

# OFFICE OF THE CHIEF MEDICAL EXAMINER AND DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES DATA HIGHLIGHTS

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# Live Long DC - Opioid Stakeholders Summit

4-19-22



# Office of the Chief Medical Examiner



The DC Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) has investigated a total of **1869** opioid-related fatal overdose from January 2016 to January 31, 2022.



# Demographic Figures

Fig. 5: Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Age

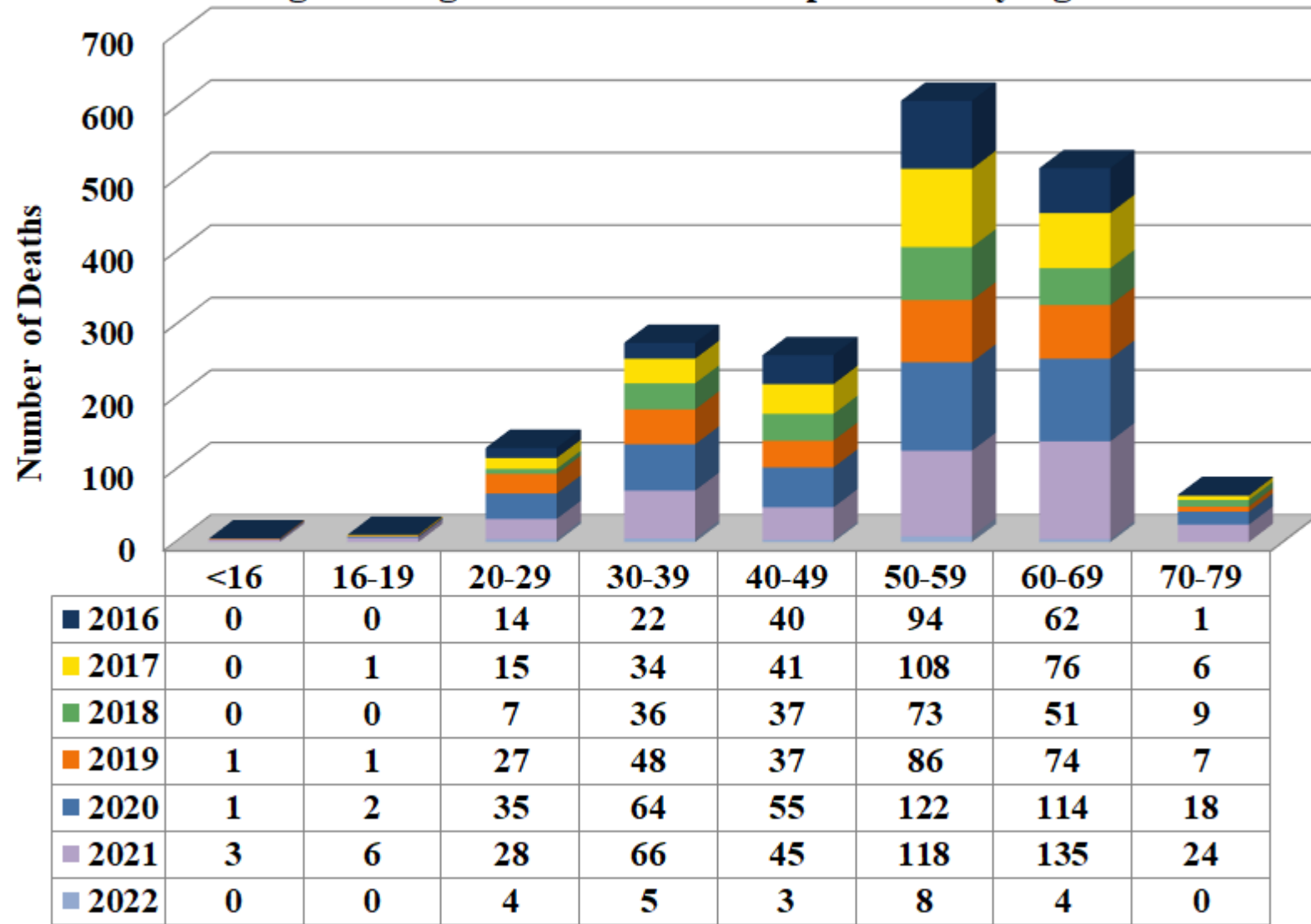


Figure 7: Percentage of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Gender and Year

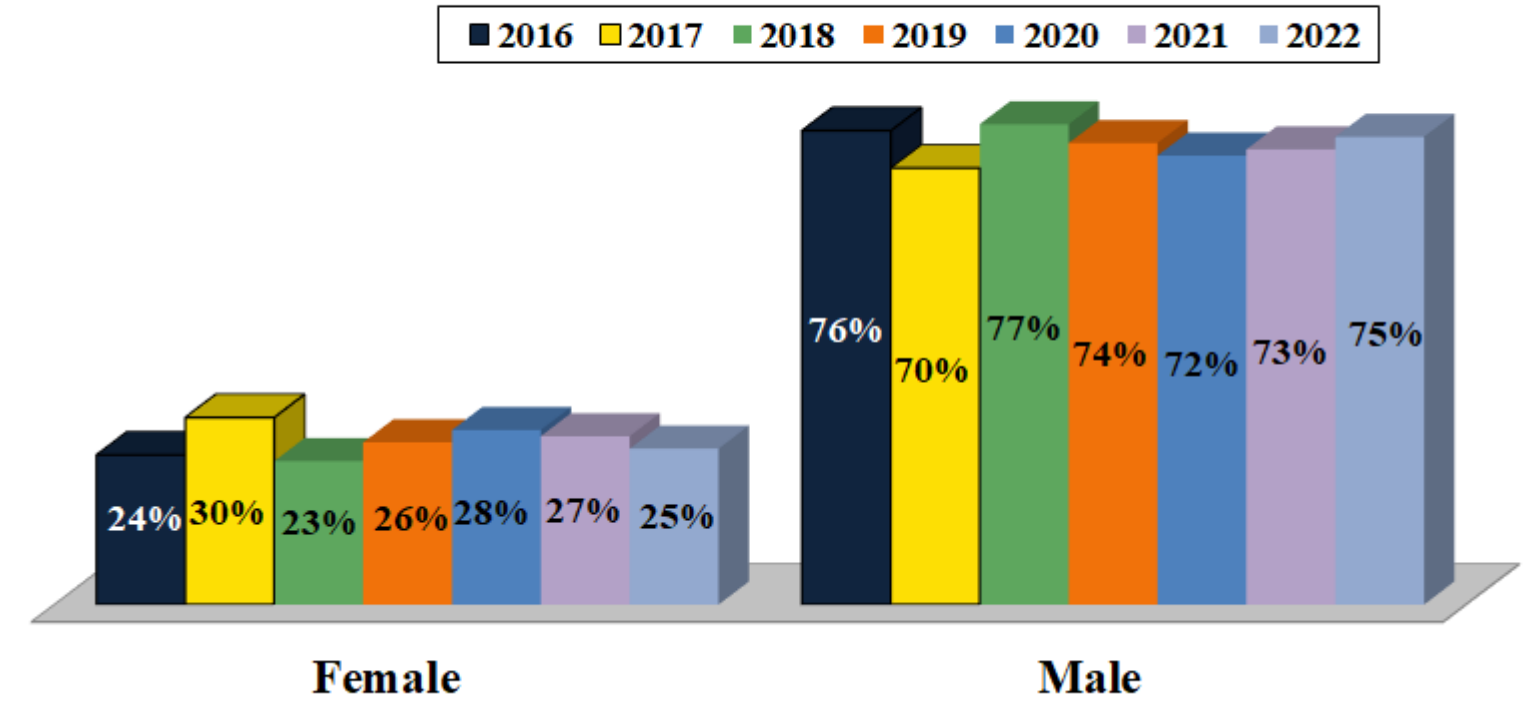
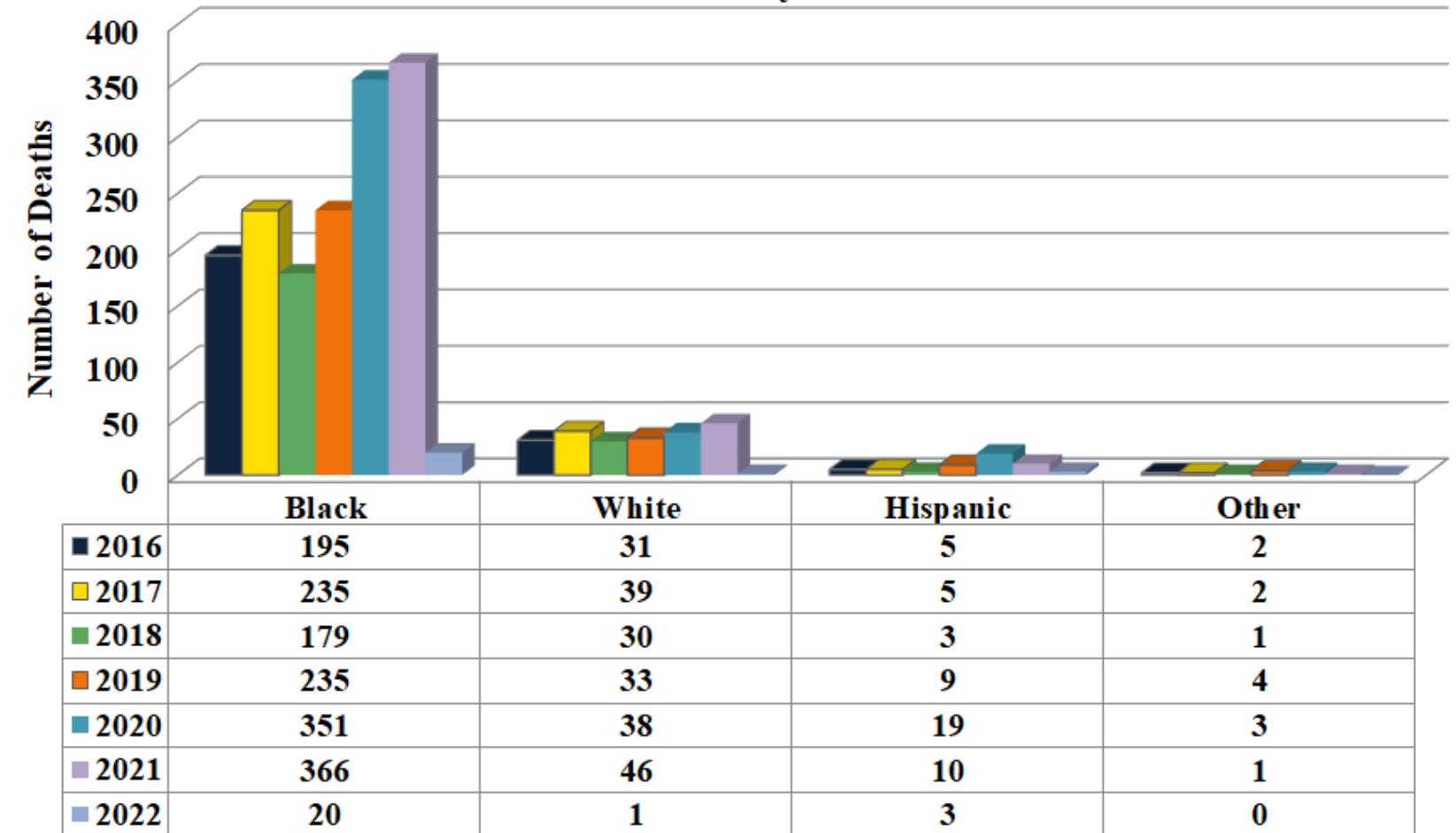


