

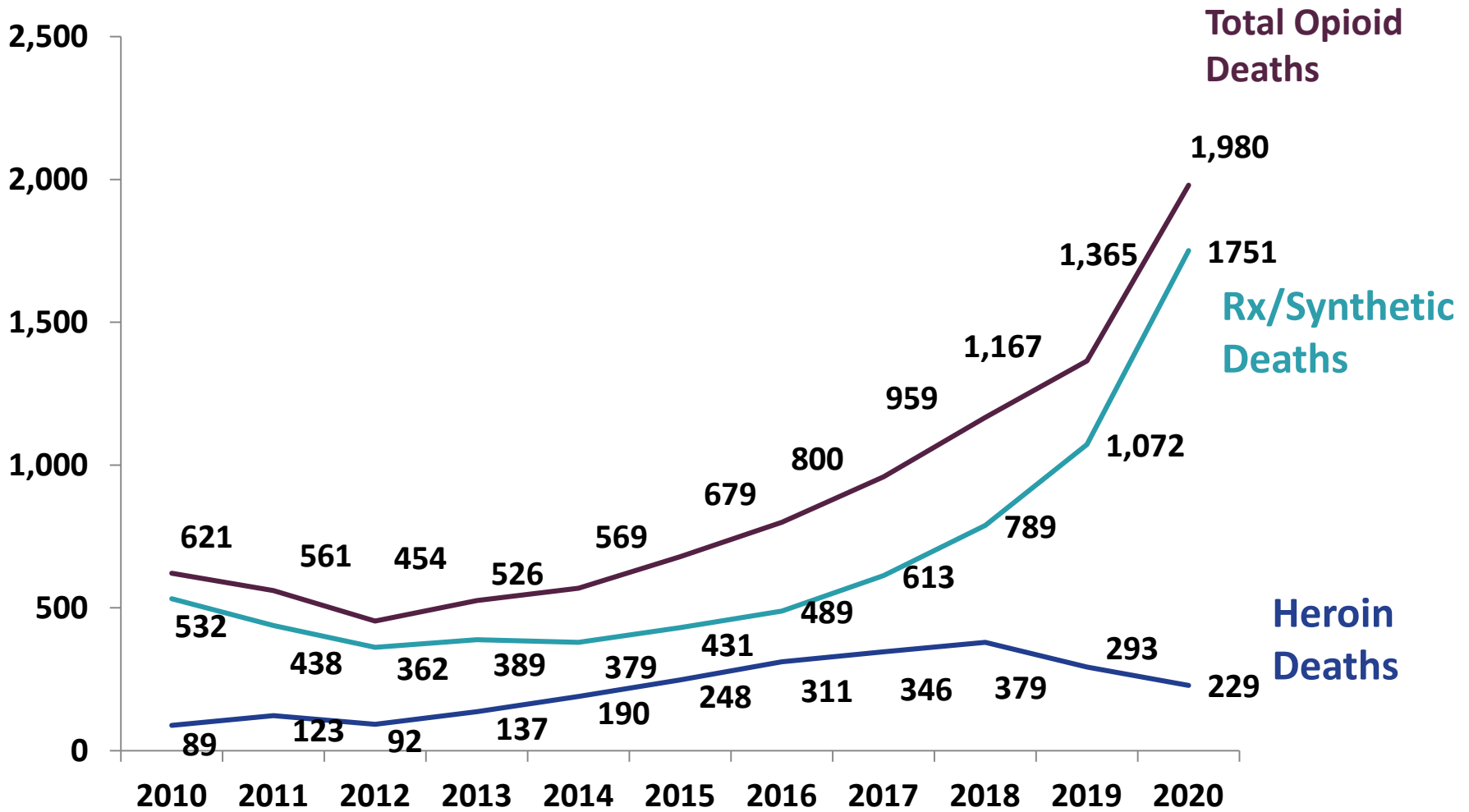
# **Understanding the Drug Crisis in the Age of Fentanyl, Meth and Coronavirus: An ADHS Update**

