



Public Safety and Substance Use Trends

Presentation to the Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force

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COLORADO
Department of Public Safety

Overview

- Drug Crime Trends
- Demographics of Drug Crime
- Impaired Driving Trends

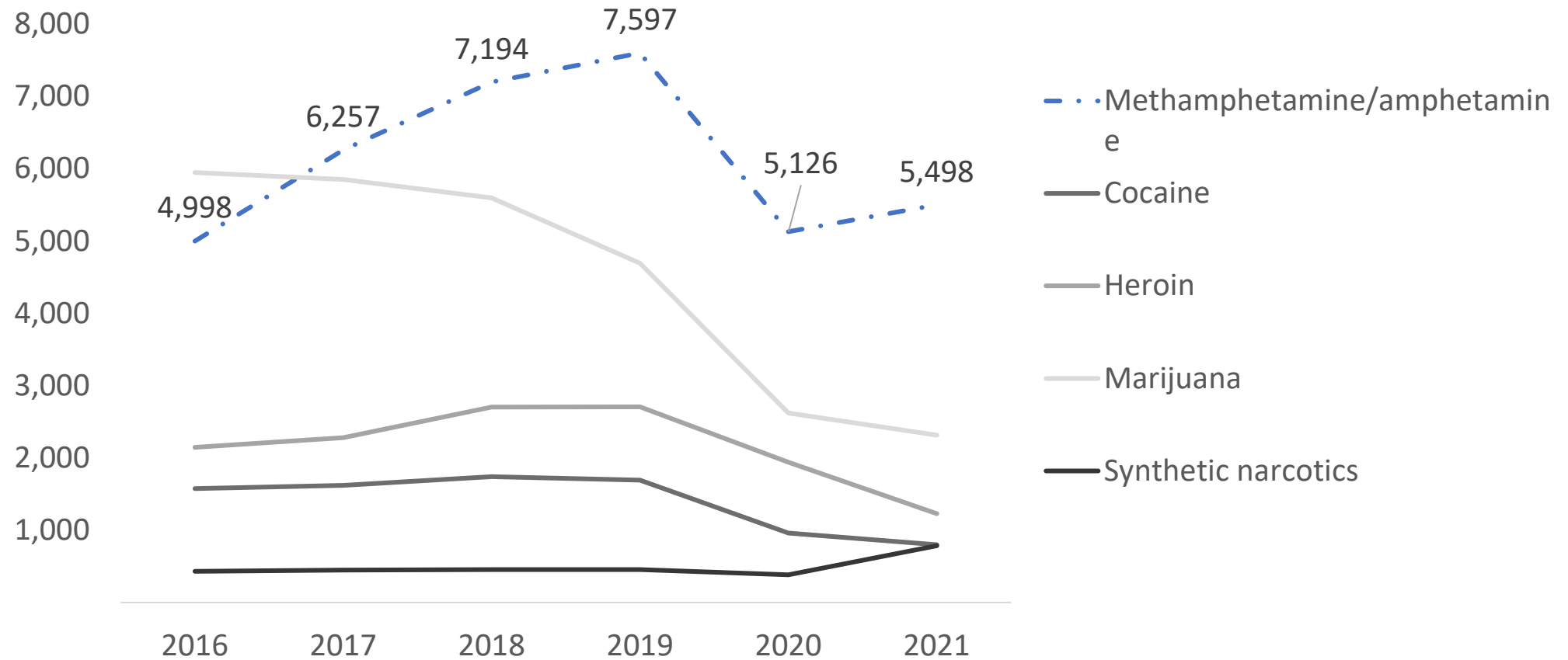
SECTION 1

Drug Crimes Trends

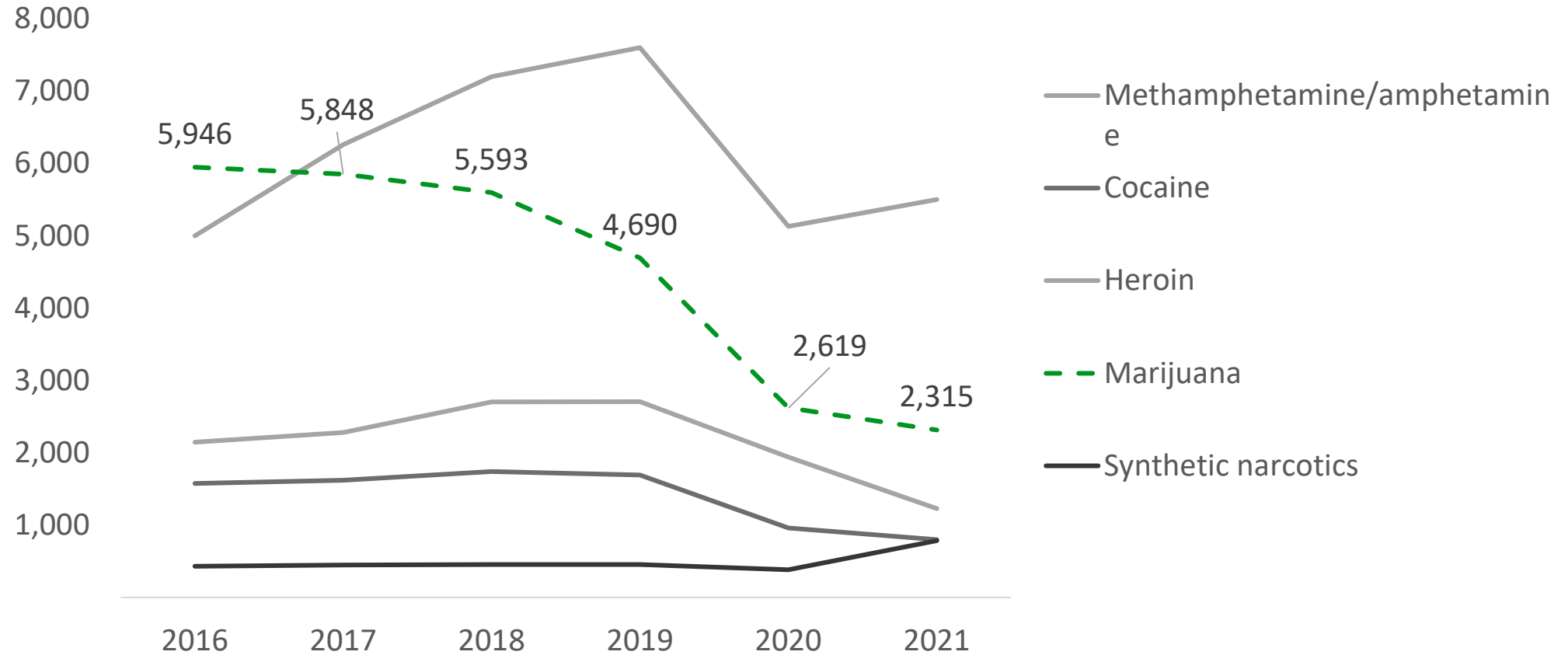
HB19-1263: Offense Level for Controlled Substance Possession Stipulations - Effective March 2020

Level 4 Drug Felony	Any quantity of Rohypnol, Ketamine & GHB
	More than 4 grams of Schedule I/II
	4th or subsequent offense for under 4 grams of a Schedule I/II drug
Level 1 Drug Misdemeanor	Less than 4 grams of Schedule I/II drugs
	More than 6 oz of marijuana
	More than 3 oz of marijuana concentrates
	Will receive a summons as opposed to an arrest
Level 2 Drug Misdemeanor	Between 2-6 oz of marijuana
	Less than 2 oz of marijuana concentrates
	Will receive a summons as opposed to an arrest
No Charges Filed	Miniscule/unusable amounts of substances
	Drug paraphernalia
Legal Immunity	Reporting a drug or alcohol overdose

