



An Update on Arizona Overdose Trends & ADHS Actions

May 8, 2025

Outline

- Overview of ADHS Opioid Activities
- Opioid Big Picture in Arizona
- Women's and Children's Health
- Potential Opportunities for Intervention
- Highlighted Resources

Overview of ADHS Opioid Activities

ADHS Opioid Prevention & Response



COLLABORATION

- Collaboration across state agencies
- Statewide Clinical Advisory Board
- Public Health & Public Safety Partnerships
- Overdose Fatality Review Teams (County and State)
- SUD Treatment Capacity Reports



DATA & SURVEILLANCE

- Fatal and Non-Fatal Overdose Surveillance
- Annual Reports and Prevention Recommendations
- Opioid Data Dashboards
- OD Toxicology (State Lab)



CLINICAL ENGAGEMENT

- Opioid Assistance & Referral (OAR) Line
- Rx Drug Monitoring
- Pain & Addiction Curriculum
- Linkages to Care & Treatment



HARM REDUCTION

- Naloxone Distribution
- Naloxone Leave Behind Program
- Fentanyl Test Strips
- Drug Deactivation Bags

Opioid Assistance and Referral Line (OAR)

For the public: People needing help with opioid use, or their loved ones can speak with the OAR Line's team of licensed nurses and pharmacists and get connected to care.

For health care providers: Health care providers including certified nurses, pharmacists, and physicians are available 24/7 every day of the year for real-time consultation about patient care, including chronic pain, drug interactions, opioid withdrawal, and medication assisted treatment.

1-888-688-4222

24/7, free and
confidential
hotline

CDC Opioid Data to Action (OD2A) 2023-2028

Strategy 1: Surveillance Infrastructure

Strategy 2: Morbidity Surveillance (Non-Fatal ODs)

Strategy 3: Mortality Surveillance (Fatal ODs)

Strategy 4: Biosurveillance (Toxicology of Non-Fatal ODs)

Strategy 5: Data Linkage

Strategy 6a: Clinician/ Health System Engagement

Strategy 6b: Health IT/PDMP Enhancement

Strategy 7: Public Safety Partnerships/ Interventions *

Strategy 8: Harm Reduction*

Strategy 9: Community-Based Linkage to Care*

State Opioid Response (SOR) AHCCCS/SAMHSA

- Statewide distribution of naloxone (Narcan), Fentanyl Test Strips, and Deterra drug disposal bags
- State Overdose Fatality Review Team
- County Overdose Fatality Review Teams
- Enhanced Case Management (Linkages to Care)

Opioid Data Dashboards

- ❑ Non-fatal Overdoses
- ❑ Drugs in Non-fatal Overdoses
- ❑ Overdose Deaths
- ❑ Emergency & Inpatient Visits
- ❑ EMS/Law Enforcement
- ❑ Naloxone Administration
- ❑ Overdoses by Local Area
- ❑ Opioid Prescriptions

azdhs.gov/opioid

The data is
updated weekly
every Thursday



Non-fatal
Overdoses



Drugs in Non-
fatal Overdoses



Overdose
Deaths



Emergency
& Inpatient Visits



EMS/Law
Enforcement



Naloxone
Administration



Overdoses
by Local Area



Opioid
Prescriptions

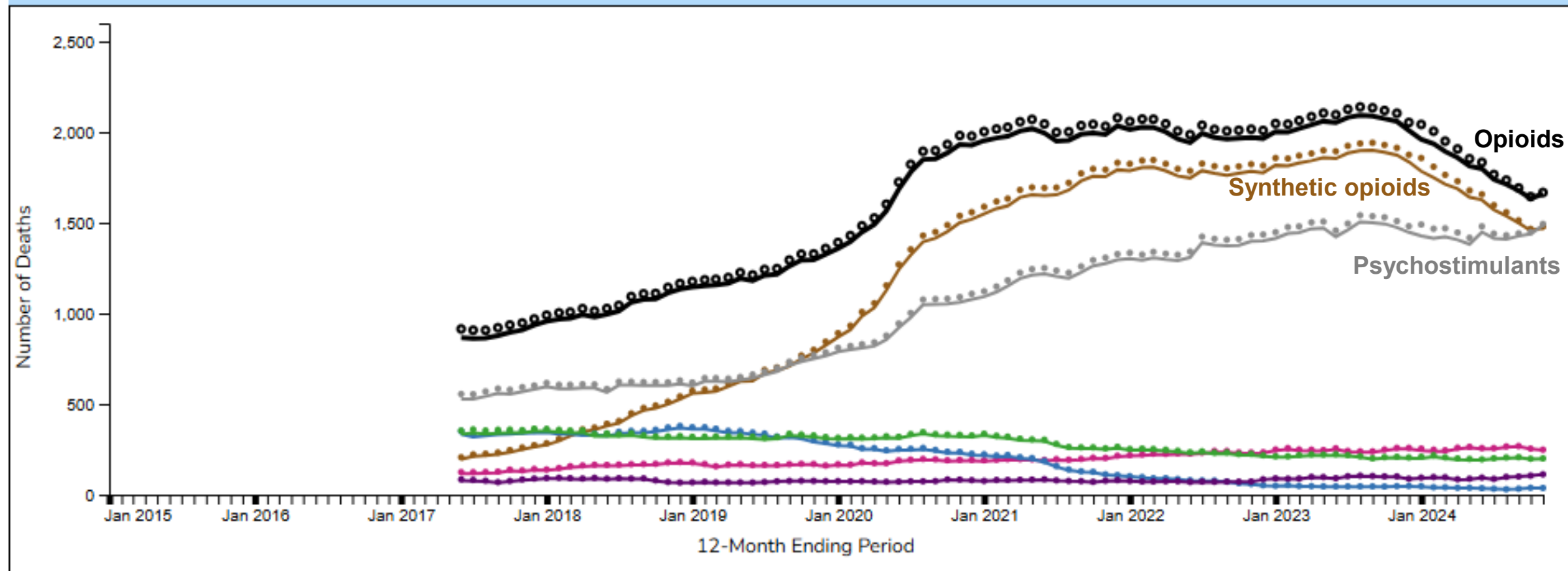
The Opioid Overdose Big Picture in Arizona

CDC 12 Month ending Provisional Drug Overdoses

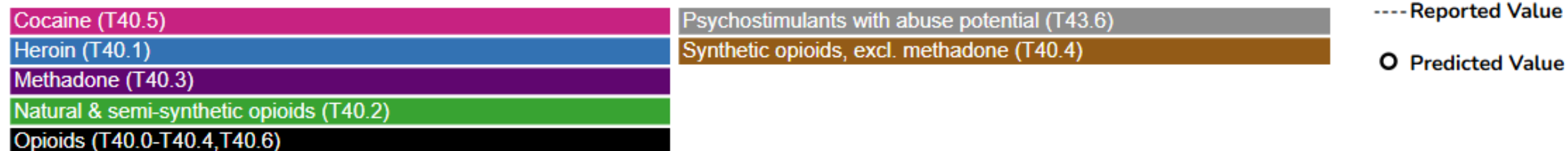
As of Nov. 2024
(In prior 12 months):

- 1,659 deaths involving opioids
- 1,471 deaths involving synthetic opioids excluding methadone
- 1,485 deaths involving psychostimulants

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: Arizona



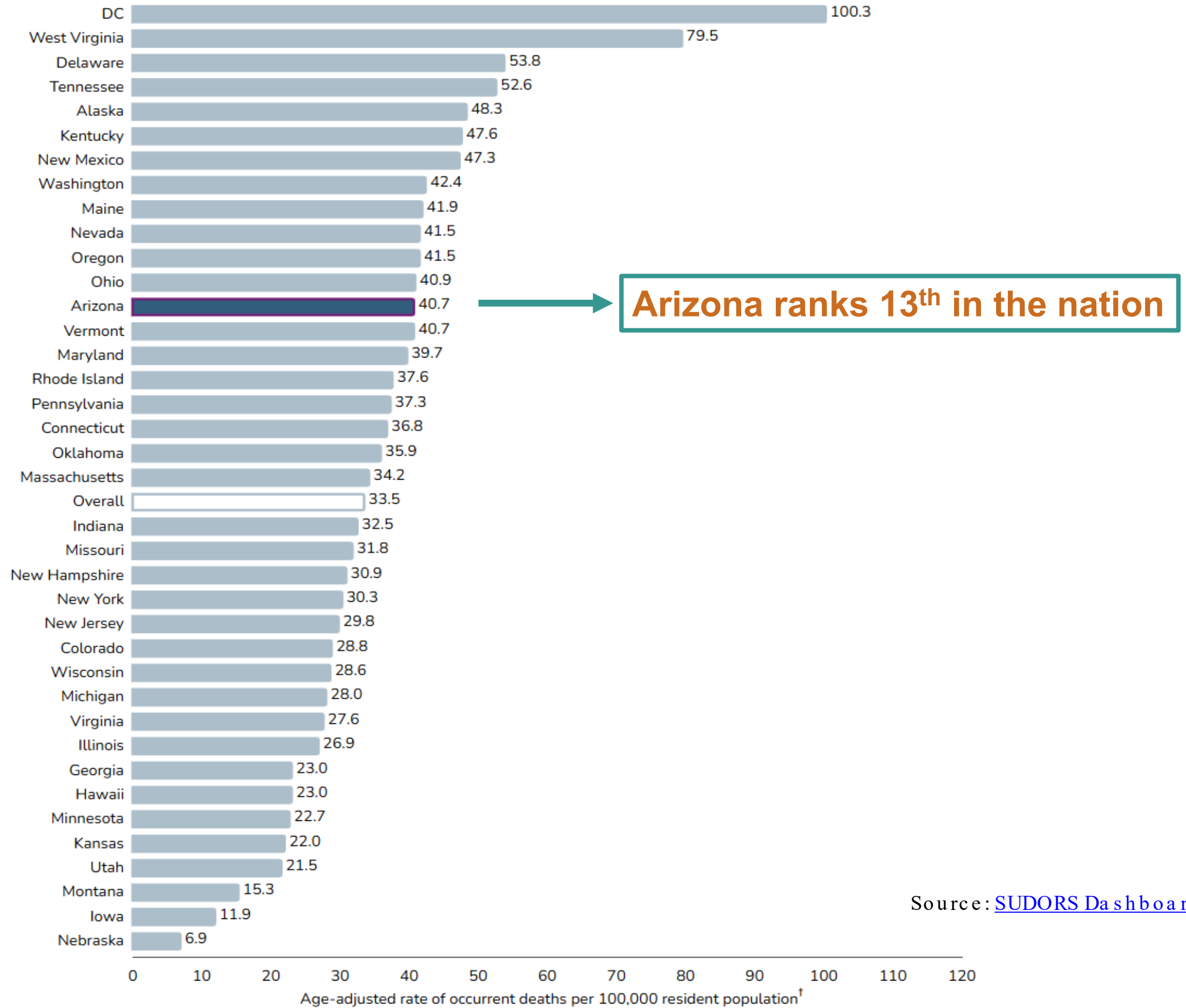
Legend for Drug or Drug Class



Total Number of Reported Overdose Deaths in Past 12 Months in Arizona

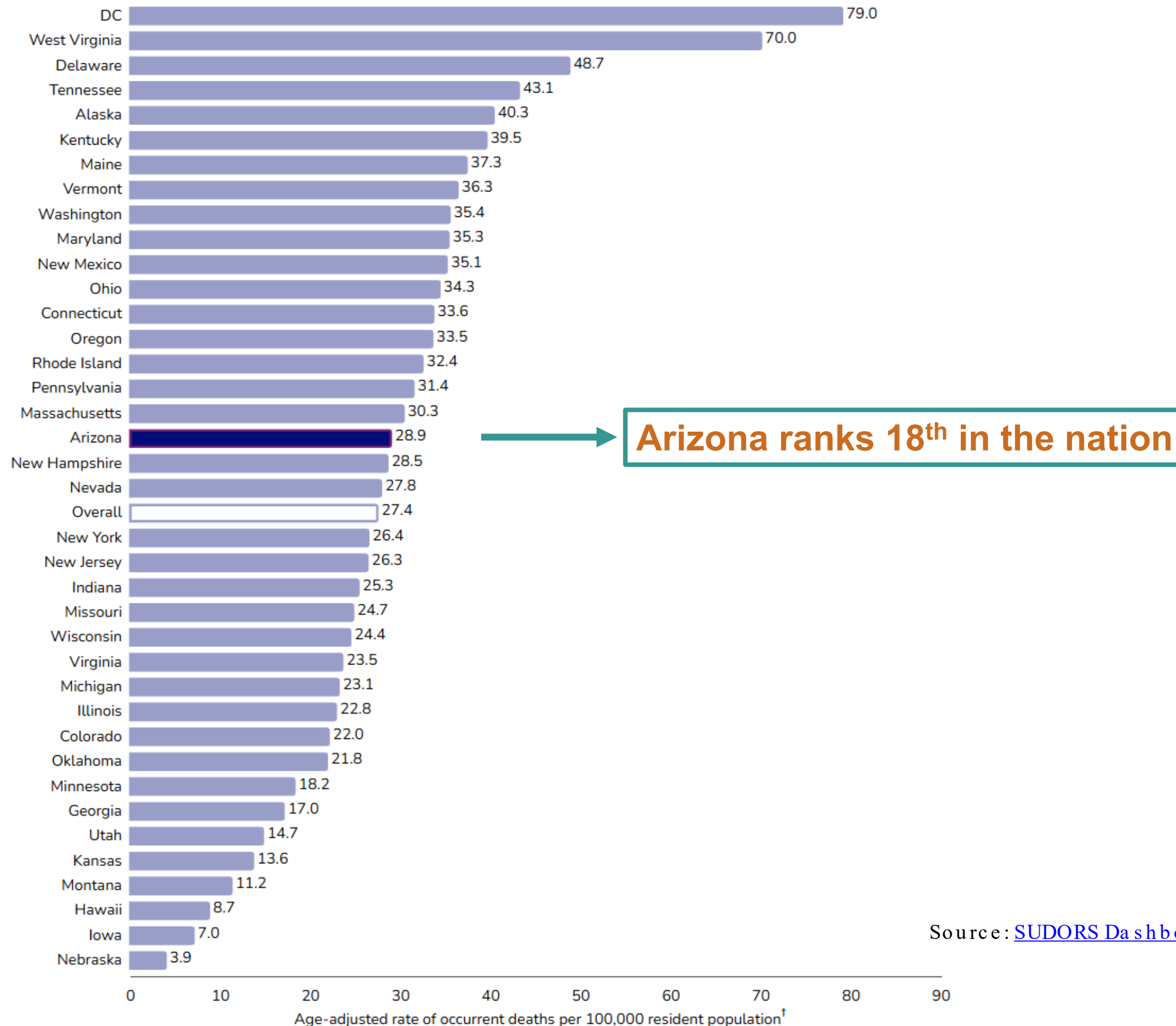
- Nov. 2020: 2,649
- Nov. 2021: 2,721
- Nov. 2022: 2,745
- Nov. 2023: 2,776
- Nov. 2024: 2,464