Fig. 6: Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Race/Ethnicity and Year



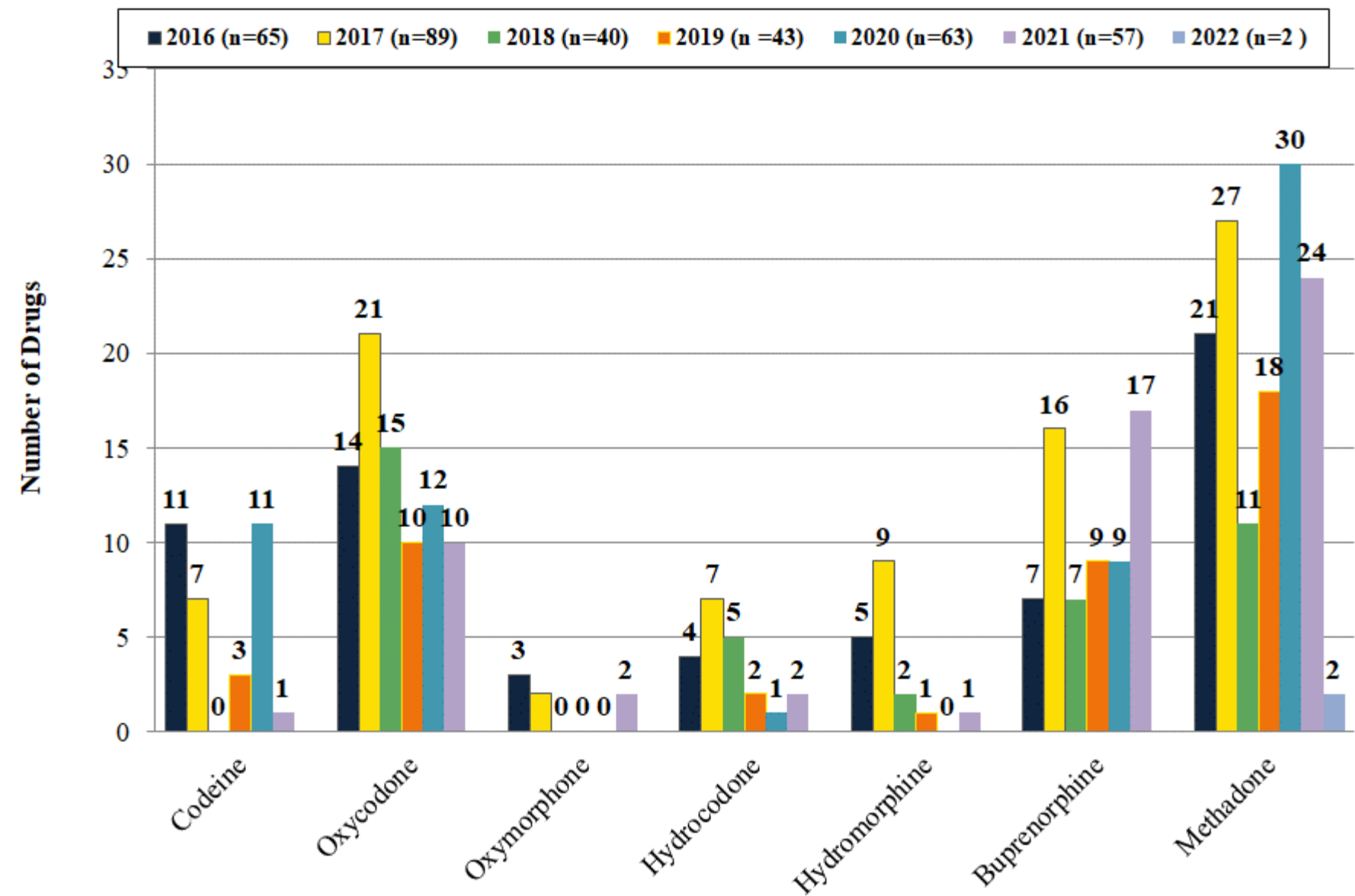


# TRENDS IN PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS IN FATAL OVERDOSES

The number of prescription opioids found in opioid related overdoses has varied over the years of data collection, however **methadone** and **oxycodone** are currently the most prevalent prescription opioids identified.