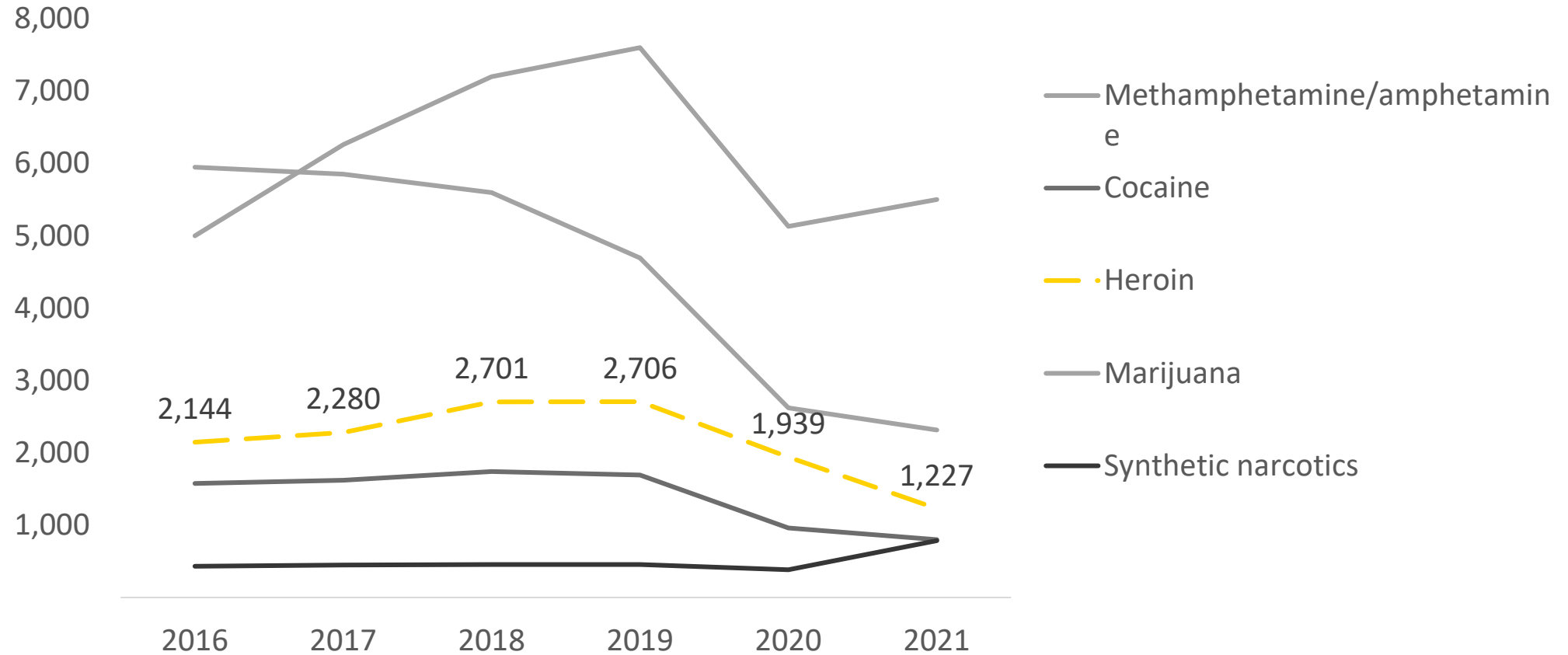
Drug Arrests, Colorado, 2016-2021



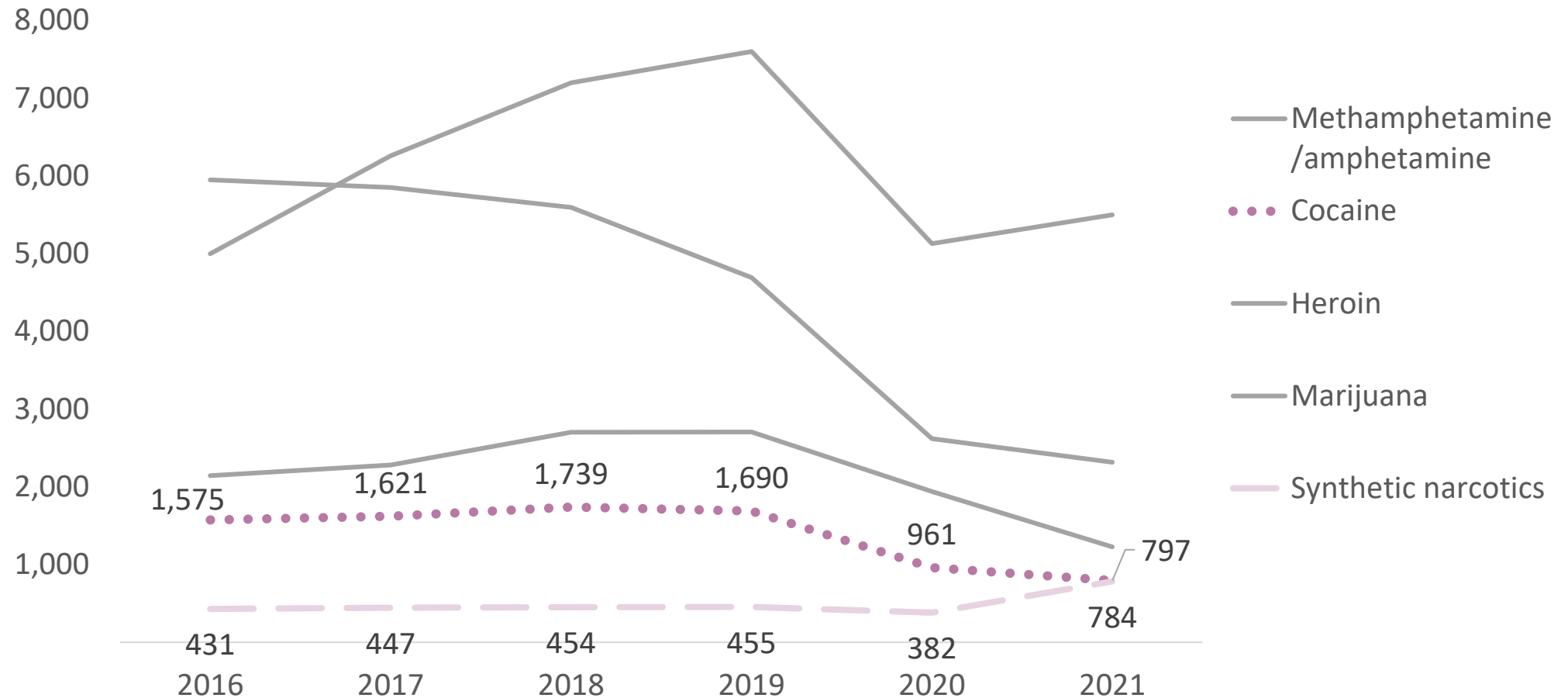
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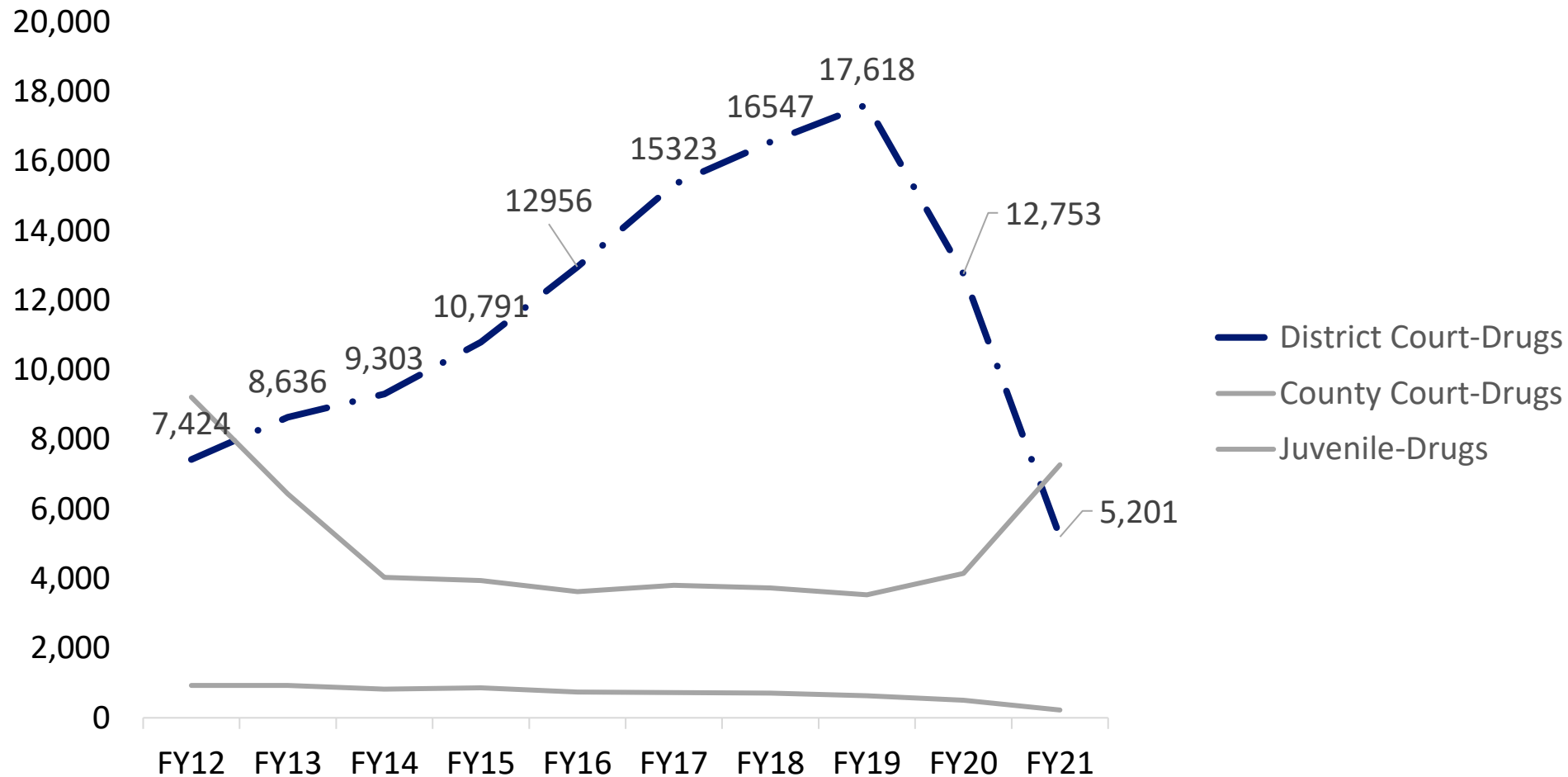
Drug Arrests, Colorado, 2016-2021