Rate of Overdose Deaths by State in 2023, All Drugs



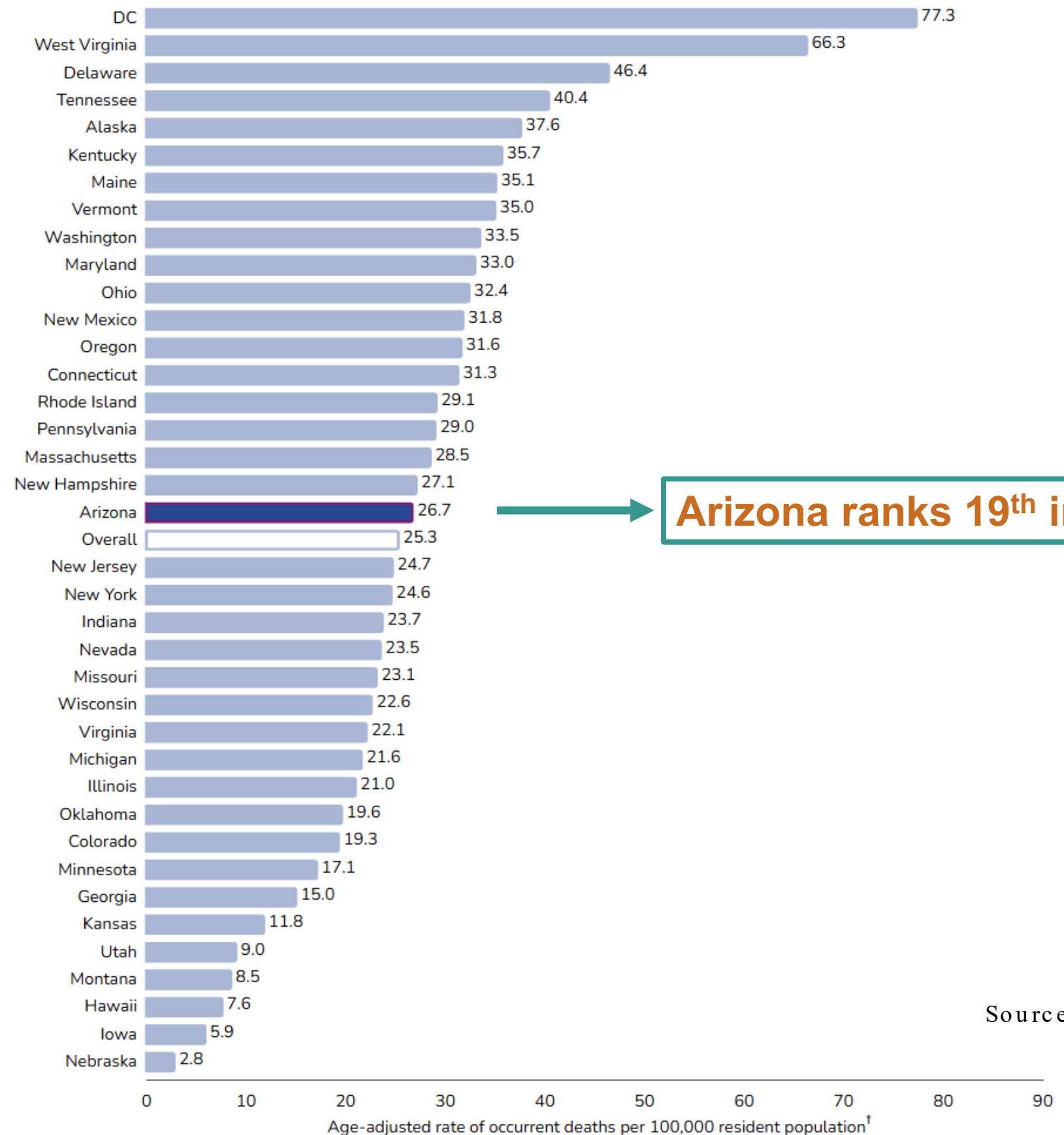
Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

Rate of Overdose Deaths by State in 2023, Any Opioids



Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

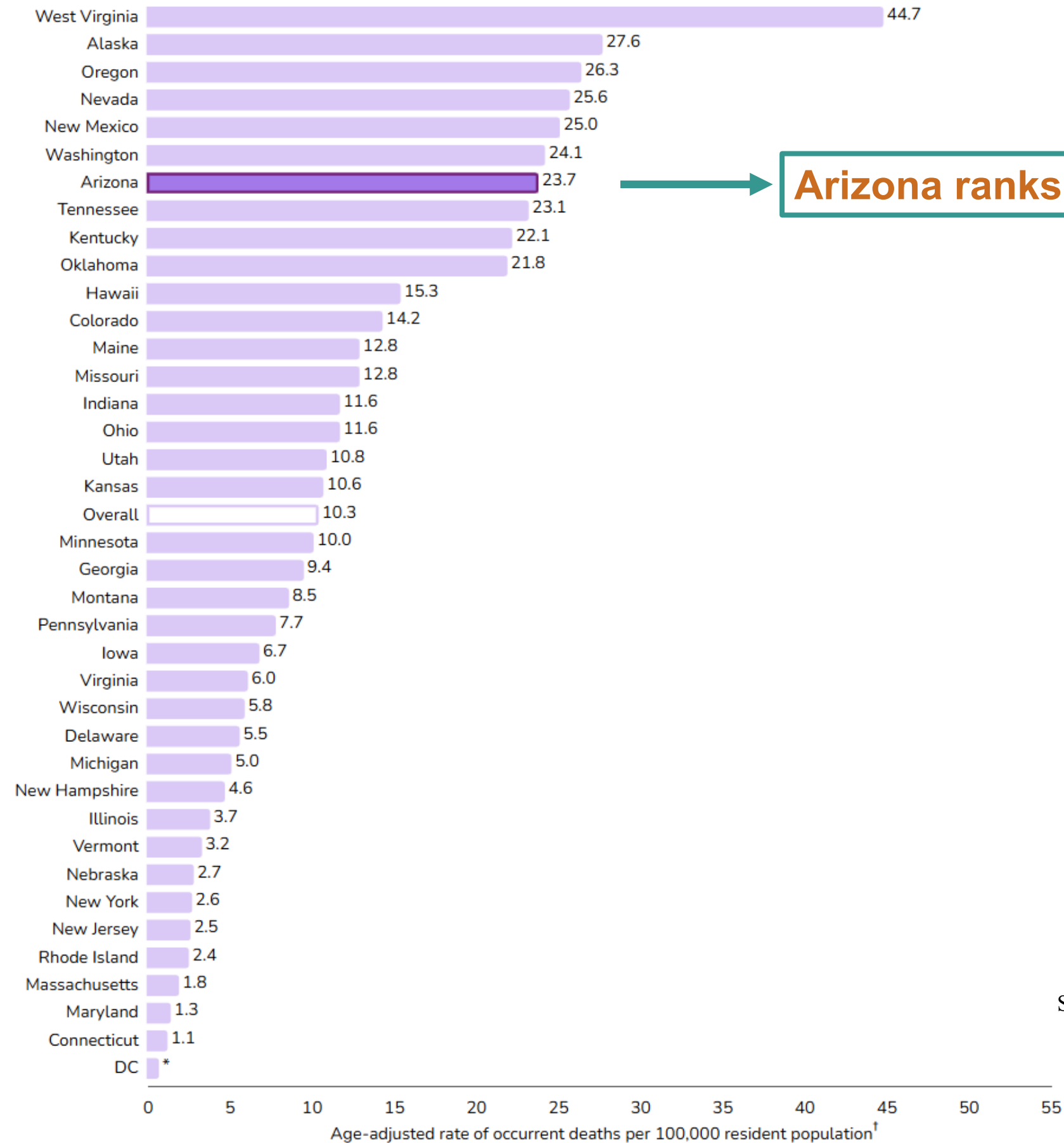
Rate of Overdose Deaths by State in 2023, Illegally-made Fentanyls



Arizona ranks 19th in the nation

Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

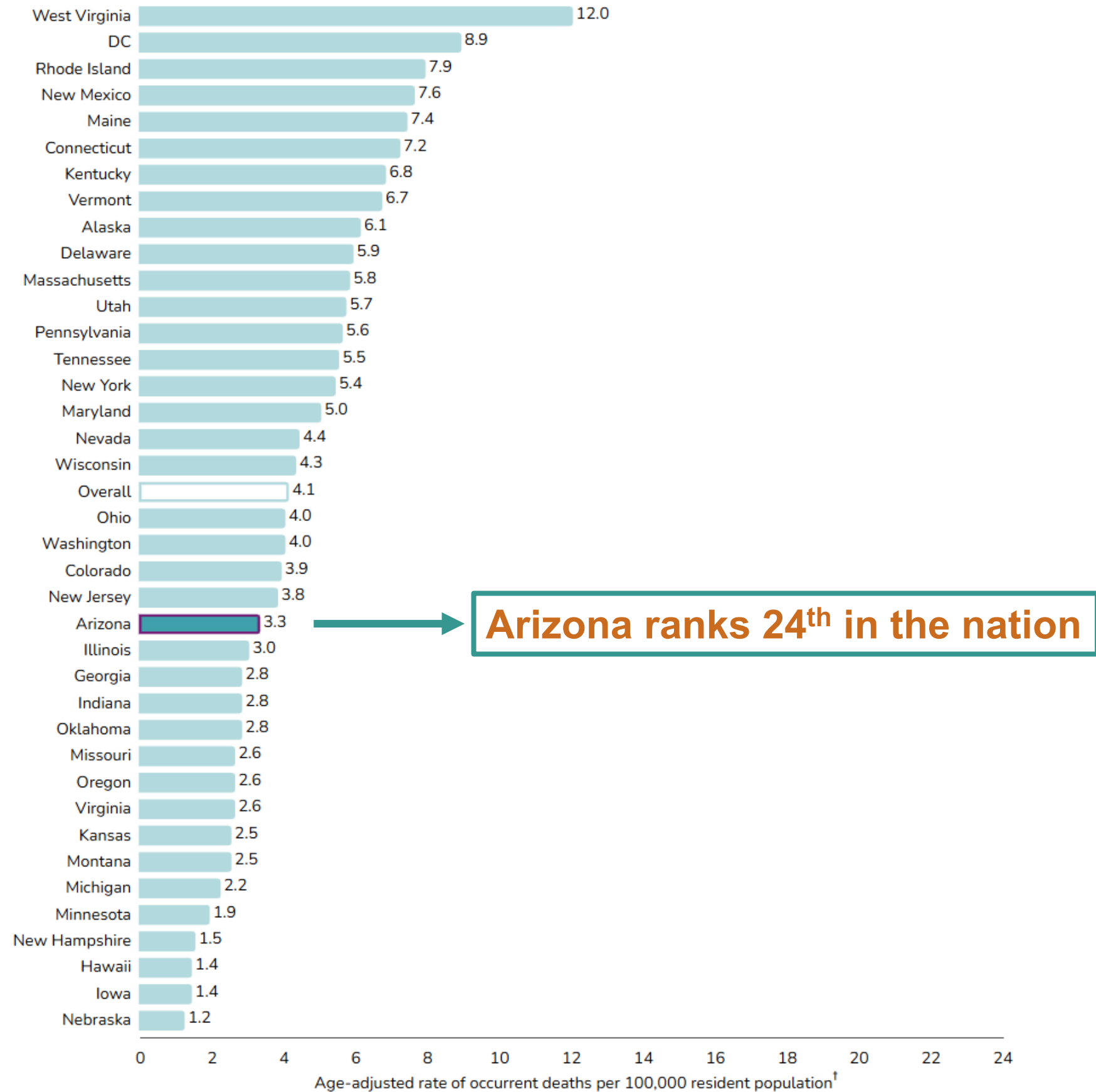
Rate of Overdose Deaths by State in 2023, Methamphetamine



Arizona ranks 7th in the nation

Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

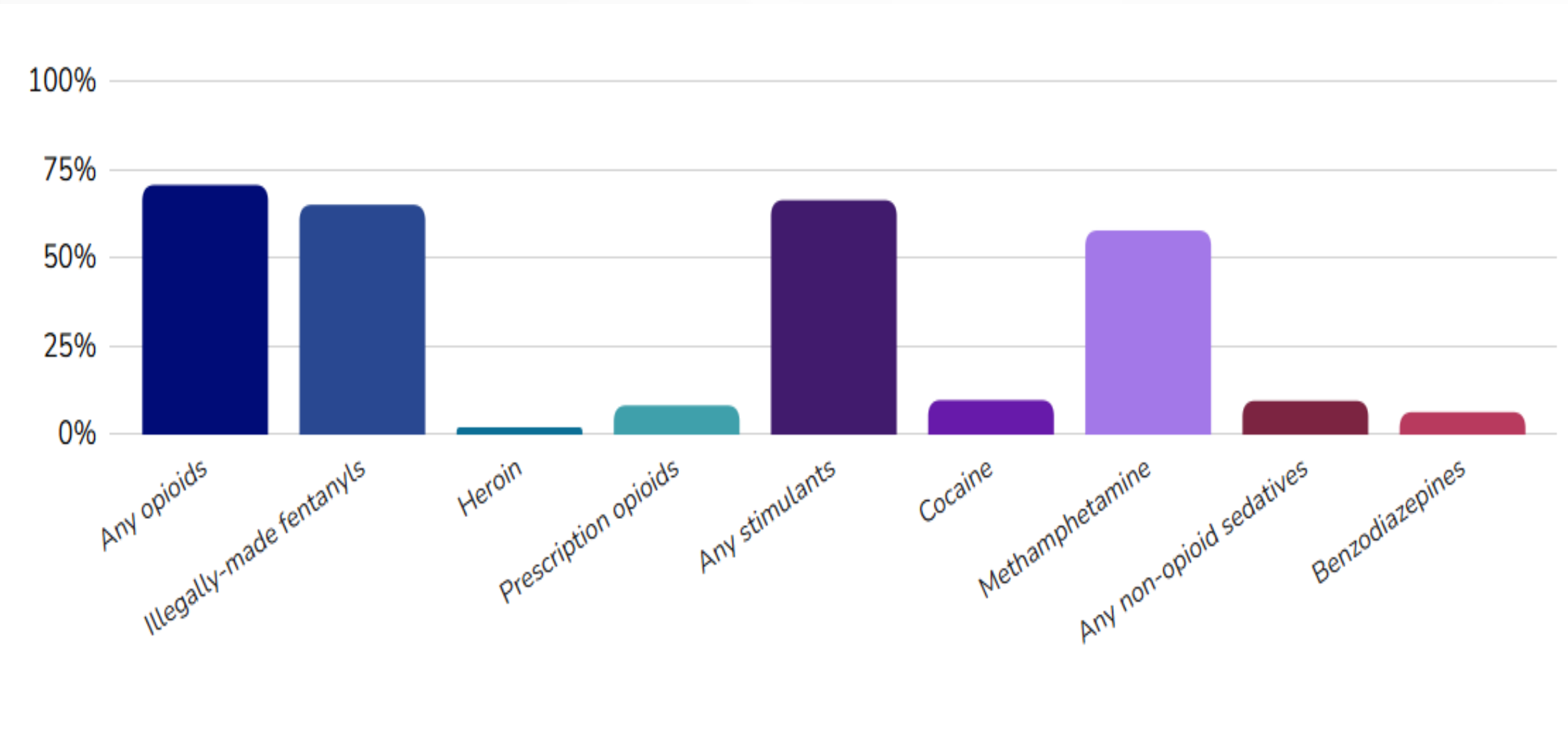
Rate of Overdose Deaths by State in 2023, Prescription Opioids



Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

Percentages of Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs and Drug Classes in 2023, Arizona

