



# *Public Safety and Substance Use Trends*

Presentation to the Substance Abuse Trend and  
Response Task Force

August 7, 2020

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**COLORADO**

**Division of Criminal Justice**

Department of Public Safety



# Overview

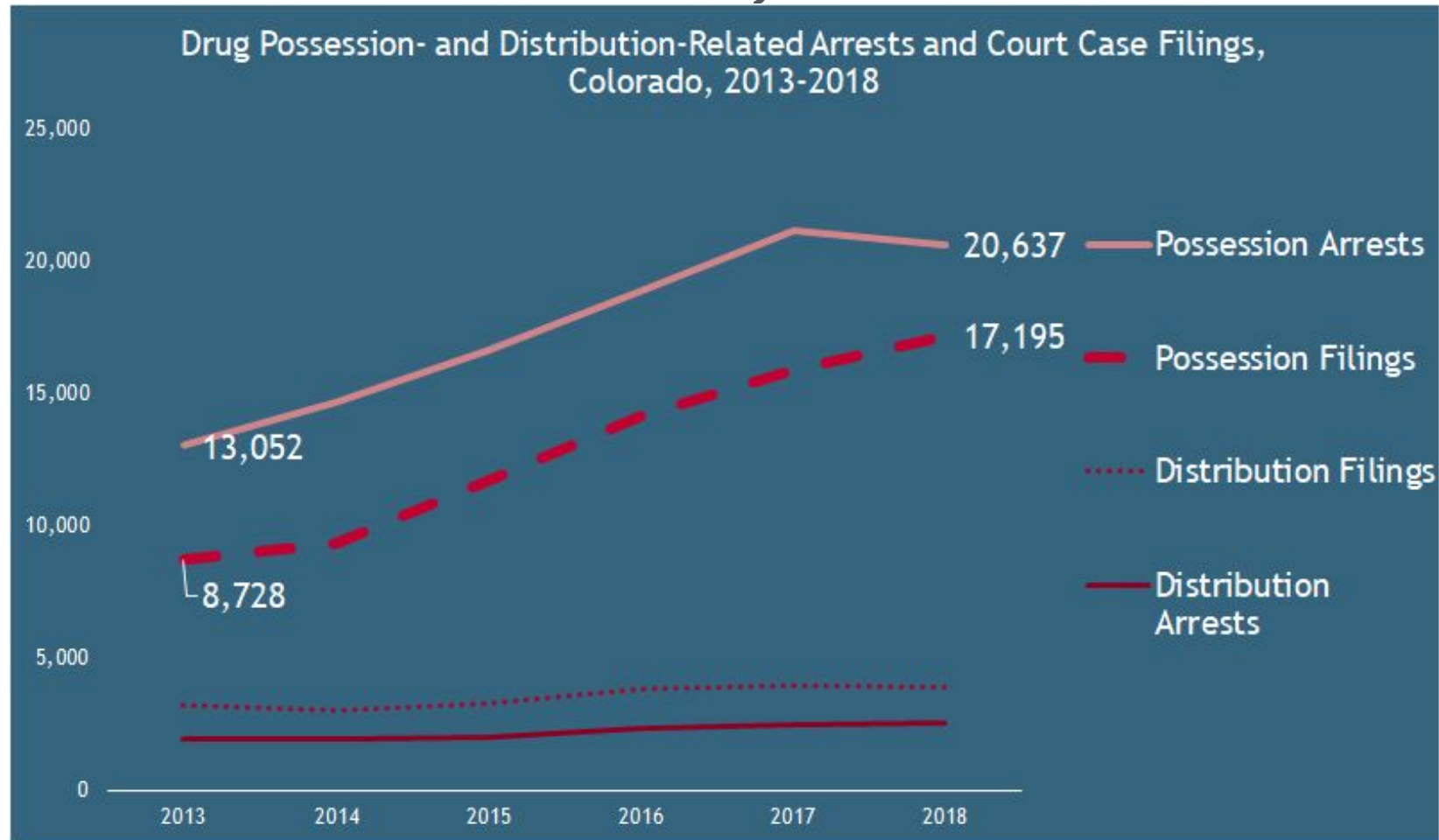
- Drug Crime Trends
  - Arrest Rates & District Court Filings
  - Demographics
  - Regional Trends with Drug Seizures
- Public Health Harms
  - Traffic Fatalities
    - Trends with DUI toxicology
  - Law Enforcement Contacts
- Social Determinants and Upstream Prevention Factors
  - School Discipline



## SECTION 1

# *Drug Crimes Trends*

# Drug Arrests and District Court Filings for Drug Possession Charges on the Rise in Colorado from 2013 - 2018



Data sources: Arrests: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident Based Reporting System (NIBRS) data. Extracted on 4/11/19. District Court Filings: Data extracted from the Colorado Judicial Branch's information management system (ICON) via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by the Division of Criminal Justice.



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From: Lin, J. Flick, P., English, K. (2019). Exploring the Increase in District Court Filings in Colorado, 2013-2018. Colorado Department of Public Safety. [https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2019-10\\_FelonyFilingsRpt\\_2013-2018.pdf](https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2019-10_FelonyFilingsRpt_2013-2018.pdf)

