
COUNTY OF SPOTSYLVANIA

DEPARTMENT OF FIRE, RESCUE, AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT (FREM)



MEMORANDUM

June 29, 2017

To: Mark Taylor, County Administrator

Fr: Jason W. Irby, Deputy Fire Chief 

Re: FREM Impact of Opioid Overdoses

During the last fiscal year the opioid epidemic has had a significant impact on the Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Management. The Department responds to an average of 18 calls for service per month with a trend that is increasing. The average personnel hours committed to these calls is staggering at just under 107 hours per month. This value accounts for the response, hospital transport and returning equipment to service post call. This increase has created a significant strain on an already taxed response system and creates delays in response times for other incidents.

The associate hazards with the growingly popular synthetic opioids are presenting new hazards that responders have not traditionally been exposed to. This excerpt was taken from the DEA First Responder Briefing Guide.

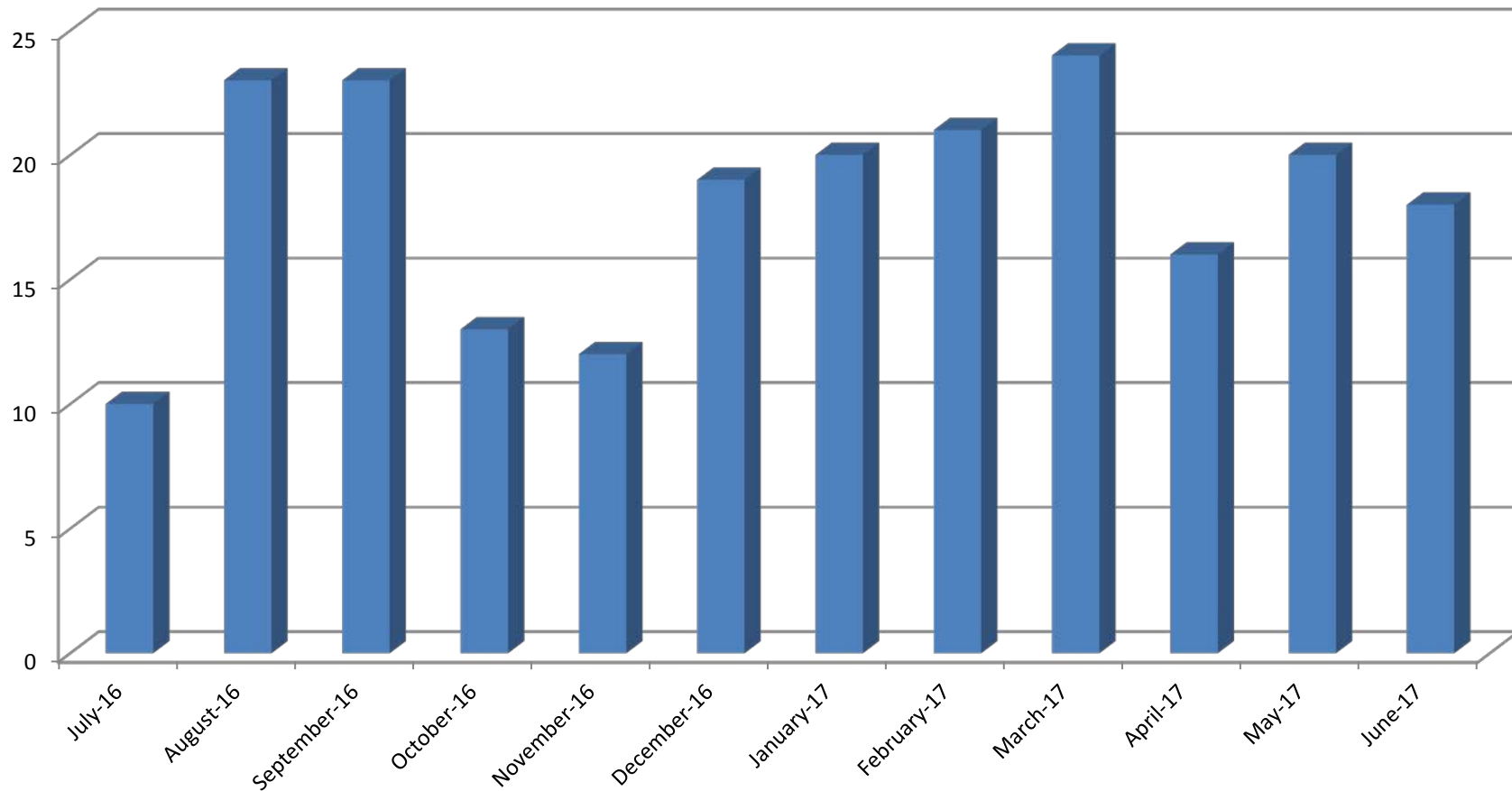
Due to their hazardous nature, fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances pose a significant threat to first responders and medical personnel. As a matter of reference it has been determined that it would only take 2-3 milligrams of fentanyl to induce respiratory depression, arrest and possibly death. When visually compared, 2 to 3 milligrams of fentanyl is about the same as five to seven individual grains of table salt. Fentanyl can be ingested orally, inhaled through the nose or mouth, or absorbed through the skin or eyes. Overdose symptoms can include drowsiness, disorientation, sedation, pinpoint pupils, skin rash, clammy skin, and respiratory depression or arrest. The onset of these symptoms usually occurs within minutes.