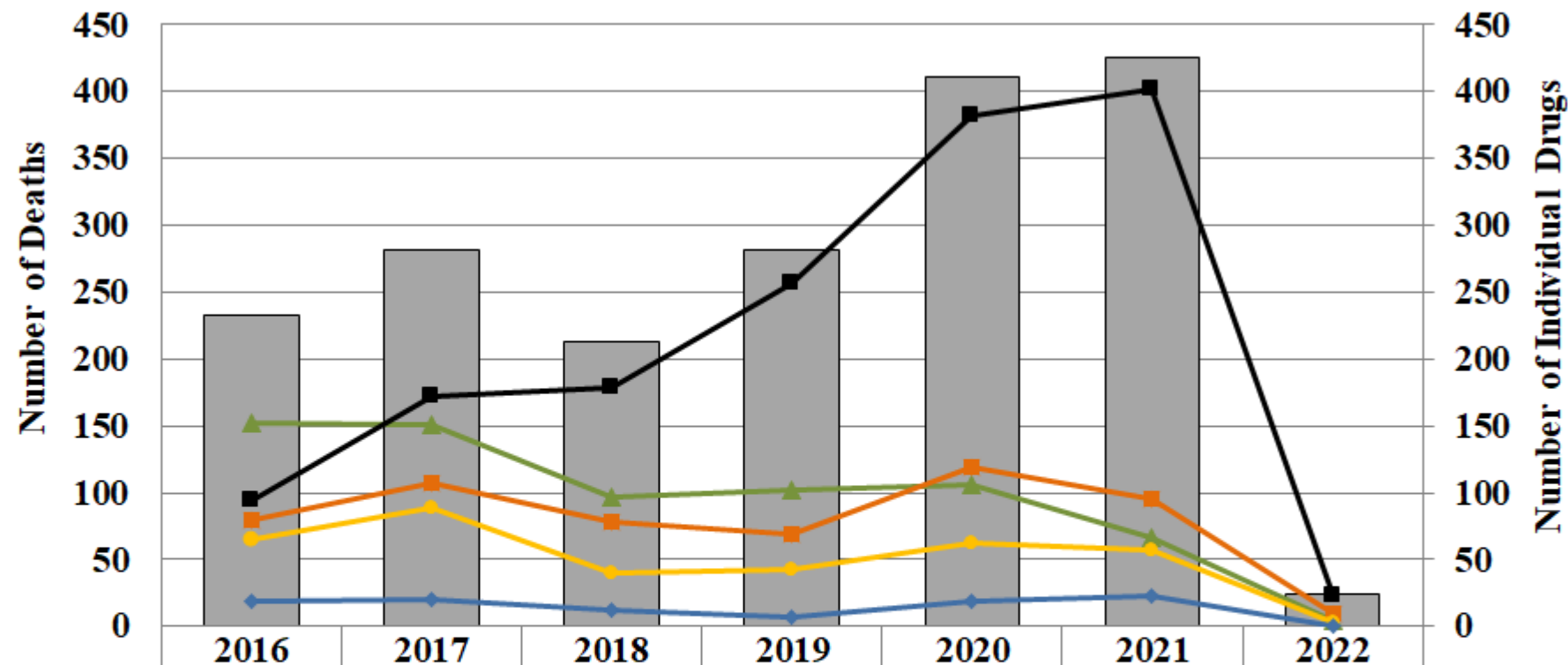


Fig. 4: Number of Prescription Opioids Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (n=359)



# TRENDS IN THE NUMBERS OF OPIOID DRUGS CONTRIBUTING TO FATAL OVERDOSES

Fig. 2: Total Number of Opioid Drugs Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (All Opioids)



	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number of Deaths	233	281	213	281	411	426	24
Heroin	152	151	97	102	106	67	4
Fentanyl	94	172	178	257	382	402	23
Fentanyl Analogs	79	107	78	69	119	95	10
Prescription Opioids	65	89	40	43	63	57	3
Other	19	20	12	7	19	23	0

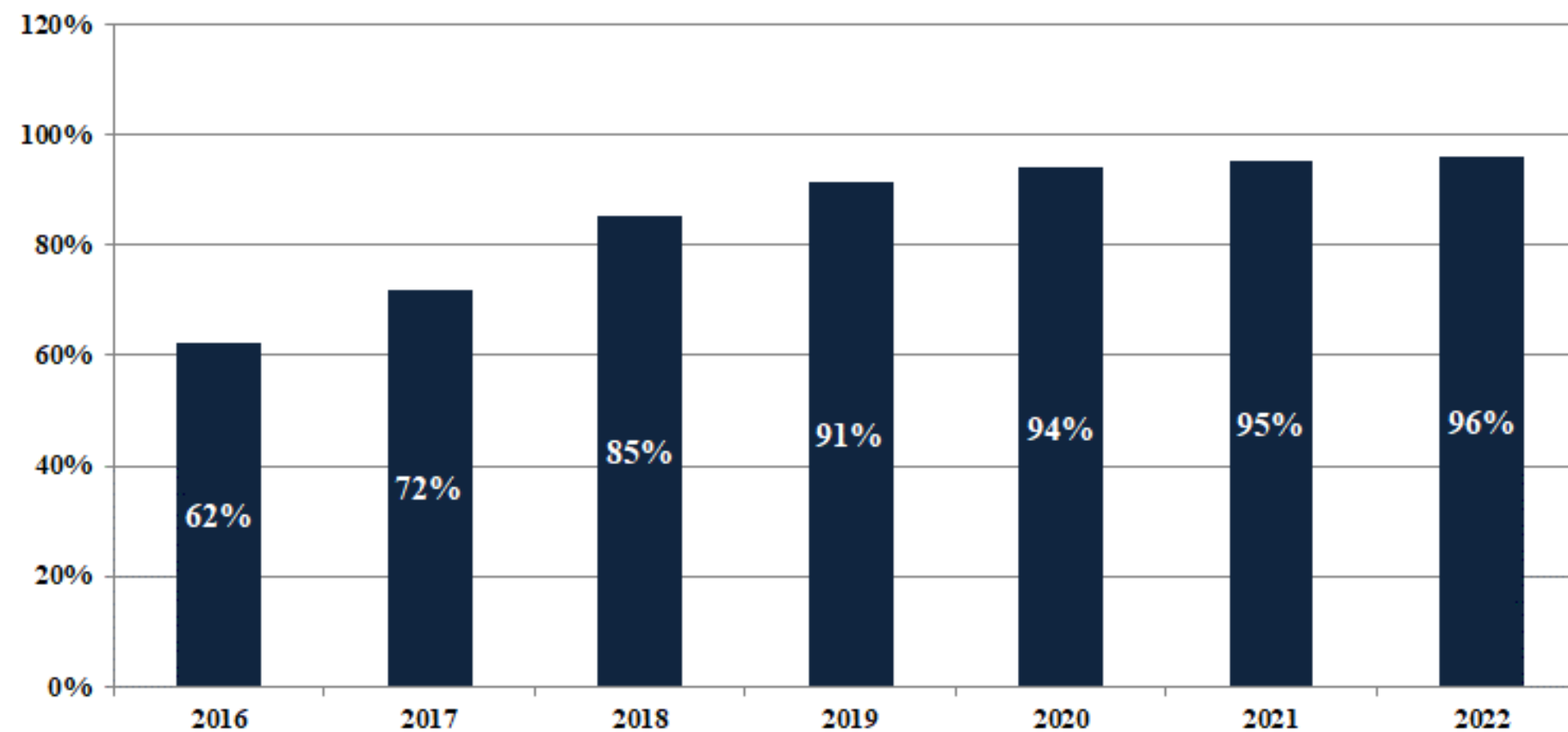
Overall, the most prevalent opioid drugs identified were **fentanyl** followed by heroin and **fentanyl analogs**.

