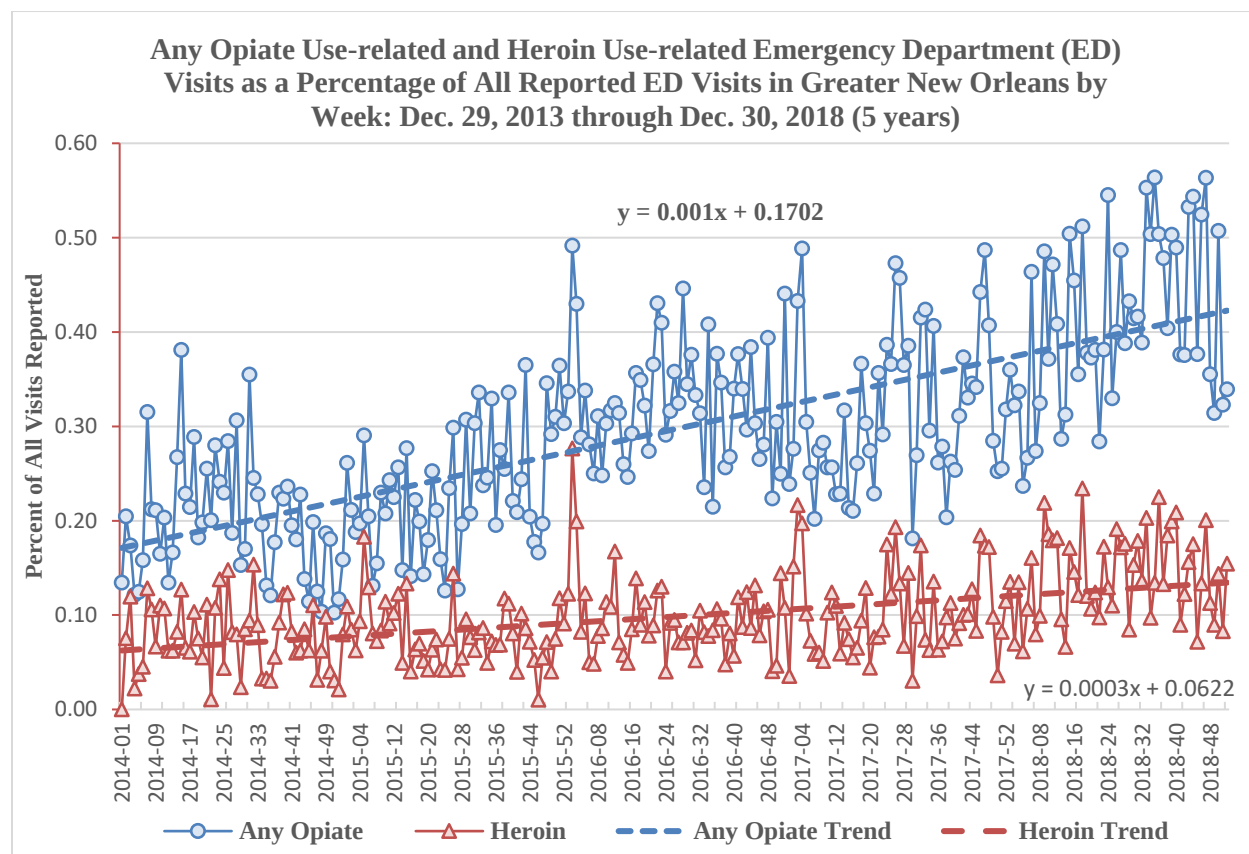


Opiate-related Emergency Department (ED) Visits in Greater New Orleans

In calendar 2018, a total of 2,308 opiate use-related emergency department (ED) visits¹ in Greater New Orleans² were reported to the Louisiana Early Event Detection System (LEEDS). Of these, 783 were identified specifically as heroin use-related visits. These represent 0.41 percent and 0.14 percent of all ED visits reported, respectively. Four in every 500 ED visits were opiate-use-related and about one-third of opiate-related visits are identified as heroin use-related visits.