September 27, 2021

Sheila Sjolander, Assistant Director, Prevention Services

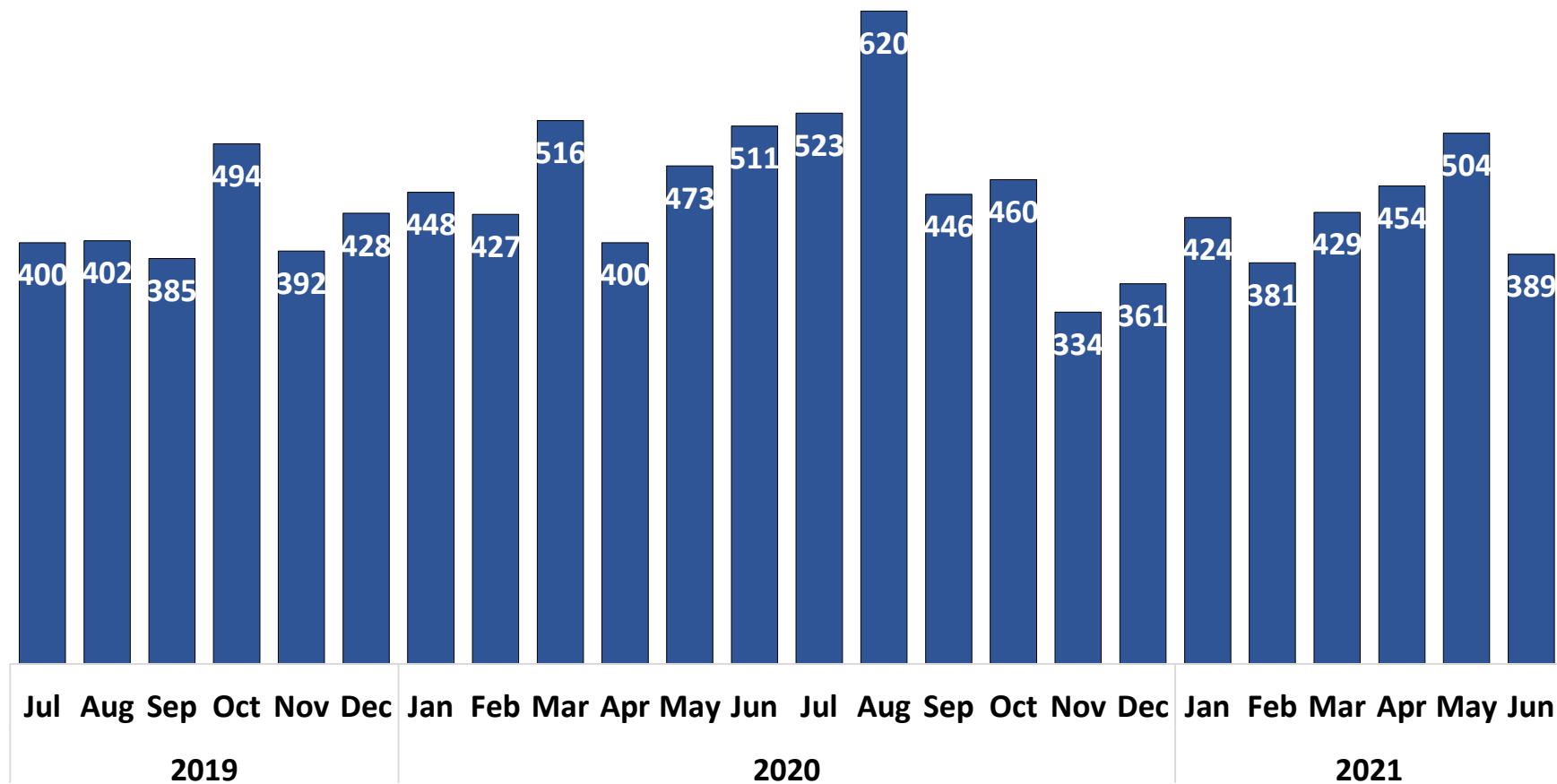


# More than 5 Arizonans a day died from opioids last year





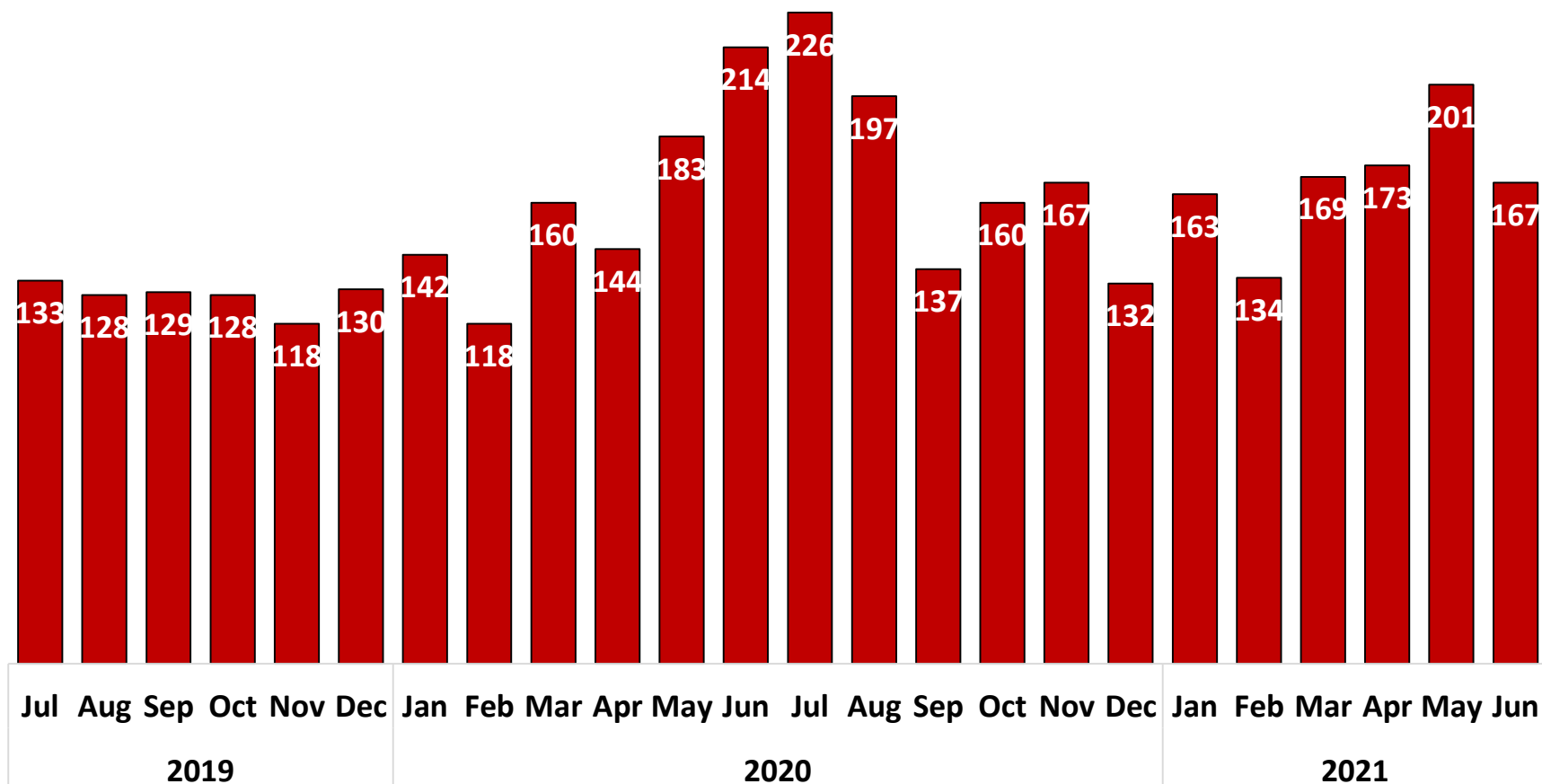
The monthly number of verified opioid overdose events (fatal and non-fatal combined) reached a peak in mid-2020, decreased during the last quarter of 2020, and gradually increased again in 2021.