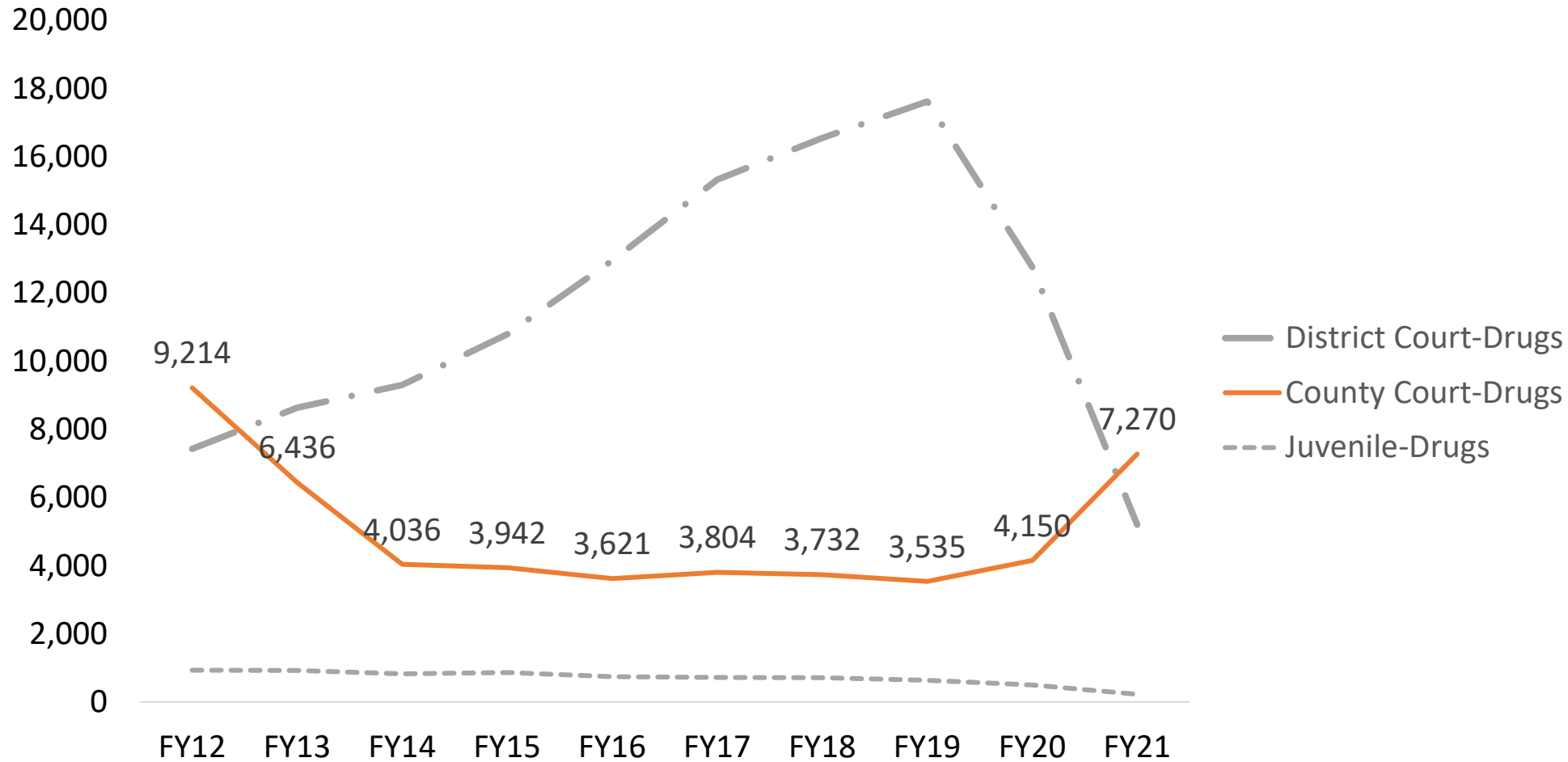
Drug Arrests, Colorado, 2016-2021



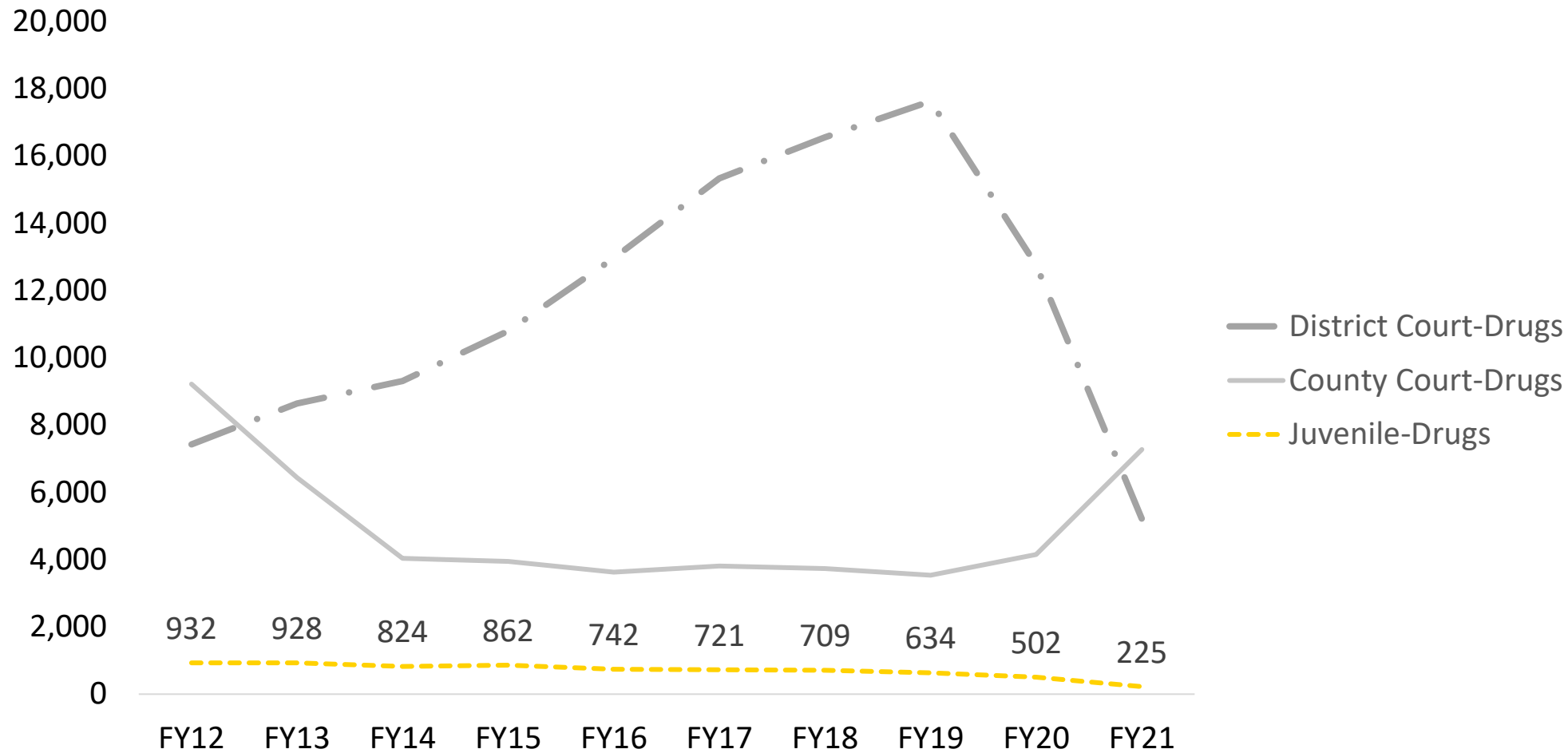
Drug Court Filings, FY12-21



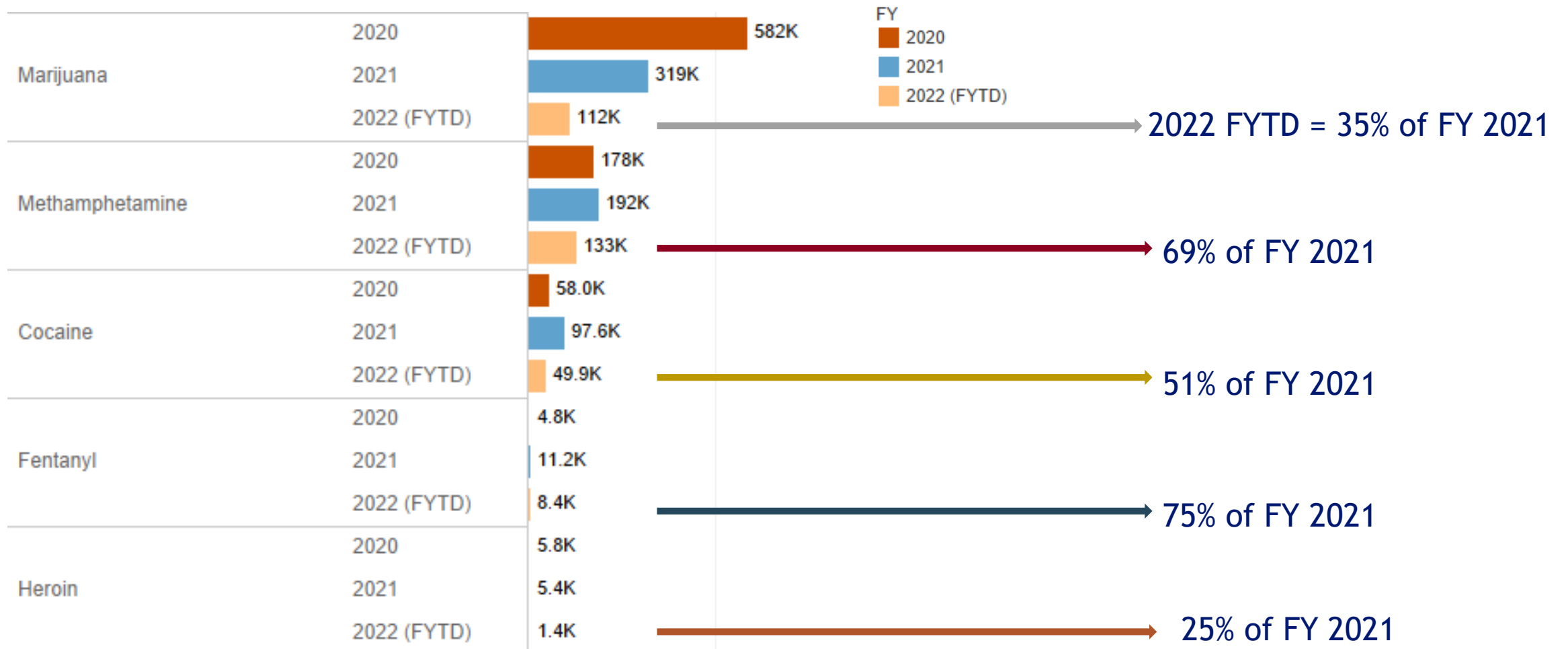
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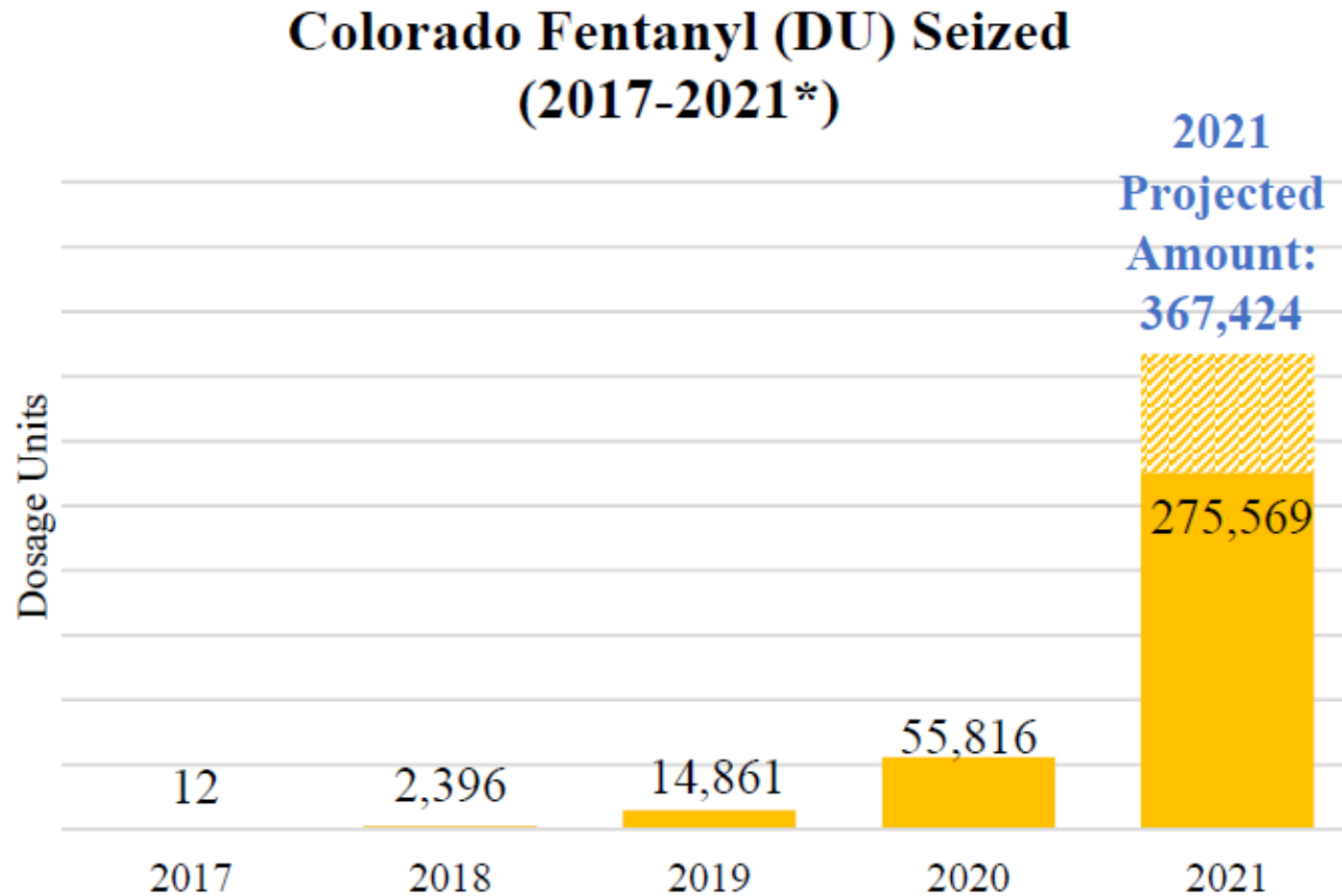
Drug Juvenile Court Filings, FY12-21



