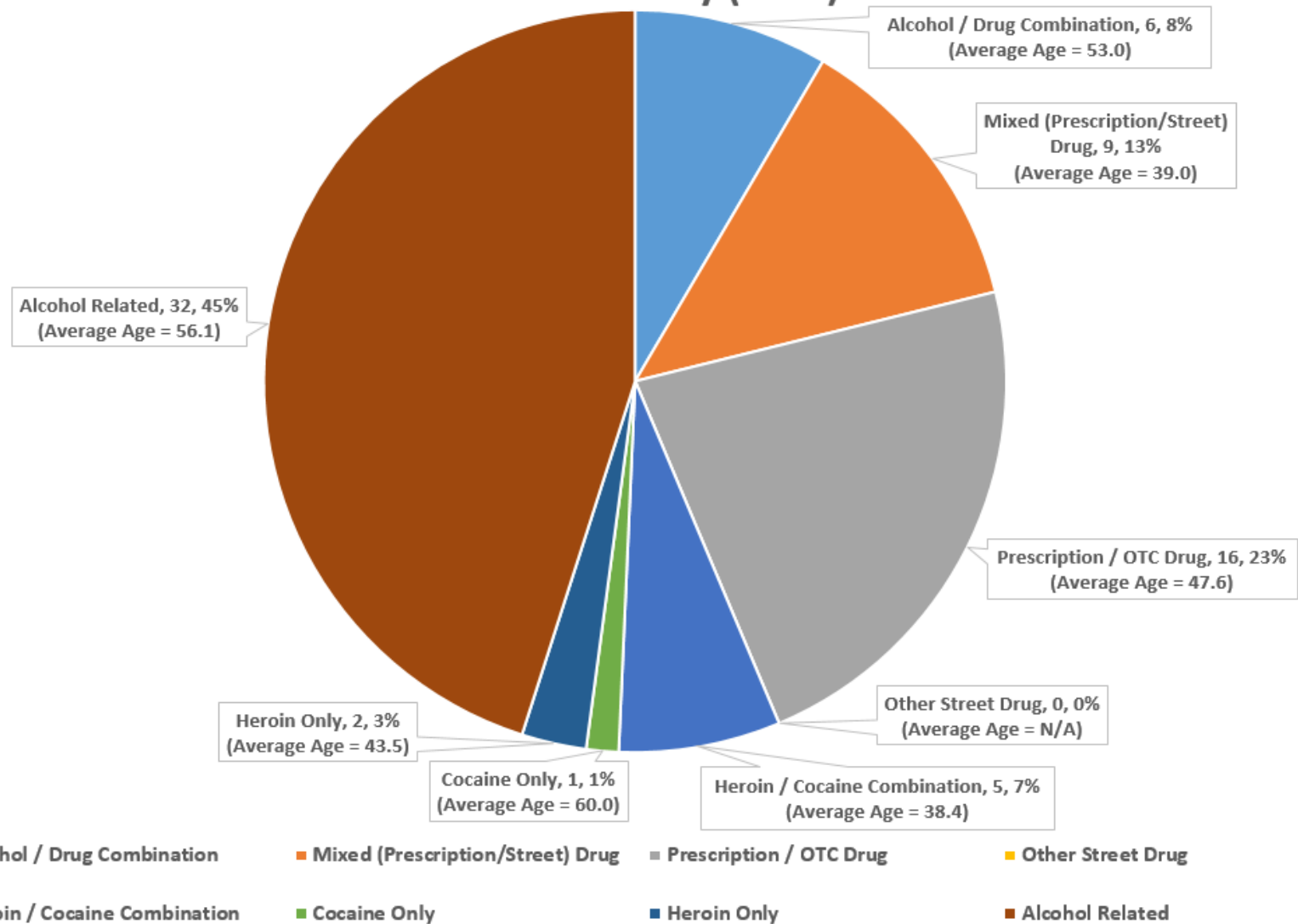
Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2014)



Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2014)