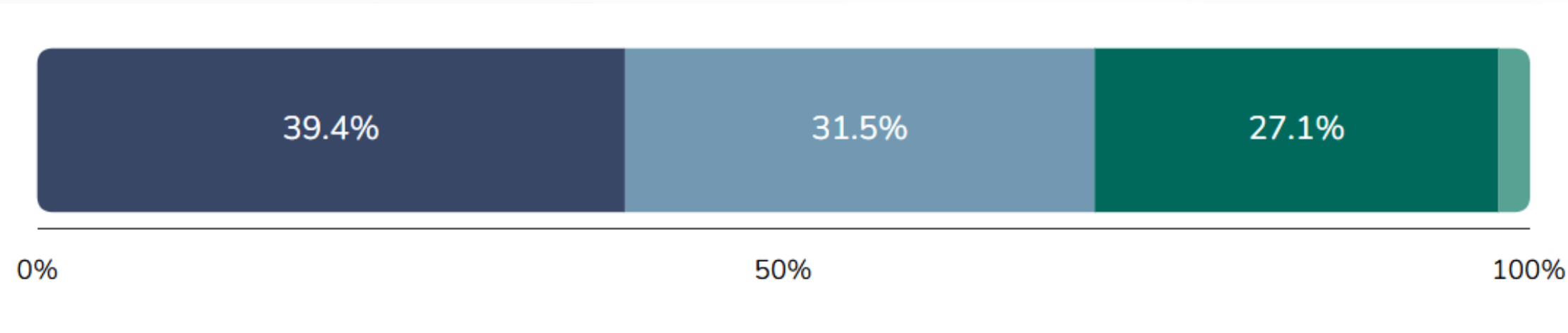
In 2023:



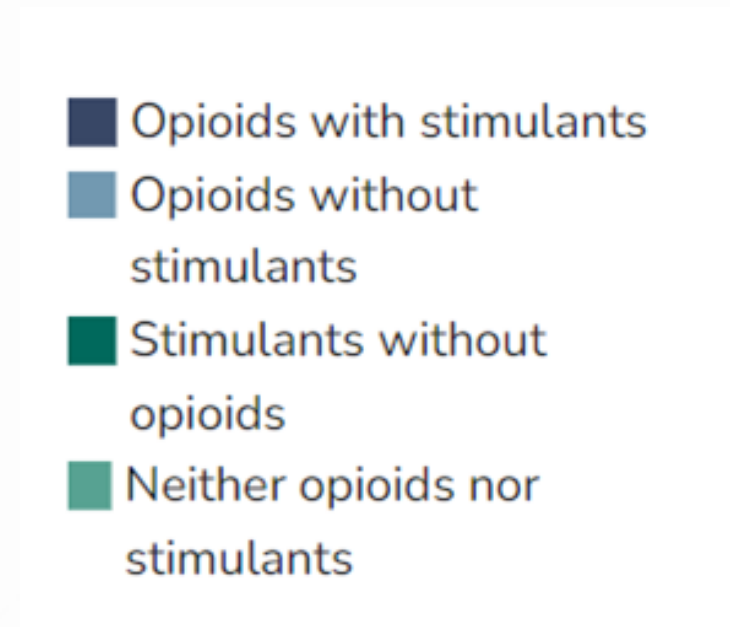
- **70.8%** of deaths involved **at least one opioid**
- **66.5%** involved **at least one stimulant**
- **Illegally-made fentanyl** were the most commonly involved opioids
- The **most common stimulant** involved in overdose deaths was **methamphetamine**

Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

Distribution of Overdose Deaths by Opioid and Stimulant Involvement in 2023, Arizona



Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)



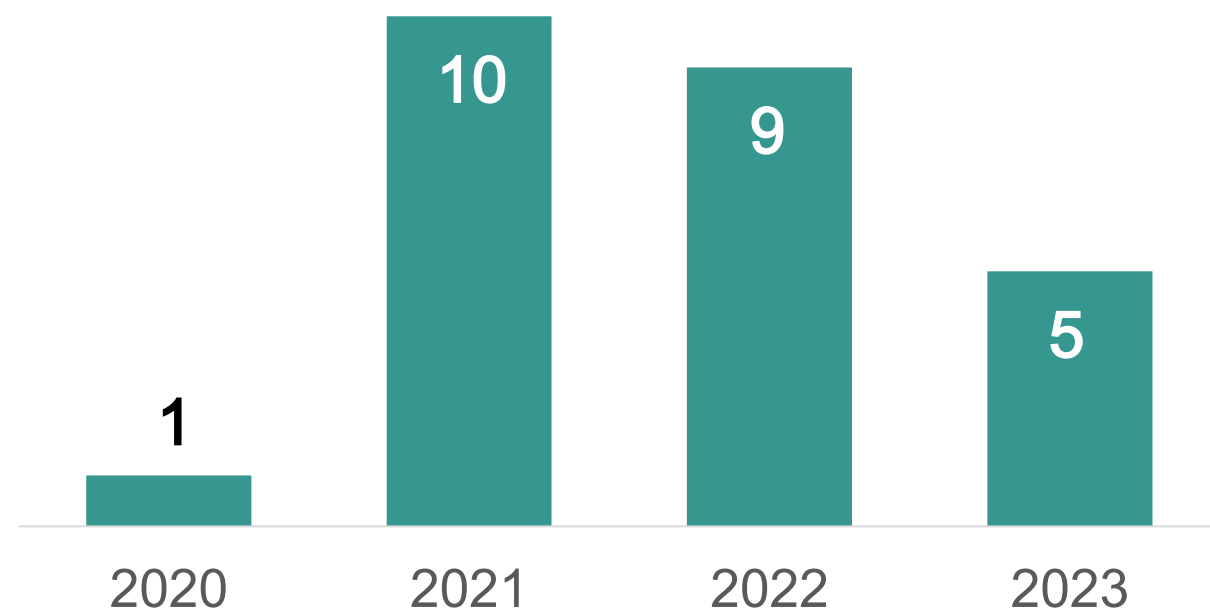
In 2023:

The five most frequently occurring opioids and stimulants, alone or in combination, accounted for 84.9% of overdose deaths

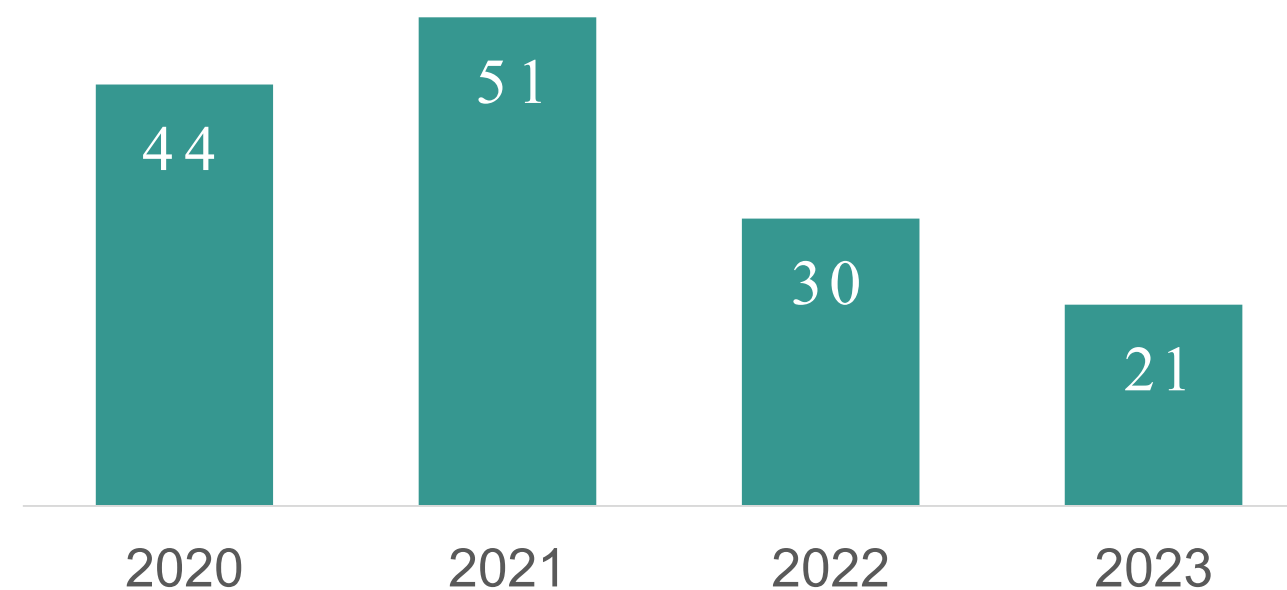
- Illegally - made fentanyls and methamphetamine (30.1%)
- Illegally - made fentanyls with no other opioids or stimulants (25.4%)
- Methamphetamine with no other stimulants or opioids (22.1%)
- Cocaine with no other stimulants or opioids (3.6%)
- Prescription opioids with no other opioids or stimulants (3.6%)

Other Drugs of Interest Detected in Drug Overdose Deaths*, Arizona, 2020-2023

In 2023, **Xylazine** was detected in 5 drug overdose deaths



In 2023, **Kratom/Mitragynine** was detected in 21 drug overdose deaths

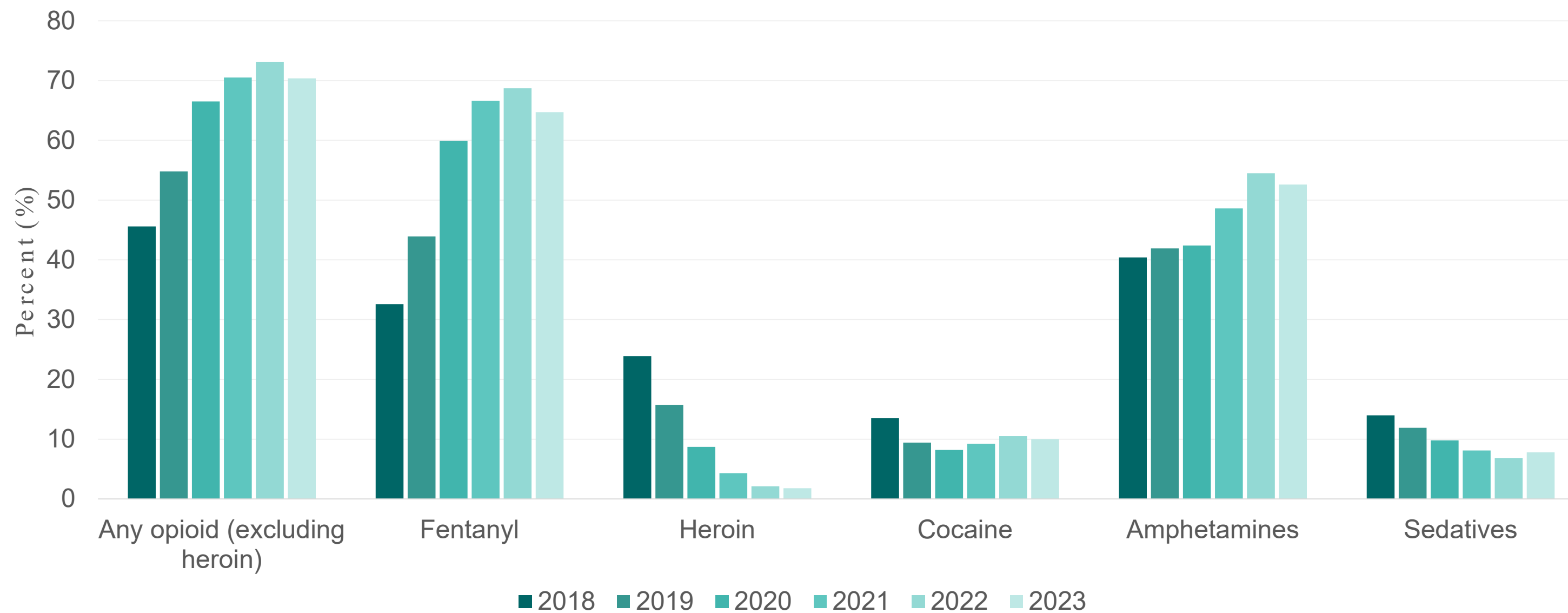


Source: [SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data](#) (2023)

*SUDORS captures all drugs detected by postmortem toxicology, **even those not ruled by a medical examiner or coroner as causing death**. Analyses of drugs detected are restricted to jurisdictions with toxicology reports available for at least 75% of deaths in the specified year. Analyses are further restricted to deaths with an available toxicology report.

In 2023, deaths from fentanyl and amphetamines have remained high. The most significant decrease from 2018 to 2023 was in deaths due to heroin.

Drugs Involved in All* Accidental Drug Deaths, Arizona 2018-2023, Percentage of Deaths



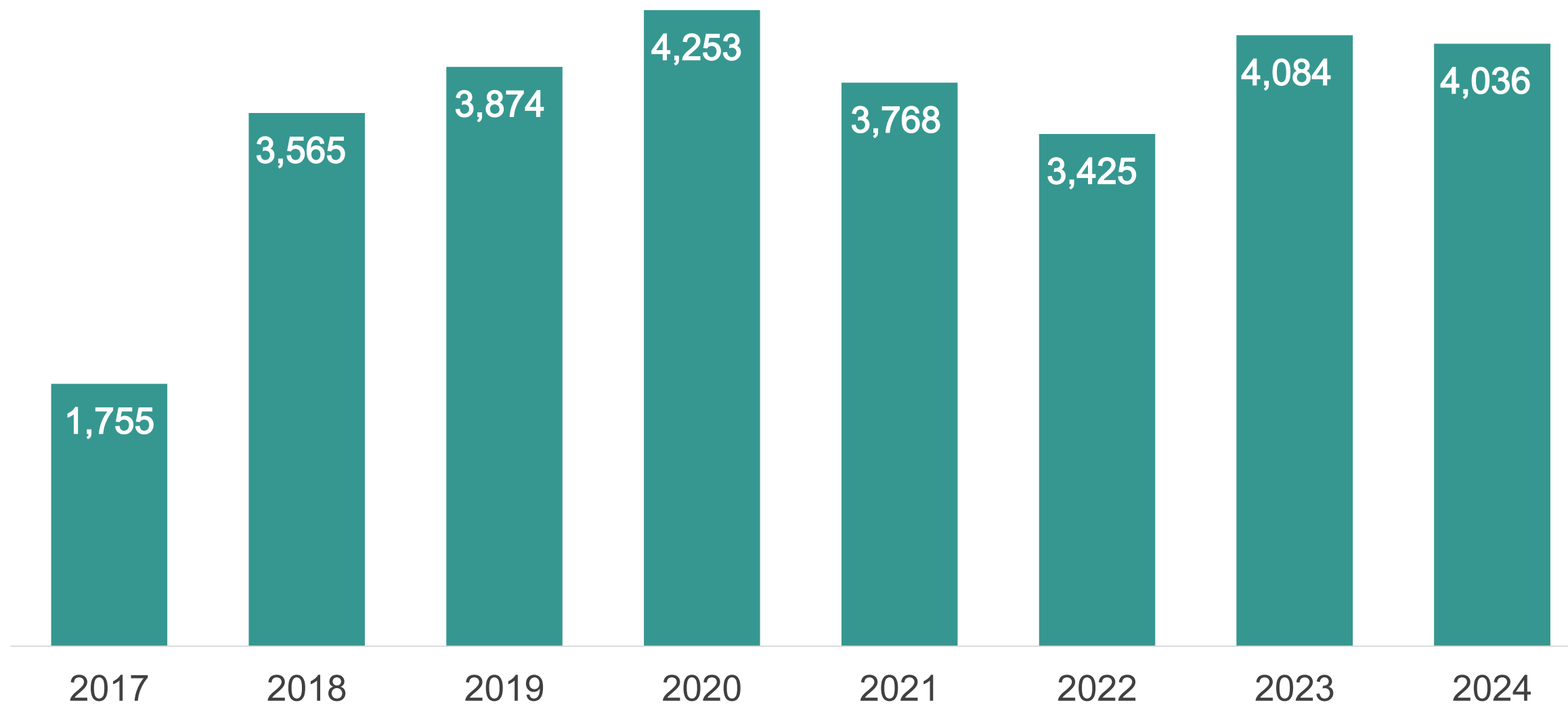
*Drug deaths include all Arizona deaths with manner of death as "ACCIDENT" and a drug in any cause of death field