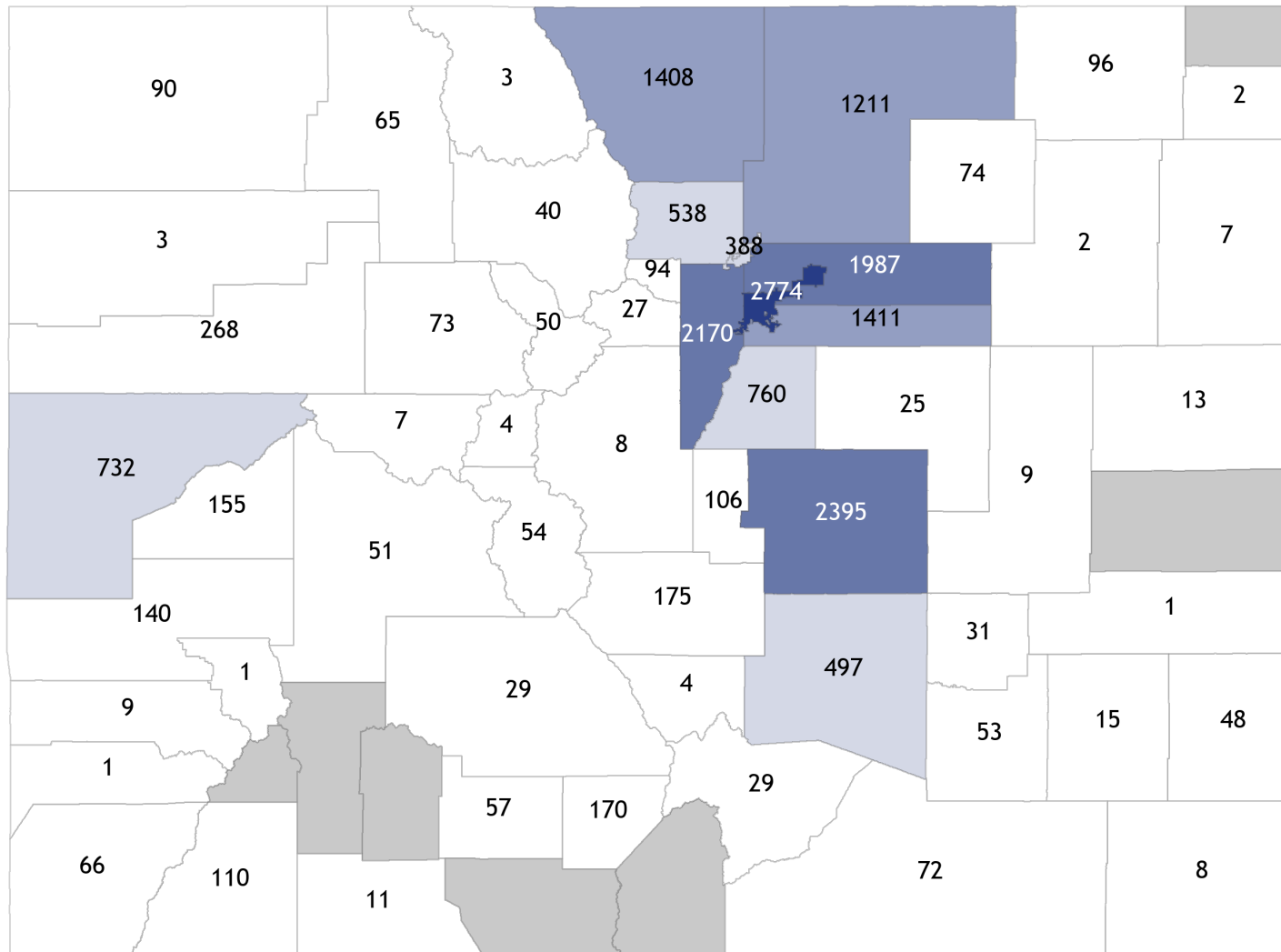
US Customs and Border Patrol seizures (lbs), FY 2020-July 2022



Fentanyl Dosage Units (DU) Seized by Rocky Mountain High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area Task Forces



Drug Seizure Reports by County, 2021

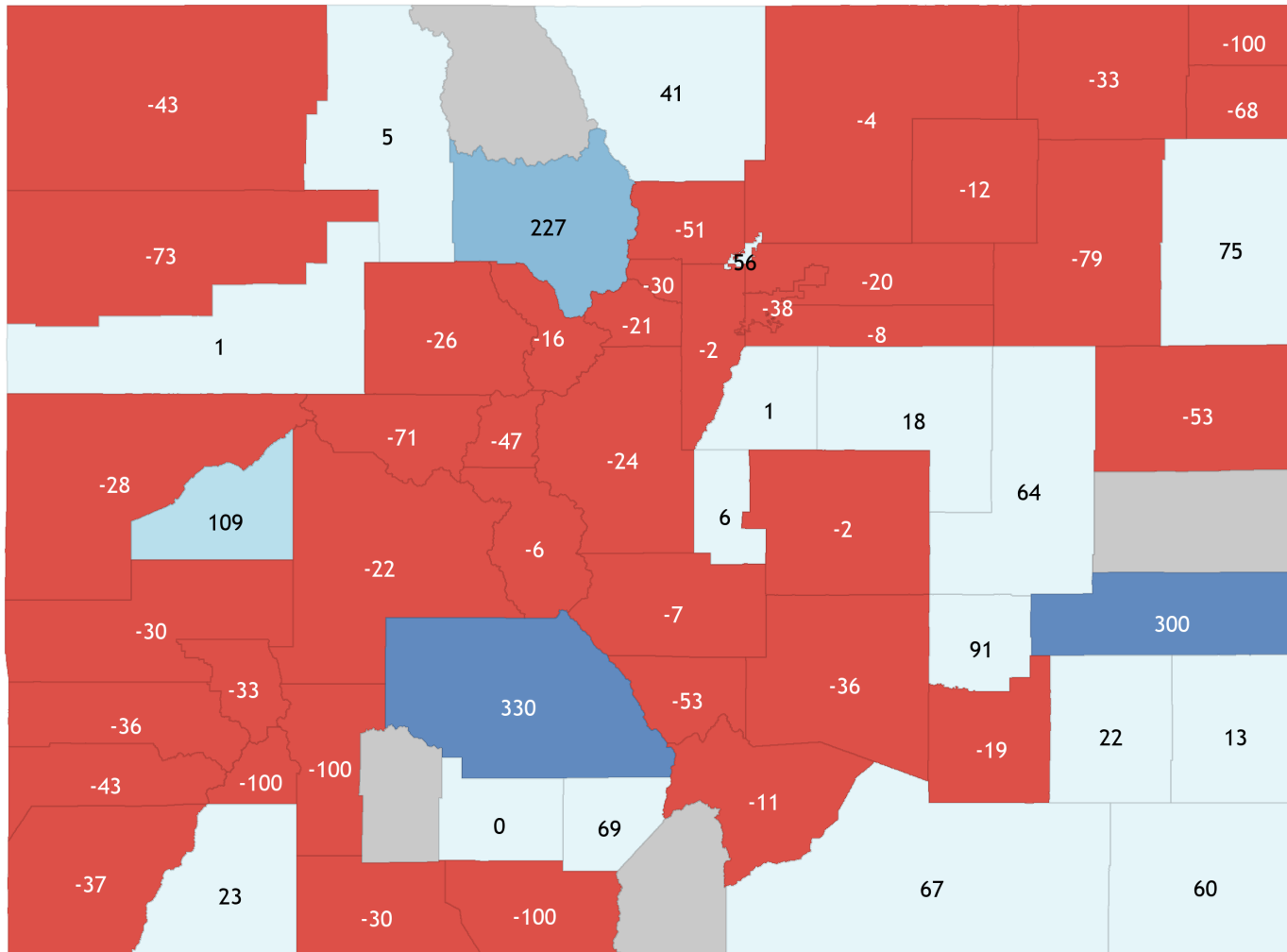


Six counties with the highest seizure reports comprised 66% of all seizures

These include:

- Denver
- El Paso
- Arapahoe
- Jefferson
- Adams
- Larimer

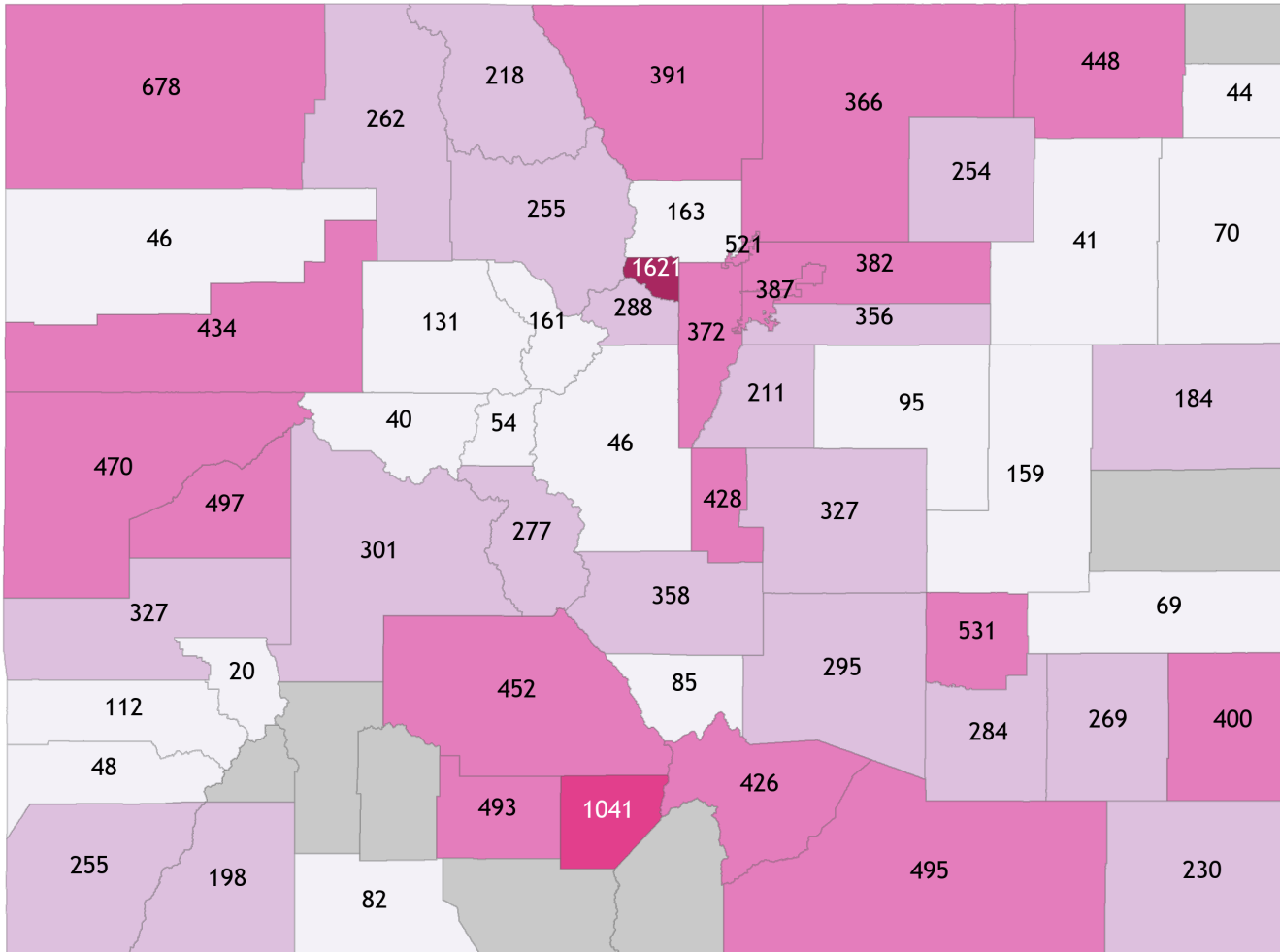
Percentage Differences in Drug Seizure Reports in 2021 from Average Reports from 2016-2019 by County



Percentage differences for the 6 counties with the highest seizure reports

- Denver (-38%)
- El Paso (-2%)
- Arapahoe (-8%)
- Jefferson (-2%)
- Adams (-20%)
- Larimer (41%)

Drug Seizure Reports per 100,000 residents, by County, 2021 & Top 3 Urban and Rural Counties