This creates a significant risk for our responders as exposures will be incredibly difficult to prevent when help is requested for an unconscious person and not an overdose.

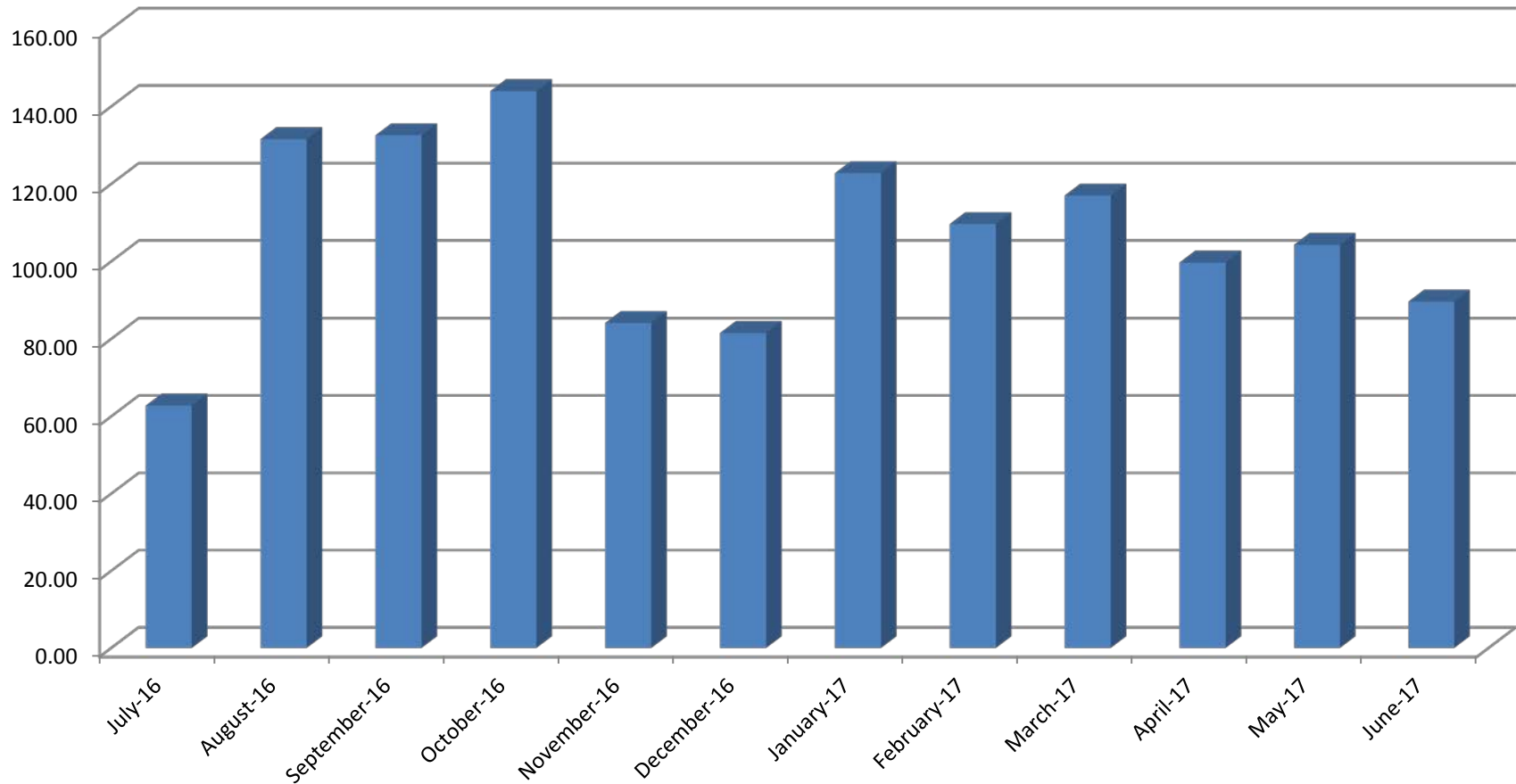
Attached you will find additional data that relates to the impact on our system as it recounts the personnel hours, apparatus hours and numbers of incidents expressed in monthly charts.