**Drug deaths identified using ICD-10 codes and text queries from death certificates

*** Some drug deaths may include multiple drugs as cause of death

Approximately 11 Arizonans a day had a non-fatal opioid overdose in 2024

Non-Fatal Opioid Overdose Events in Arizona, June 2017- December 2024



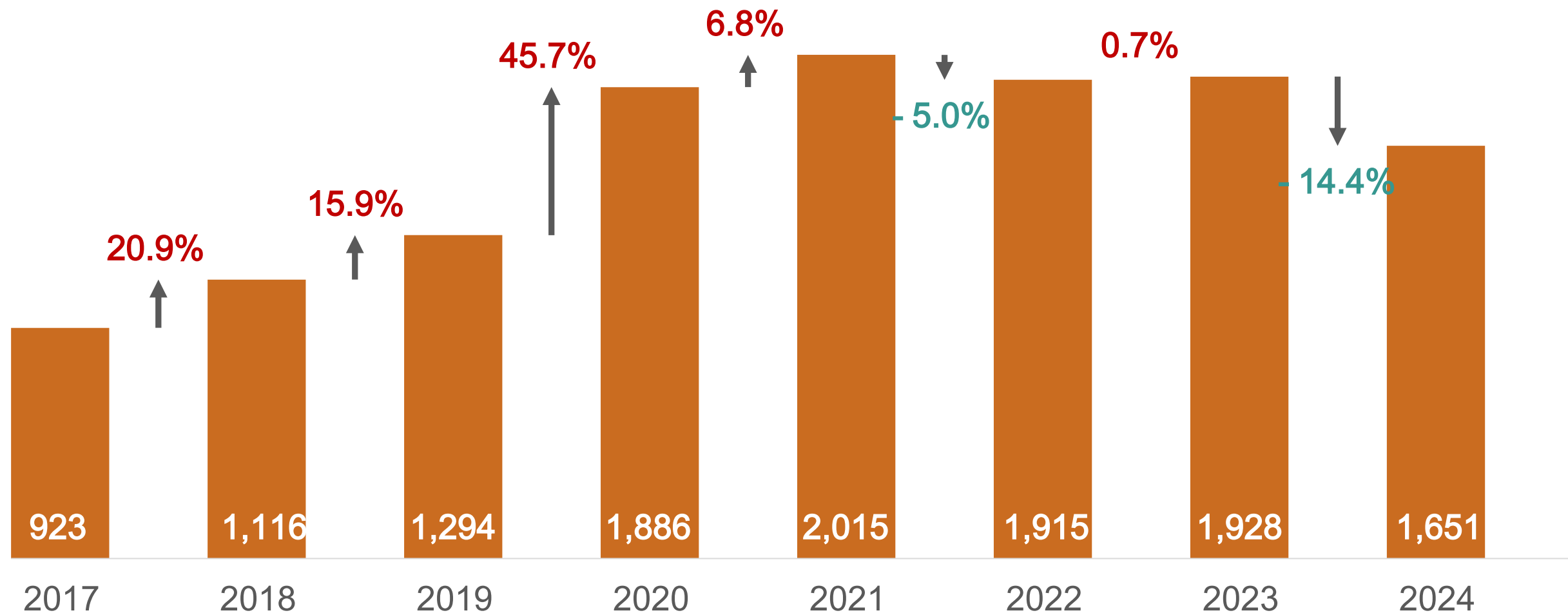
Data Source: Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS)
Please note MEDSIS data is provisional and subject to change

In 2024:

- 72% of non-fatal opioid events have involved fentanyl
- 35% of non-fatal opioid events have involved meth/amphetamine
- 12% of non-fatal opioid events involved benzodiazepine

Approximately 4 Arizonans a day died from opioids in 2024

Opioid Deaths in Arizona, 2017-2024

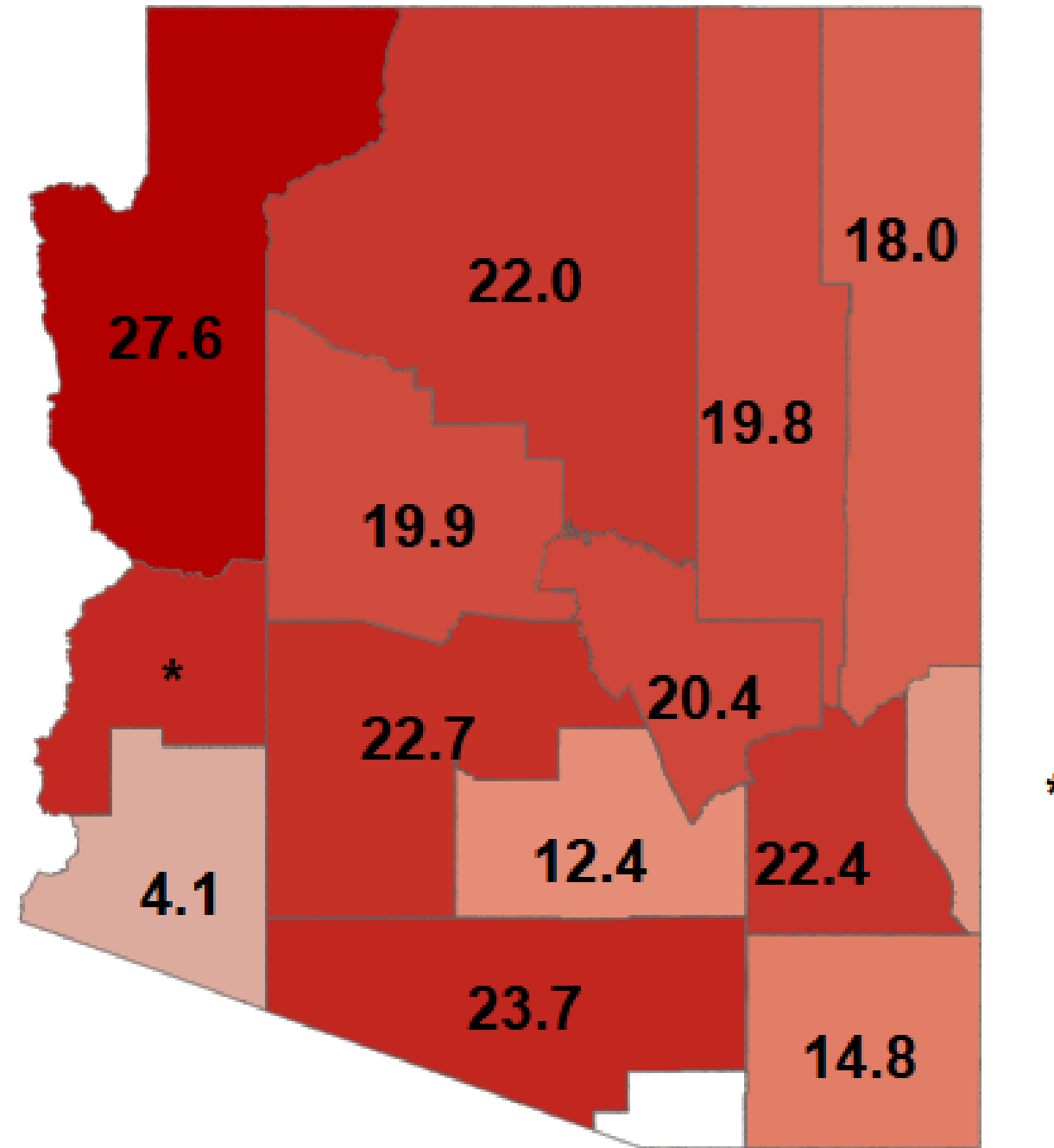


Data Source: Arizona Vital Statistics, Death Certificates
*2024 data is provisional and subject to change

In 2024:

- **89.1%** of opioid deaths involved **multiple drugs**; increasing trend
- **98%** of opioid deaths involved **rx/synthetic drugs**; stagnant trend
- **2%** of opioid deaths involved **heroin**; decreasing trend

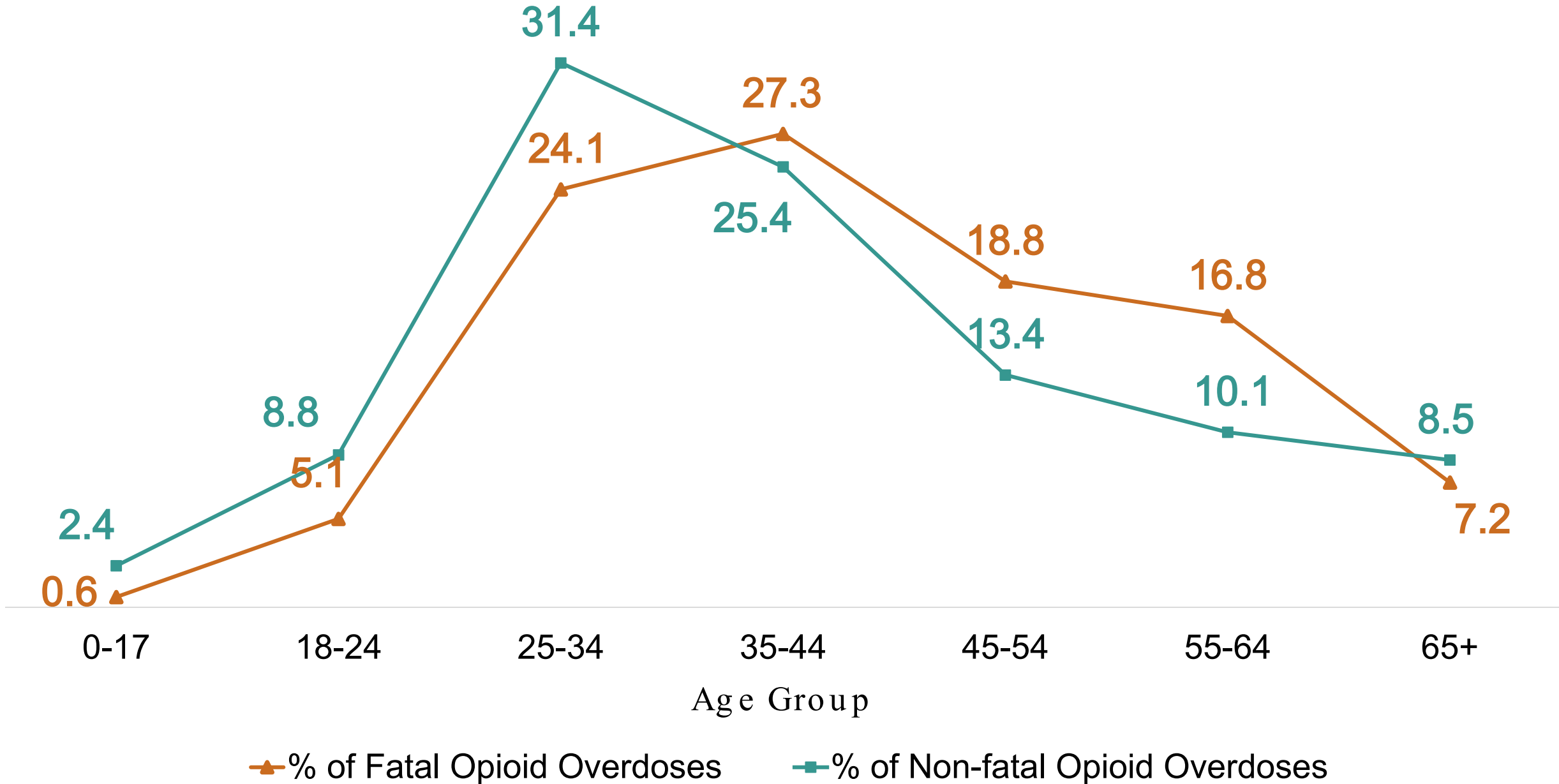
The rate of **opioid deaths** per 100,000 residents was **highest** in **Mohave, Pima, Maricopa, and Graham** counties during 2024.



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County refers to patient's county of residence

In 2024, Two-Thirds of **Non-fatal** and **Fatal** Opioid Overdoses were Among 25-54 Year-olds

Fatal and Non - Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Age Group, 2024



In 2024:

- The highest rate of fatalities occurred among 35-44 year-olds (47.6 per 100,000 population)
- The highest rate of non-fatal opioid overdoses occurred among 25-34 year-olds (124.2 per 100,000 population)
- 71.3% of fatal and 66.2% of non-fatal opioid overdose occurred among males

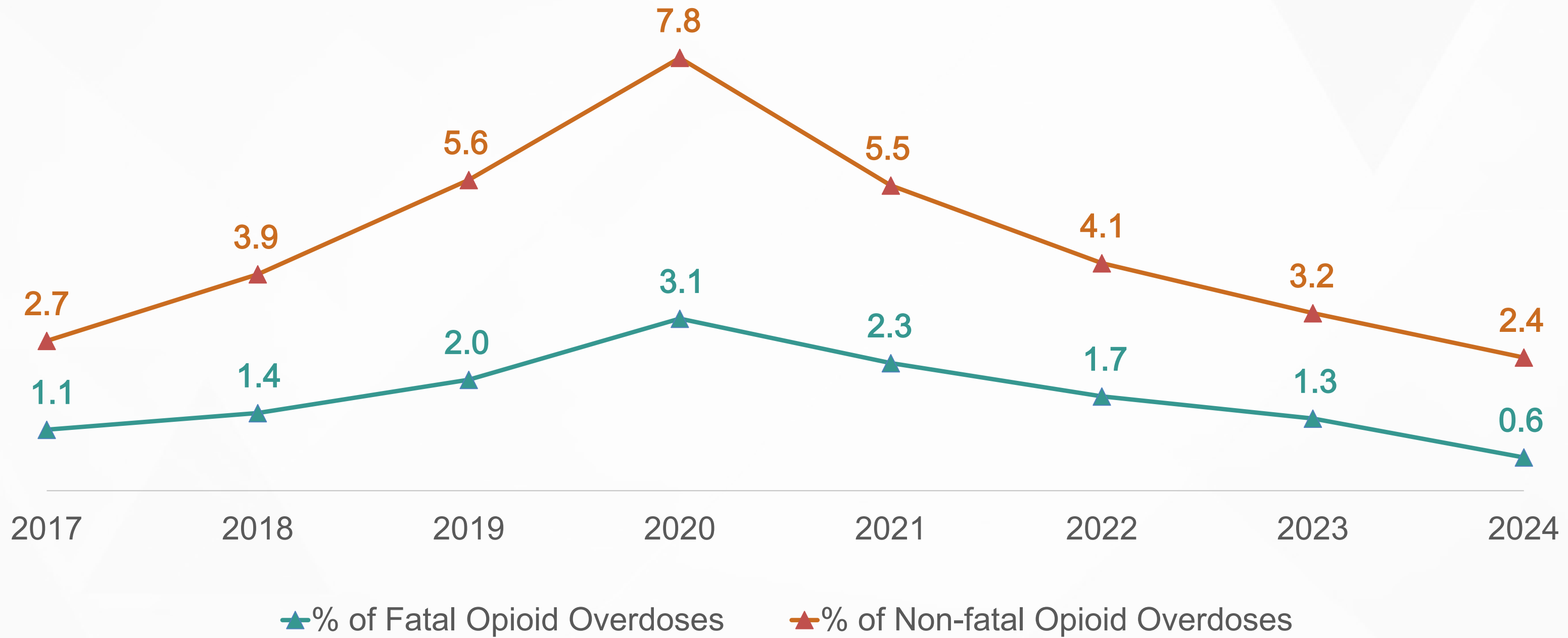
Data Sources:
 Non-Fatal Overdoses (Arizona - Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS))
 Fatal Overdoses (Arizona Vital Statistics, Death Certificates)

Among children ages 0-17 in 2024 there were...