In 2014, more than 1 in 3 Racine County deaths related to the use of alcohol, street drugs, and/or prescription drugs was attributable to alcohol use alone (26 of 67 deaths), with an average age at death of 55.7 years (median = 54.5 years, range = 35-76 years). Approximately one-fourth (17 of 67 deaths) of all drug-related deaths were associated with the use of prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs only, with an average age at death of 50.3 years (median = 52 years; range = 27-82 years). When comparing drug-related deaths across multiple categories, heroin was the sole or contributing factor in 17 deaths (25%) in 2014, with an average age at death of 39.5 years (median = 38 years; range = 19-62 years). Other combinations of street, prescription, and/or over-the-counter drugs, with and without the addition of alcohol, constituted lesser proportions of deaths. The single death in the “Other Street Drug” category resulted from methamphetamine use.

Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2015)

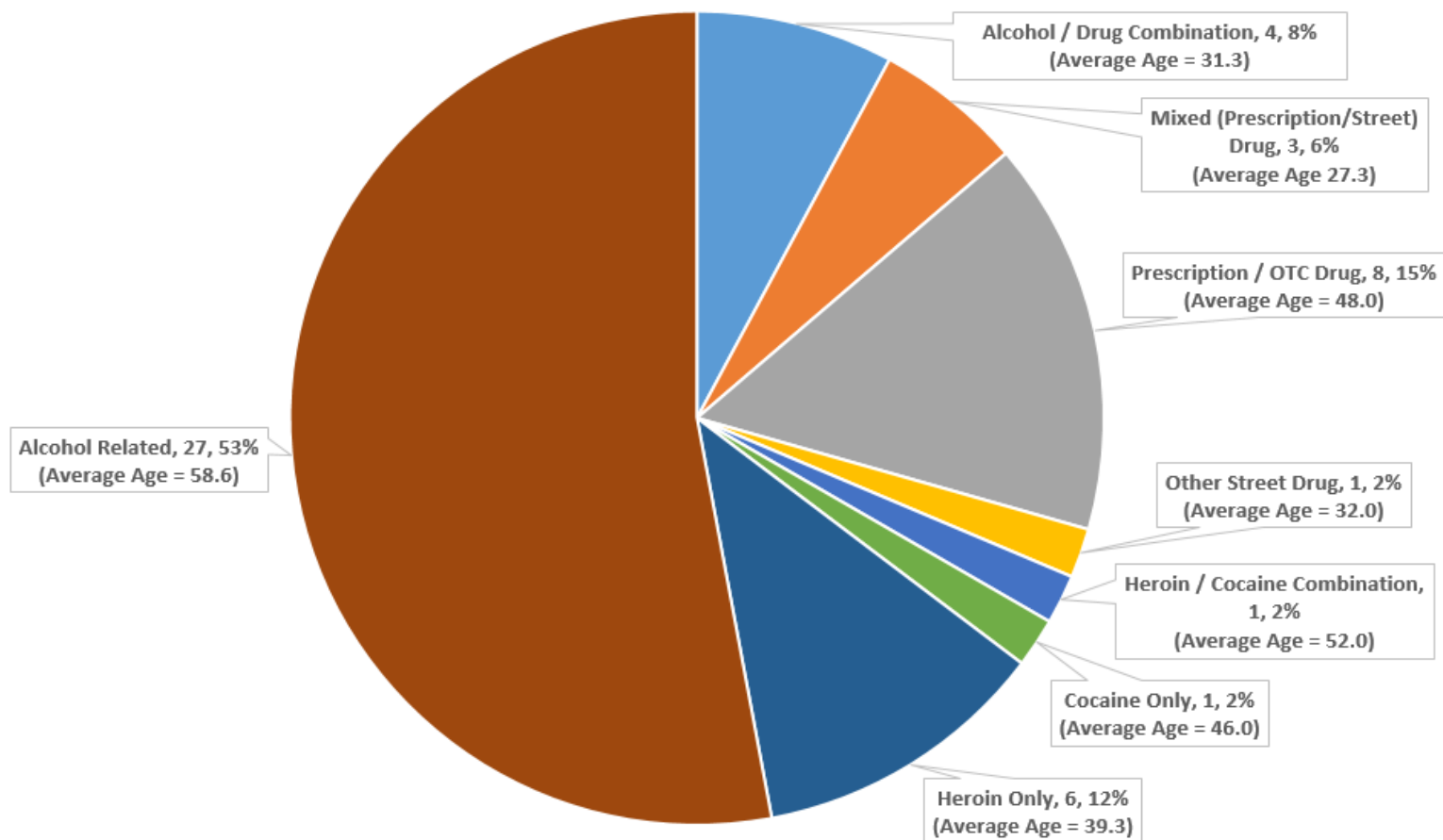


