

# SUBSTANCE USE TRENDS & HEALTH OUTCOMES

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Colorado Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force  
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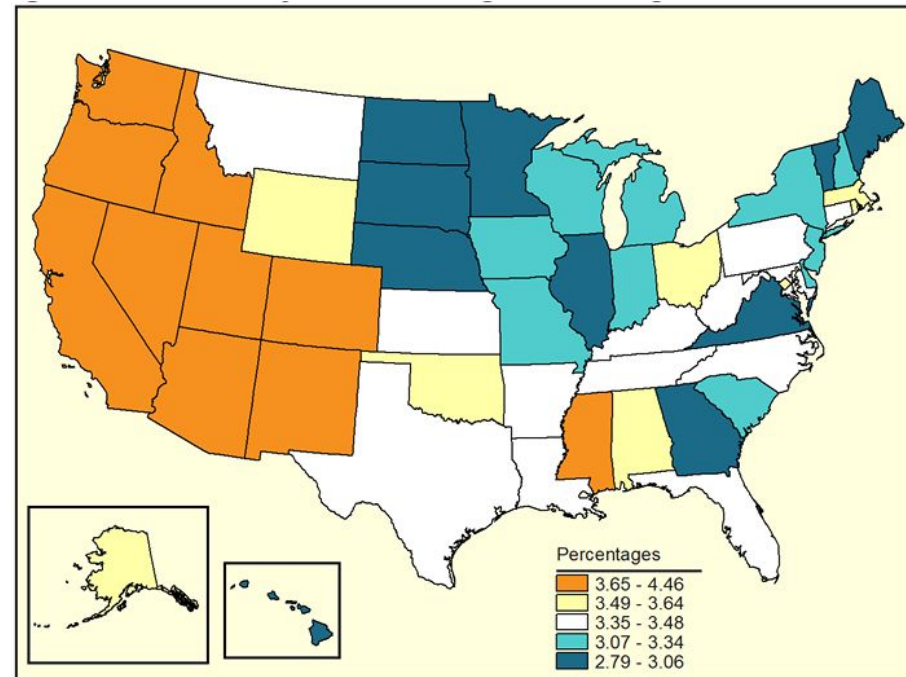
*Indicators  
tracked for  
the Colorado Consortium for  
Prescription Drug Abuse Prevention:*  
**Misuse and Overdose Deaths**



3.7% of Coloradans age 12 or older misused prescription pain relievers in the past year ...