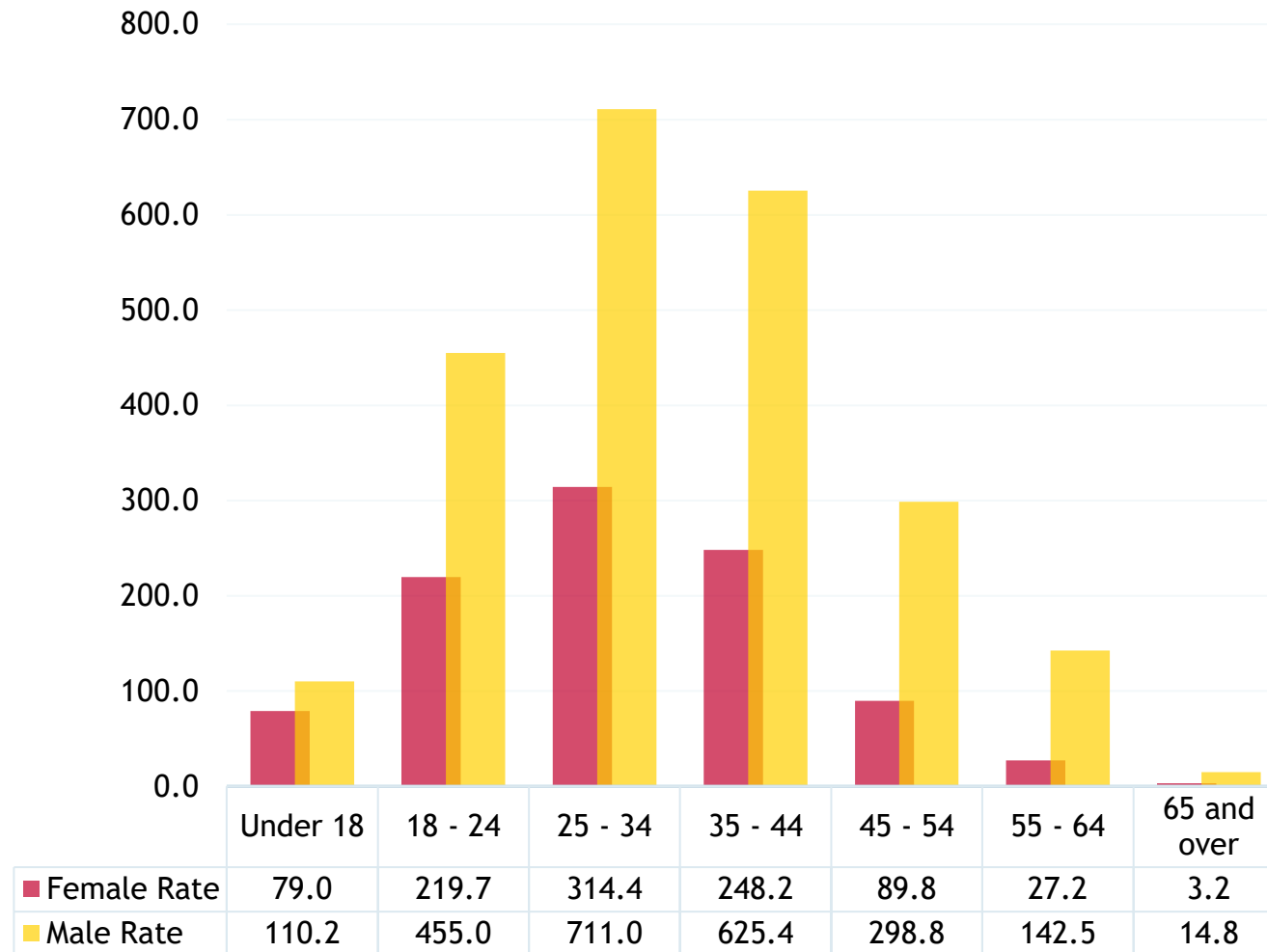


Position	Urban	Rural
1	Gilpin	Alamosa
2	Broomfield	Moffat
3	Mesa	Crowley

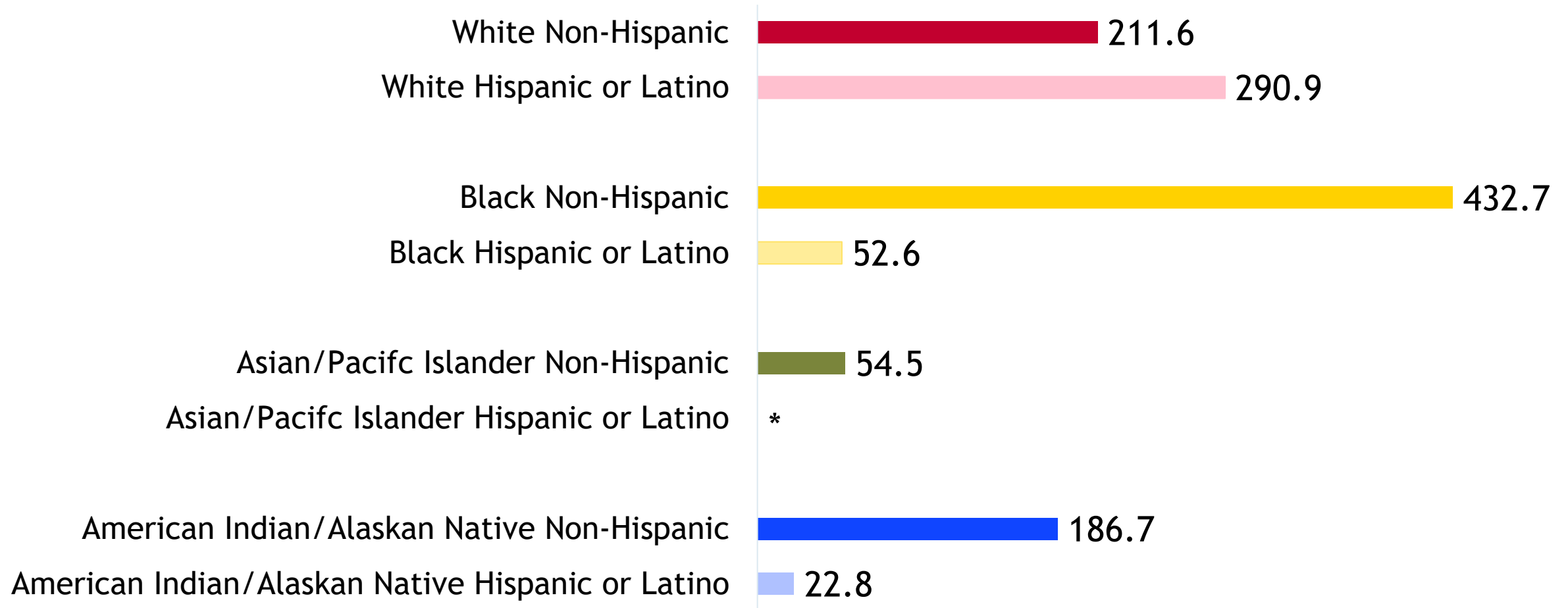
SECTION 2

Demographics

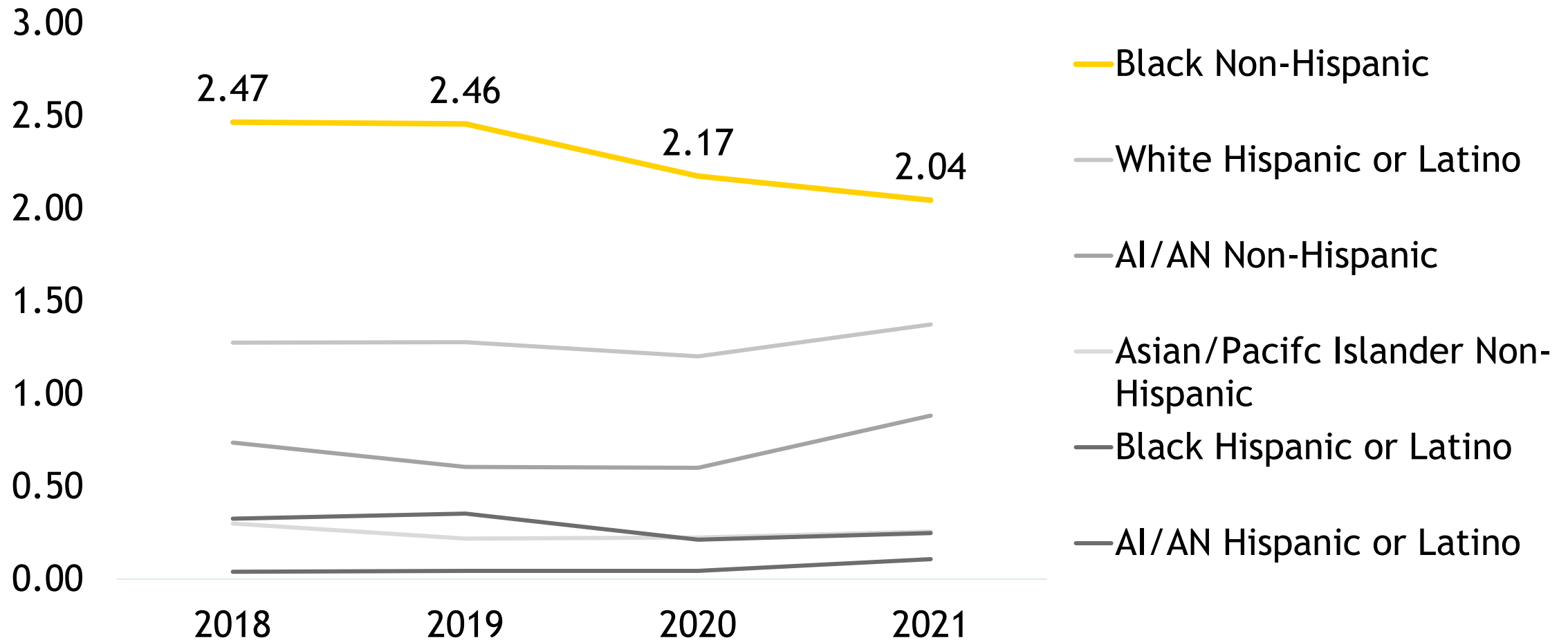
Comparing drug arrest rates per 100,000 residents, by age and sex, Colorado, 2021



Comparing drug arrest rates by race, Colorado, 2021*



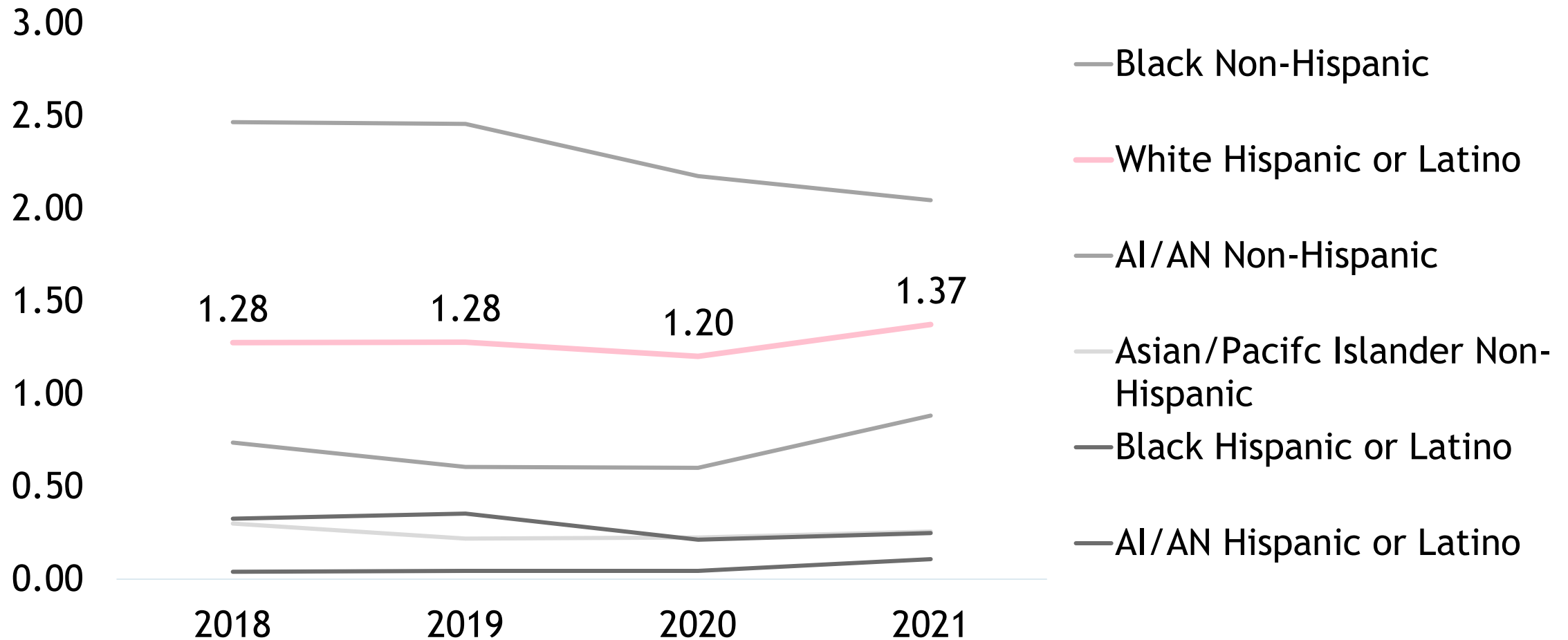
White Non-Hispanic Disparity Drug Arrest Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Colorado, 2018-2021



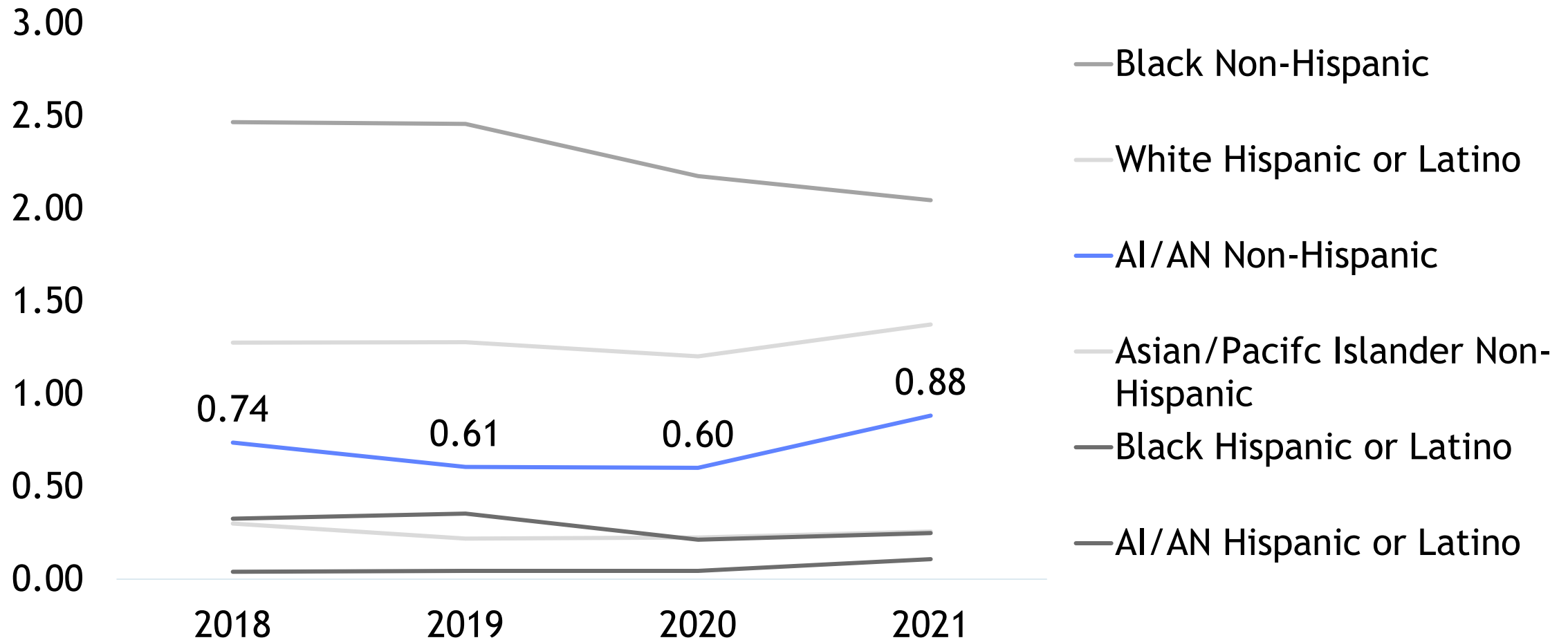
Sources: Colorado Bureau of Investigation, National Incident-Based Reporting System & State Demography Office, Population Estimates.