Data Source: MEDSIS (July 2019- June 2021), n=10,601



Similarly, the monthly number of **opioid deaths** reached a peak in mid-2020, followed by a decline, but has increased again in 2021.

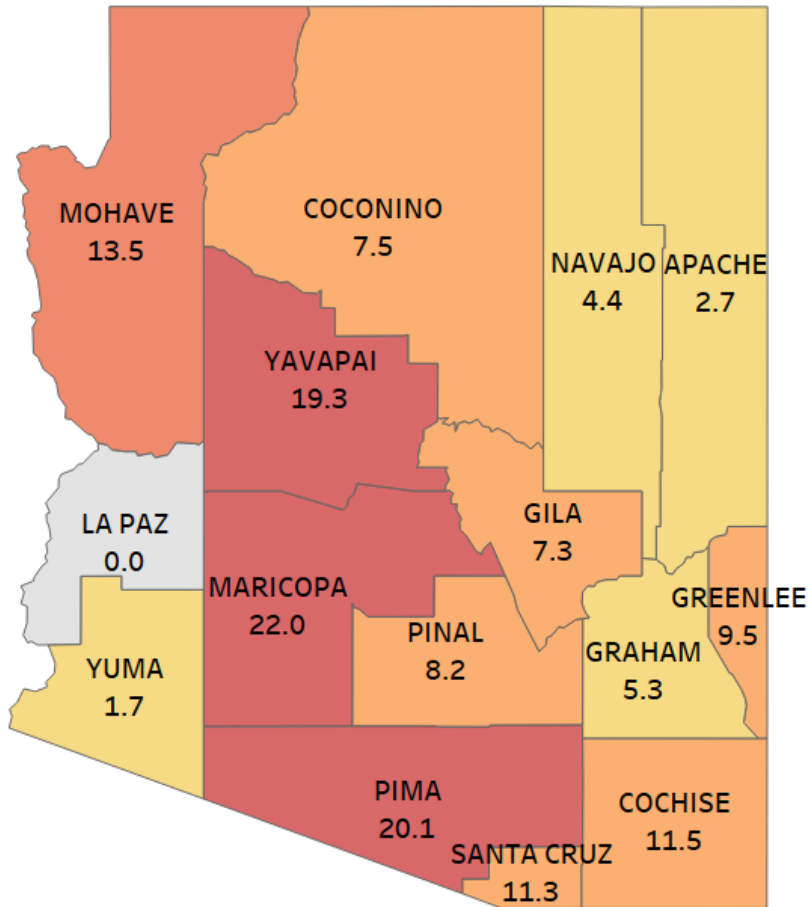


Data Source: Death Certificates (July 2019- June 2021), n=3,742

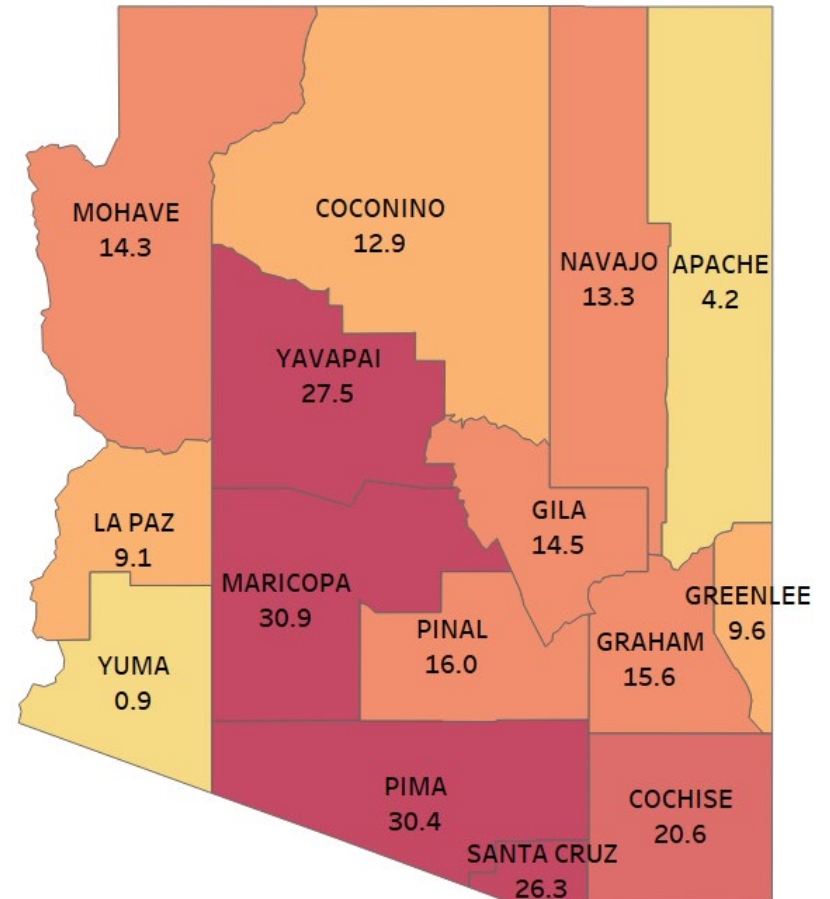
\*Data for 2021 is provisional and subject to change

The rate of **opioid deaths** per 100,000 residents was higher in 2020 than in 2019 for all counties except Yuma. Highest rates are in Maricopa, Pima and Yavapai counties.

