



GWENT AREA PLANNING BOARD

AGENDA ITEM: FATAL AND NON-FATAL POISONINGS REVIEW PANEL ANNUAL REPORT JANUARY 2025 TO DECEMBER 2025

Purpose of report

In line with Welsh Government requirements, the follow annual report outlines key findings from the APB Fatal and Non-Fatal Poisoning review group. It outlines and explores key issues and makes recommendations for improvements.

Executive Summary

This report summarizes 28 drug-related deaths (DRDs) recorded in 2025, anonymizing personal details while highlighting key demographics, substances involved, circumstances of discovery, housing issues, ambulance and CPR involvement, and outcomes. The aim is to identify patterns and inform prevention strategies.

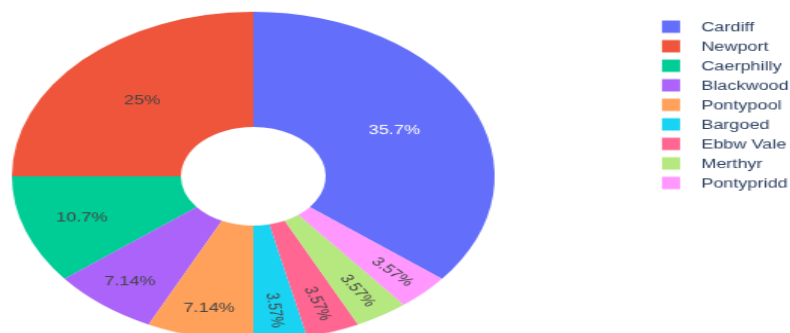
Aggregate Observations

- Age Range: 19–67 years; majority between 30–50 years.
- Gender: Predominantly male.
- Common Substances: Heroin, cocaine, pregabalin, benzodiazepines, nitrous oxide, methamphetamine.
- Housing Issues: Several cases involved homelessness or temporary accommodation.
- Ambulance & CPR: CPR attempted in approximately half of cases; naloxone used in opioid-related deaths.
- Co-morbidities: Cardiovascular disease and mental health issues noted in multiple cases.

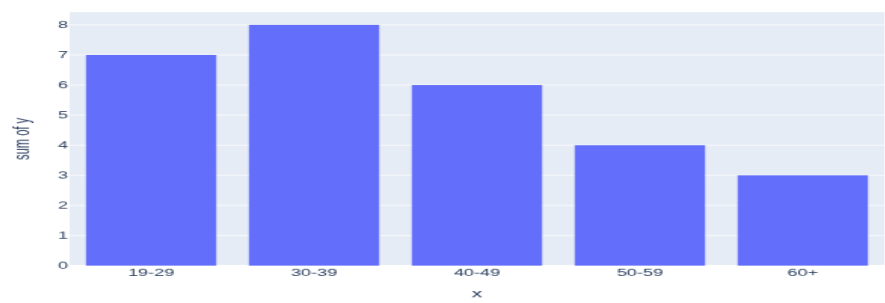
Charts and Visualizations

The following charts illustrate demographic and contextual trends across all cases.