Compiled by: C. Pearce, City of Racine Public Health Department | Data Source: Racine County Medical Examiner's Office

Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2015)

Alcohol consumption was responsible for nearly half of the drug-related deaths in 2015 (32 of 71 deaths), with an average age at death of 56.1 years (up slightly from 2014). Twenty three percent of the deaths (16 of 71 deaths) were tied to the use of prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs, with an average age at death of 47.6 years (median = 47.5 years; range = 16-86 years). Heroin was the sole or contributing factor in 15 deaths (21%), with an average age at death of 41.1 years (median = 40 years; range = 26-62 years), slightly down from 2014.

Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2016)



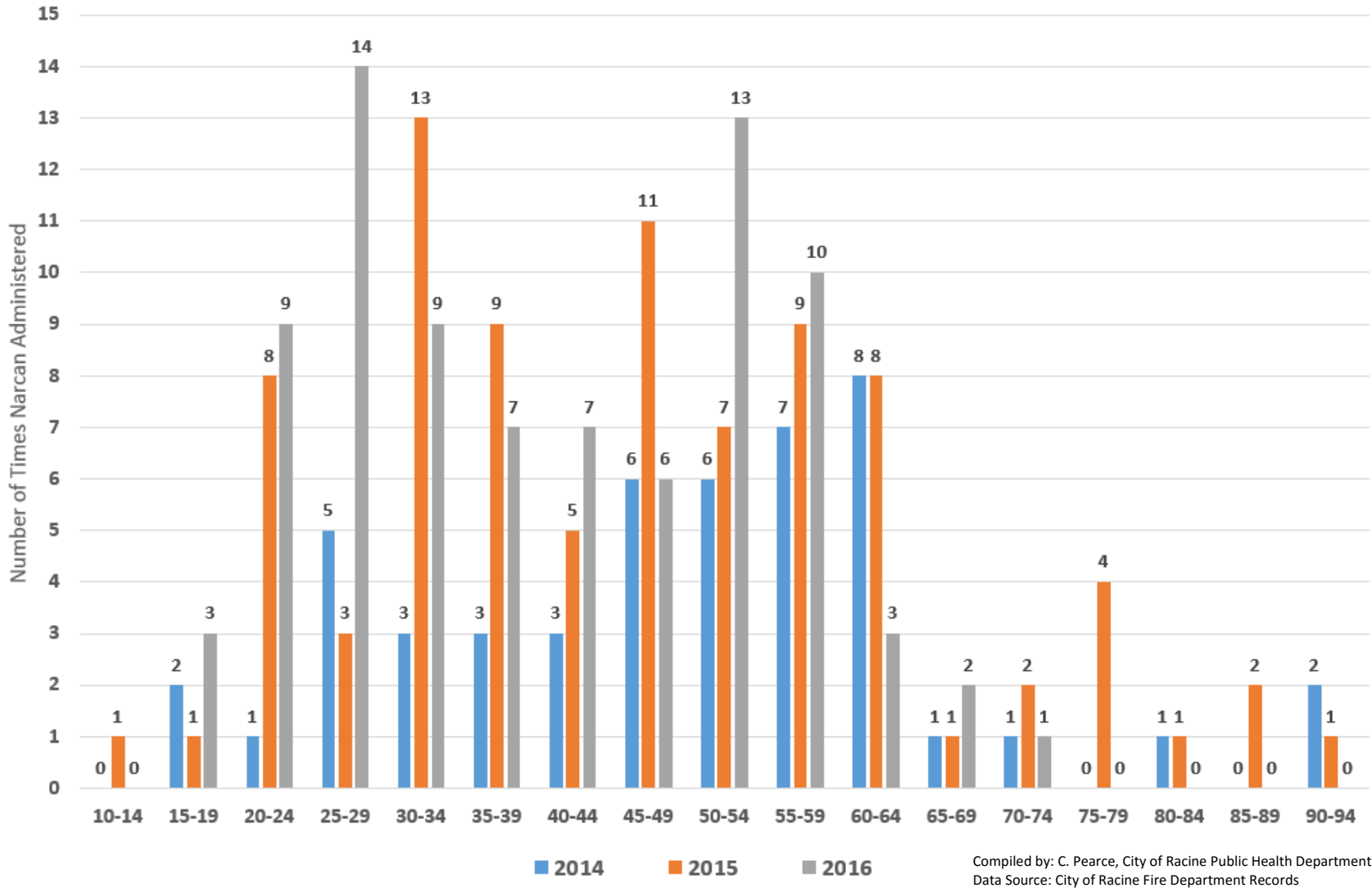
- Alcohol / Drug Combination
- Mixed (Prescription/Street) Drug
- Prescription / OTC Drug
- Other Street Drug
- Heroin / Cocaine Combination
- Cocaine Only
- Heroin Only
- Alcohol Related