## Percent of District Court Filings with Drug Possession Charges, Colorado, 2013-2018



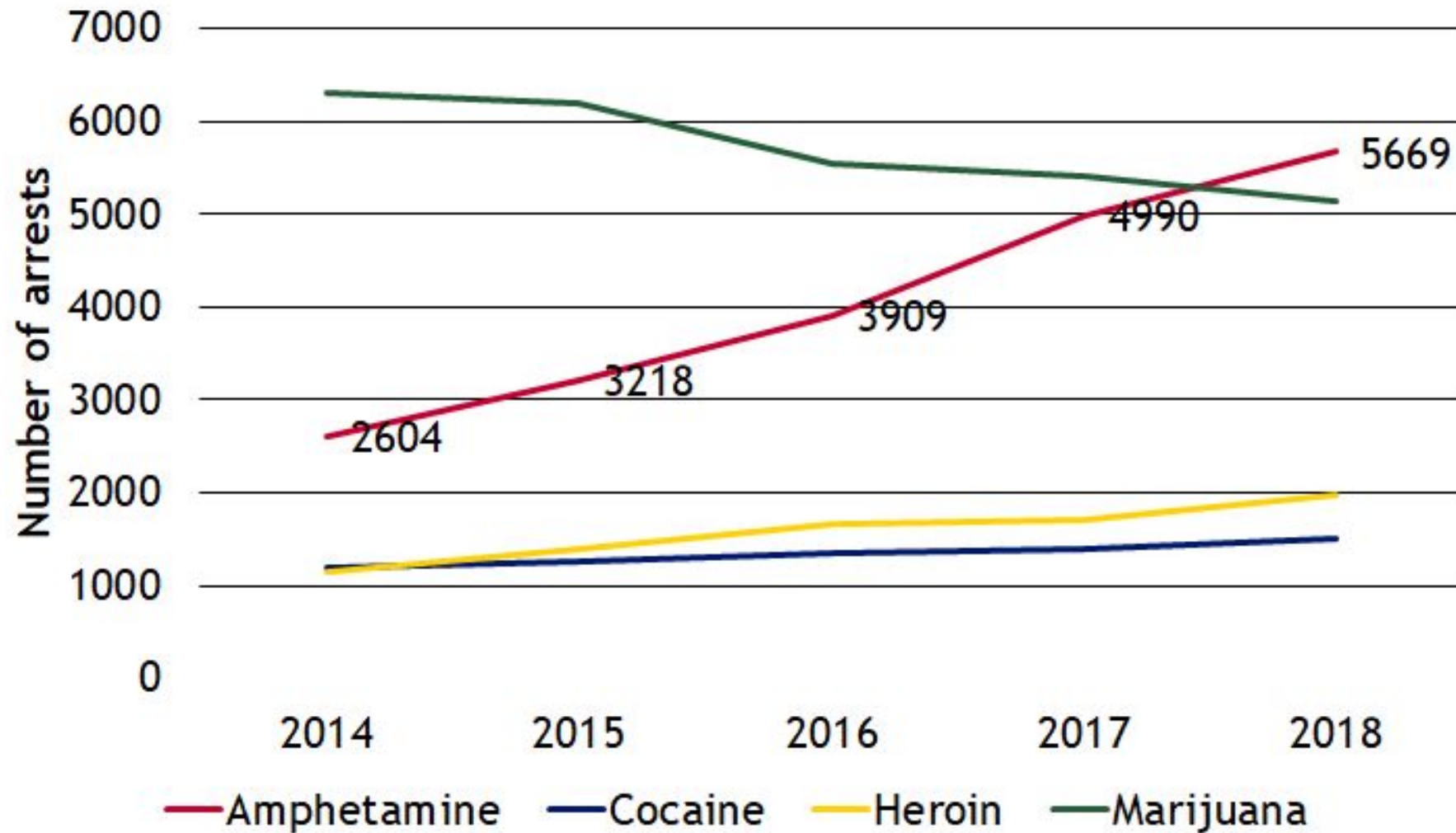
Source: Data extracted from the Colorado Judicial Branch's information management system (ICON) via the Colorado Justice Analytics Support System (CJASS) and analyzed by the Division of Criminal Justice.



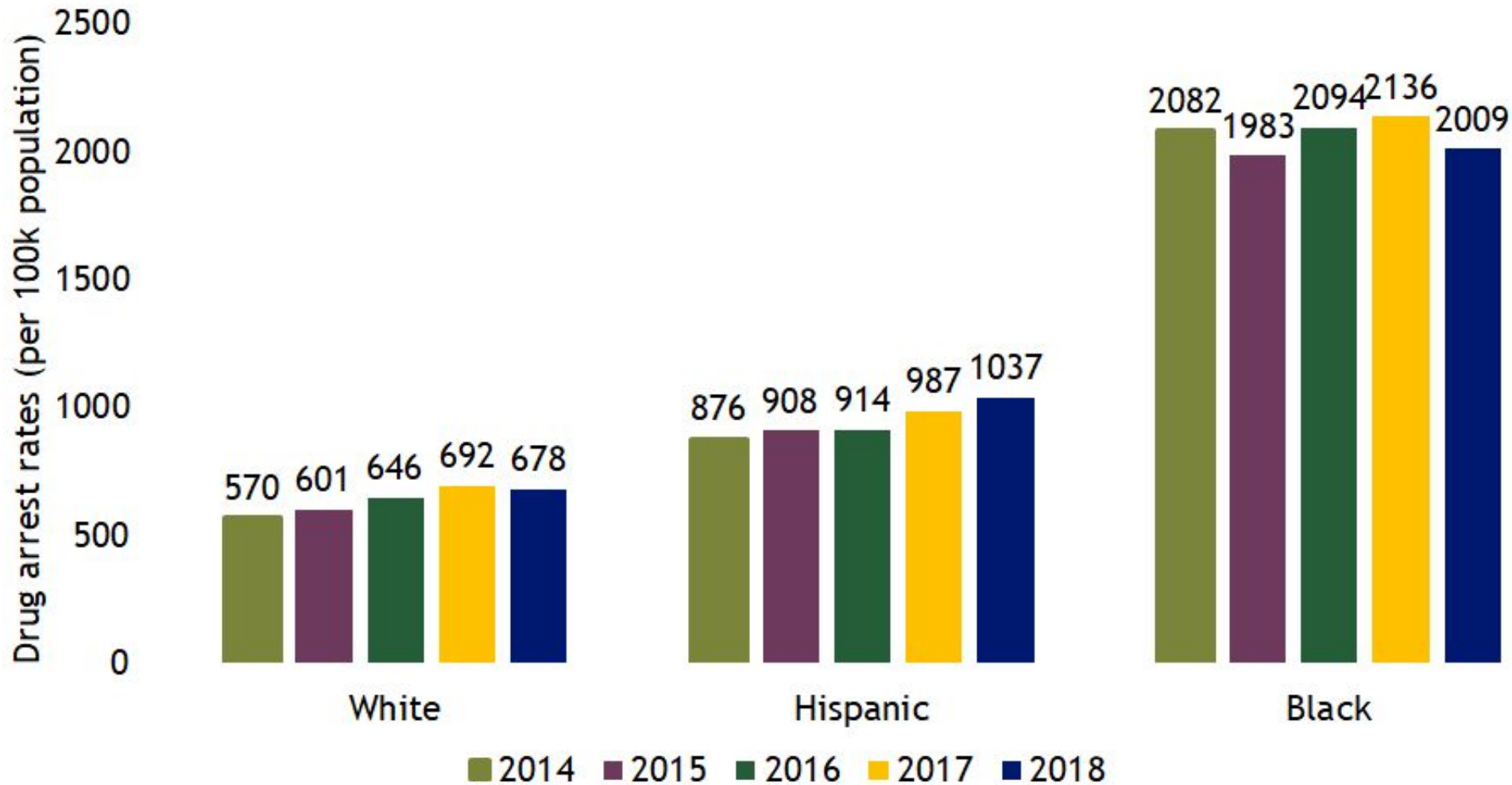
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From: Lin, J. Flick, P., English, K. (2019). Exploring the Increase in District Court Filings in Colorado, 2013-2018. Colorado Department of Public Safety. [https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2019-10\\_FelonyFilingsRpt\\_2013-2018.pdf](https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ors/docs/reports/2019-10_FelonyFilingsRpt_2013-2018.pdf)