	2020	2021
Fentanyl	94%	94%
Heroin	26%	16%
FA's	29%	22%



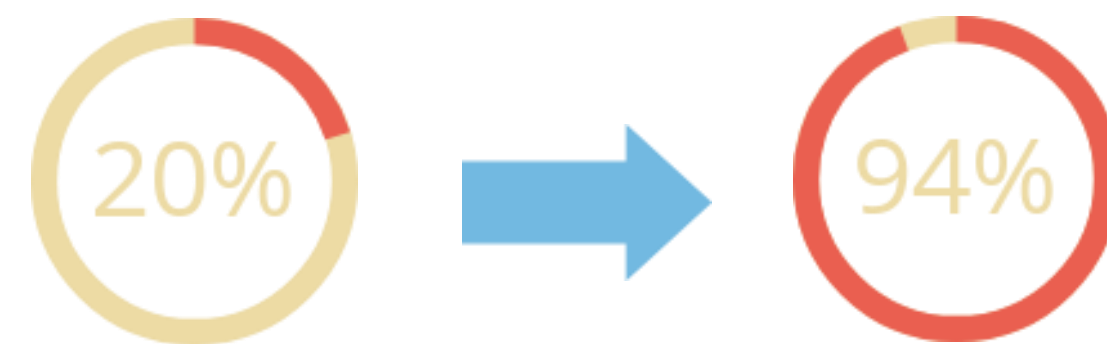
# FATAL OVERDOSES CONTAINING FENTANYL/FENTANYL ANALOGS

**Figure 3: Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl 2016-2022**



66 cases in 2021 contained Fluorofentanyl in the cause of death

The percentage of cases containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog:  
**2015: 20% → 2020: 94%**



In 2021, fentanyl has been involved in **95%** of the fatal overdoses.

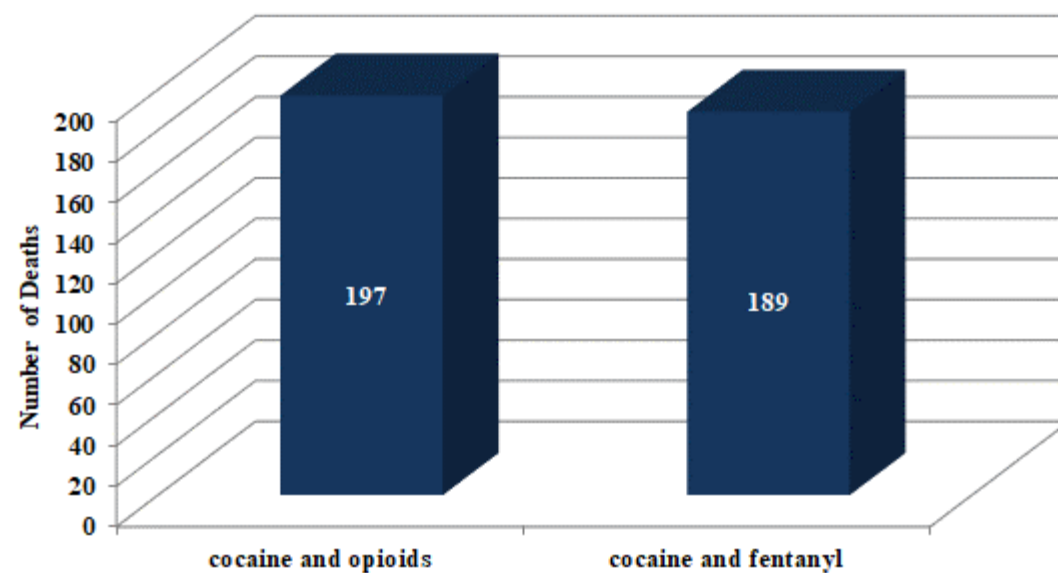


# Trends in Cocaine and Opioid Fatal Overdoses

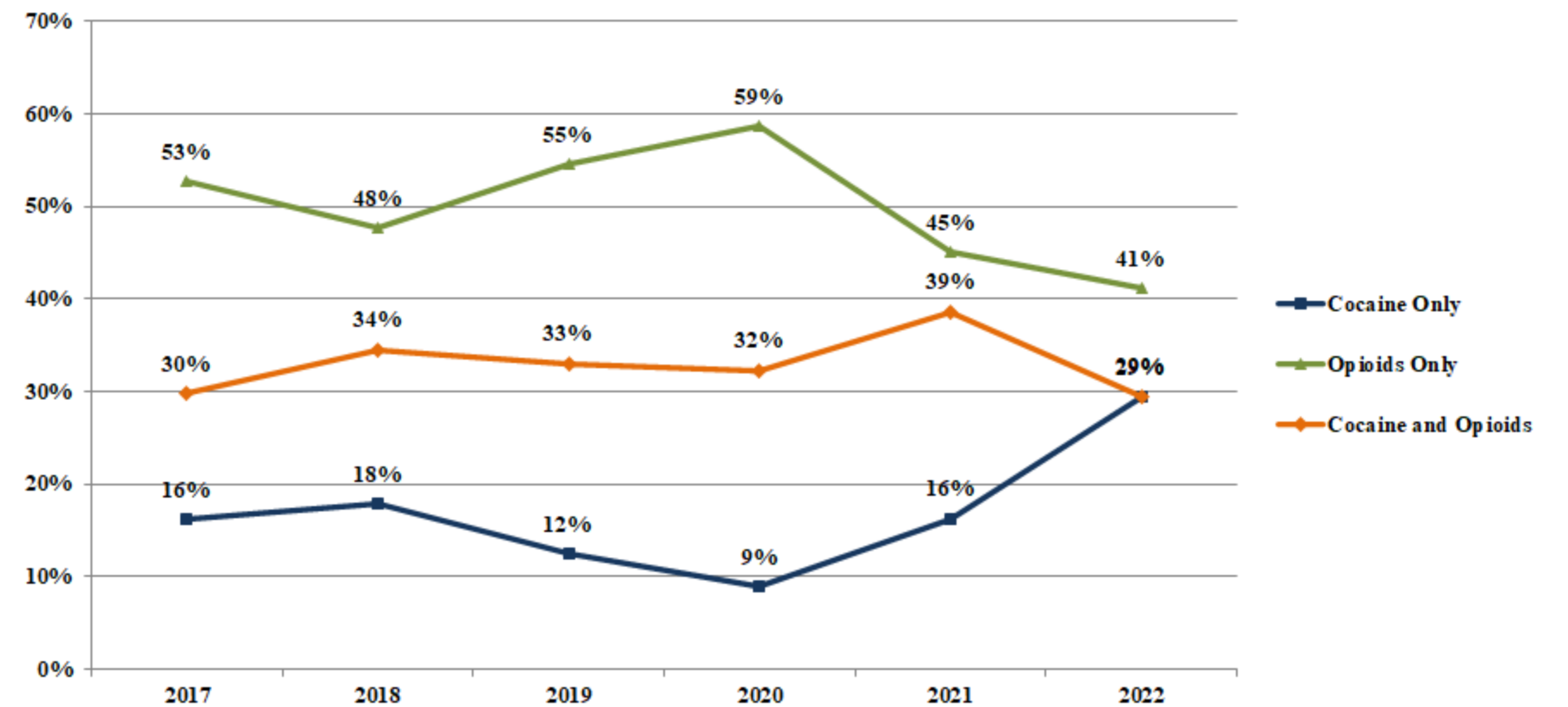
Since 2018: - opioid-only fatal overdose have steadily increased  
 - cocaine-only fatal overdoses have decreased  
 - cocaine and opioid overdoses have remained steady but have significant increased in Black Males and Black Females

Breakdown of Cocaine and Opioid Overdoses by Year, Race and Gender 2017- Jan 2022						
	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Black</b>						
Male	55	61	62	75	125	7
Female	32	17	31	50	55	2
<b>White</b>						
Male	5	6	4	10	10	0
Female	5	6	4	2	3	0
<b>Other</b>						
Male	2	1	4	8	4	1
Female	2	0	1	1	0	0

Breakdown of Opioid and Cocaine Involved Deaths (2021)



Percent of Deaths due to Cocaine and Opioids (2017- Jan 2022)



# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019)

- 76% of 2019 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.
- 71% of those cases were within the decedent's household.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019)	
Residence	76%
Decedents residence	71%
Family members residence	6%
Friend/aquaintance residence	15%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	0%
Unspecified residence	2%
Shelter/Halfway house	3%
Vacant residence	1%
Non-Residence*	23%
Unknown	1%
* non-residence includes street, bus/train stop, car, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, homeless camp	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2019)	
Residence	213
Decedents residence	152
Family members residence	13
Friend/acquaintance residence	31
Hospital/Nursing Home	2
Hotel/Motel	0
Unspecified residence	5
Shelter/Halfway house	7
Vacant residence	3
Non-Residence*	66
Unknown	2
* non-residence includes street, bus/train stop, car, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, homeless camp	

# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2020)

**78% of 2020 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.  
67% of those cases were within the decedent's household.**

This may be driven by the pandemic and lock-down protocols, but also impacts the affect of the push for Naloxone availability to counter opioid abuse.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Dec 2020)	
Residence	320
Decedents residence	214
Family members residence	10
Friend/acquaintance residence	52
Hospital/Nursing Home	2
Hotel/Motel	7
Unspecified residence	5
Shelter/Halfway house	20
Vacant residence	10
Non-Residence*	86
Unknown	5

\* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan-Dec 2020)	
Residence	78%
Decedents residence	67%
Family members residence	3%
Friend/aquaintance residence	16%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	2%
Unspecified residence	2%
Shelter/Halfway house	6%
Vacant residence	3%
Non-Residence*	21%
Unknown	1%

\* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop

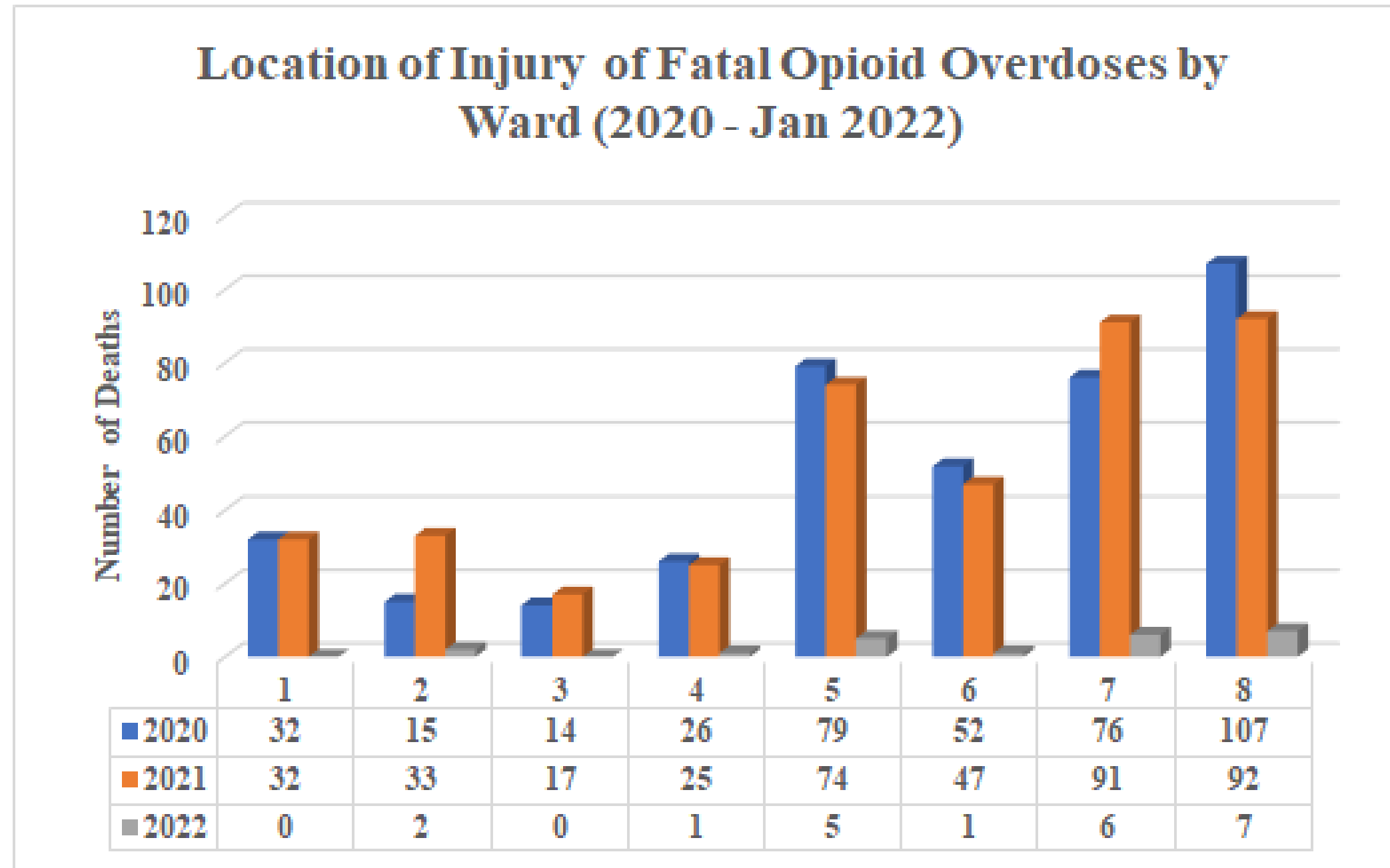
# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)

- 82% of 2021 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.
- 73% of those cases were within the decedent's household.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)	
Residence	348
Decedents residence	251
Family members residence	7
Friend/acquaintance residence	39
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	16
Unspecified residence	13
Shelter/Halfway house	15
Vacant residence	6
Non-Residence*	71
Unknown	7
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)	
Residence	82%
Decedents residence	72%
Family members residence	2%
Friend/aquaintance residence	11%
Hospital/Nursing Home	0%
Hotel/Motel	5%
Unspecified residence	4%
Shelter/Halfway house	4%
Vacant residence	2%
Non-Residence*	17%
Unknown	2%
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Ward (2020-Jan 2022)



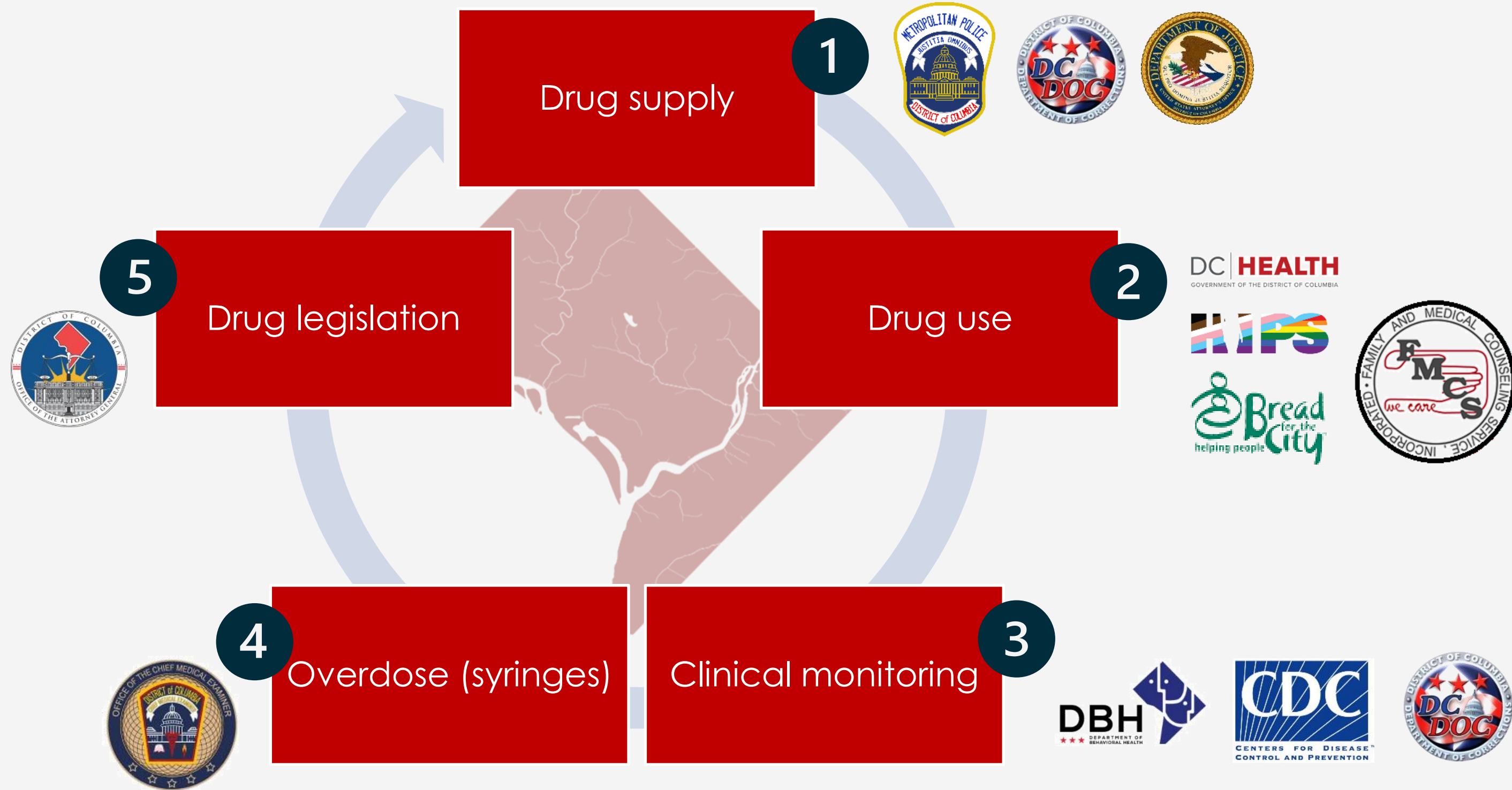
# D.C. DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

