

Date: November 3, 2000

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THIRD QUARTER DRUG-RELATED DEATH STATISTICS RELEASED BY STATE MEDICAL EXAMINER



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Statistics released today by the Oregon State Medical Examiner's Office indicate that despite a significant drop in heroin-related deaths, cocaine and methamphetamine-related deaths continue at high levels.

A total of 152 drug-related deaths were recorded during the first nine months of 2000, a 26% drop compared to the same period in 1999 and the lowest recorded level since 1995. Yet despite this noted decrease led by a 40% drop in heroin-related deaths, cocaine and methamphetamine use continues to result in deaths higher than any year prior to 1999.

Even though heroin-related deaths continues to be the leading cause, the 98 deaths attributed to its abuse reflected the lowest number of deaths since 1995 when 94 drug-related deaths were from the result of the use of heroin.

The second leading cause continues to be associated with cocaine use. Through September 2000, cocaine accounted for 48 deaths, down 19% compared to last year but still higher than any previous yearly period.

Drug-related deaths associated with methamphetamine remained unchanged from the same period last year. Through the first three-quarters of 2000, forty (40) people died related to methamphetamine use. This number equaled the same period last year, which was the highest recorded number up to that period.

Drugs used in combination with other drugs reflected a 34% decrease. Thirty-two (32)

individuals have died in Oregon this year compared to 49 deaths in 1999.

Oregon State Medical Examiner Division Department of State Police Drug Related Deaths for 3rd Quarter of 2000					
By County					
Counties	Heroin	Cocaine	Meth	Comb.	Total
BAKER	0	0	1	0	1
BENTON	0	1	0	0	1
CLACKAMAS	7	2	3	1	11
CLATSOP	1	1	0	1	1
COOS	0	0	2	0	2
DESCHUTES	0	0	6	0	6
DOUGLAS	2	0	2	0	4
JACKSON	1	0	0	0	1
JEFFERSON	0	1	0	0	1
JOSEPHINE	1	0	1	0	2
LANE	14	3	10	2	25
LINCOLN	0	1	0	0	1
LINN	1	0	2	0	3
MARION	1	2	2	0	5
MULTNOMAH	59	33	4	25	70
POLK	1	0	0	0	1
WASHINGTON	10	4	6	3	17
YAMHILL	0	0	1	0	1
State	98	48	40	32	153
Drug Related Deaths Through Third Quarter 1994 - 2000					
	Heroin	Cocaine	Meth	Comb	Total
1994	91	23	32	13	133
1995	94	24	36	18	135
1996	118	41	22	25	155
1997	112	30	39	23	158

1998	122	43	34	38	161
1999	163	59	40	49	206
2000	98	48	40	32	153
	-40%	-19%	0%	-34%	-26%