2019



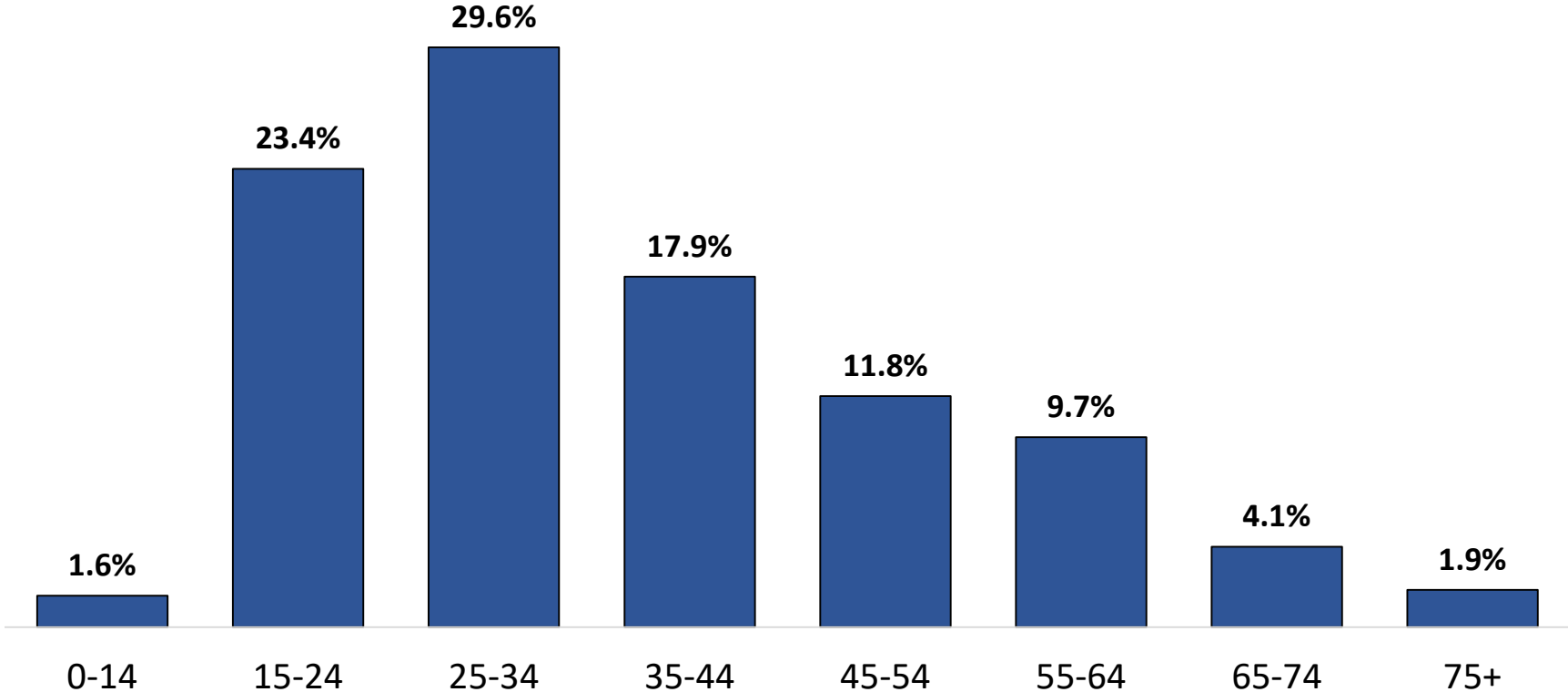
2020



Data Source: Death Certificates, 2019-2020

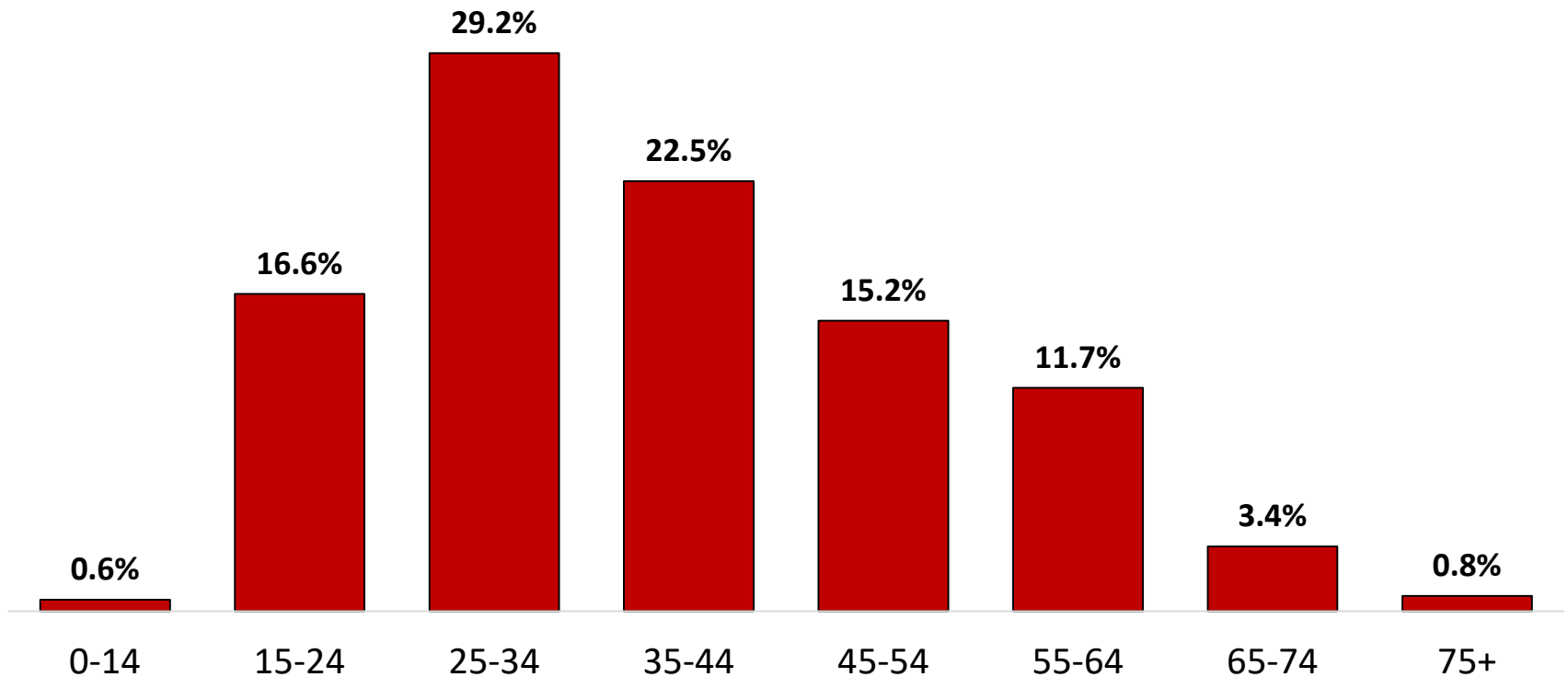


Two-thirds of verified [fatal and non-fatal opioid overdose events](#) were among people aged 15-44, with 30% of overdose events among 25-34 year-olds.