or about 189,000 Coloradans in this age group

*Colorado is still in the **top tier** of states.*



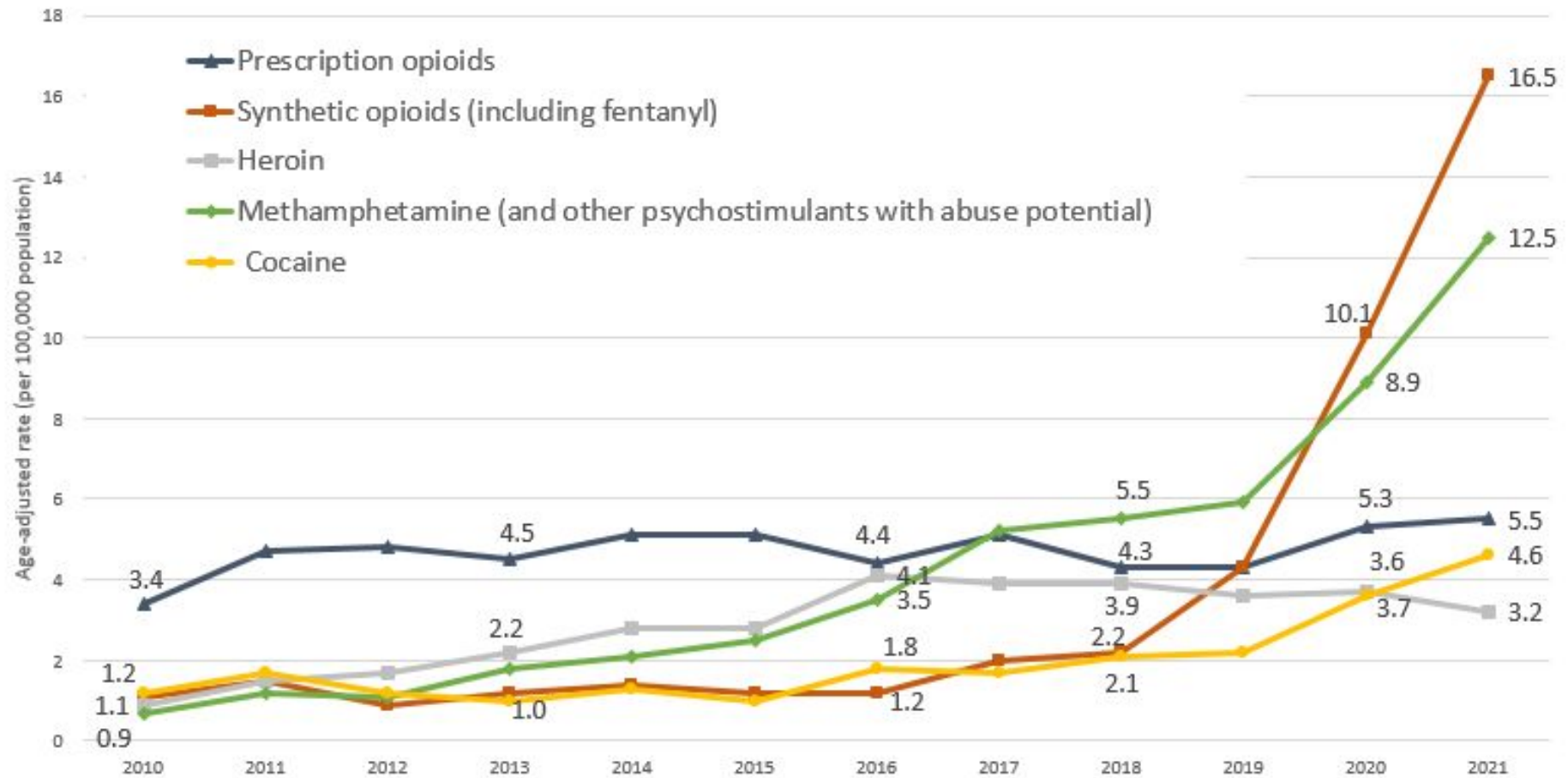
<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-2020-nsd-uh-national-maps-prevalence-estimates-state>