APRIL 2022

## UPDATE ON OPIOIDS IN THE DISTRICT



# DFS DRUG SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM






# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE – COUNTERFEIT PILLS

FAKE PRESCRIPTION PILLS • WIDELY AVAILABLE • INCREASINGLY LETHAL

DEA LAB TESTING REVEALS THAT  
**4 OUT OF EVERY 10 PILLS**  
WITH FENTANYL CONTAIN A POTENTIALLY  
**LETHAL DOSE**



Counterfeit pills often contain fentanyl and are more lethal than ever before

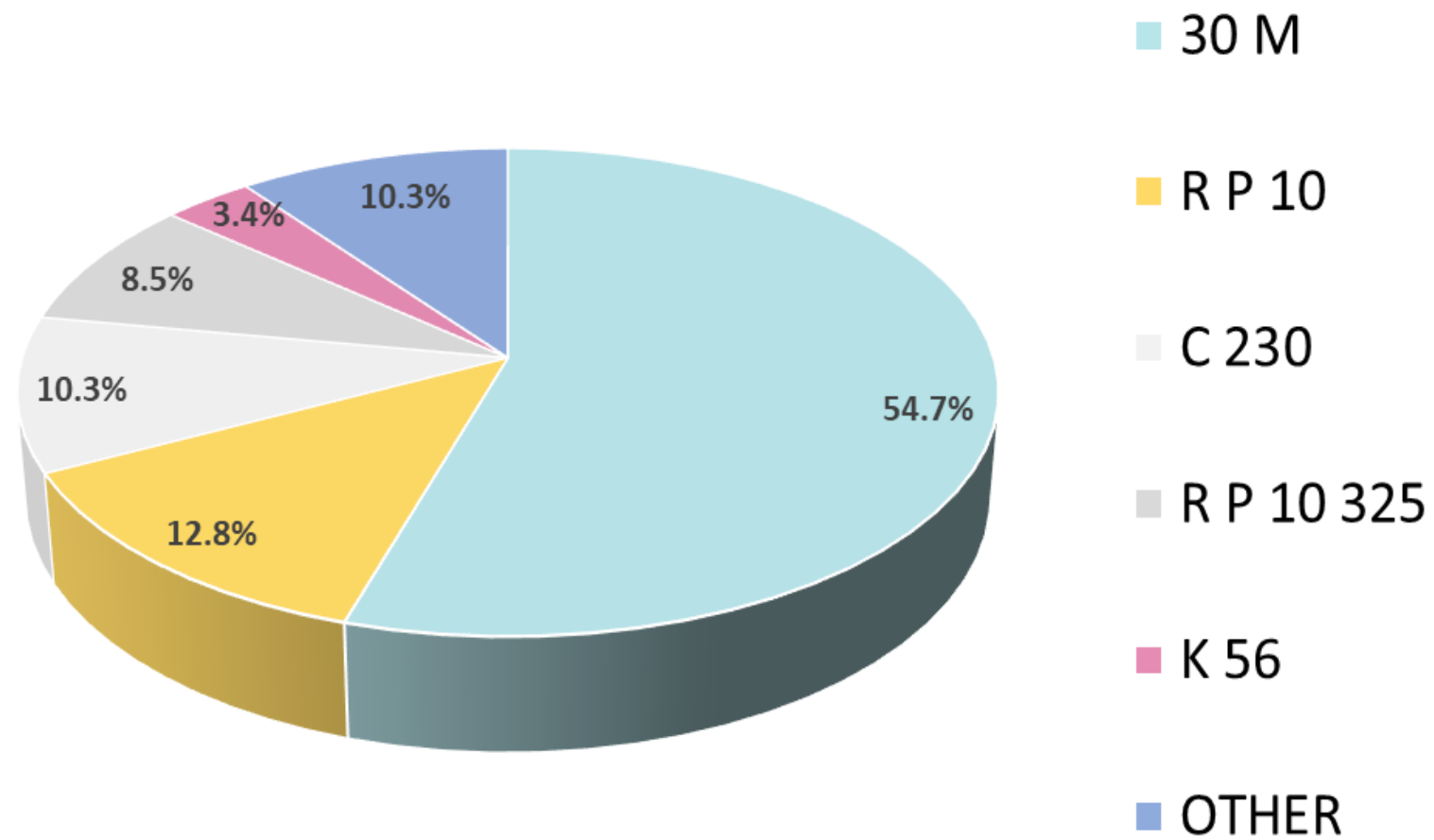
- 2021 - DEA issued warning of increasing amounts of fake prescription pills were responsible for a spike in overdoses in unsuspecting users

[www.dea.gov/onepill](http://www.dea.gov/onepill)



# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE – COUNTERFEIT PILLS

Percentage of Opioid Counterfeits by Imprint  
(2018-2021)