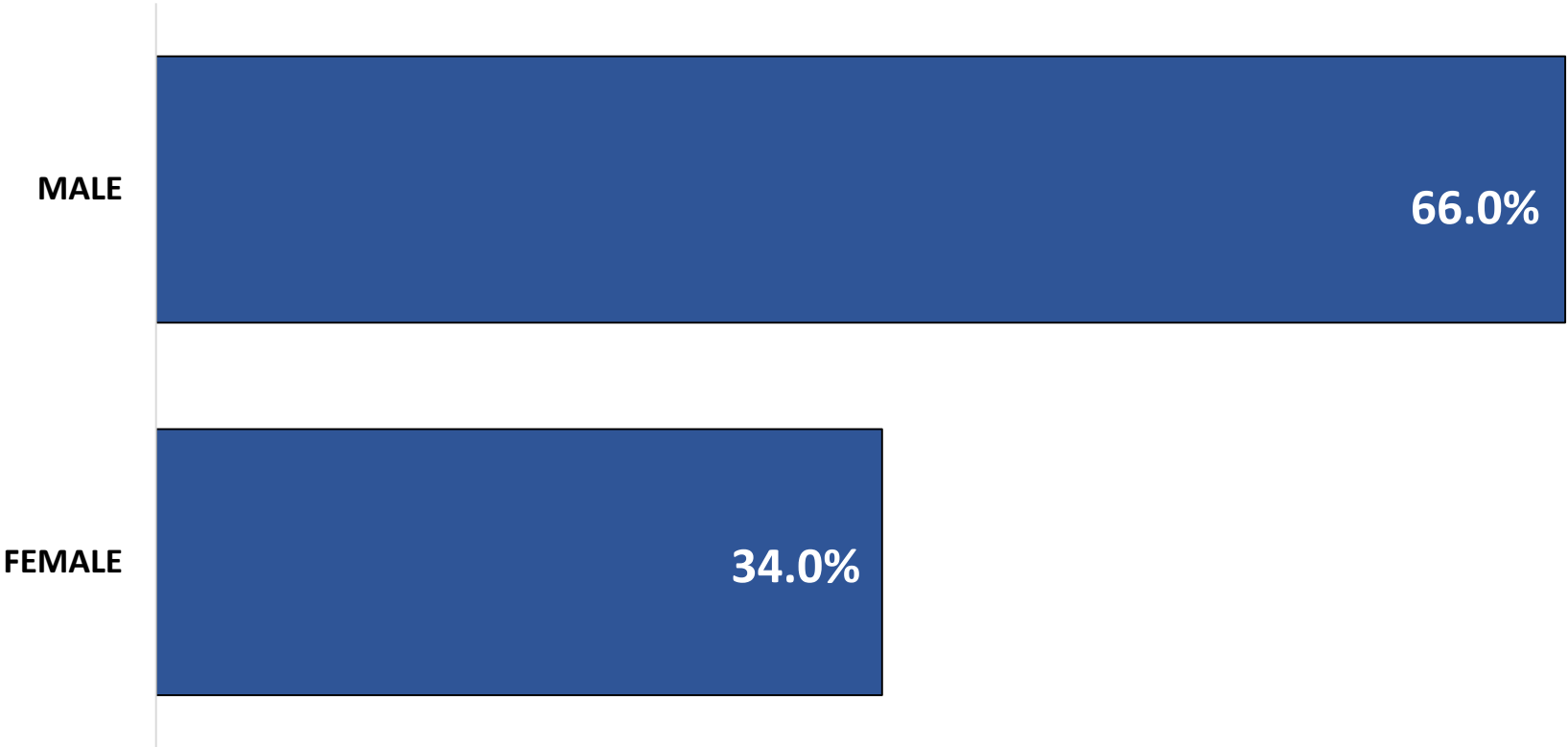


Similarly, two-thirds of opioid deaths were among people aged 15-44, although there was a lower proportion of fatalities among 15-24 year-olds.