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2019-2020-nsduh-state-prevalence-estimates>

**Substate maps:**

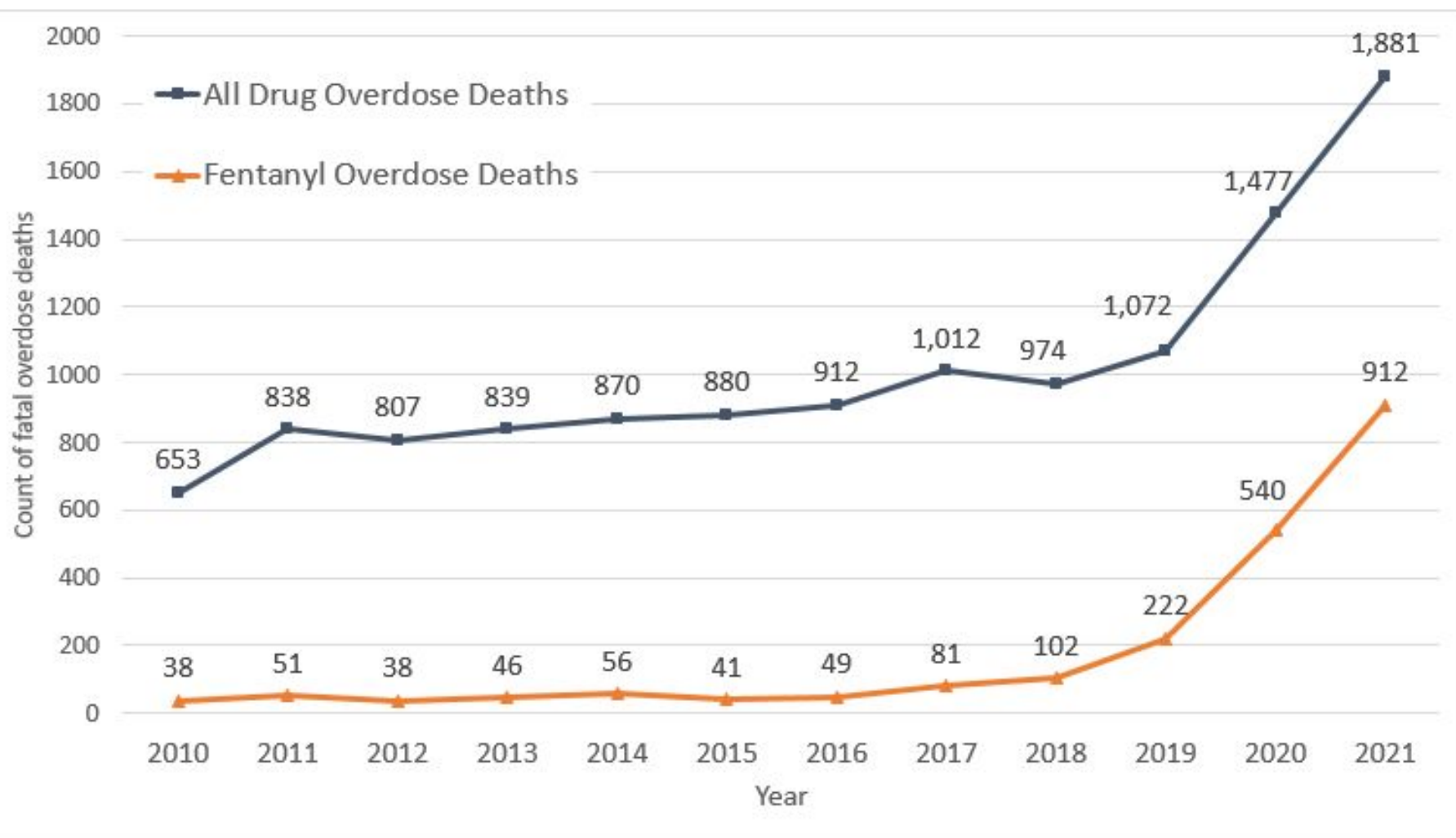
<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/report/2018-2020-nsduh-national-maps-prevalence-estimates-substate-region>

# Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates involving specific substances: CO residents, 2010-2021



Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Fatal Overdose Counts for All Drugs and Fentanyl, Colorado residents, 2010-2021



Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



**COLORADO**  
Department of Public Health & Environment

# 2021 Data Key Points

## Opioids

- The age-adjusted rate of prescription opioid overdose deaths, including fentanyl, increased to 19.7 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2021, from 13.6 deaths in 2020.
- However, when excluding any mention of fentanyl on the death certificate, the prescription opioid overdose death rate was only 4.7 deaths per 100,000 persons in 2021 (from 4.2 deaths in 2020).
- Compared to 2020, the fentanyl death rate in 2021 nearly doubled in 1 year.
- Heroin death rate is stable from 2016-2021.

## Other drugs

- Fentanyl was combined with other drugs, such as cocaine and psychostimulants.
- In 2021, the age-adjusted rate of psychostimulant overdoses was 12.5 deaths per 100,000 persons, an increase from 8.9 deaths in 2019.
- The age-adjusted rate of cocaine overdoses was 4.6 deaths per 100,000 persons, compared to 3.6 death per 100,000 persons in 2020.

# Data Resources

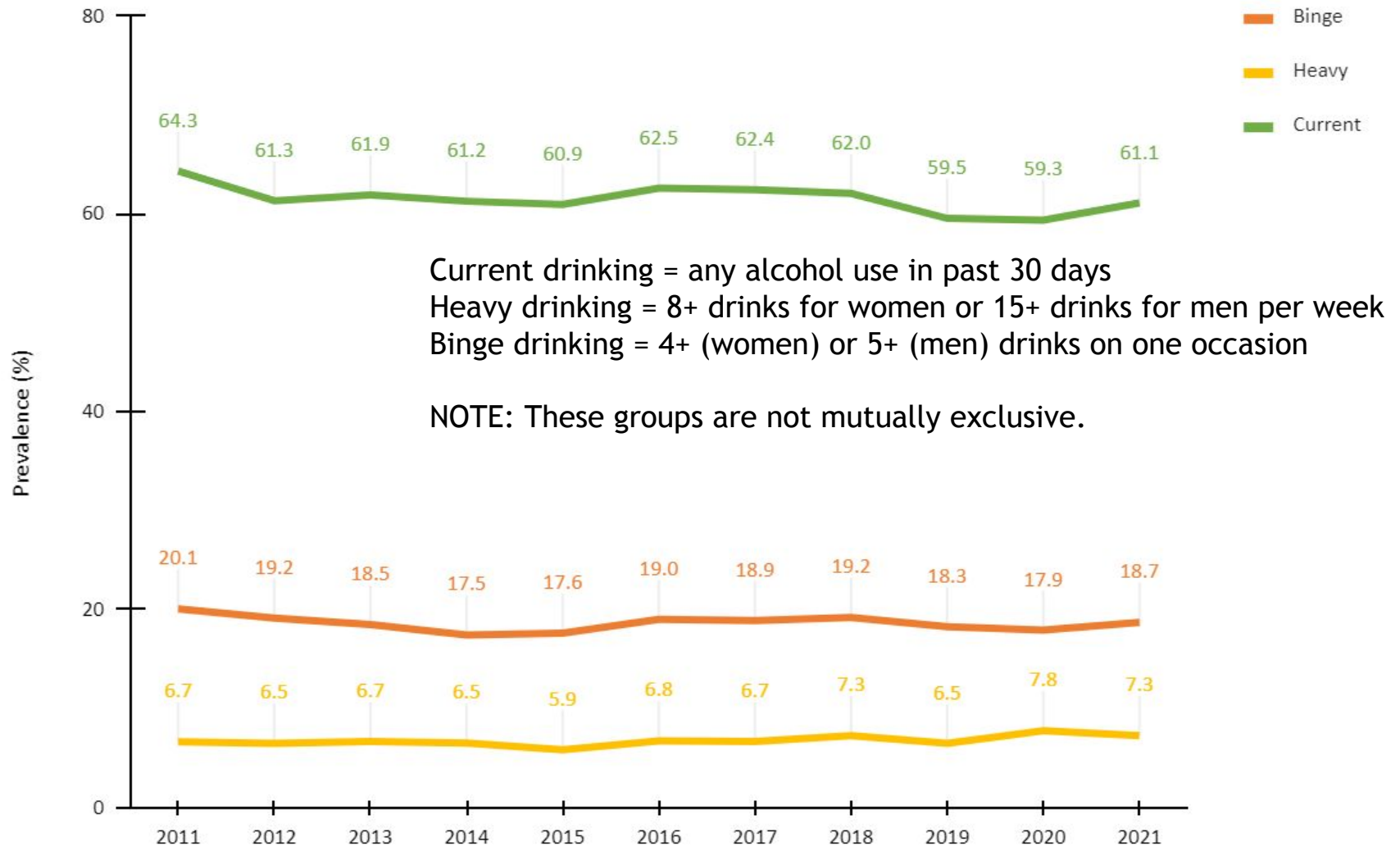
Where to access data?

- [CDPHE Drug Overdose dashboard](#)
- [Consortium Opioid Dashboard](#)
- [Health Watch publications](#)
- [Open Data Portal](#)
- [SEOW page of data resources & dashboards](#)
- [SEOW data publications](#)