Drug arrests on this slide refers to drug/narcotics violations and drug equipment violations.

White Non-Hispanic Disparity Drug Arrest Rates by Race/Ethnicity, Colorado, 2018-2021



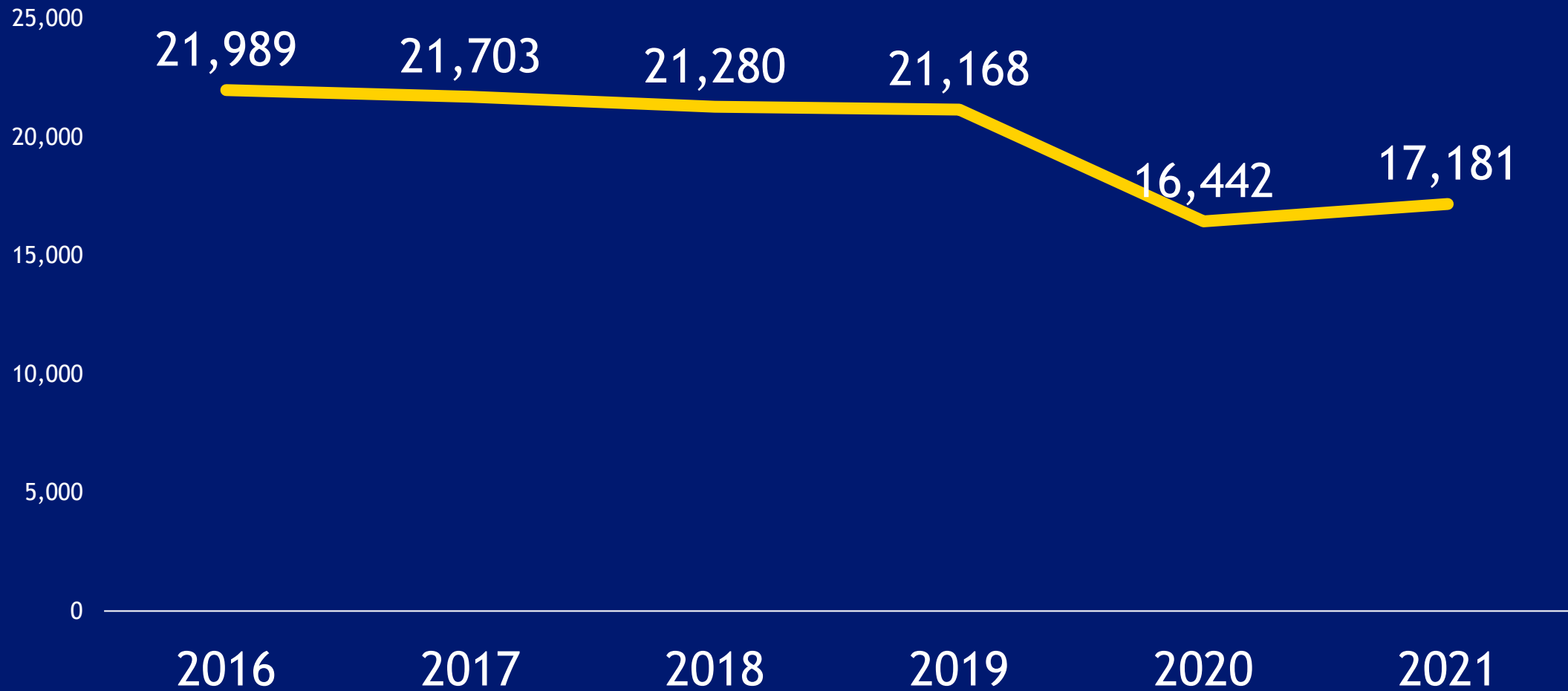
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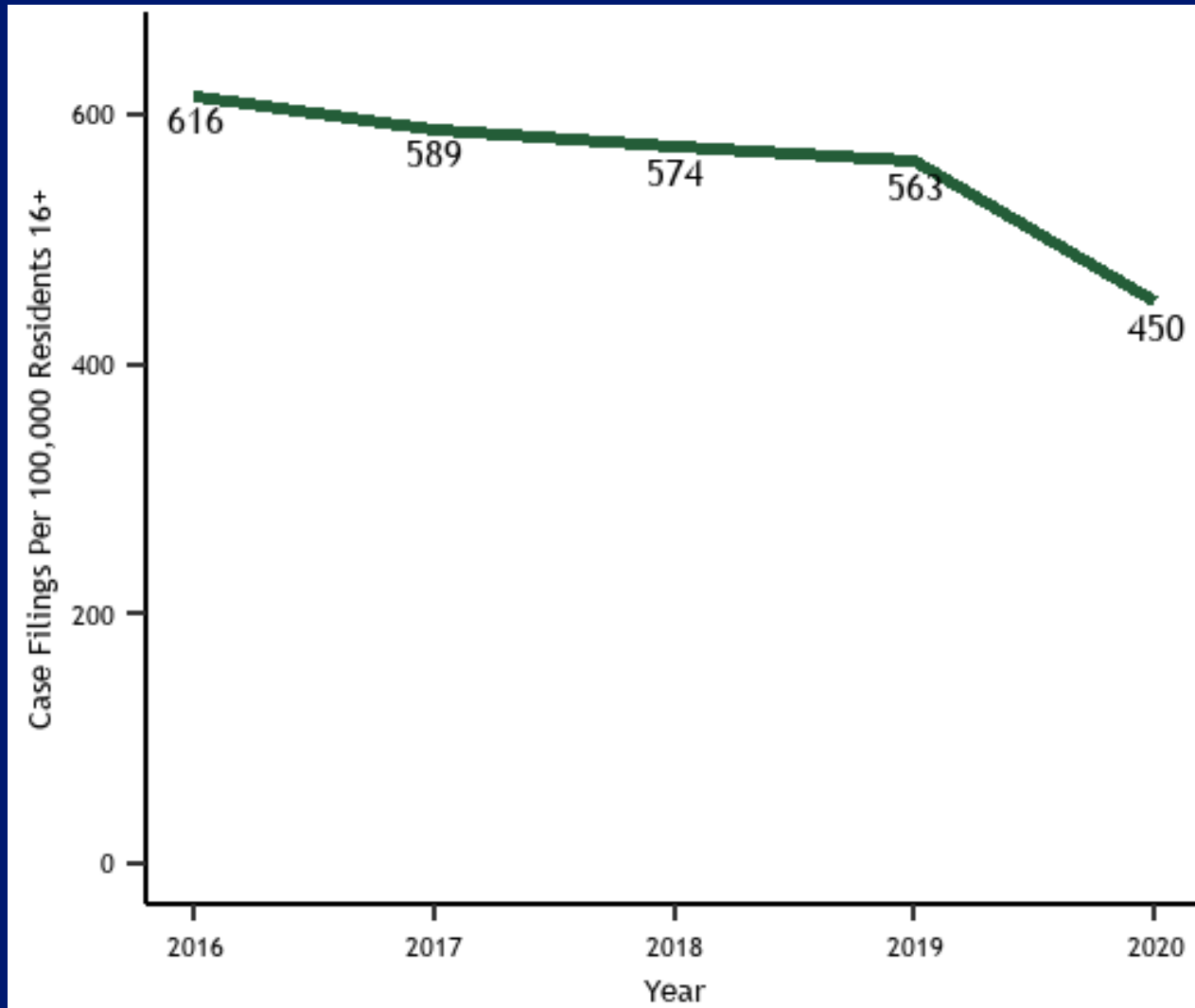
SECTION 3