JWI

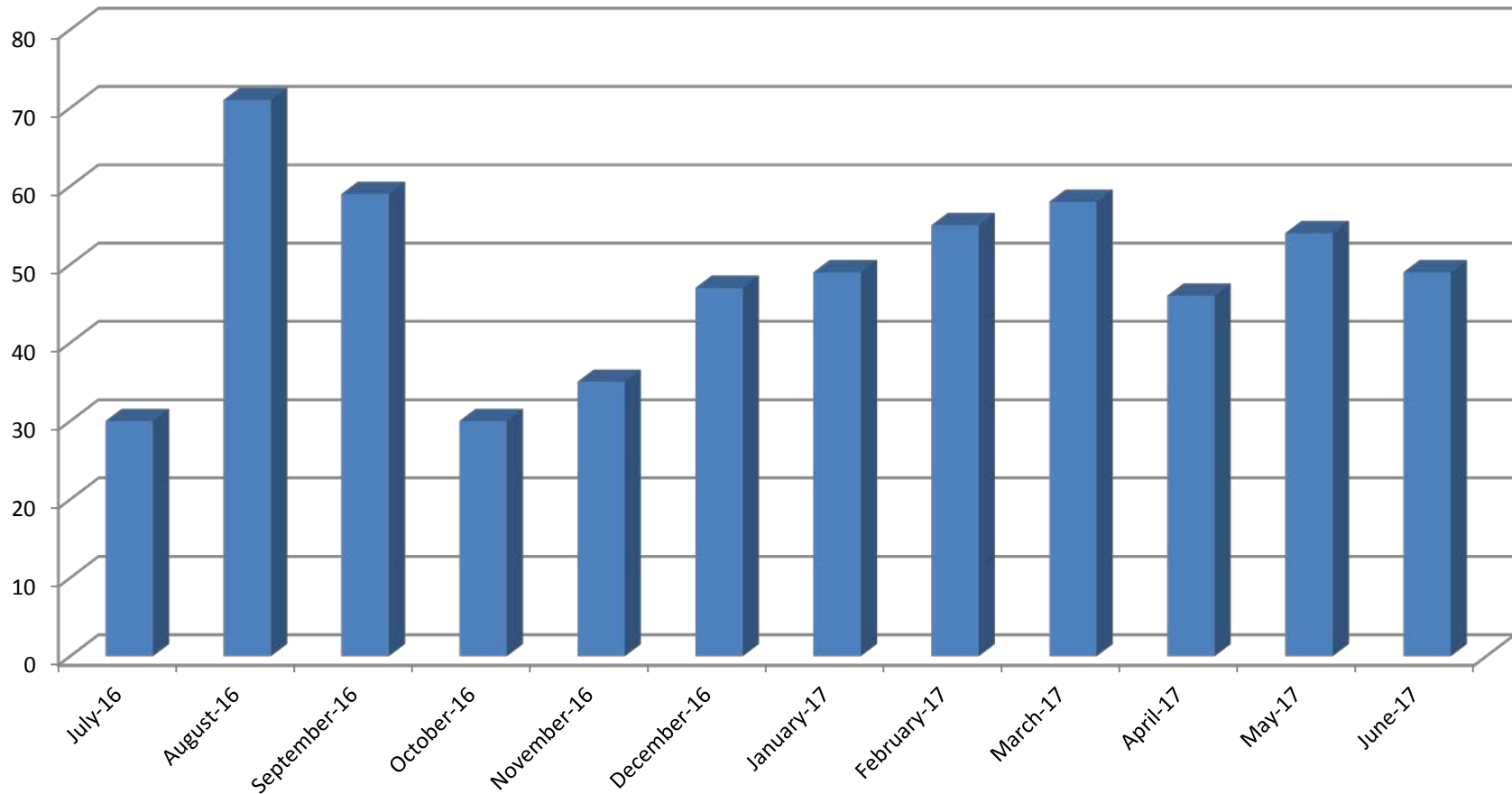
**Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY2017
Total Number of Responses by Month**