95 Non-fatal Opioid Overdoses

10 Fatal Opioid Overdoses

Fatal and Non - Fatal Opioid Overdoses among Persons (0 - 17 Years), 2017- 2024

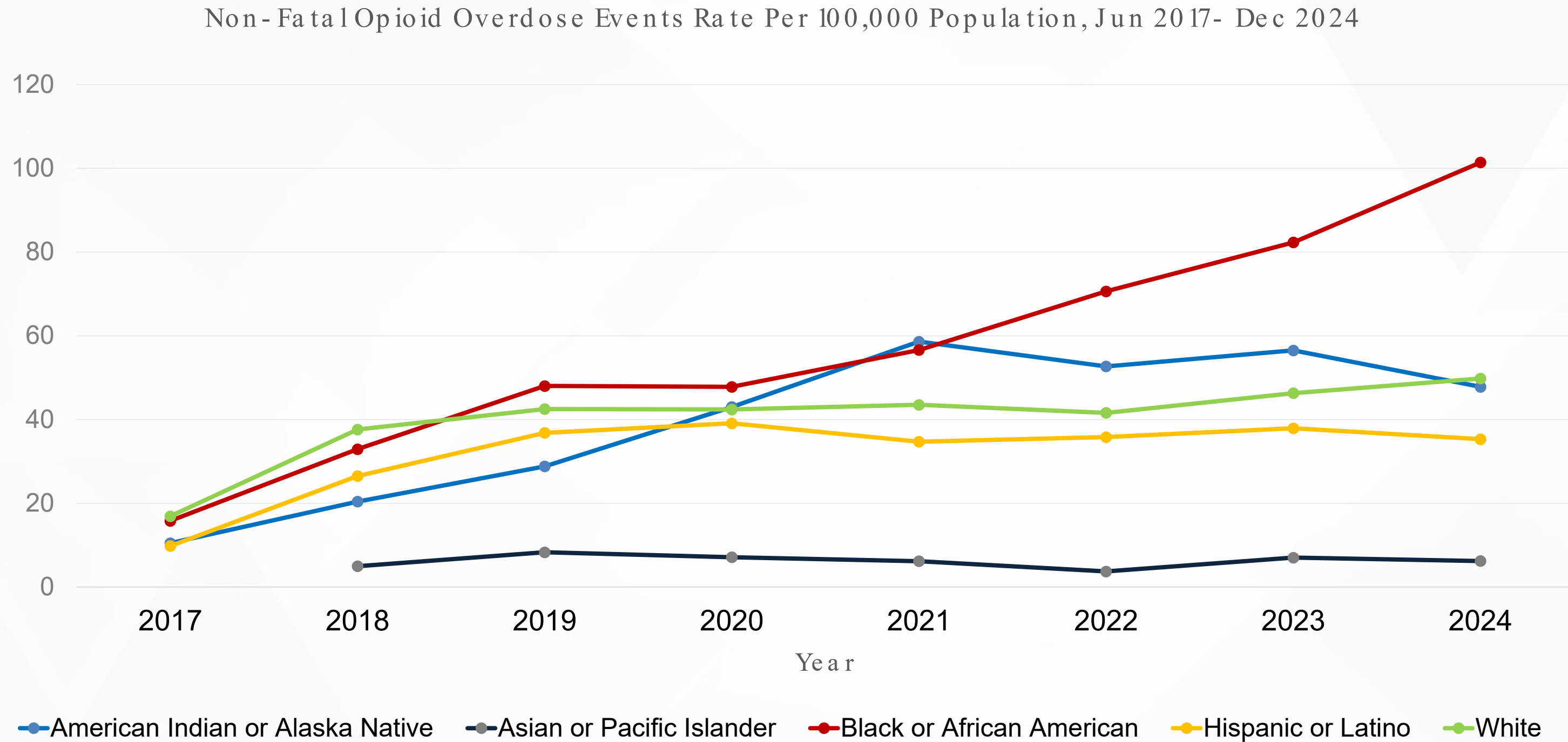


Data Sources:

Non-Fatal Overdoses (Arizona - Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS))

Fatal Overdoses (Arizona Vital Statistics, Death Certificates)

The Black or African American population has experienced a significant rise in **non-fatal** opioid overdose rates, reaching 101.4 per 100,000 population in 2024, the highest among all groups



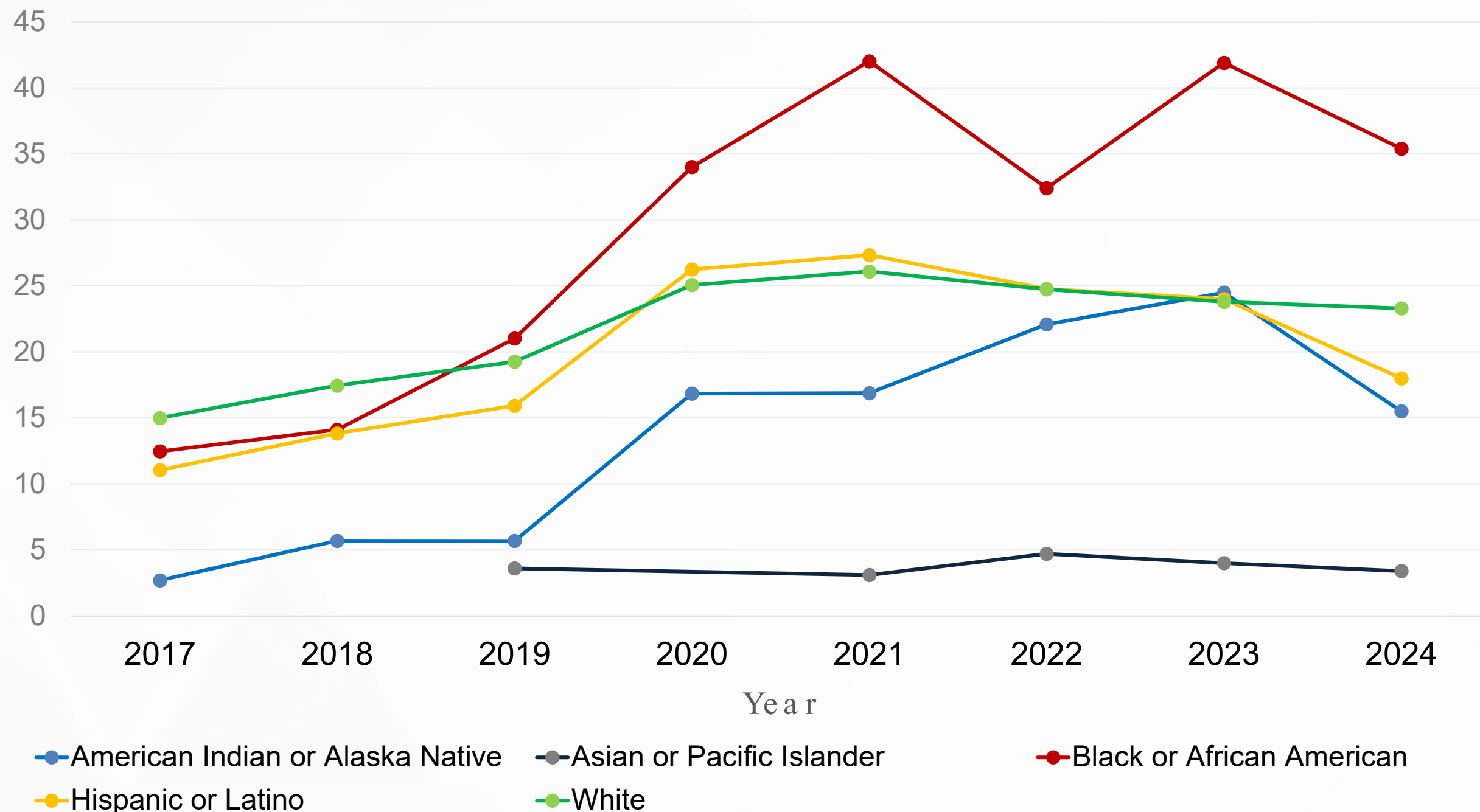
Data Source: Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS)

Please note MEDSIS data is provisional and subject to change; rates are not shown for any counts of less than 10

Opioid **fatality** rates declined or remained relatively stable across all racial and ethnic groups in 2024

From 2017 - 2024:

Opioid Fatality Rate Per 100,000 Population, Jan 2017- Dec 2023

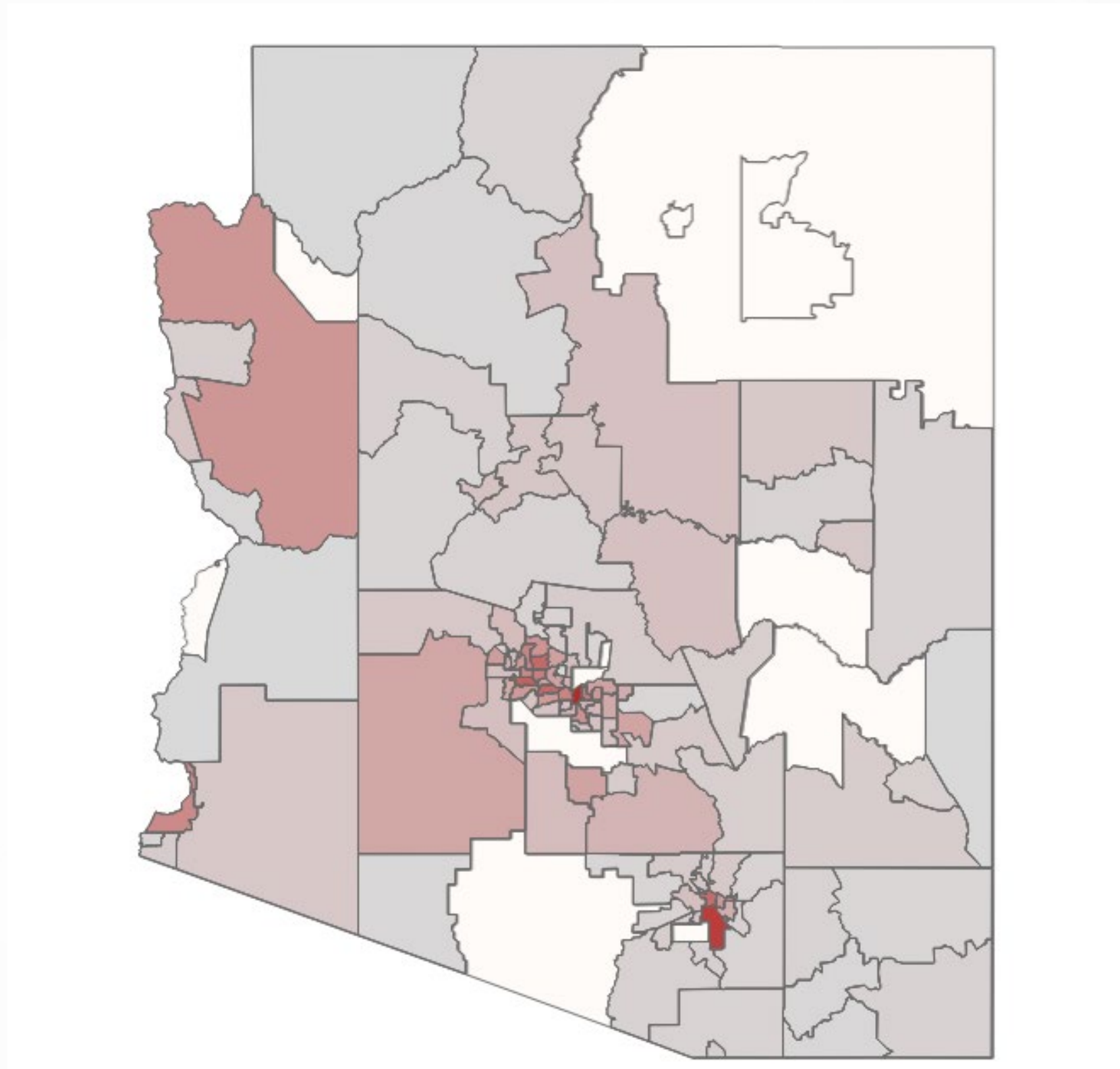


- Black or African American American individuals had the highest **opioid fatality rate**, more than doubling from 12.5 per 100,000 in 2017 to 35.4 per 100,000 in 2024.
- Similarly, among the American Indian or Alaska Native population, the rate has increased nearly **fivefold** from 5.7 per 100,000 in 2018 to 24.5 per 100,000 in 2023, before declining to 15.5 in 2024.