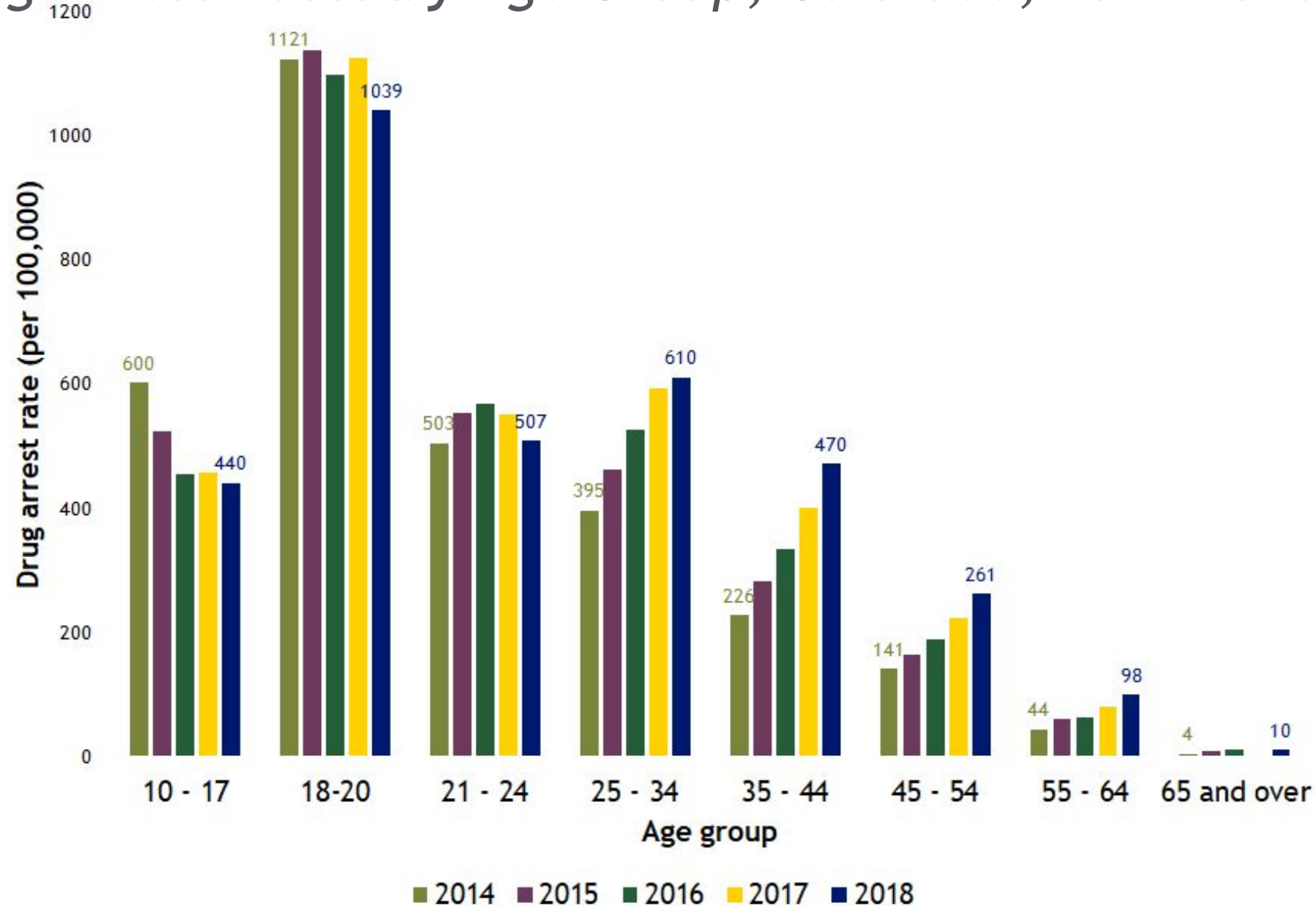
# Drug Arrests by Drug Category, Colorado, 2014-2018



# Drug Arrest Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Colorado, 2014 - 2018



# Drug Arrest Rates by Age Group, Colorado, 2014-2018



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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System; Colorado Office of Demography.



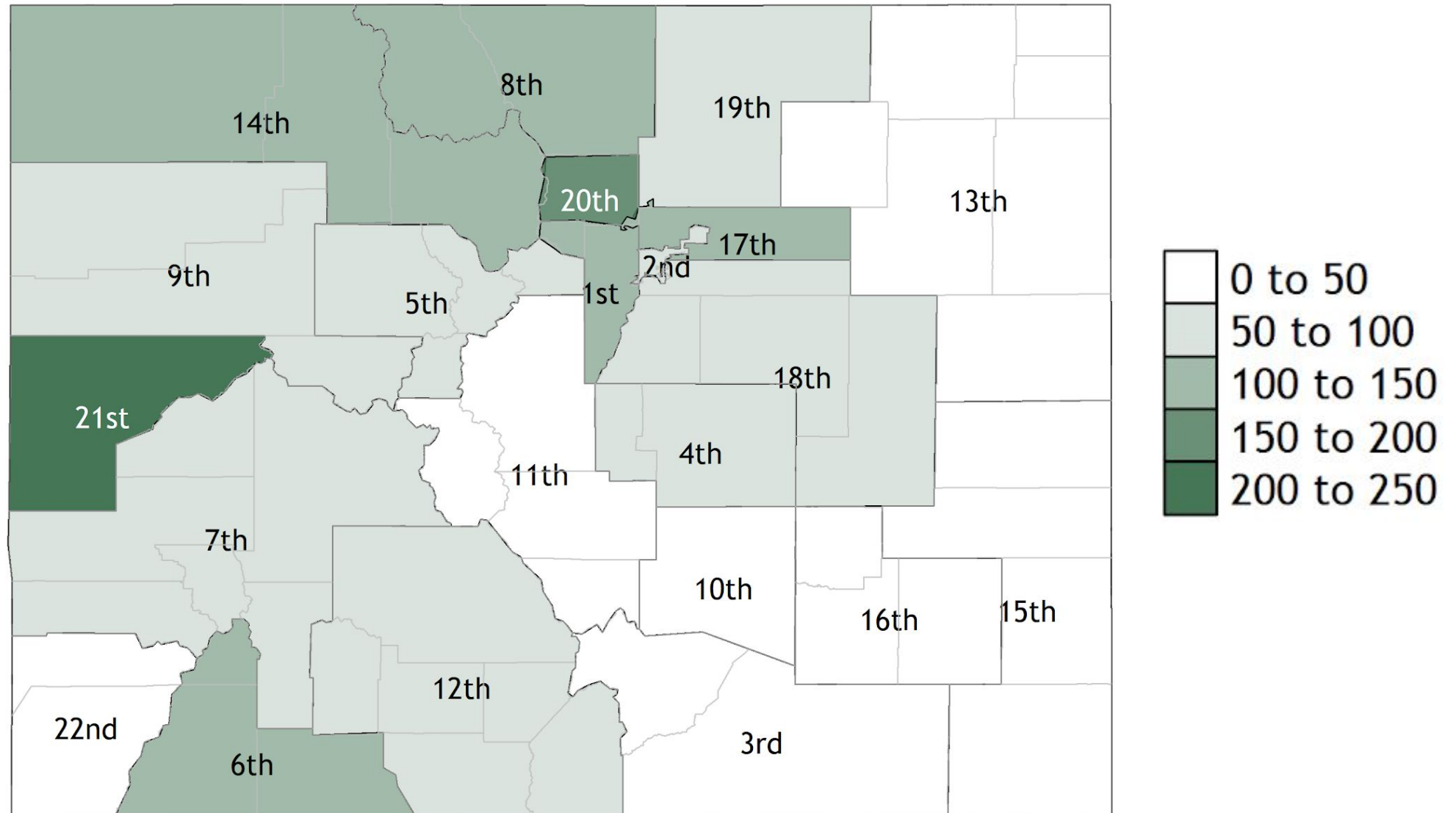
# Drug Seizures by Drug Category, Colorado, 2014-2018



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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System.