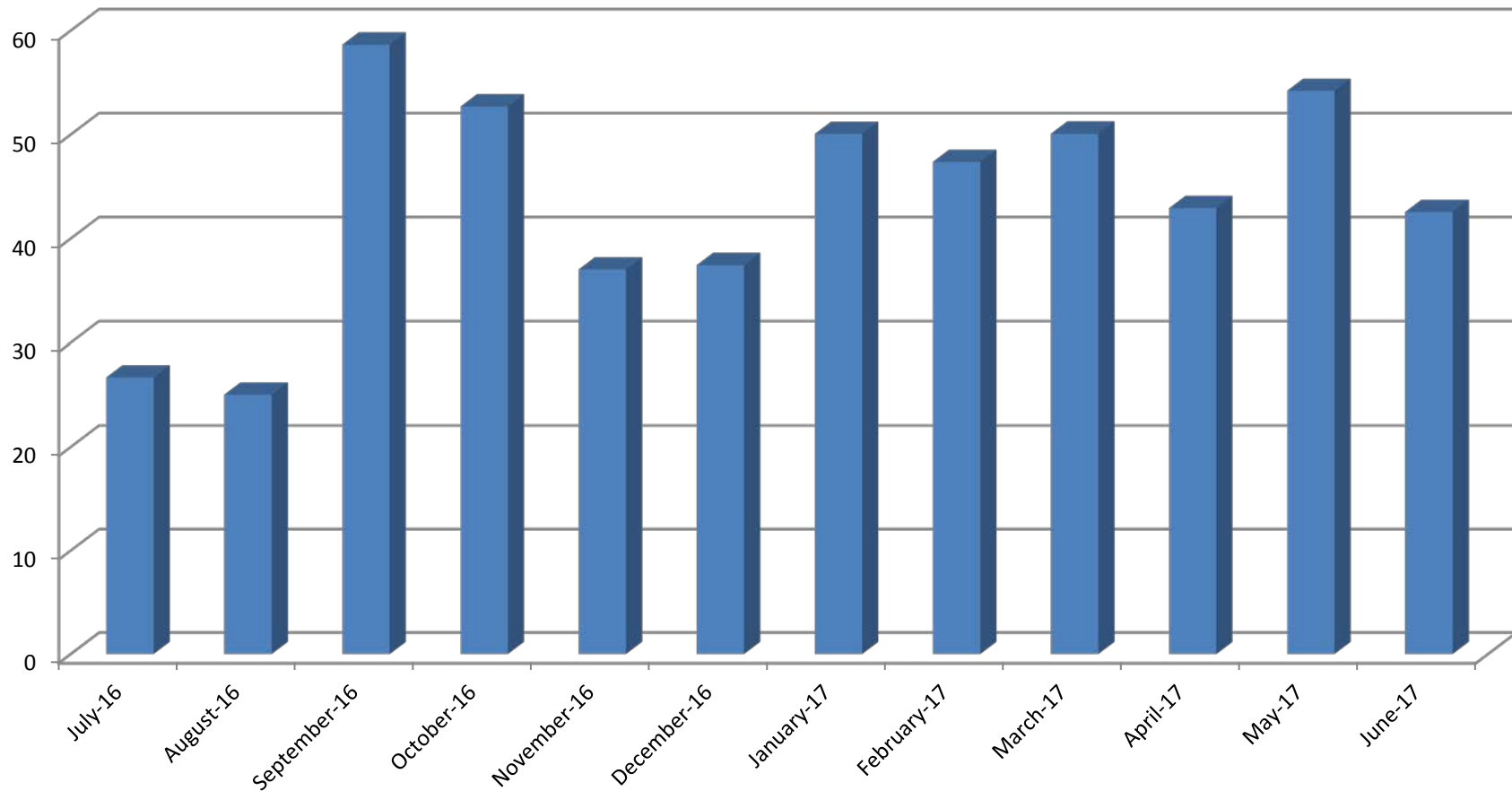
Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY2017
Total Number of Staff Hours