Data Source: Arizona Vital Statistics, Death Certificates
Please note rates are not shown for any counts of less than 6

Non-Fatal Opioid Overdose Events by Top 10 Primary Care Areas, Arizona, 2024

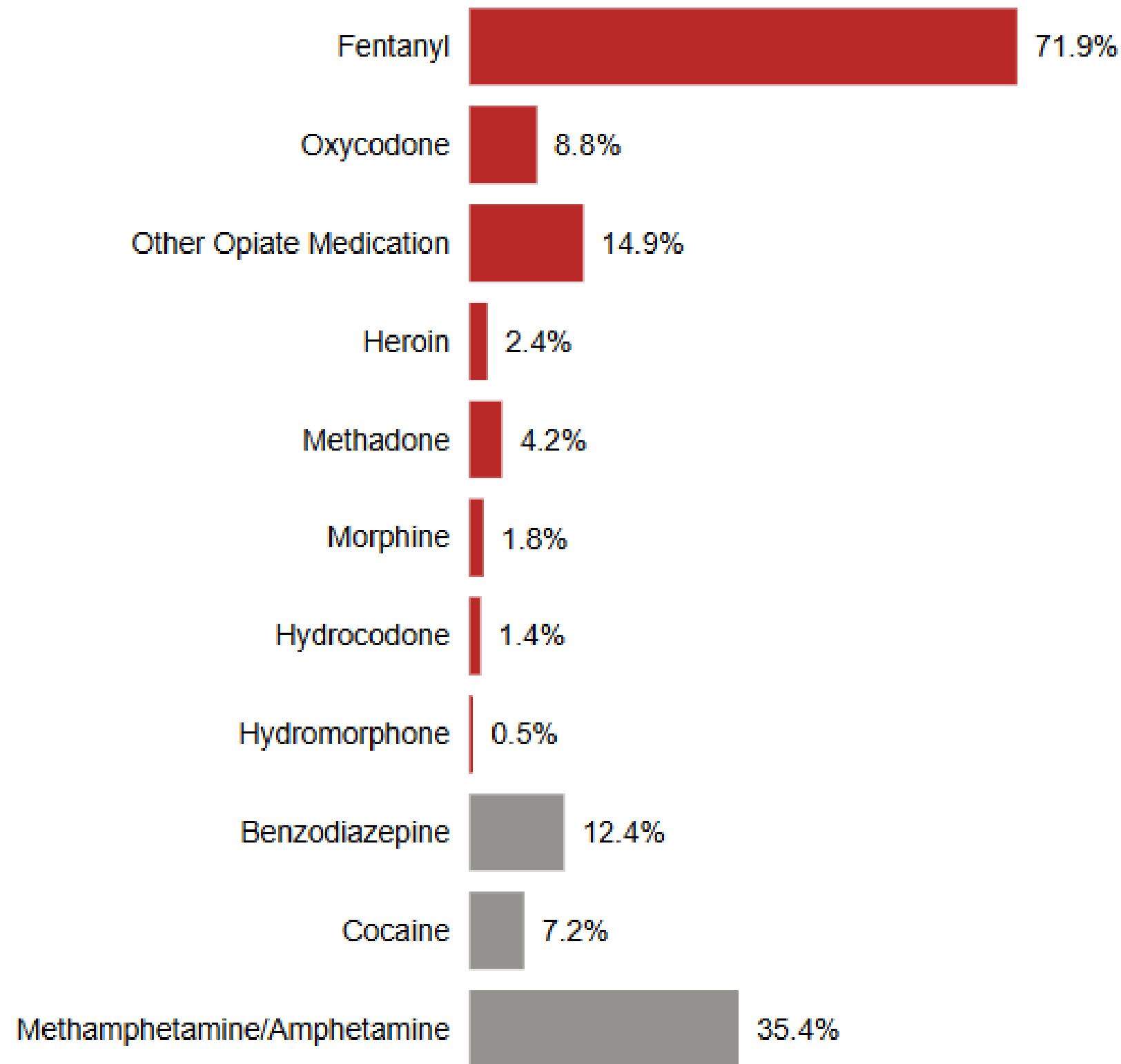
Primary Care Area	Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses
Central City Village	193
Tucson South	174
Mesa West	163
Tempe North	148
Maryvale Village	132
Alhambra Village	130
Buckeye	127
North Mountain Village	121
Tucson Central	114
Glendale North	103



Data Sources: Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS)

ADHS Primary Care Area Dashboard: <https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/dashboards/index.php#overdoses-local>

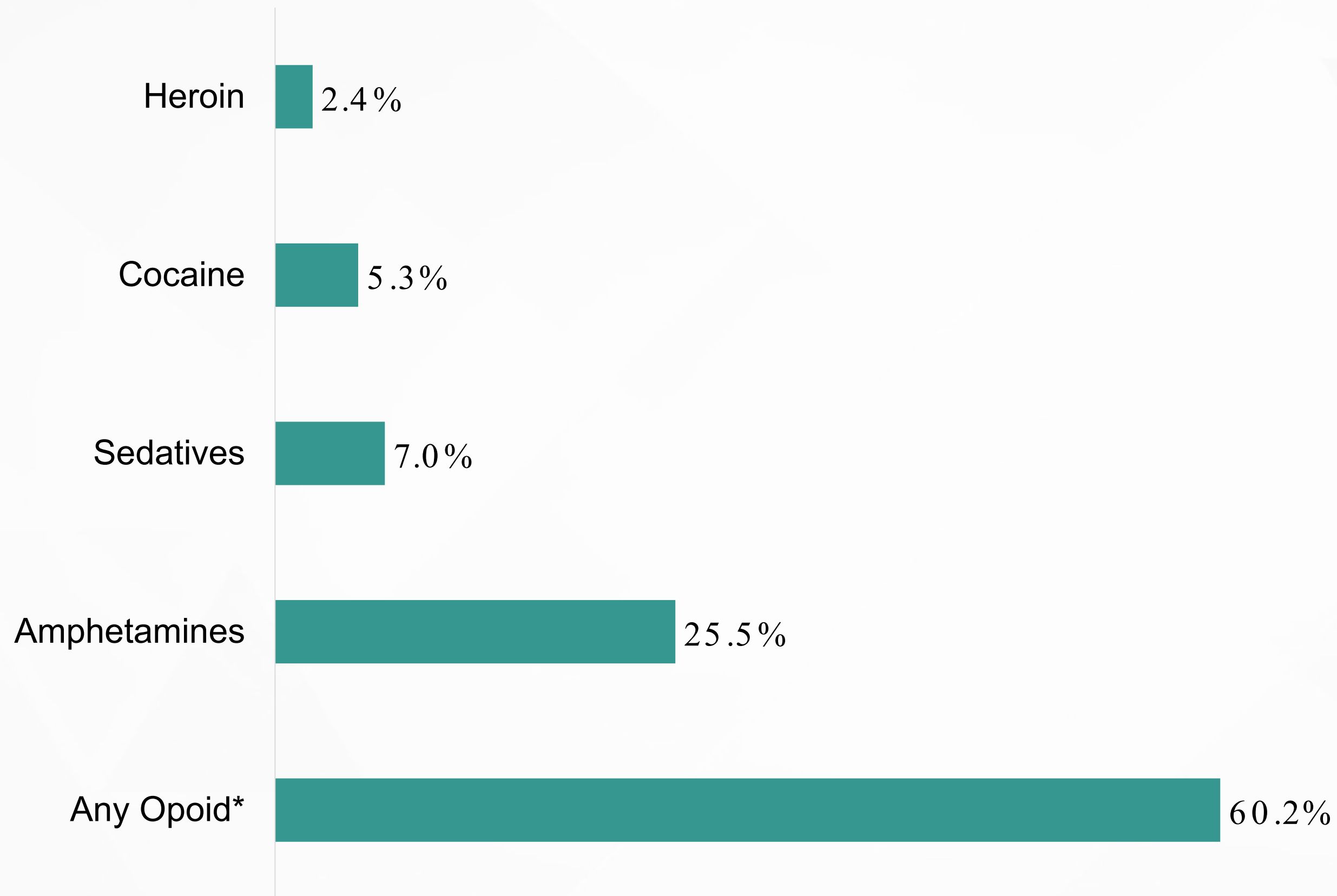
In 2024, **fentanyl** is identified in approximately **3 out of 4 non-fatal** opioid overdoses (n= 4,036)



Accessed 05/02/2024

<https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/#dashboards-drugs-nonfatal-overdoses>

Prevalence of drug combinations in overdose fatalities with fentanyl, n=341, 2021 (preliminary)



*Except heroin

Data Source: 2021 Overdose Fatality Review Program.

The most common life stressors in overdose deaths include a history of incarceration, family or friend stressors, financial problems in the past 90 days, and a past incarceration release. *(preliminary)*

Life Stressors	Prevalence (%)
Family/ Friend (Past 90 Days)	20.8
Failing Relationship (Past 90 Days)	12.0
Friend/ Family Death	7.0
Hx of Incarceration (Lifetime)	43.4
Financial Problems (Past 90 Days)	19.4
Recent Incarceration Release (Past 1 Year)	14.4
Legal Problems (Past 90 Days)	14.1
Workplace Issues	7.3
Abuse (Perpetrator)	9.1
Abuse (Victim)	5.3

- 1 in 6 deaths received a **behavioral health diagnosis** in the year prior to death.
- The most **common behavioral diagnoses** were mood disorders (42%), anxiety disorders (39%), and serious mental illness (21%).
- **Substance used disorder** was identified preceding a death in the prior month (67%), year (68), or lifetime (80%).

Circumstances of overdose deaths, 2021 (preliminary)

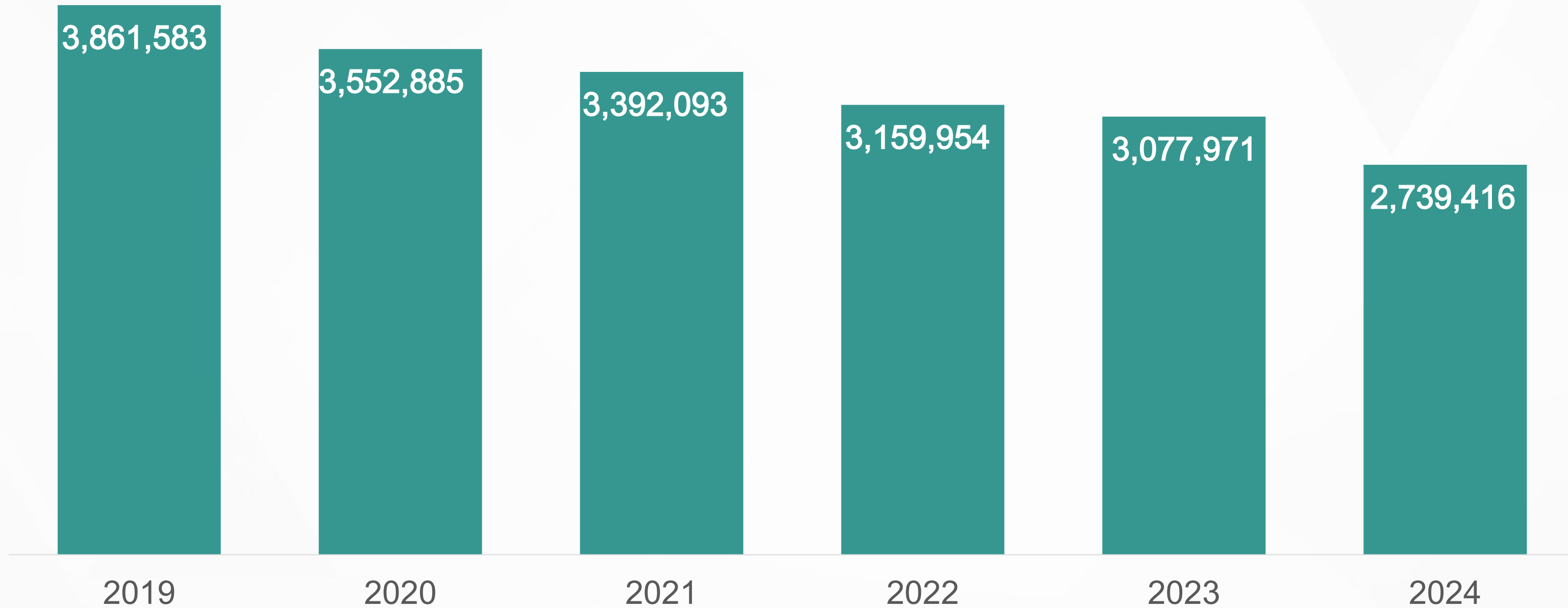
- 3 out of 5 deaths occurred in the **home**.
- In half of the deaths there was **another person present or had recently been present** around the time of their death.
- **Administration of lifesaving procedures was documented** in 46% of deaths and naloxone was administered in a third of these.

Prevention recommendations (preliminary, not comprehensive)

- Improve access to primary care services that include substance use disorder screening, harm reduction education, Medication Assisted Treatment, and referral to treatment.
- Improve care coordination post-release by performing a warm hand-off to substance use disorder treatment, medical care, and mental health services, as well as providing social support resources such as housing, employment, insurance, transportation, etc.
- Improve care coordination by connecting to mental health and substance use services (e.g., transport/referral to treatment)
- Improve support for families who have a loved one with a substance use disorder.

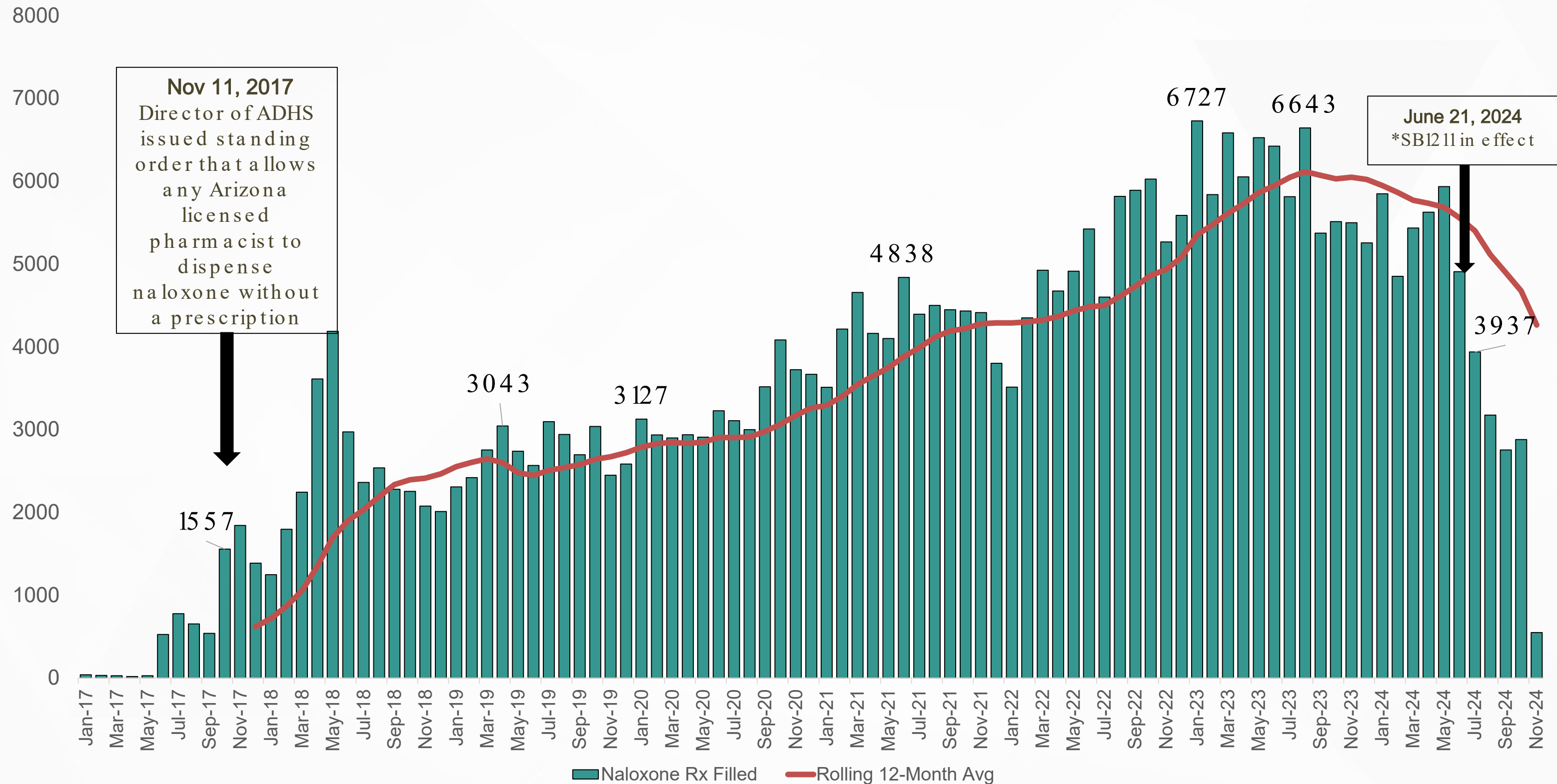
The number of opioid prescriptions dispensed in Arizona has decreased from 2019 to 2024

Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed, 2019 - 2024



Data Source: Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP)

The number of naloxone dispensed by pharmacies in Arizona has increased significantly since 2017, followed by a gradual decline starting in 2023



Data Source: Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP).