# *Marijuana Arrests per 100,000 Residents by Judicial District, 2016-2018*



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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System; Colorado Office of Demography.

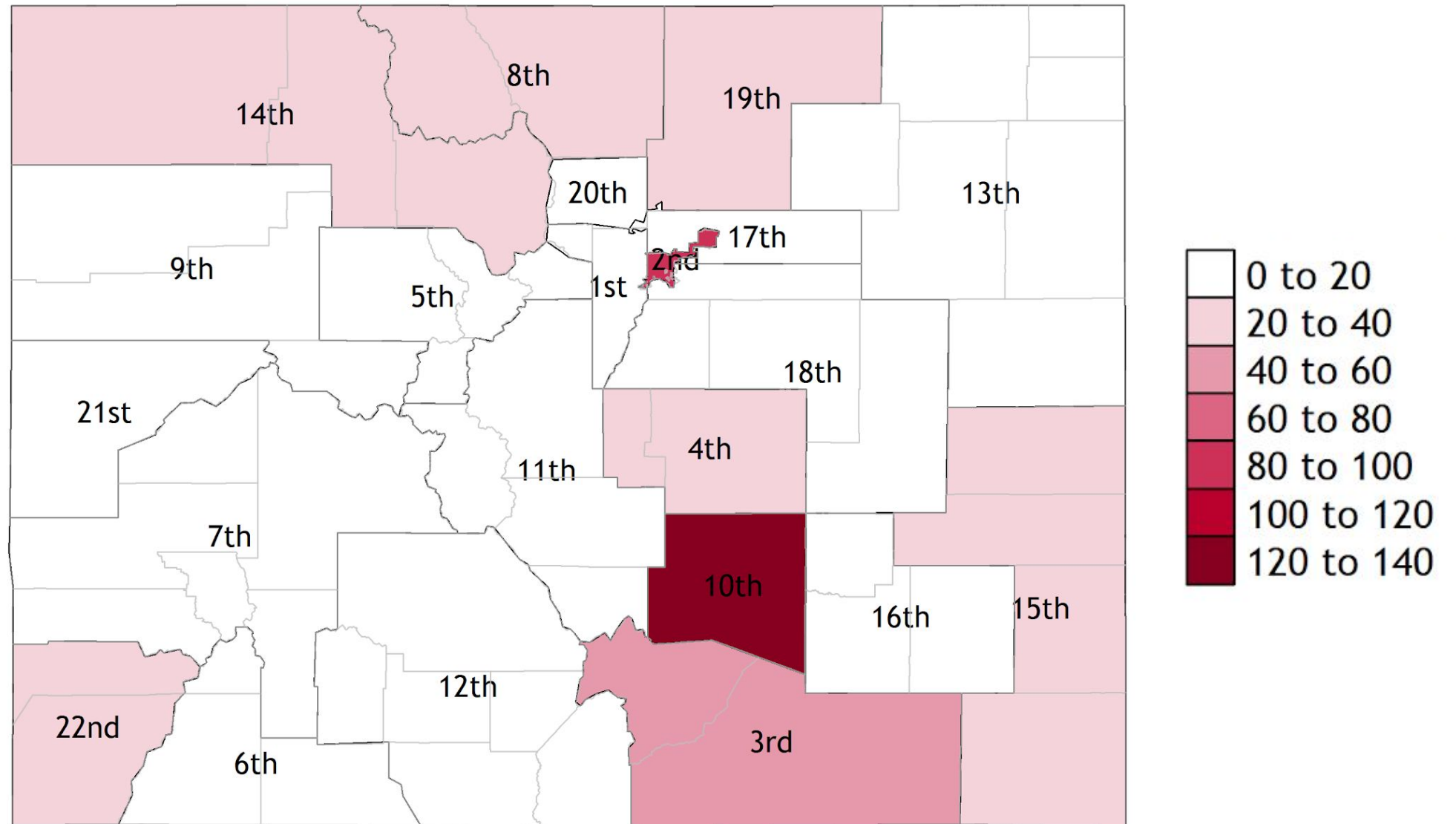
# *Amphetamine Arrests per 100,000 Residents by Judicial District, 2016-2018*



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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System; Colorado Office of Demography.