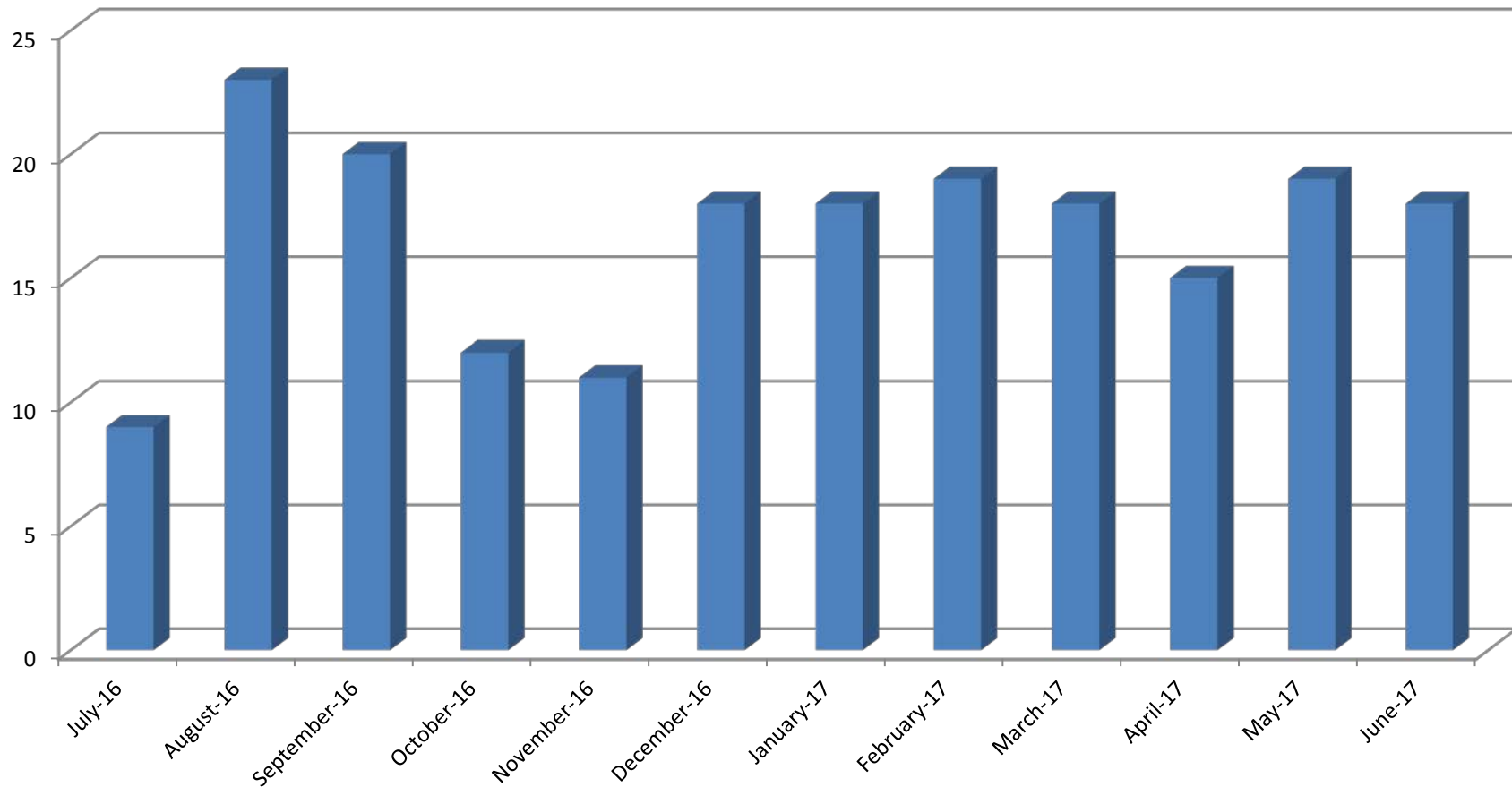
**Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY2017
Total Number of Apparatus Responses**