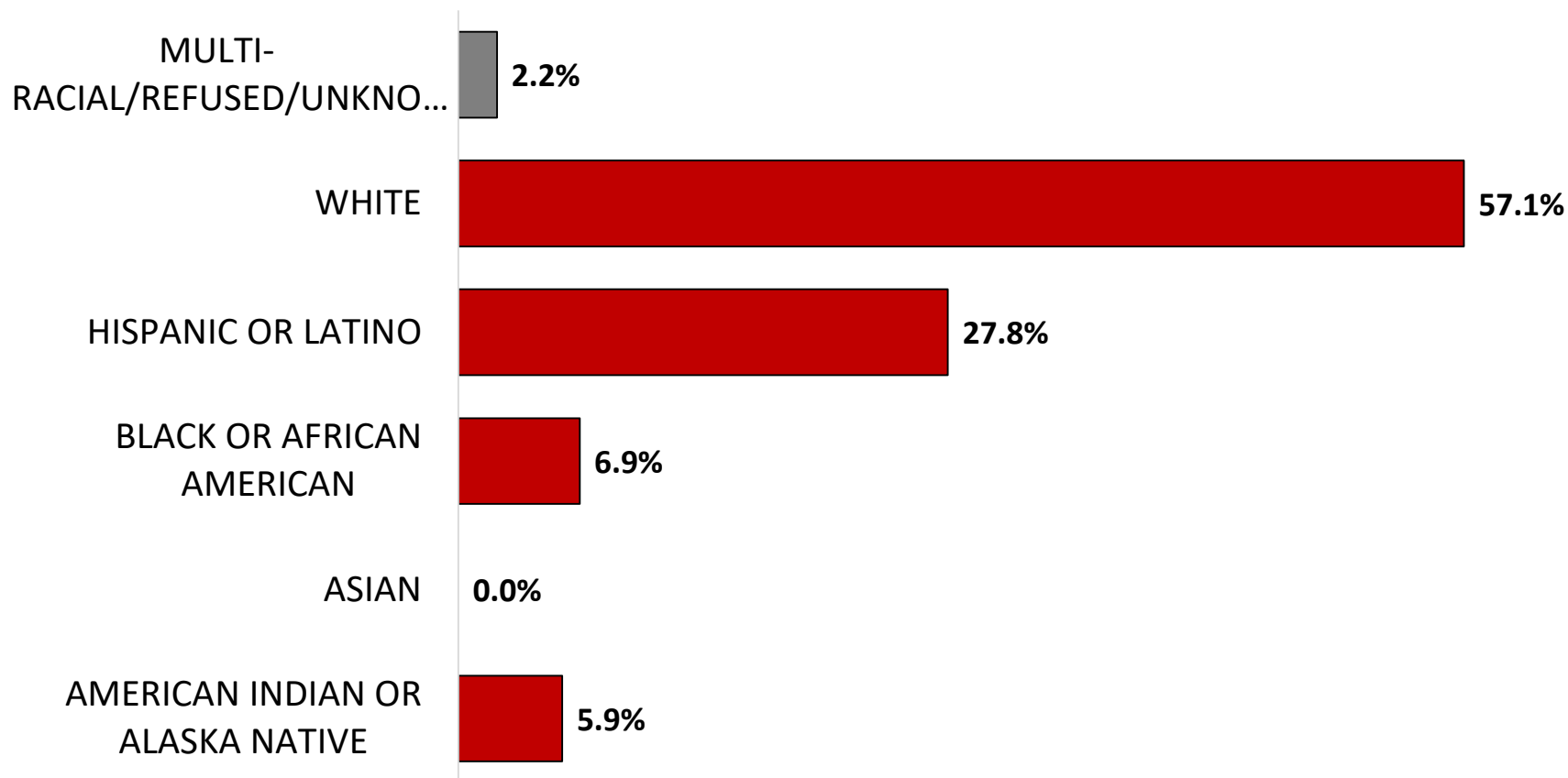


Males accounted for about two-thirds of verified fatal and non-fatal opioid overdose events.





**White, non-Hispanic individuals accounted for 57% of opioid deaths.**

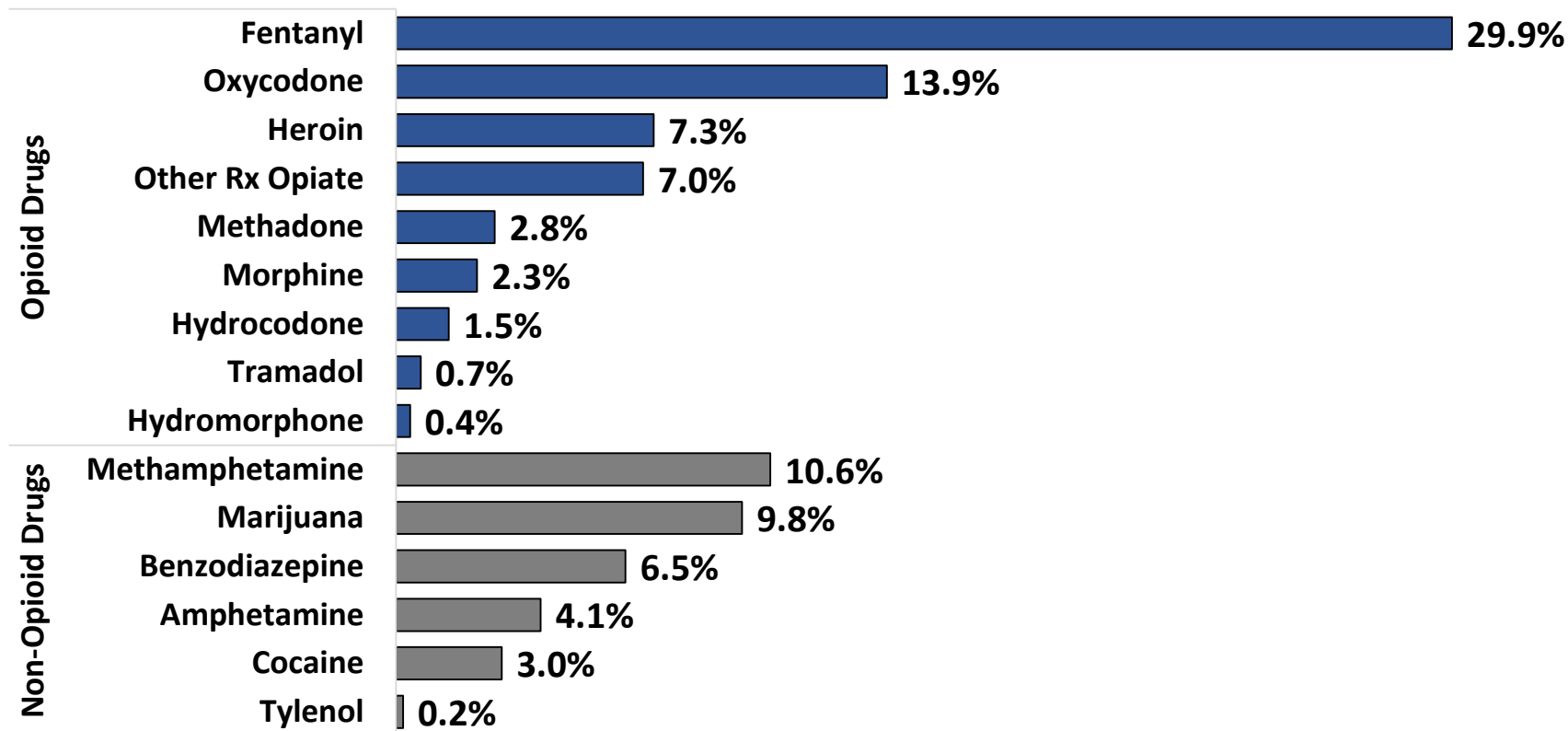


Data Source: Death Certificates, Jan 2019- Aug 2021 (n=4,424)



# Fentanyl and Oxycodone are the most common substances involved in verified [fatal and non-fatal opioid overdose events](#) in the last two years.