# *Heroin Arrests per 100,000 Residents by Judicial District, 2016-2018*

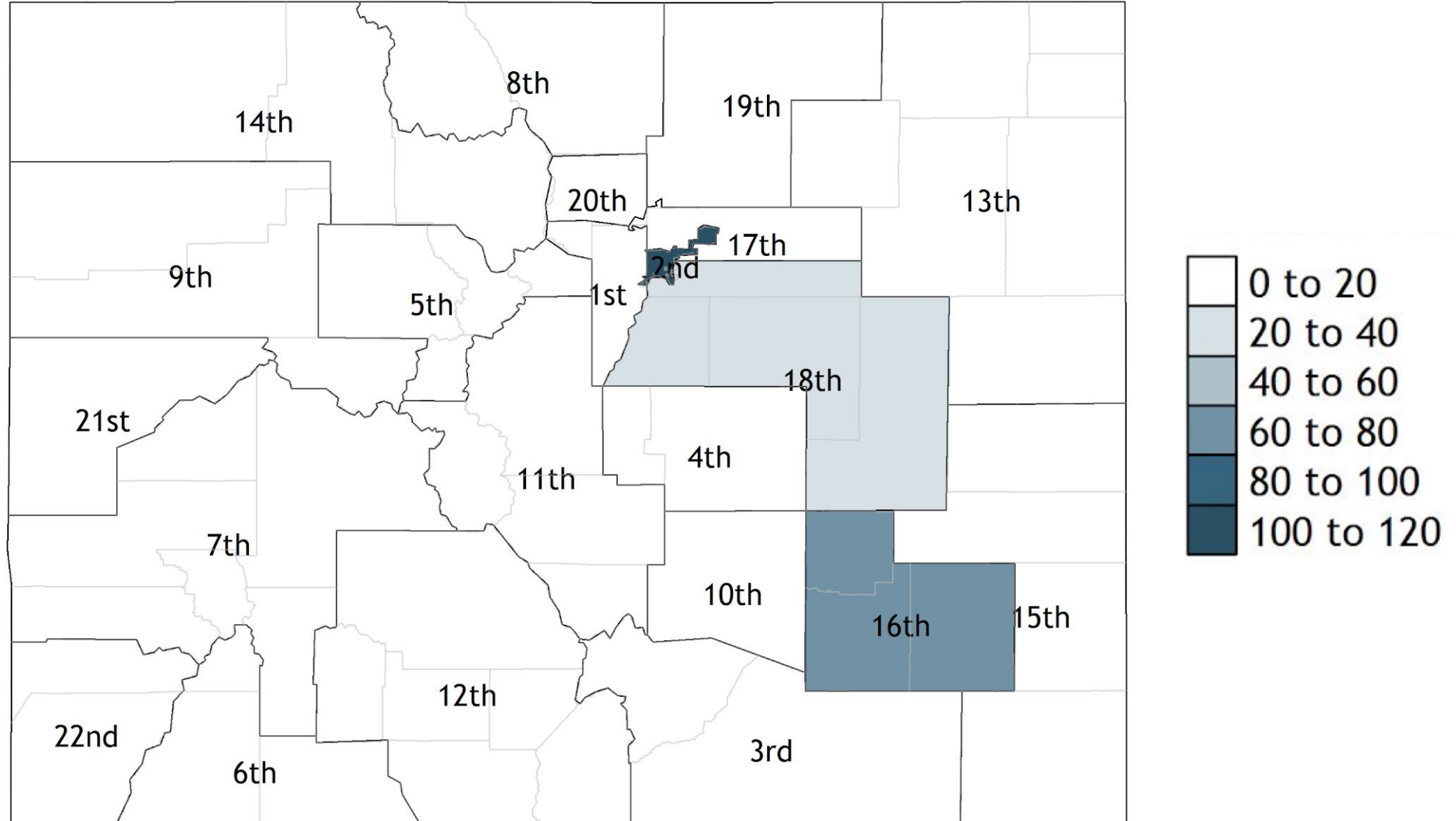


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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System; Colorado Office of Demography.



# Cocaine Arrests per 100,000 Residents by Judicial District, 2016-2018



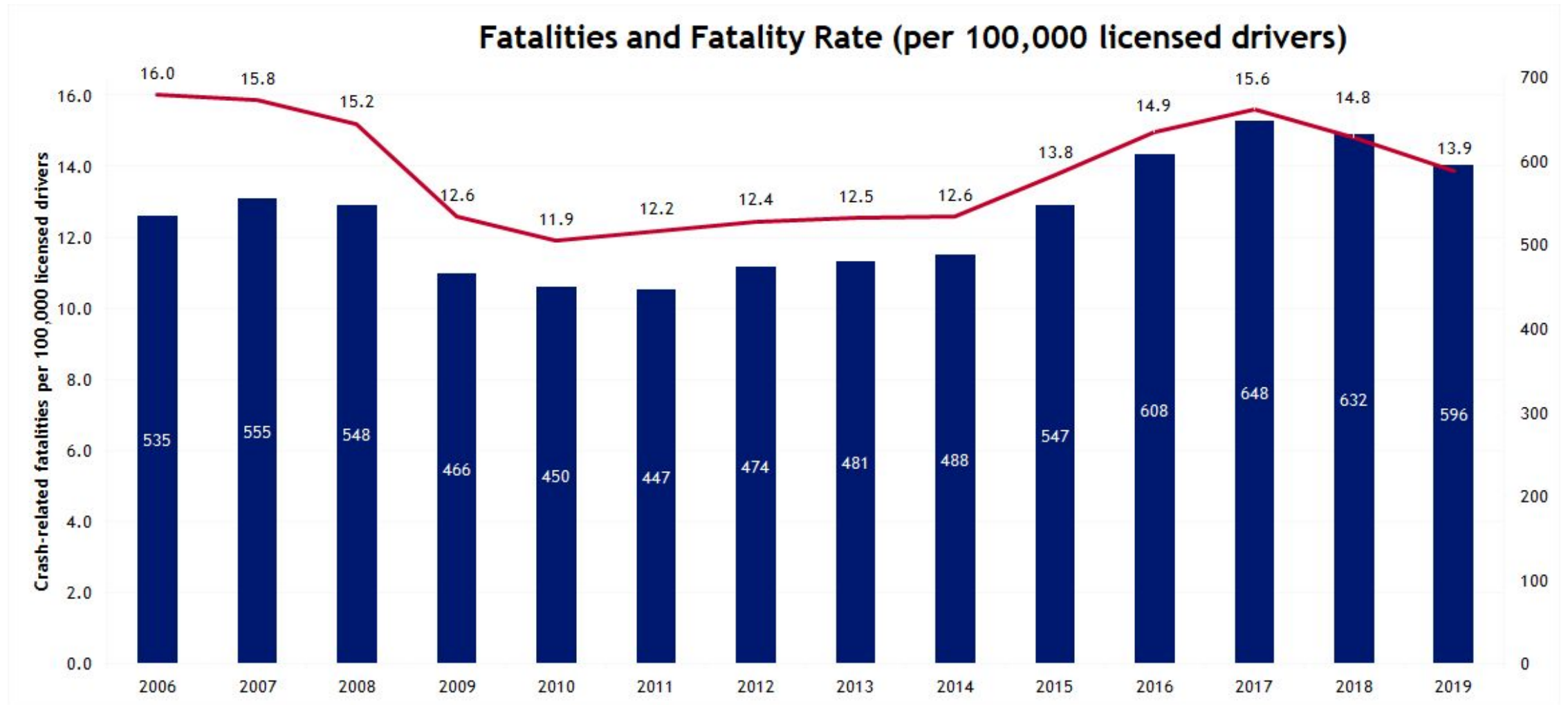
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Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System; Colorado Office of Demography.