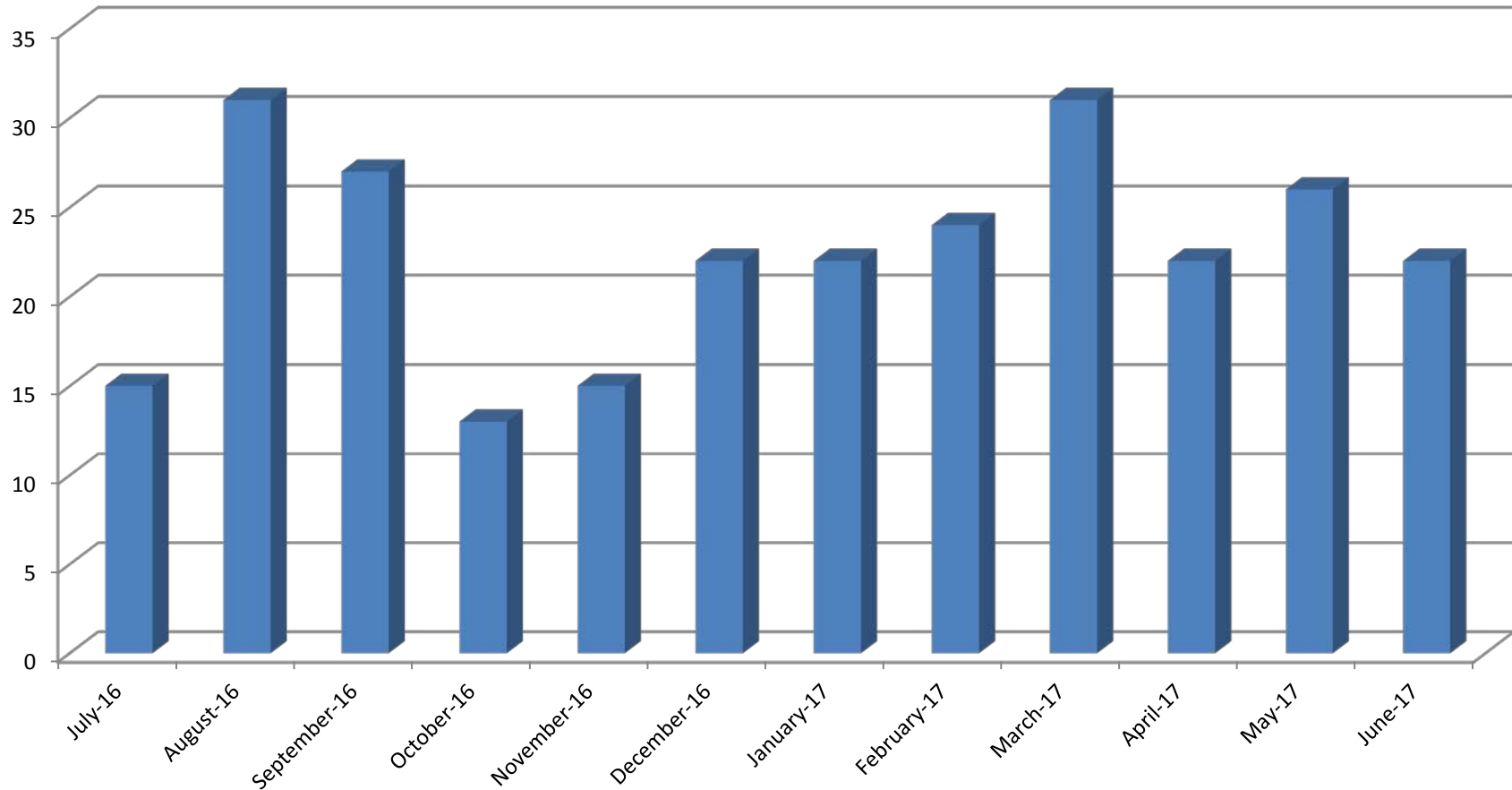
Spotsylvania County
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Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY2017
Total Number of Hours Appartus



**Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdose FY2017
Number of Fire Apparatus Responses**



**Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY 2017
Number of EMS Apparatus Responses**



Spotsylvania County
Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Management
Impact of Narcotic Overdoses FY2017
Number of Command Staff Responses