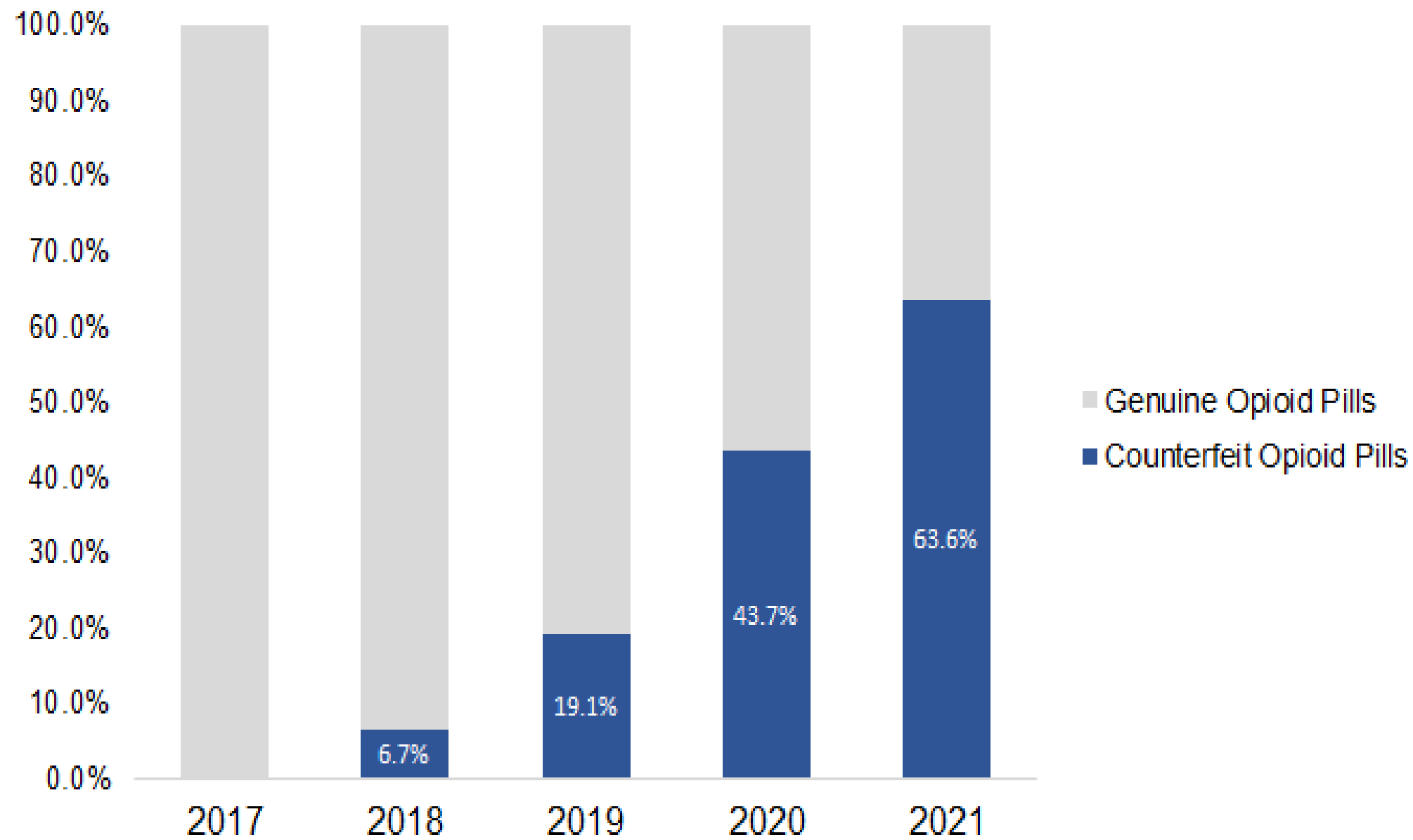


Counterfeit Oxycodone pills detected in our laboratory:



# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE – COUNTERFEIT PILLS

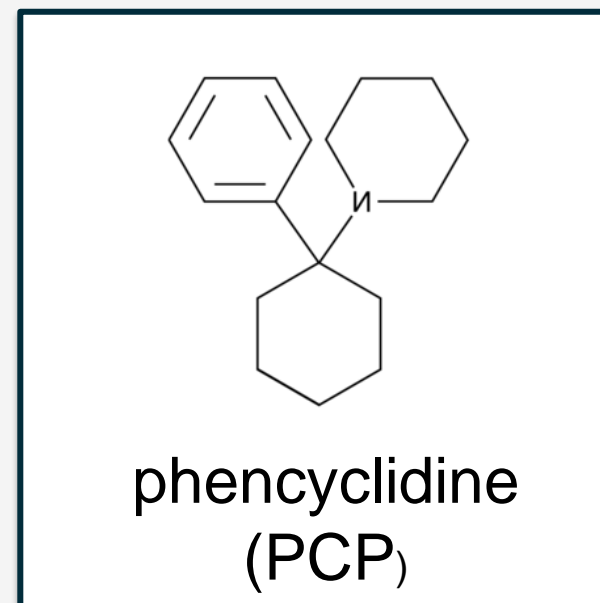
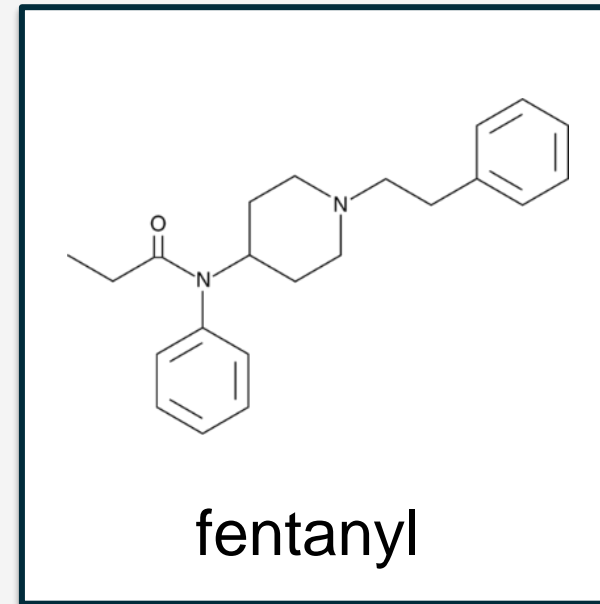
Increasing Percentage of Counterfeit Opioid Pills  
(2017 - 2021)



Psychoactive Compound	Percentage of All Counterfeit Opioid Pills
Fentanyl	72.6%
4-ANPP	18.8%
Tramadol	3.4%
Etizolam	3.4%
<i>Para</i> -fluorofentanyl	1.7%
Despropionyl <i>para</i> -fluorofentanyl	1.7%
Phenethyl 4-ANPP	1.7%
Acetyl Fentanyl	0.9%
Codeine	0.9%



# OPIOID SURVEILLANCE – FENTANYL LACED PLANT MATERIAL



- Fentanyl and PCP laced plant-like material discovered March 2022
- Associated Dangers:
  - Toxic pyrolytic products
  - Fentanyl inhalation
  - Fentanyl + PCP combination
  - Made to look like synthetic cannabinoids

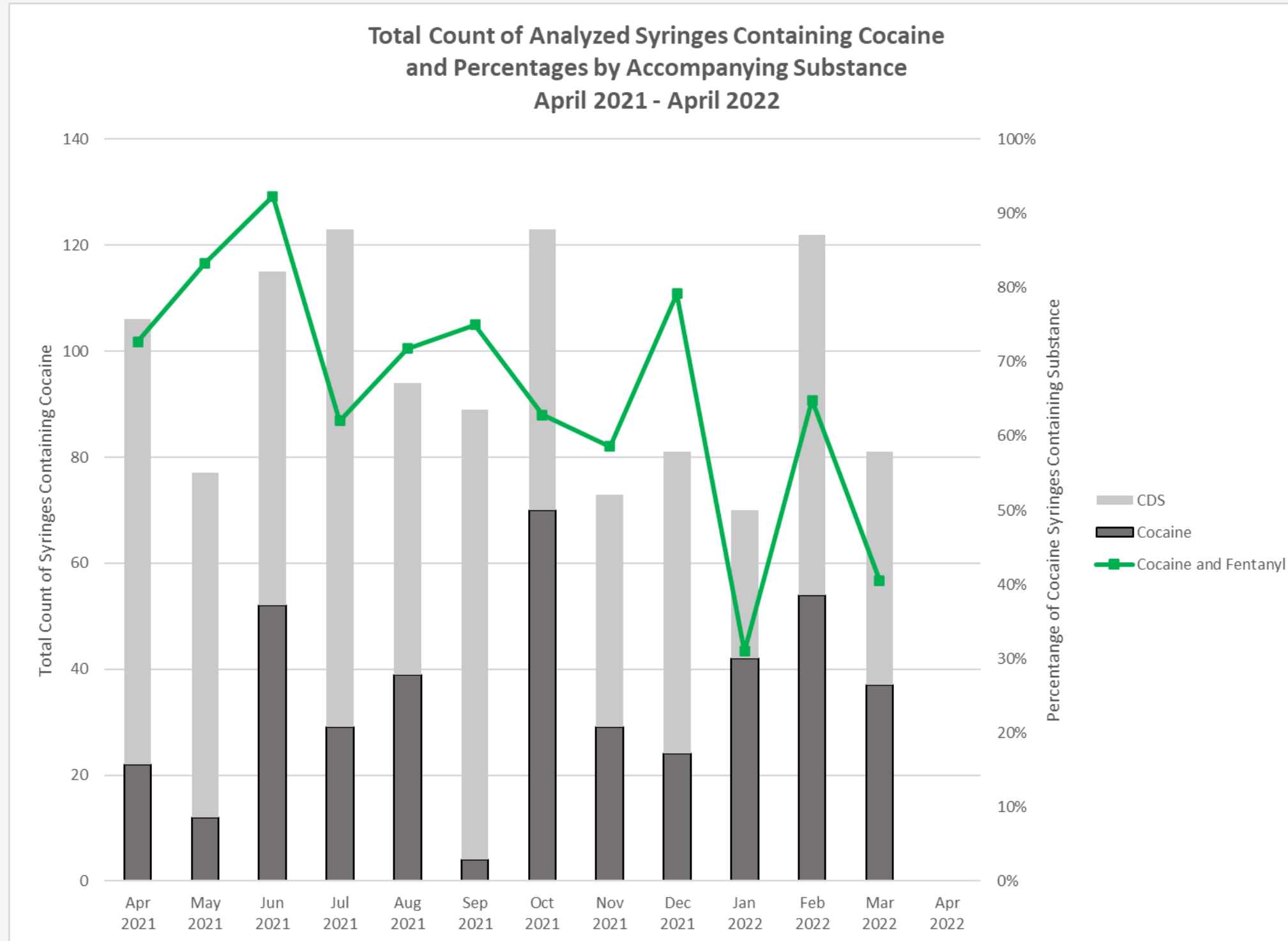


# DC SYRINGE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM – 2585 Syringes

CATEGORY	TOTAL SYRINGES	% of CDS Syringes
CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE (CDS)	1707 (66%)	-
OPIOIDS	1357	79.4%
FENTANYL and/or FENTANYL ANALOGS	1088	63.7%
COCAINE	518	30.3%
AMPHETAMINE TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)	301	17.6%
BENZODIAZEPINES	33	2.0%
HALLUCINOGENS	13	0.8%