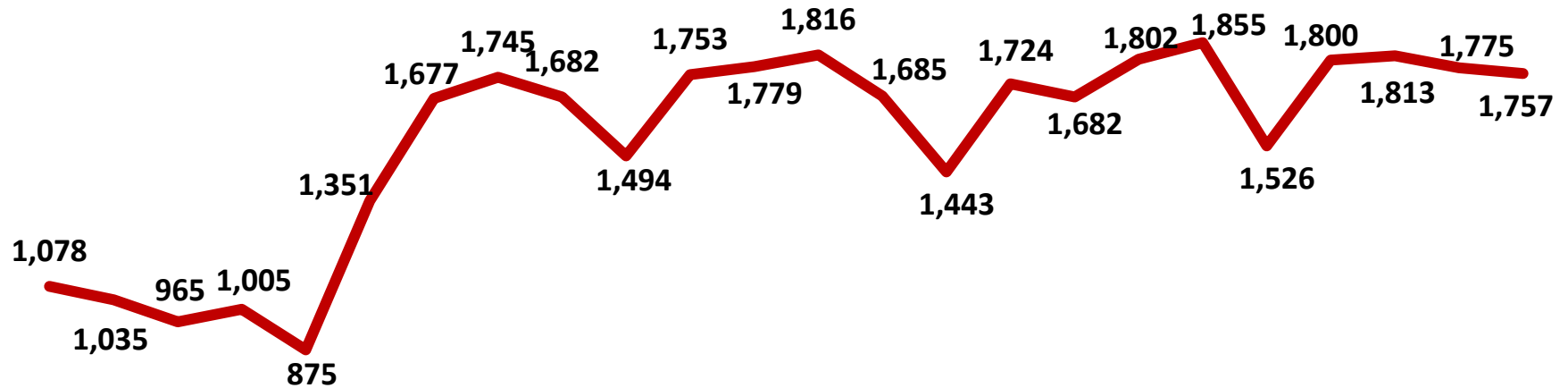
Percent of Substances involved in Verified Fatal and Non-fatal Opioid Overdose Events (n=9,932)



Data Source: MEDSIS, July 2019- June 2021



**Pre-hospital/emergency medical services (EMS) responses for suspected opioid overdoses increased in 2020. Monthly responses have fluctuated but remained relatively constant since then.**

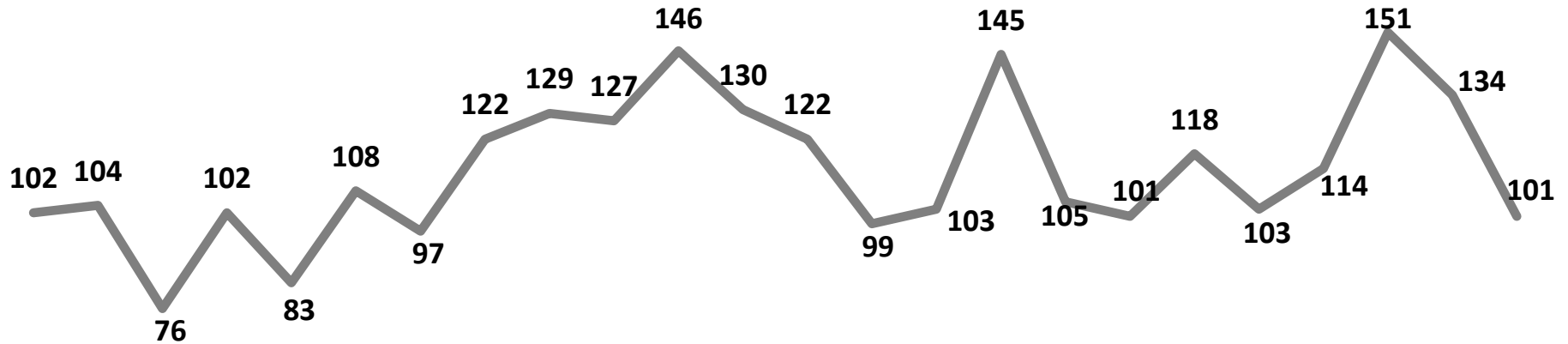


Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2019						2020						2021											

Data source: AZPIERS (Arizona Pre Hospital Information and EMS Registry System)  
July 2019- June 2021



**Naloxone administered by law enforcement personnel during suspected opioid overdose responses gradually increased until mid-2020, with ongoing fluctuations since then.**