## SECTION 2

# *Public Health Harms*

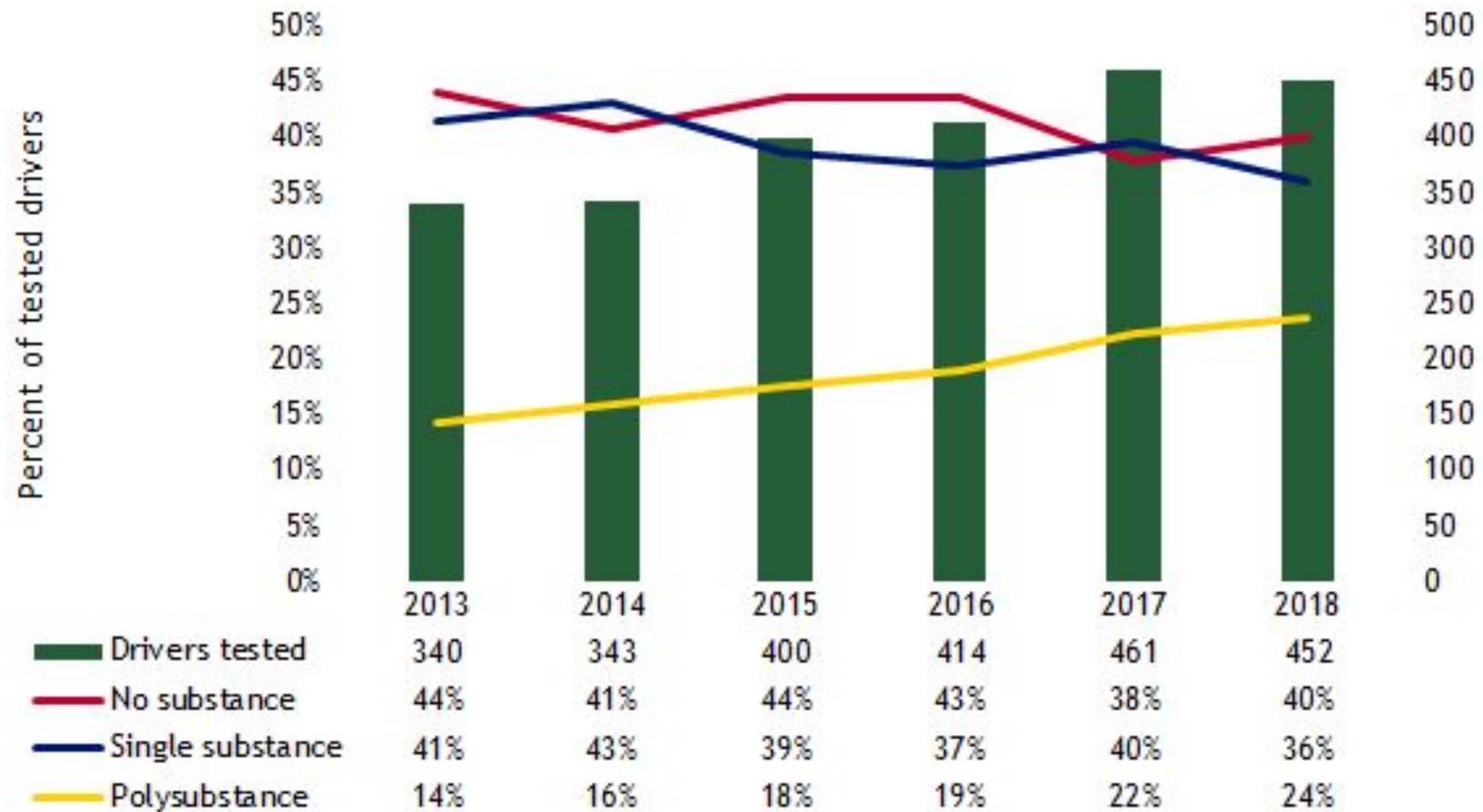
# Public Health Harms



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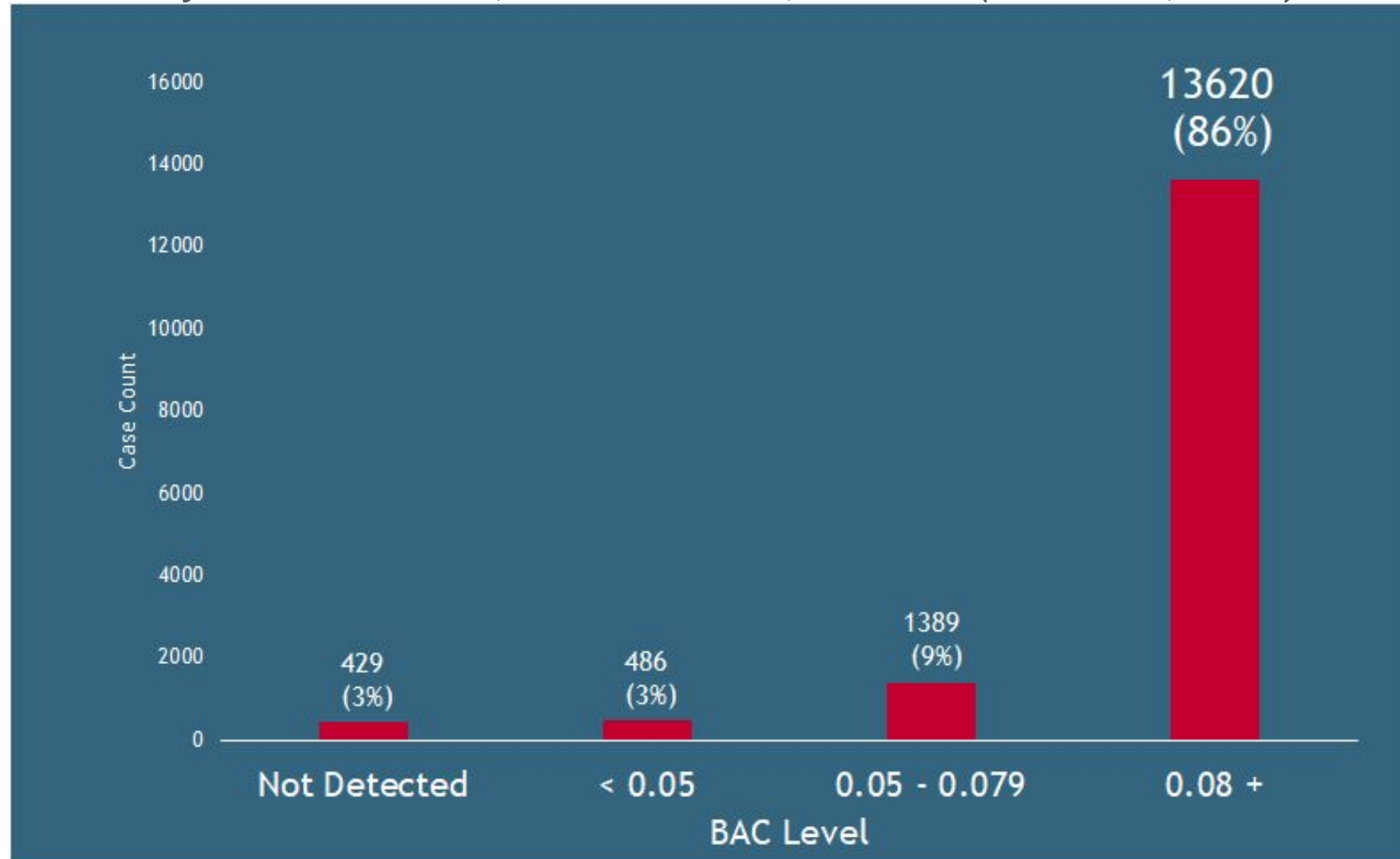
Source: Colorado Department of Transportation.