Notes: Rolling average calculated as a average number of events in previous 12 months.

*On June 21, 2024, Governor Katie Hobbs signed SB1211 into law, which removed the requirement to report naloxone to the CSPMP.

Women's & Children's Health

From Arizona Child Fatality Review

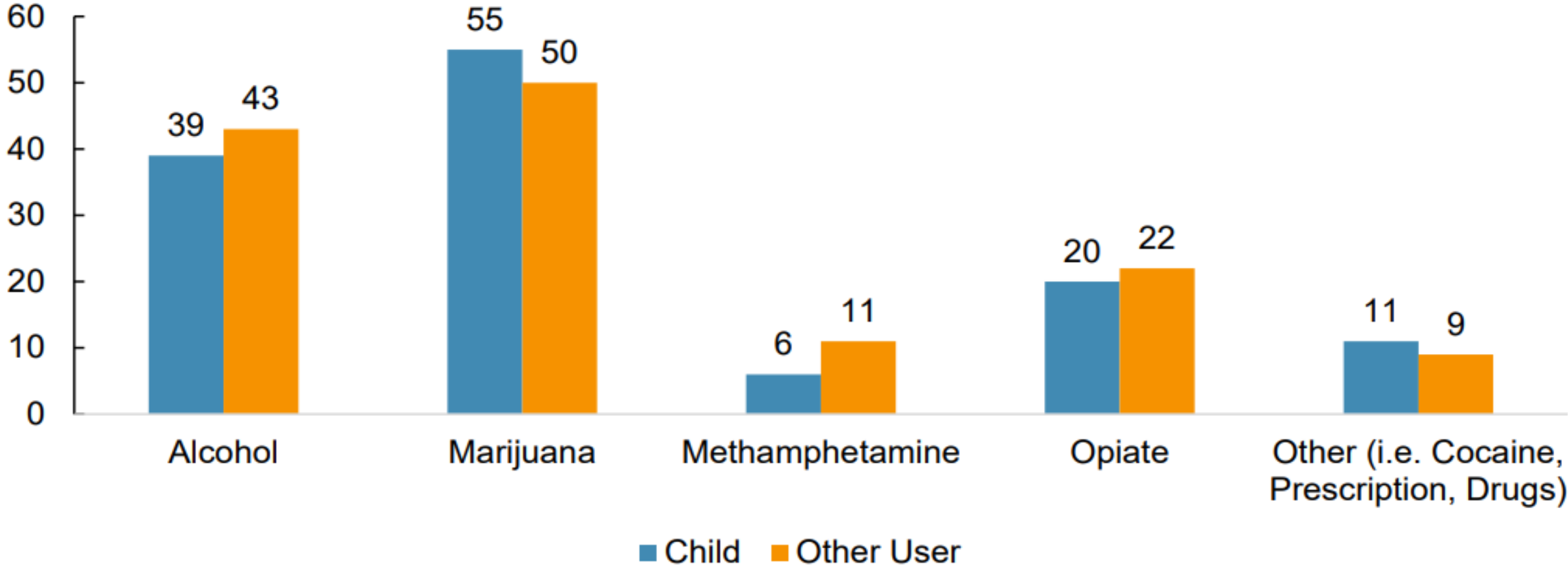
In 2022

- 41 poisoning deaths
- 34 were opioid overdoses and fentanyl was responsible for 44

In 2023

- 33 poisoning deaths
- 27 were opioid overdoses and fentanyl was responsible for 34

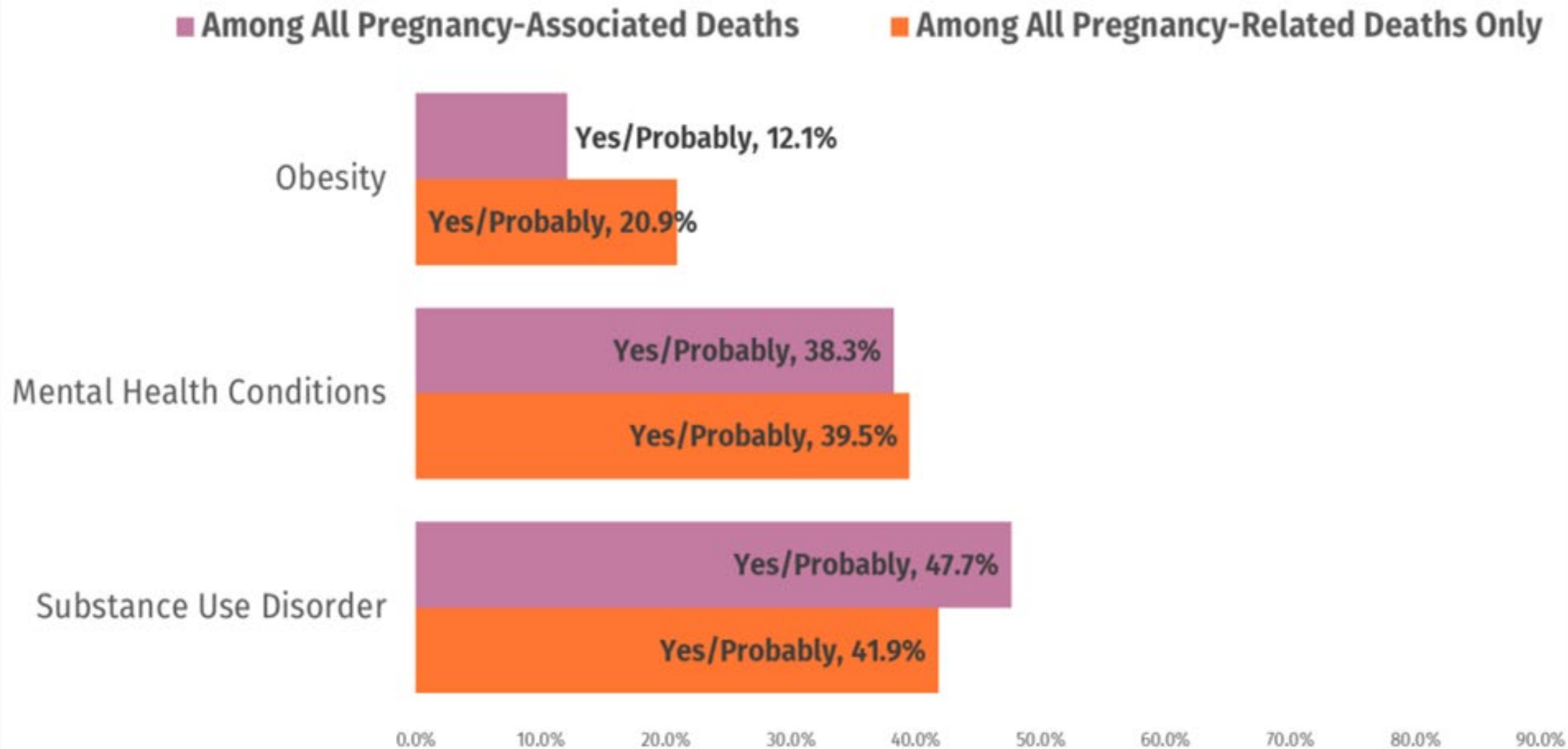
Number of Substances Identified as Causing or Contributing to Child Deaths, by the Child or Other User, Ages Birth to 17 Years, Arizona, 2023 (n=163)*



*More than one substance may have been identified for each death.

From Maternal Mortality Review

Contributing Factors Among Pregnancy-Associated Deaths and Pregnancy-Related Deaths, 2018-2019



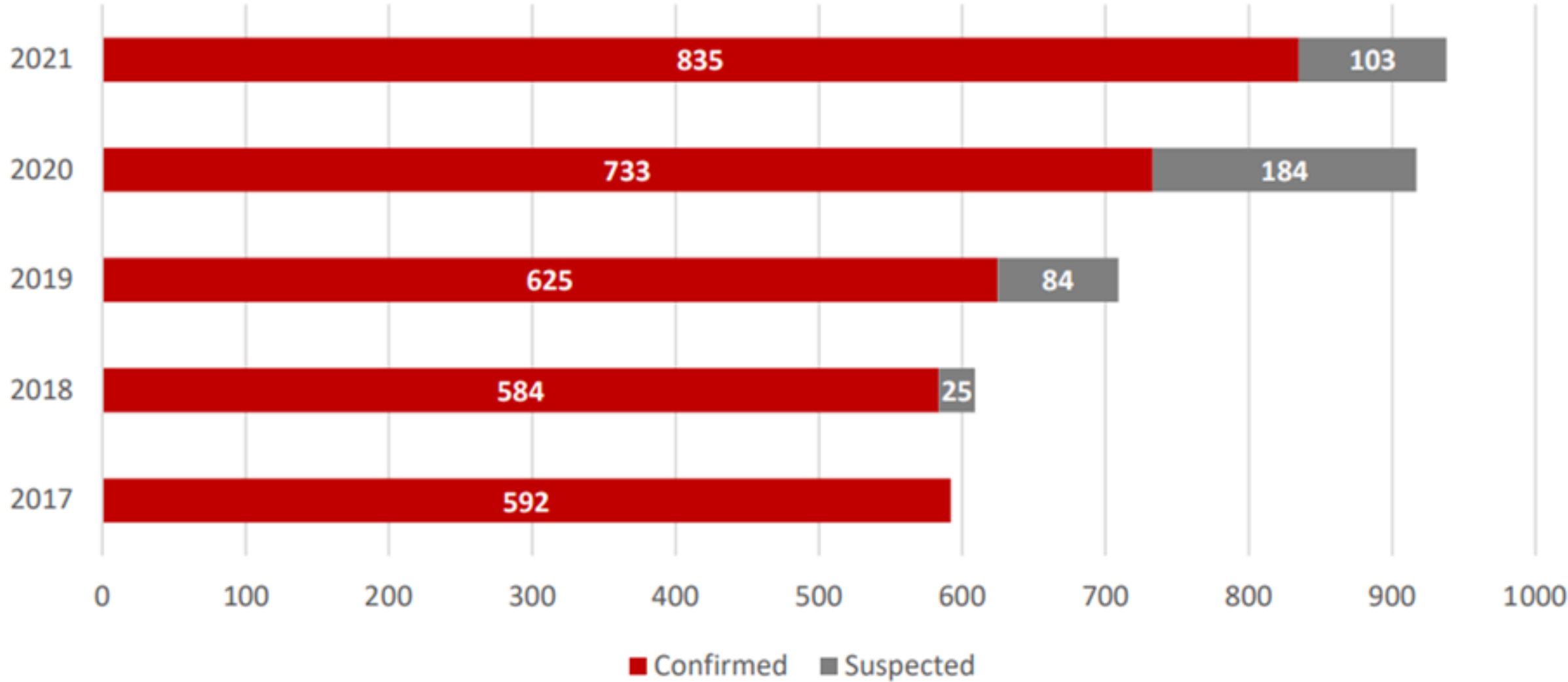
Data Sources: [Maternal Mortality in Arizona, 2018-2019](#)

In 2018-2019:

- Among all Pregnancy-Associated deaths, SUD was identified as contributing to the death in 47.7% (n=71) of cases, followed by mental health conditions (38.3%, n=57), and obesity (12.1%, n=18)
- Among Pregnancy-Related deaths, substance use disorders contributed to 41.9% (n=18) of deaths, while mental health conditions contributed to 39.5% (n=17) of deaths, and obesity contributed to 20.9% (n=9).

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) in Arizona 2017-2021

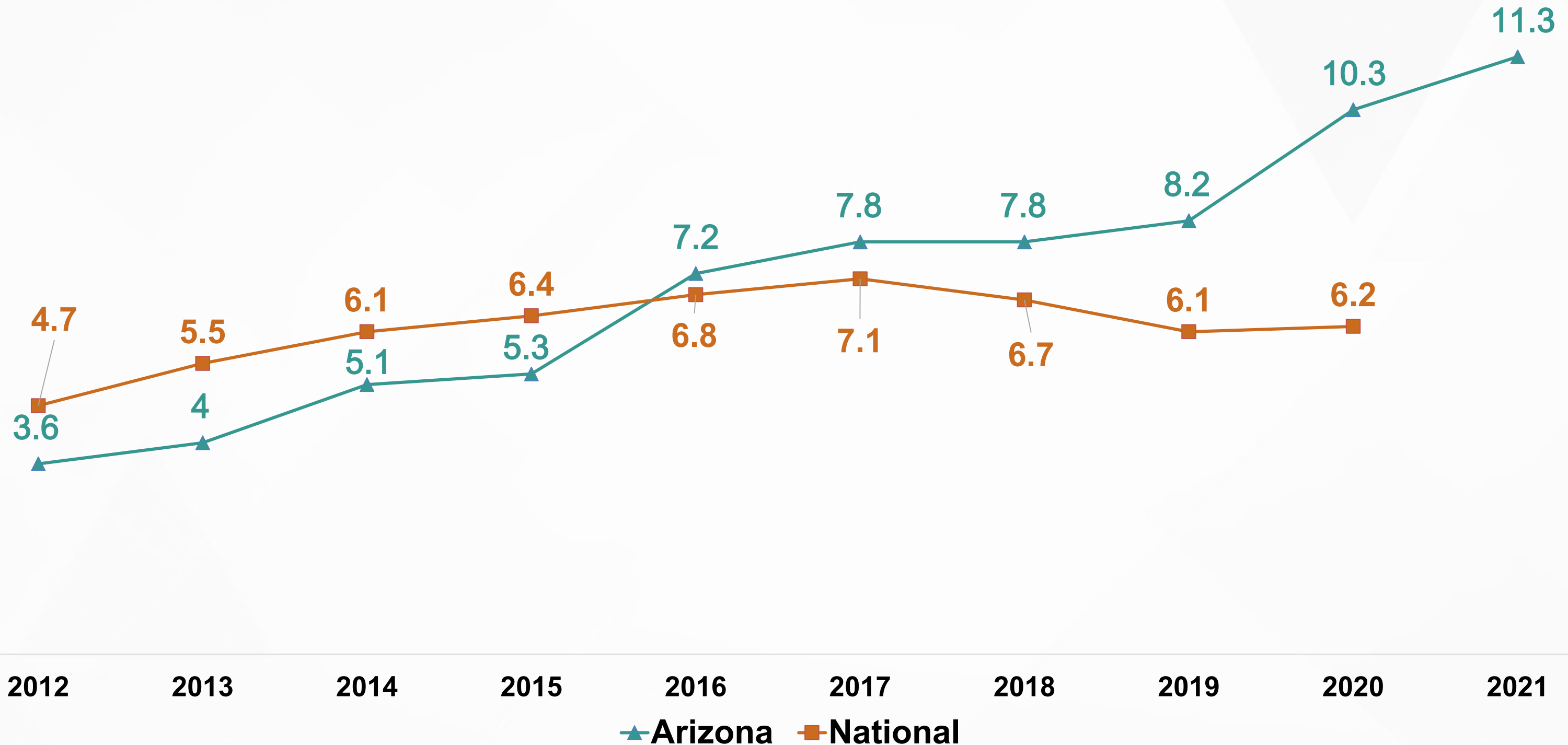
Figure 2. Confirmed and Suspected NAS Cases, Arizona, 2017-2021