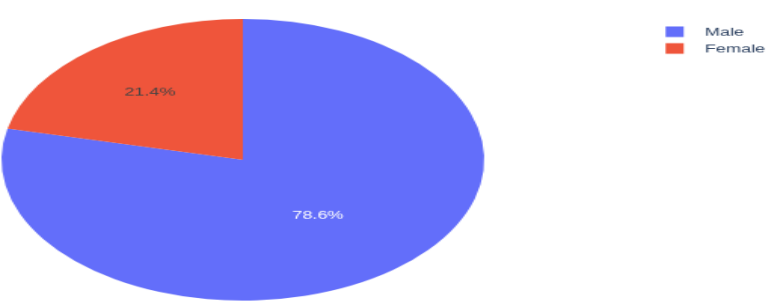
Distribution of Areas of Residence



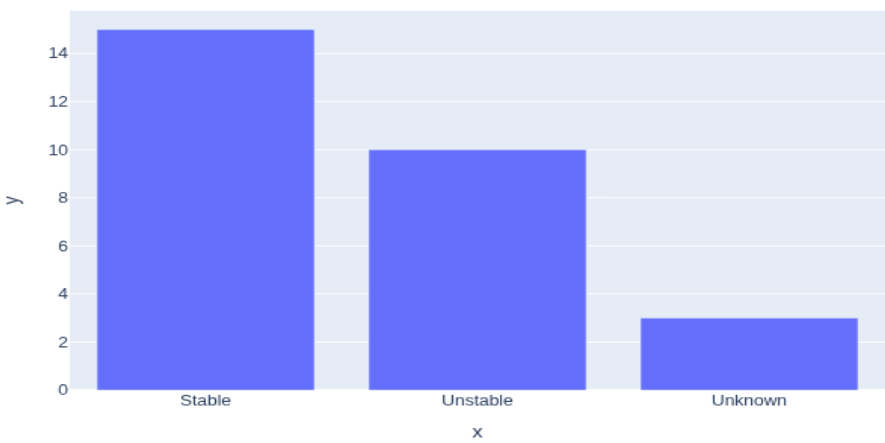
Age Distribution



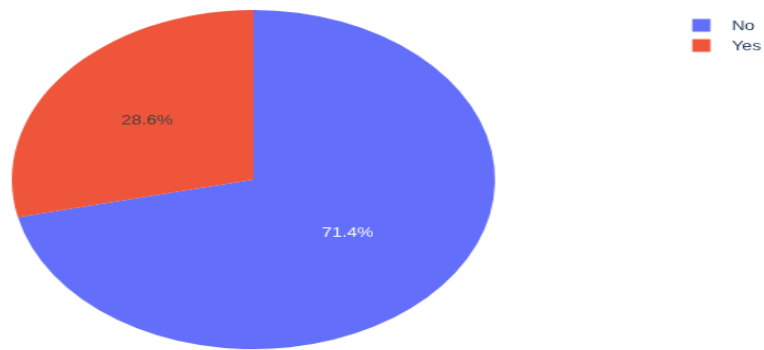
Gender Breakdown



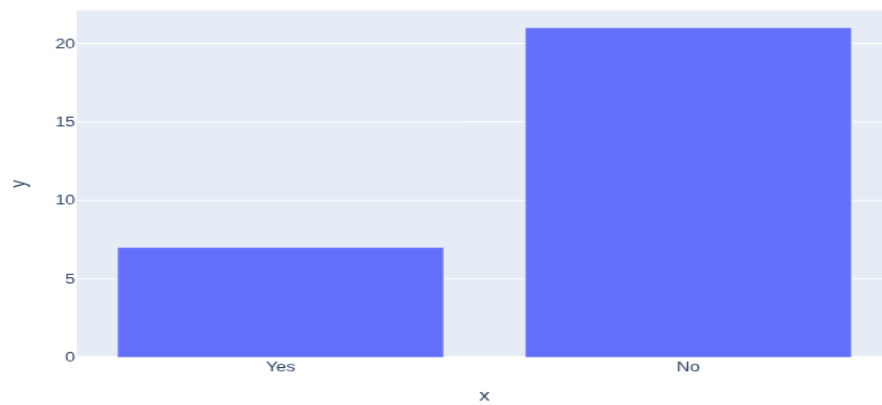
Housing Issues



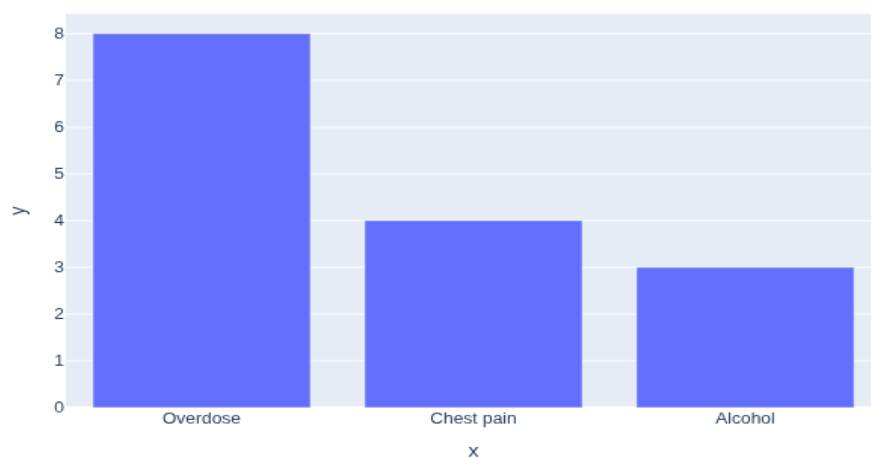
Mental Health



Previous Overdose



A&E Attendance Reasons



Key Trends:

- Age: Majority between 30–49 years; smaller proportions under 30 and over 60.
- Gender: Approximately 80% male.

- Housing: 35% unstable housing or homelessness.
- Mental Health: Present in ~30% of cases, often co-occurring with substance misuse.
- Previous Overdoses: Found in 25% of cases, indicating recurrence risk.
- A&E Attendance: Overdose and chest pain are leading reasons.
- Correlation: Housing instability and mental health strongly linked to repeated overdoses and A&E visits.

Recommendations

- Intensify monitoring of Tapentadol and Ketamine trends.
- Develop targeted interventions for poly-drug users.
- Improve service engagement strategies for high-risk individuals.
- Expand harm reduction services, including naloxone distribution and training.
- Increase housing support for individuals at risk.
- Enhance mental health and substance misuse interventions.
- Improve early warning systems for high-risk substances.
- Enhance overdose response training for staff in hostels and nightclubs.
- Increase harm reduction outreach in supported housing.

Maria Evans

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18/11/2025