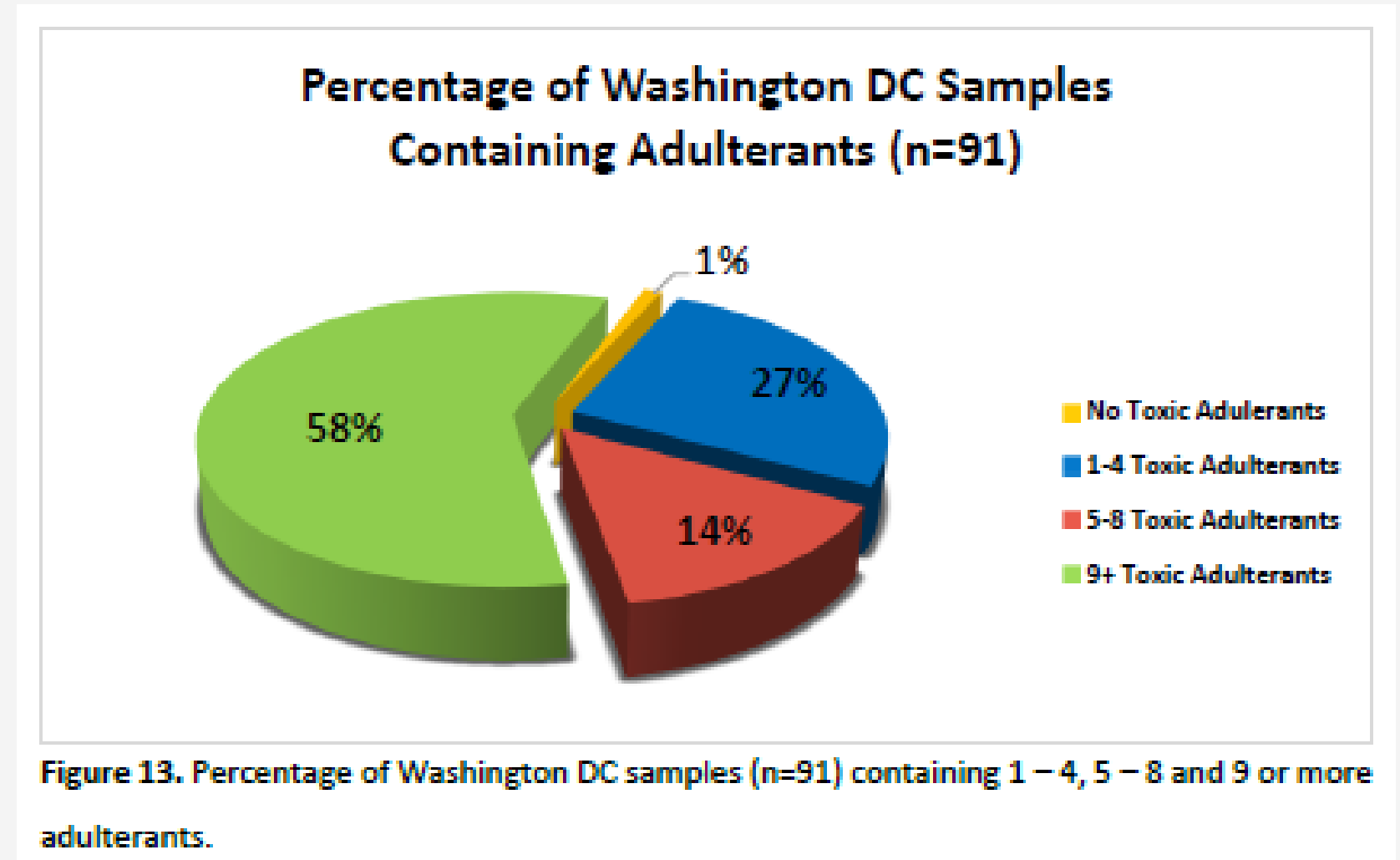
# SYRINGE EXCHANGE - COCAINE



- Cocaine confirmed in 518 syringes
  - 30.3% of CDS Syringes
- Cocaine + Fentanyl combination is in 63.3% of cocaine-containing syringes
- Stimulant + Depressant combination increases the likelihood of an overdose.

# CFSRE Collaboration

- Collaborated with Center for Forensic Science Research & Education (CFSRE) on their Survey of Toxic Adulterants in 2021
- One of nine states, we donated 91 samples
- Washington D.C. had the **highest amount of toxic adulterants** present in each sample on average (22 in one sample)
- Toxic adulterants include (but not limited to): xylazine, phenacetin, levamisole, aminopyrine, diphenhydramine, lidocaine, quinine, strychnine, adrafinil etc.





# STIMULANT OVERDOSES

## Stimulants:

- Methamphetamine, amphetamines (Ritalin/Adderall), MDMA, cocaine, synthetic cathinones, some nootropics (i.e., adrafinil, modafinil)

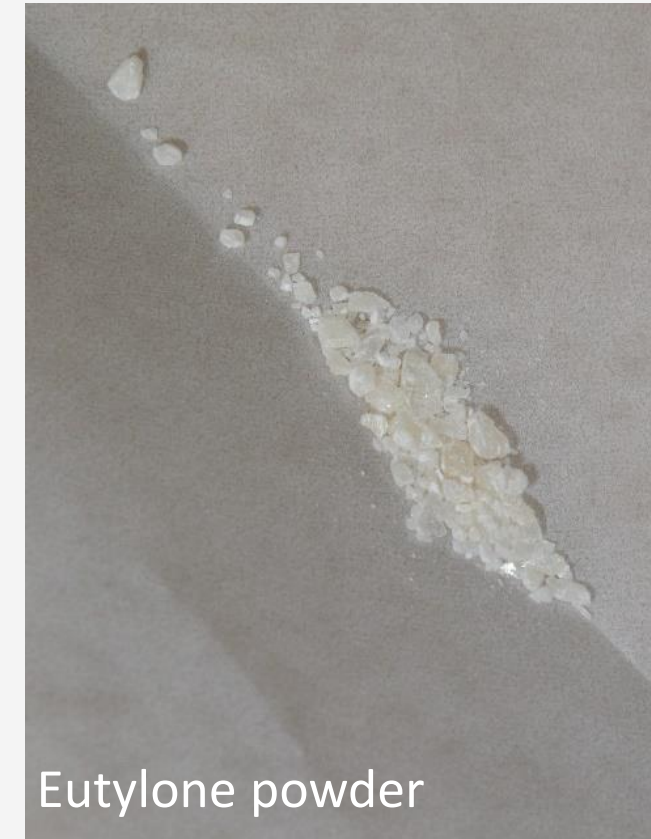
## Signs of Stimulant Overdose:

- Rigid jerking arms/legs
- Chest pains/fast heartbeat
- Sweating or severe headache
- Anxiety, paranoia, agitation
- In-and-out of consciousness

## Overdose Reversal:

No antidote for stimulant overdose, but naloxone can still help if a person has taken a mix of drugs.

## Photos of stimulants taken from our laboratory:



Eutylone powder



Methamphetamine crystals



Eutylone rocks



Adrafinil supplements

# THANK YOU!