Compiled by: C. Pearce, City of Racine Public Health Department | Data Source: Racine County Medical Examiner's Office

Street Drug, Prescription Drug, and Alcohol-Related Deaths – Racine County (2016)

Alcohol use/abuse was the main cause of death for more than half of all drug-related deaths in 2016 (27 of 51), with an average age at death of 58.6 years; slightly higher than 2014 - 2015. Heroin was the sole or contributing factor in nine deaths (18%), with an average age at death of 38.7 years (median = 34 years; range = 25-55 years); lower in both number and percentage than 2014 - 2015. However, 2016 was the first year that heroin-related deaths surpassed prescription/over-the-counter drug deaths in recent years. Eighteen percent of deaths (9 of 51) were tied to the use of only prescription and/or over-the-counter drugs, with an average age at death of 48 year (median = 50 years; range = 28-63 years), followed by alcohol/drug combinations, prescription/street drug combinations, cocaine and all other street drugs. The single death attributed to the "Other Street Drug" category was the result of the synthetic opioid U47700.

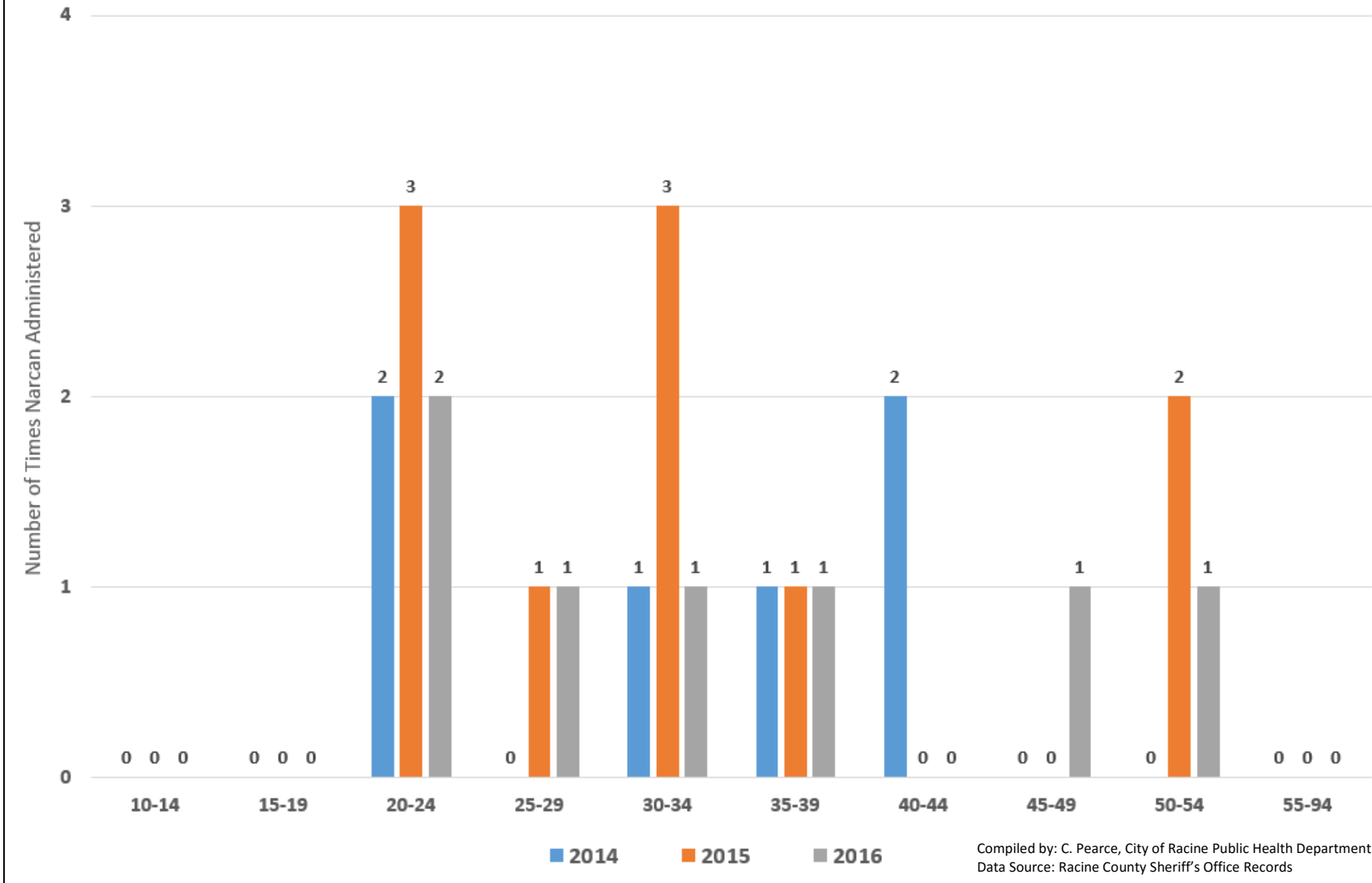
Racine Fire Department Narcan Administration by Age Group (2014-2016)



City of Racine Fire Department Narcan Administration by Age Group (2014-2016)