## Driver Test Results in Fatal Crashes, 2013-2018

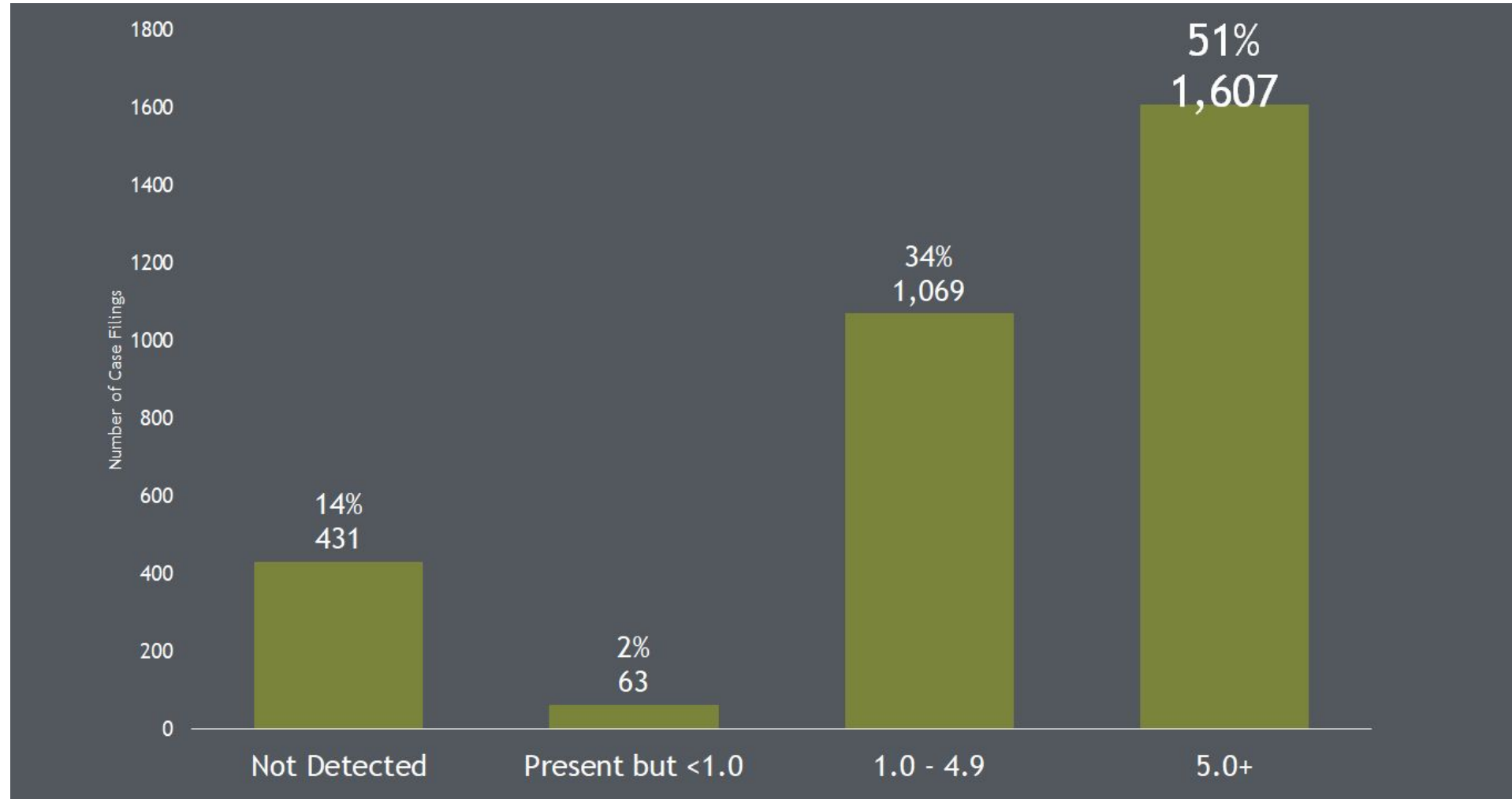




# *Blood Alcohol Content Levels for Individuals Charged with DUI and Screened for Alcohol, Colorado, 2017 (n = 15,924)*



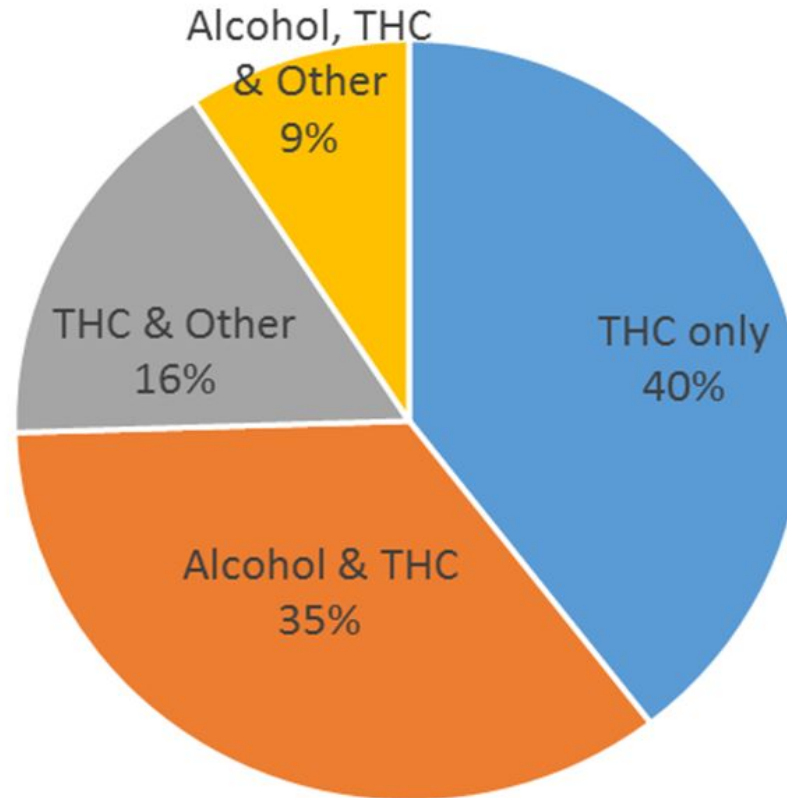
## *THC Levels Among Individuals Charged with DUI and Who Were Screened for Cannabinoids, Colorado, 2017 (n = 3,170)*



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Source: State Judicial Department and Denver County Court, CBI, CDPHE, Denver Crime Lab & Chematox, 2017;  
Analyzed by Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice.