Impaired Driving Trends

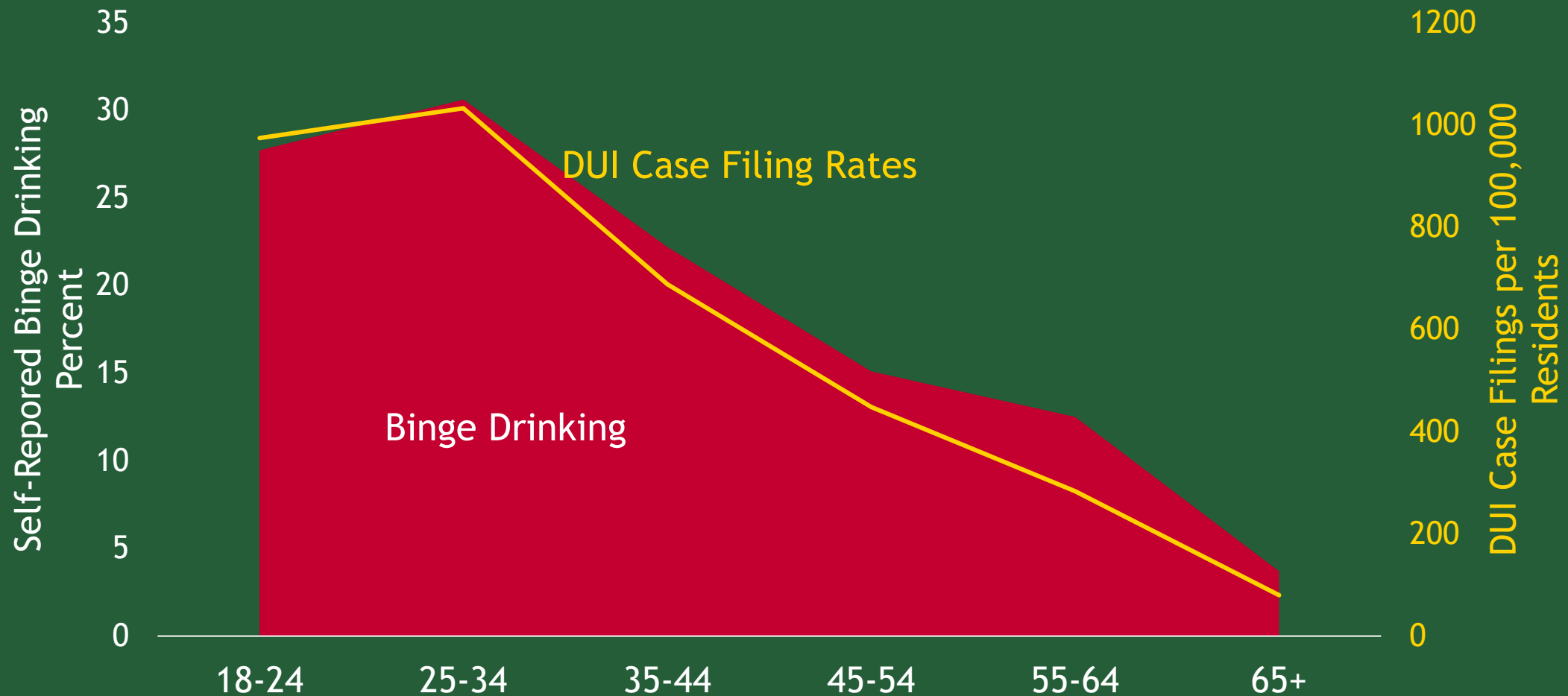
Number of Arrests in Colorado for DUI, 2016 - 2021



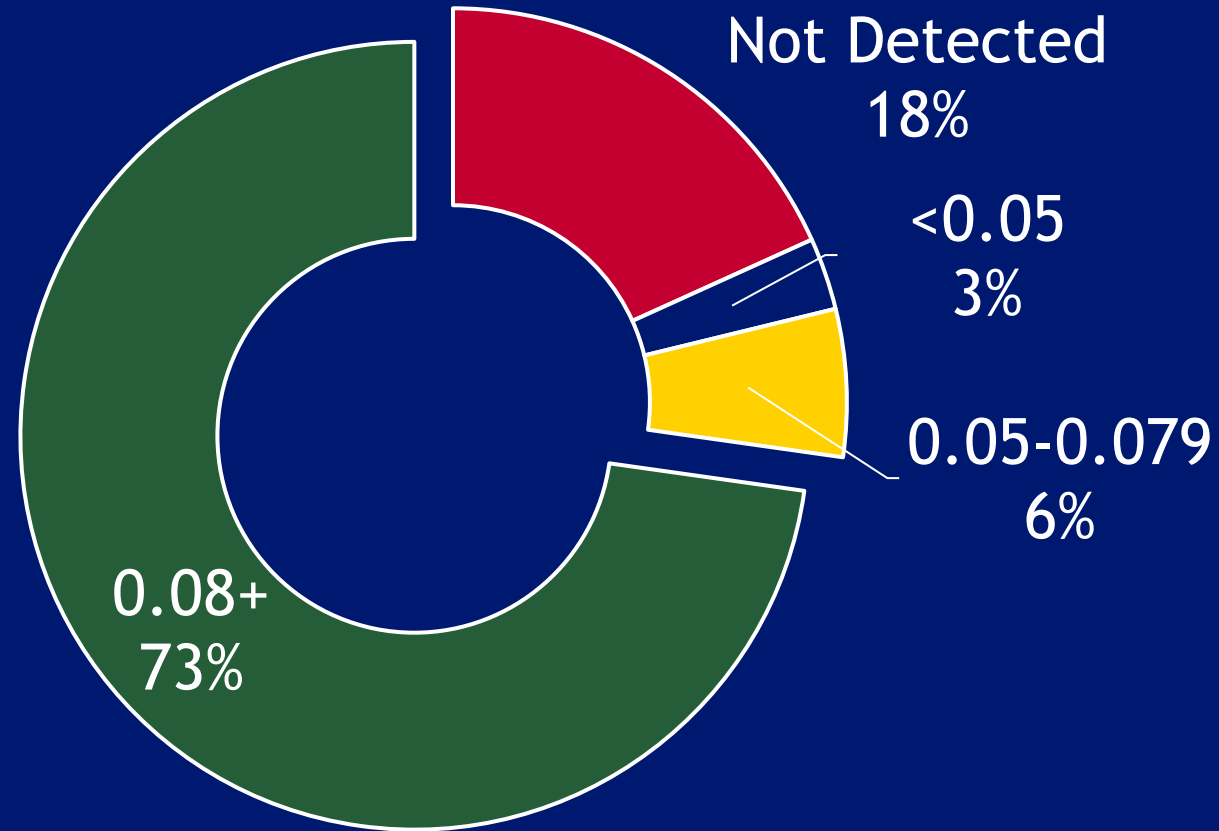
Steady Decline in DUI Cases from 2016-2020



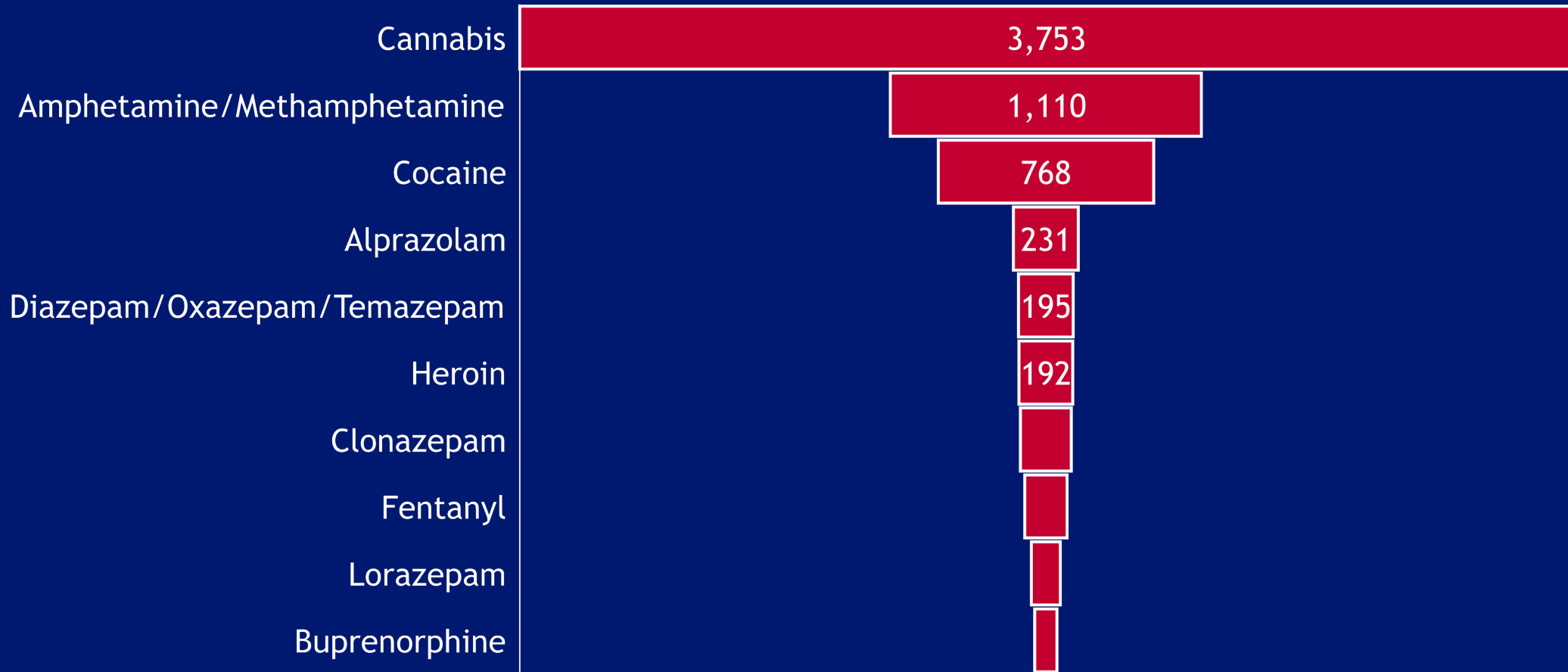
DUI Case Filing Rates Highest in Ages that also Report Highest Binge Drinking Rates, 2019



Blood Alcohol Content for DUI Case Filings with Alcohol Screening, Colorado, 2020 (N = 12,440)

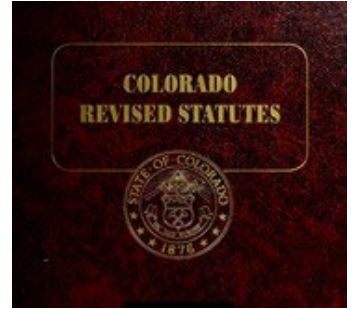
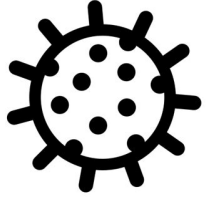


DUI Case Filings with Positive Test Results (N with Drug Screening = 7,705)



Conclusions

Decline in drug-related criminal justice activity; pandemic and defelonization legislation



- Enforcement activities:
 - Decrease in drug arrests for methamphetamine, marijuana, heroin, cocaine and from 2019-2021
 - Decline in DUI arrests 2019-2021
- Decrease in district court drug filings from 2019-21 & impact of defelonization legislation
- Concern over the usefulness of criminal justice measures as a proxy for substance use behaviors in the general population

*Increase in fentanyl-related offenses, seizures,
and presence in DUI toxicology reports*

*Importance of addressing equity and the
criminal justice system: decline in
Black/White drug arrest disparity from 2018-
2021*



Excessive alcohol use prevention is paramount to addressing the public health and safety impact of DUI

Questions & Contact Information

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