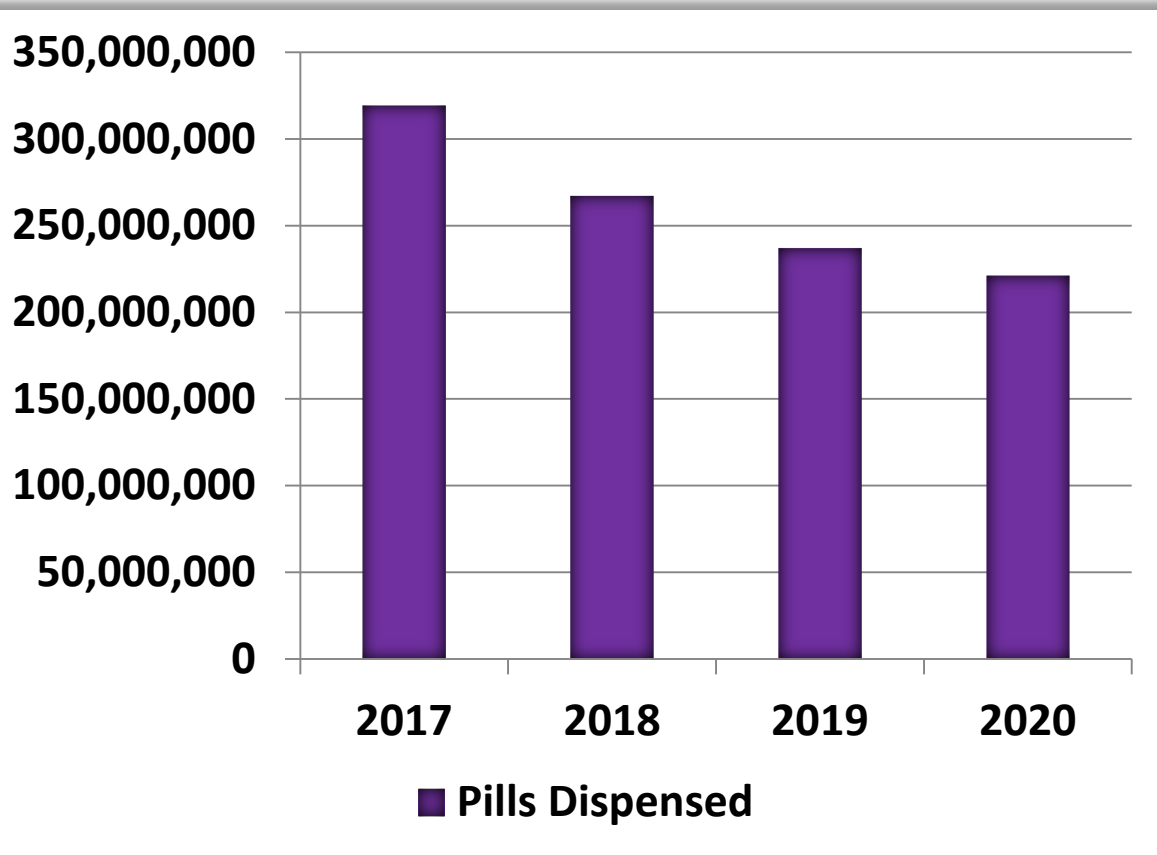


Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun
2019						2020						2021											

Data source: AZPIERS (Arizona Pre Hospital Information and EMS Registry System)  
July 2019- June 2021. n=2,772



# Opioid Pills Dispensed, 2017 - 2020



**31 %**  
decrease  
Since 2017

# Highlighted Actions



## Opioid Assistance & Referral

A free 24/7 hotline that assists providers with complex patients with pain and opioid use disorders, answered by medical experts at the Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.

### Arizona OAR Line

# 1-888-688-4222

 ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES

 CENTER FOR TOXICOLOGY & PHARMACOLOGY  
Education & Research

The OAR Line is joint project between the Arizona Department of Health Services, the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System and Poison and Drug Information Centers in Arizona.





# Social Connectedness: [azhealth.gov/StartAConversation](https://azhealth.gov/StartAConversation)

As you read this sentence, someone you know is feeling lonely.

You can help them (and yourself) by starting a conversation.



Everyone Feels Lonely Sometimes



Health Effects



What You Can Do



Info for Employers



Community Groups

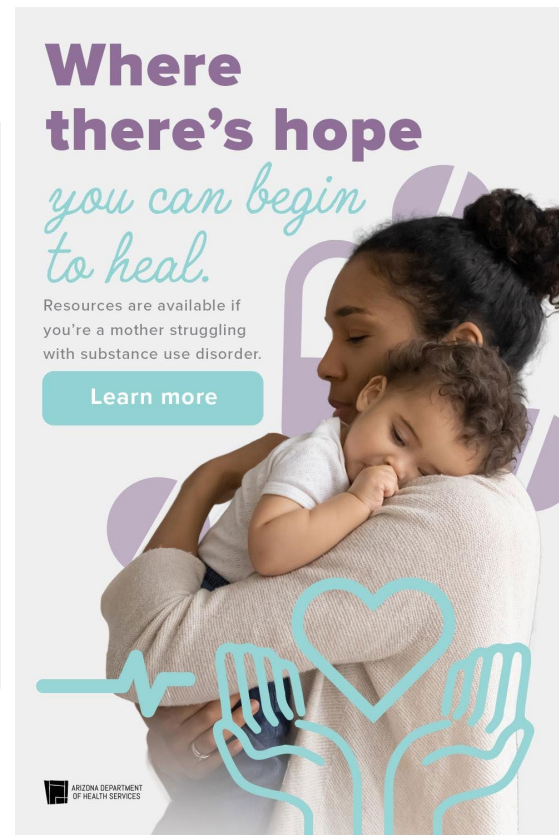


Resources



# Stigma Reduction Campaign – Women and Substance Use

## General Audience Creative – Hope Heals



Website: [azhealth.gov/HopeHeals](https://azhealth.gov/HopeHeals)



# Provider Specific Campaign – See Me Differently

**SHE IS A GOOD MOTHER.**

Your words matter. There are resources about substance use disorder stigma and information to help you see them for who they really are.

[azhealth.gov/SeeMeDifferently](http://azhealth.gov/SeeMeDifferently)



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Website: [azhealth.gov/SeeMeDifferently](http://azhealth.gov/SeeMeDifferently)

For more information:  
[azhealth.gov/opioid](https://azhealth.gov/opioid)

Questions/Comments: [azopioid@azdhs.gov](mailto:azopioid@azdhs.gov)  
[sheila.sjolander@azdhs.gov](mailto:sheila.sjolander@azdhs.gov)