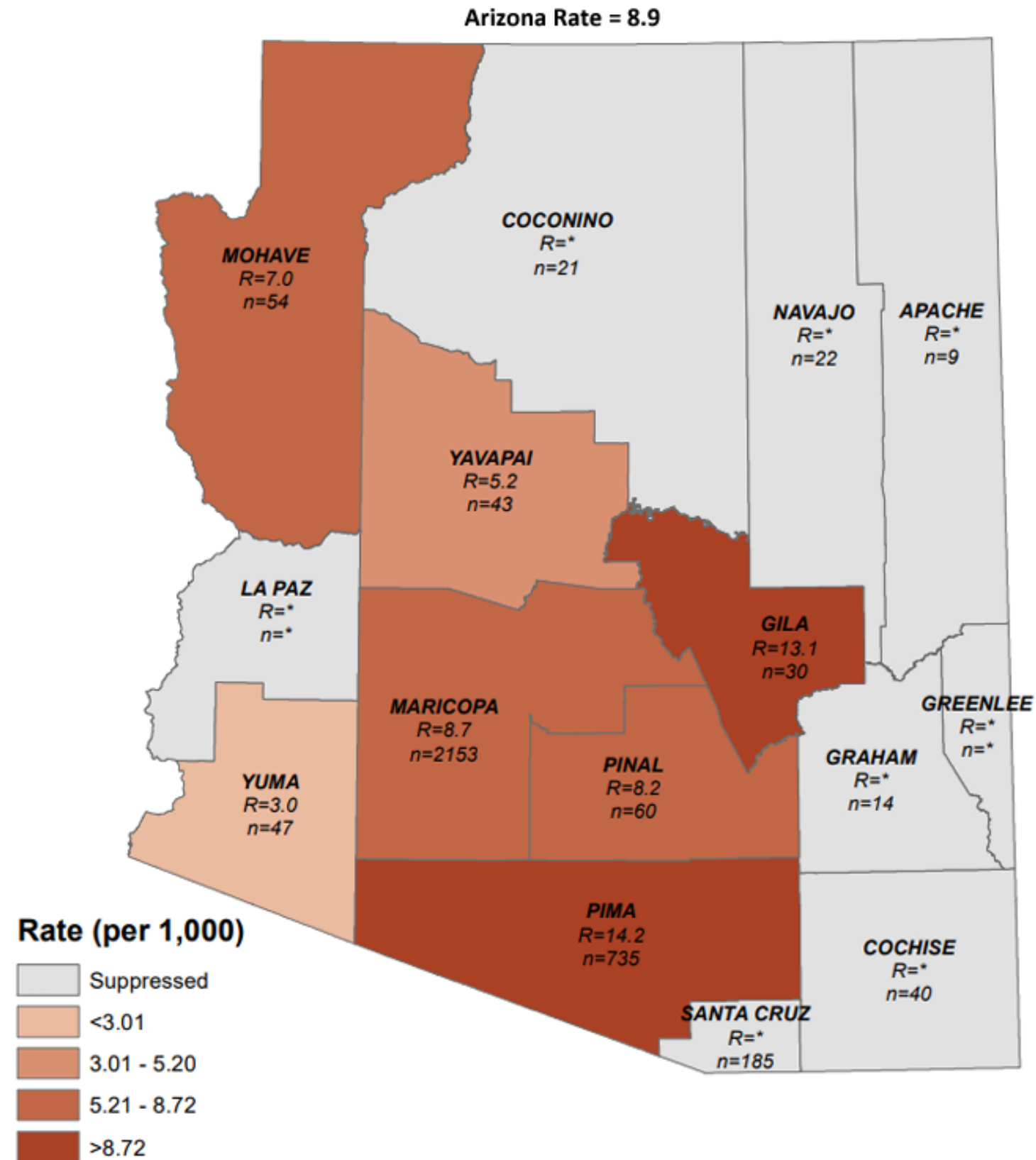
Data source: Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome Surveillance Report, 2017-2021. Phoenix, AZ. Arizona Department of Health Services; 2022

The Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS) has consistently increased in Arizona since 2016. It has also surpassed the National rate since then.

Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (Rate per 1,000 birth hospitalizations)



The NAS rate per 1,000 birth hospitalizations residents was highest in Gila, Pima, and Maricopa counties from 2017 to 2021.



*Non-zero counts less than 6 confirmed cases (total confirmed cases 2017-2021) and rates for counties with less than 6 confirmed cases (annually, on average from 2017-2021) are suppressed and counties are shaded grey

City	NAS Rate
Apache Junction	18.4
Tucson	14.6
Glendale	10.5
Mesa	10.1
Phoenix	10.1
Surprise	9.0
Tempe	8.4
Peoria	8.1
Chandler	6.9
Avondale	5.8

Data Source: Hospital Discharge Data

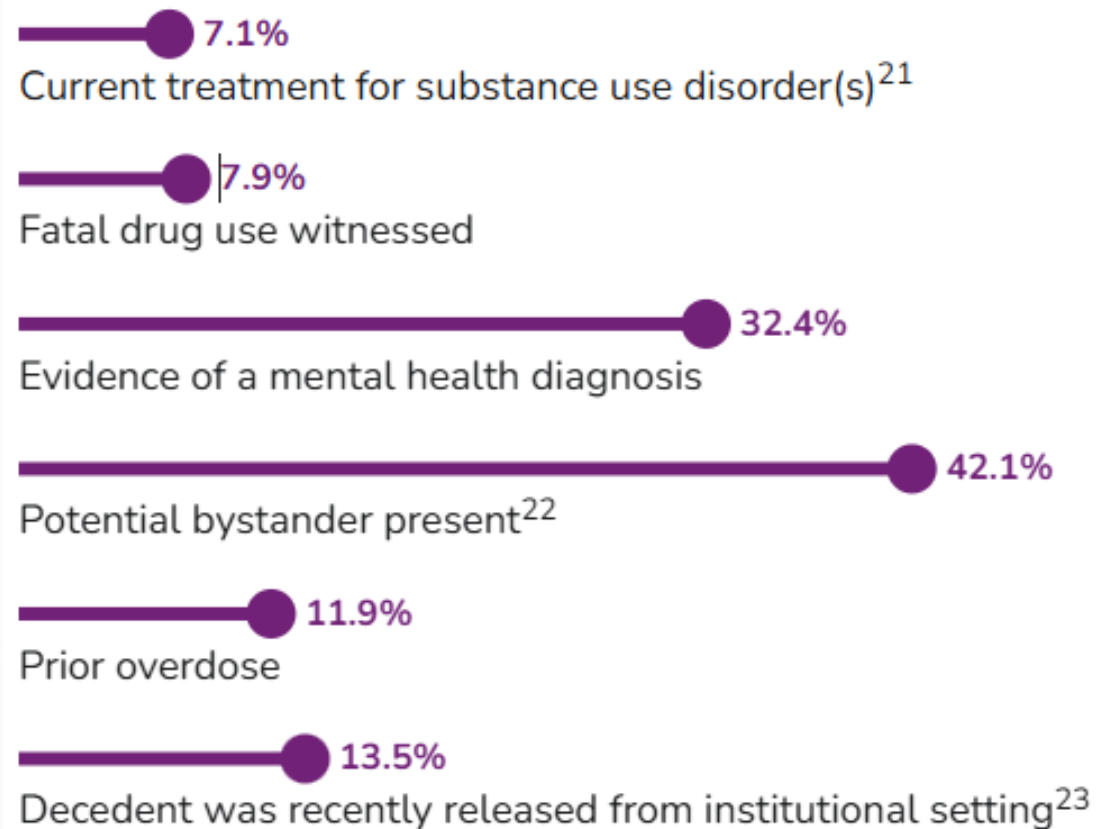
Potential Opportunities for Intervention

Potential opportunities for intervention (all unintentional drug overdoses in Arizona) include linkages to care or lifesaving actions



69.0%

of drug overdose deaths had at least one potential opportunity for intervention



[†] Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with sufficient information on circumstances surrounding the overdose death.

Highlighted Resources

ADHS Opioid Dashboards

- Non-fatal Overdoses
- Drugs in Non-fatal Overdoses
- Overdose Deaths
- Emergency & Inpatient Visits
- EMS/Law Enforcement
- Naloxone Administration
- Overdoses by Local Area
- Opioid Prescriptions

Verified Non-fatal Reported Overdoses

azdhs.gov/opioid/

Date Updated: 2/20/2025 | Data is currently selected for: Arizona || 2024 | Hover for more information ⓘ

Select a year to filter all visualizations on the dashboard

2024

Verified non-fatal opioid overdose events

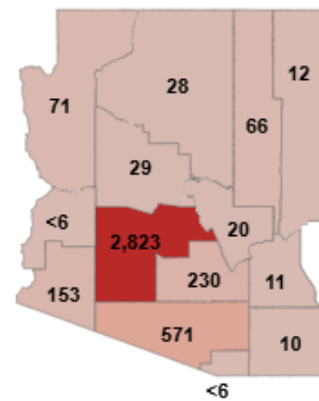
4,029

Verified non-fatal opioid overdose events rate per 100,000 population

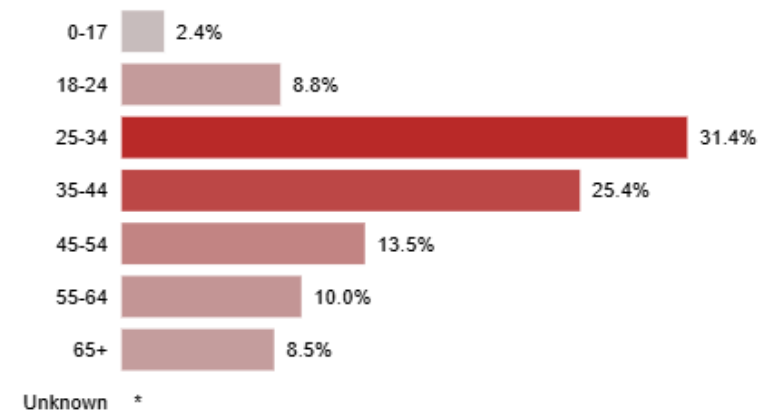
53.5

Select verified opioid overdose events or rates (for the county map below) | Non-fatal overdose event counts | Select a demographic for the bar charts below (Race/Ethnicity, Sex, Age Group) | Age Group

Select a county to filter



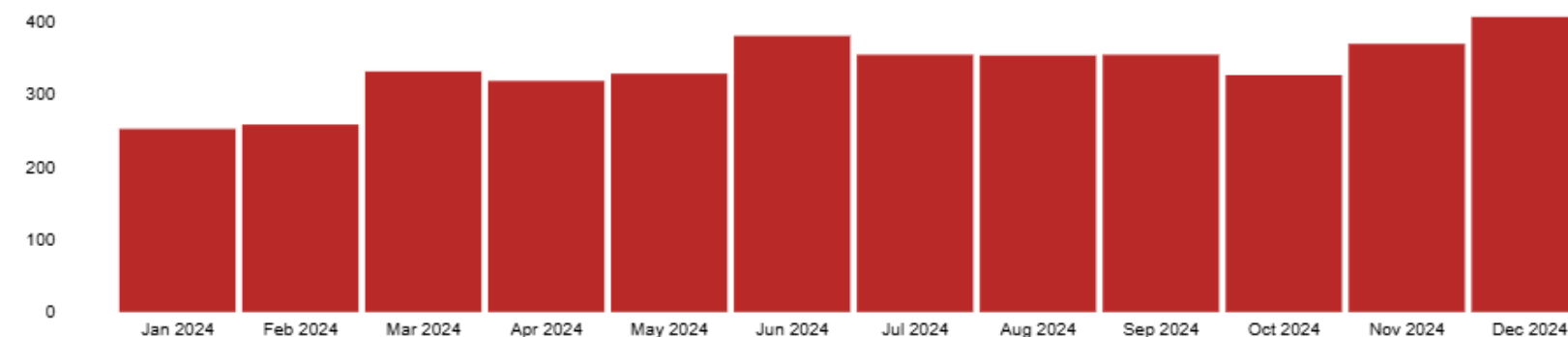
County refers to patient's residence county. Reporting facility county is used where patient's residence county is unavailable.



*To prevent the public disclosure of information, data points based on fewer than 6 counts are not displayed, and detailed charts are not shown for counties with fewer than 12 counts.

Select to view data by week, month or year (for the bar chart below) | Month

Verified non-fatal opioid overdose events in Arizona by month, 2024



Resources

[azdhs.gov/naloxone](https://www.azdhs.gov/naloxone)

- Order Naloxone for your organization
- Information for the Public, Pharmacists, and Law Enforcement

AZ Opioid Dashboard: Naloxone Administration

<https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/index.php#dashboards-naloxone>

Opioid Assistance and Referral Line (OAR)



HOME ▶ PATIENT ▶ PROVIDER ▶ ABOUT



**Need Help With Opioids?
We Are Always Here.**

Free, confidential hotline:
1-888-688-4222

Opioid Service Locator

<https://opioidservicelocator.azahcccs.gov/>



Are you looking for opioid use disorder services in the area?

Enter a zip code to find a program that is right for you or for your loved one.

Zip Code



Within
25 miles



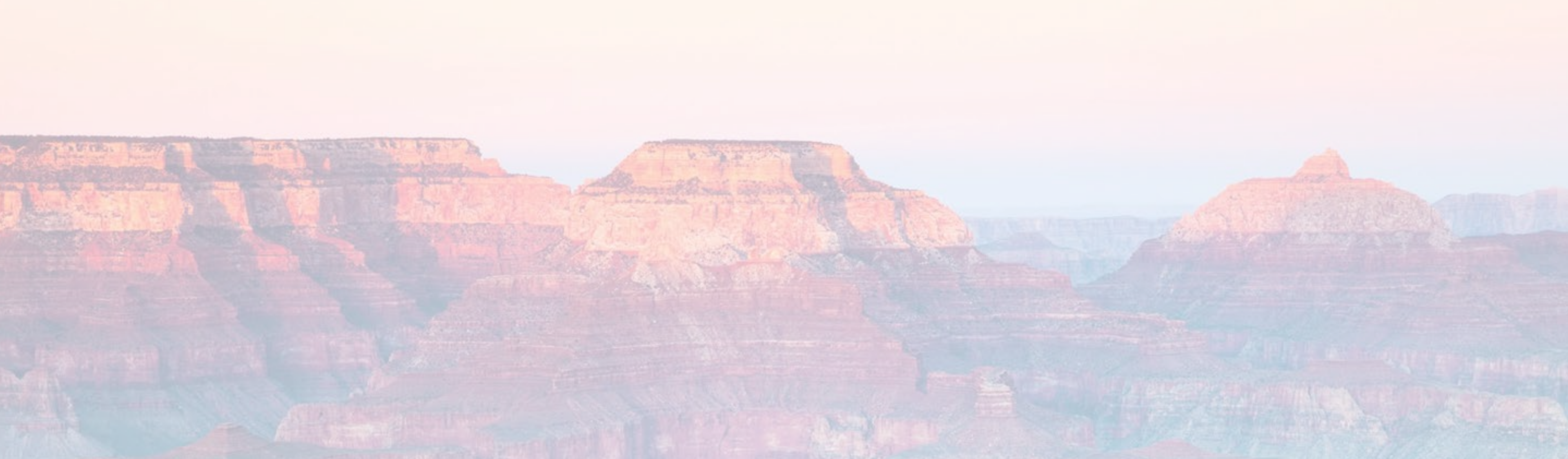
Service Type(s)
ALL



Accepting Clients

Show Filters

Search



THANK YOU

azdhs.gov/opioid

azopioid@azdhs.gov

