Project 1: Accidental Drug-Related Deaths for Connecticut

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Objective: Analyze data set to support or disprove initial hypotheses, and answer questions about the reported deaths.

Hypothesis 1: Accidental Drug-Related deaths increased year-over-year

Hypothesis 2: There is a seasonal impact on accidental drug-related death rate

Additional question 1: Do Age, Race or Gender have any correlation to death rate?

Additional question 2: Which drugs are most frequently the cause of accidental death, and has this changed over time?

Data Cleanup: Code was written to refine data set, eliminating null data, eliminating columns with duplicate data or data that was not pertinent to this project.

Findings:

* Mortality rate increased year-over-year
* There does appear to be a seasonal impact on mortality rate, with increases seen during the Winter/Holiday season
* The top three drugs that are the cause of accidental drug-related deaths are:
  + Heroin
  + Fentanyl
  + Cocaine
* Gender was found to be significant – females accounted for 26% of deaths, but according to the US Census Bureau, female population for Connecticut is 51.2%. This leads to the conclusion that males participate in more at-risk behavior and therefore have a higher death rate.
* Race was not found to be significant – 78% of deaths were White. According to US Census Bureau, White population is 80% for Connecticut, so death rate by race is in line with general population distribution.
* Age Groups are believed to be significant. 39% of the mortality rate falls in the 25-40 age group, with another 49% falling in the 41-65 age group. This group can be expected to have the most available disposable income, and therefore more likely to be able to indulge in drug use. Since two of the three drugs involved in the most deaths are illegal, it is reasonable to assume that these will be expensive to obtain.