The number of times Narcan has been administered by the City of Racine Fire Department (RFD) on emergency medical calls has increased greatly since 2014, with 49 uses in 2014 (25 male, 24 female), 86 in 2015 (55 male, 31 female), and 84 in 2016 (55 male, 29 female). The ages of individuals receiving Narcan varied widely throughout each year. In 2014, the average age of those receiving Narcan from RFD was 49.6 years (median = 50 years; age range = 18-94 years). The year 2015 saw a slight decrease in the average age of recipients, dropping to 46.5 years (median = 46 years; age range = 14-90 years). In 2016, the average age dropped even further to 40.2 years (median = 39.5 years; age range = 18-74 years). Overall, the age range receiving the most Narcan injections from RFD is 20-64 years.

Racine County Sheriff's Office Narcan Administration by Age Group (2014-2016)



Racine County Sheriff's Office Narcan Administration by Age Group (2014-2016)

The number of times Narcan has been administered by the Racine County Sheriff's Office (RCSO) is low when compared with figures from the Racine Fire Department. In fact, Narcan was used by RCSO just 23 times throughout its jurisdiction in 2014, 2015, and 2016 combined. Of the 6 uses in 2014, 3 were male and 3 were female with an overall average age of 33.2 years (median = 34.5 years; age range = 20-44 years). In 2015, there were 6 males and 4 females who received Narcan through RCSO; the average age was marginally lower than 2014 at 32.7 years (median = 31 years; age range = 21-53 years). In 2016, 2 males and 5 females received a Narcan injection from RCSO, with a slightly higher average age of 34.6 years (median = 33 years; age range = 22-53 years).