# *Individuals Charged with DUI & Tested Positive for THC & Polysubstance Use, Colorado, 2017*

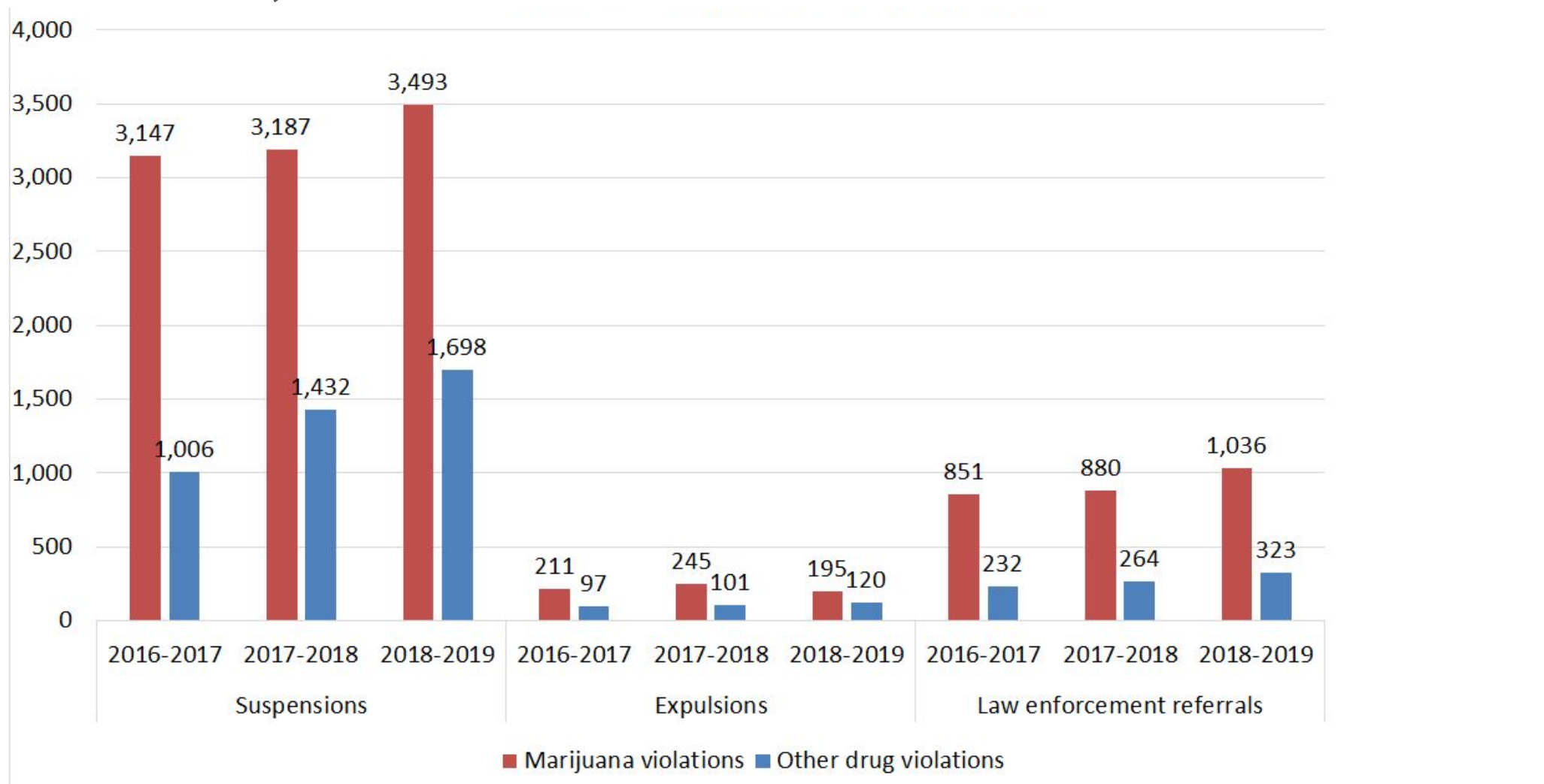


## SECTION 3

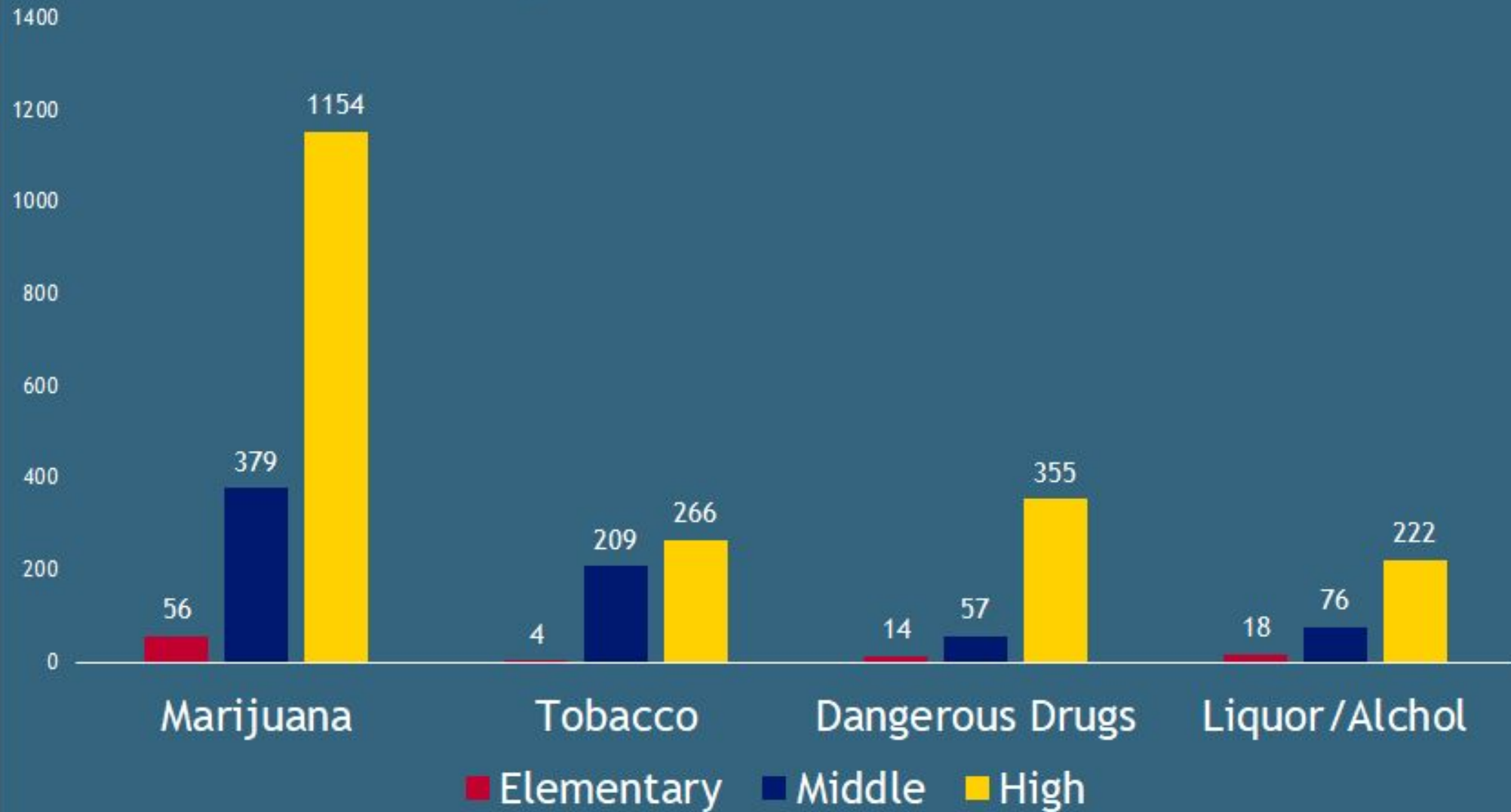
# *School Discipline and Law Enforcement Contacts*



# *School Discipline Outcomes for Marijuana vs. Other Drug Violations, Colorado, 2016-2017 to 2018 - 2019 School Years*



## Drug-Related Offenses for Students by School Type, Colorado, August 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019



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Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety; Division of Criminal Justice,  
<https://cdpsdocs.state.co.us/ORS/Docs/Reports/2020-HB15-1273-StudentContacts.pdf>:

# *Criminal Justice System Feeling the Strain of the Public Health Drug Crisis*

- Increase in drug arrests and felony filings; rise in methamphetamine seizures and arrests
  - Increasing availability of treatment services and diversion programs to this high risk population
- Alcohol and polysubstance impaired driving still a public health issue

# *Criminal Justice System Feeling the Strain of the Public Health Drug Crisis*

- Rise in school suspensions and student law enforcement contacts for marijuana and other drug-related violations
  - Intervention point to reduce school-to-prison pipeline



# *Questions & Contact Information*

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