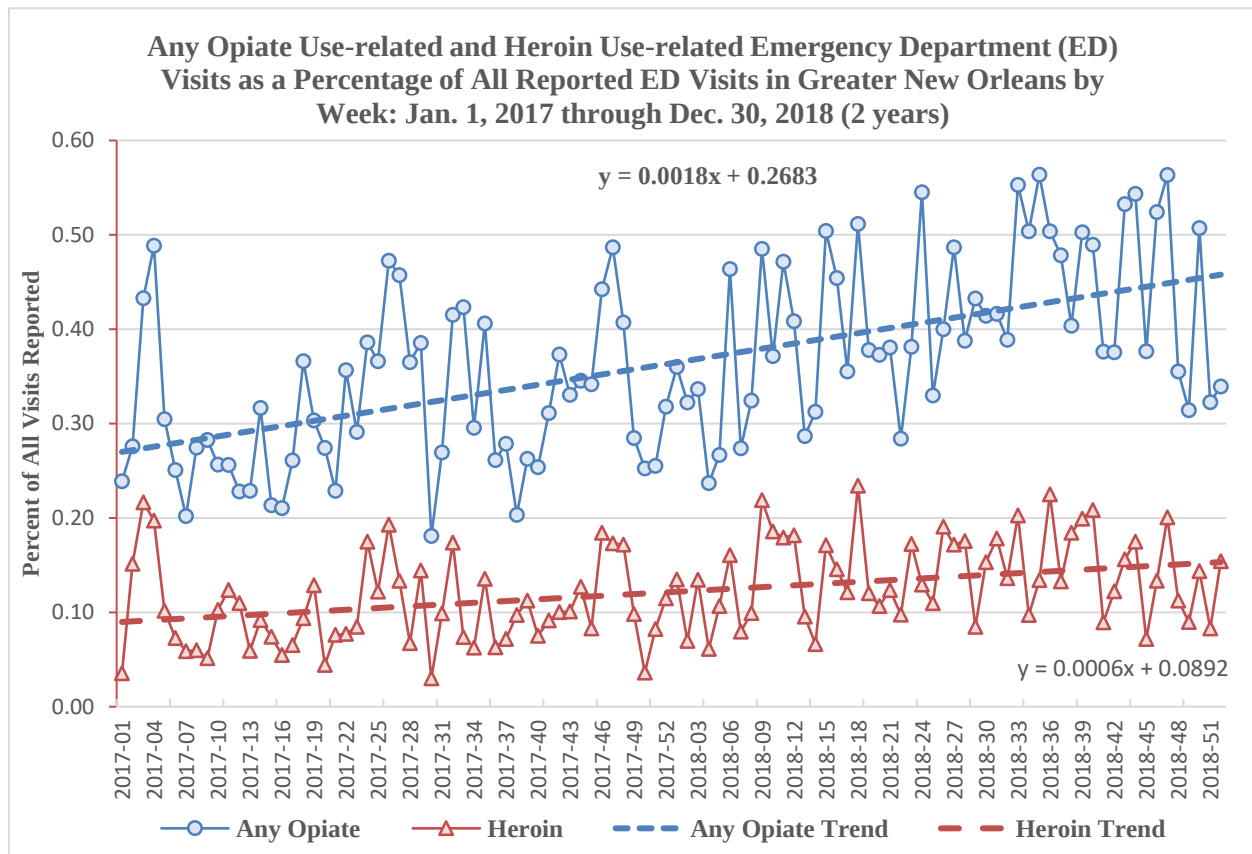
- *Five-Year Trend* (chart above) – From January 2014 through December 2018, opiate use contributed to an *increasing* proportion of emergency department visits. During this five-year period, the proportion of weekly total ED visits that were **opiate use-related visits increased at an average annual rate of 17.5 percent** while the proportion of weekly total ED visits that were specifically identified as **heroin use-related visits increased at an average annual rate of 15.8 percent**.³
- *Recent Trend* (chart below) – From January 2017 through December 2018 (a two-year period), the proportion of weekly total ED visits that were **opiate use-related visits increased at an average**

¹ These visits were identified based on text describing the presenting problem and or diagnoses recorded.

² Greater New Orleans refers to the 4 parishes: Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and Plaquemines.

³ Based on linear trend analysis of weekly visit counts. Take the regression coefficient for the trend line and multiply by 52 (weeks per year) to obtain an annual percentage point increase. Divide the percentage point increase by the average (mean) percentage of all visits for the period to estimate the annual percentage increase.

annual rate of 25.7 percent while the proportion of weekly total ED visits that were specifically identified as **heroin use-related visits also increased at an average annual rate of 25.7 percent.**



Source: Louisiana Early Event Detection System (LEEDS), weekly summary data provided by the Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of Public Health, January 30, 2019.

Analysis and presentation of this data is supported in part by a Drug Free Communities grant to the Greater New Orleans Drug Demand Reduction Coalition.

For Further Information:

Regarding the Louisiana Early Event Detection System (LEEDS), follow this link, <http://new.dhh.louisiana.gov/index.cfm/page/1000> or contact megan.jespersen@la.gov;

Regarding the specific analysis presented here, contact Bob.Gallati@ARC-Associates.net.

April 8, 2019. (Revised 11/01/2019)