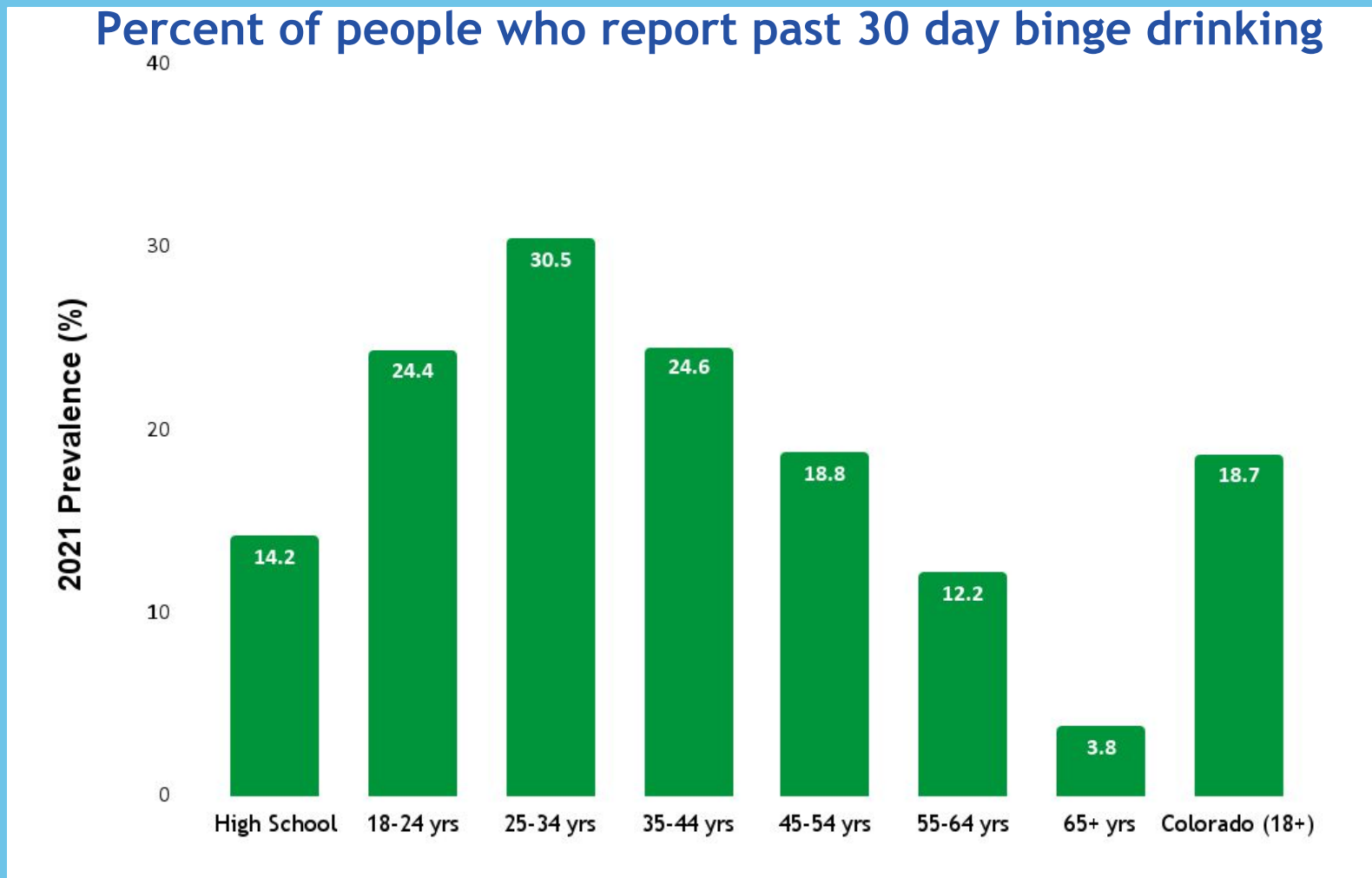
# Updates in Excessive Alcohol Use



# Adult Alcohol Use in Colorado (2011-2021)



# Binge Drinking Across the Lifespan in Colorado



# Alcohol-Related Hospitalizations & ED Visits (2021)

	Frequency	Age-Adjusted Rate
<b>Hospitalizations w/ 100% Alcohol Attributable Diagnosis</b>	34,116	562 hospitalizations per 100,000 persons
<b>ED Visits w/ 100% Alcohol Attributable Diagnosis</b>	67,268	1,143 ED visits per 100,000 persons

- The majority of hospitalizations or ED visits that included an alcohol-related diagnosis were for either alcohol abuse or alcohol dependence.
- Very few visits included a code for BAC measurement.
- Alcohol involvement is likely under-reported in both the hospital and ED setting since it is typically a secondary factor. These numbers reflect only visits where a dx was given for one or more 100% alcohol attributable conditions.

# Recent national findings on alcohol and other substances

- Binge drinking is associated with use of other substances as well as concurrent prescription drug misuse
  - 4 times greater odds of substance use among people who binge drink compared to non-binge drinkers
  - people who binge drink were 2 times as likely to report concurrent prescription drug misuse
- Using alcohol at the same time as other substances is known to increase the risk of overdose or injury

## SUMMARY: ALCOHOL

- Alcohol is still the most prevalently used substance in Colorado.
- Binge drinking is not just a youth or young adult issue, but younger people tend to consume more alcohol when they do binge drink.
- Alcohol screening in hospital settings could provide a more complete picture of alcohol-related harms.

# Updates in Monitoring Marijuana in Colorado

**Presenter: DeLayna Goulding**  
**Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment**

# Youth Marijuana Use, Colorado 2021

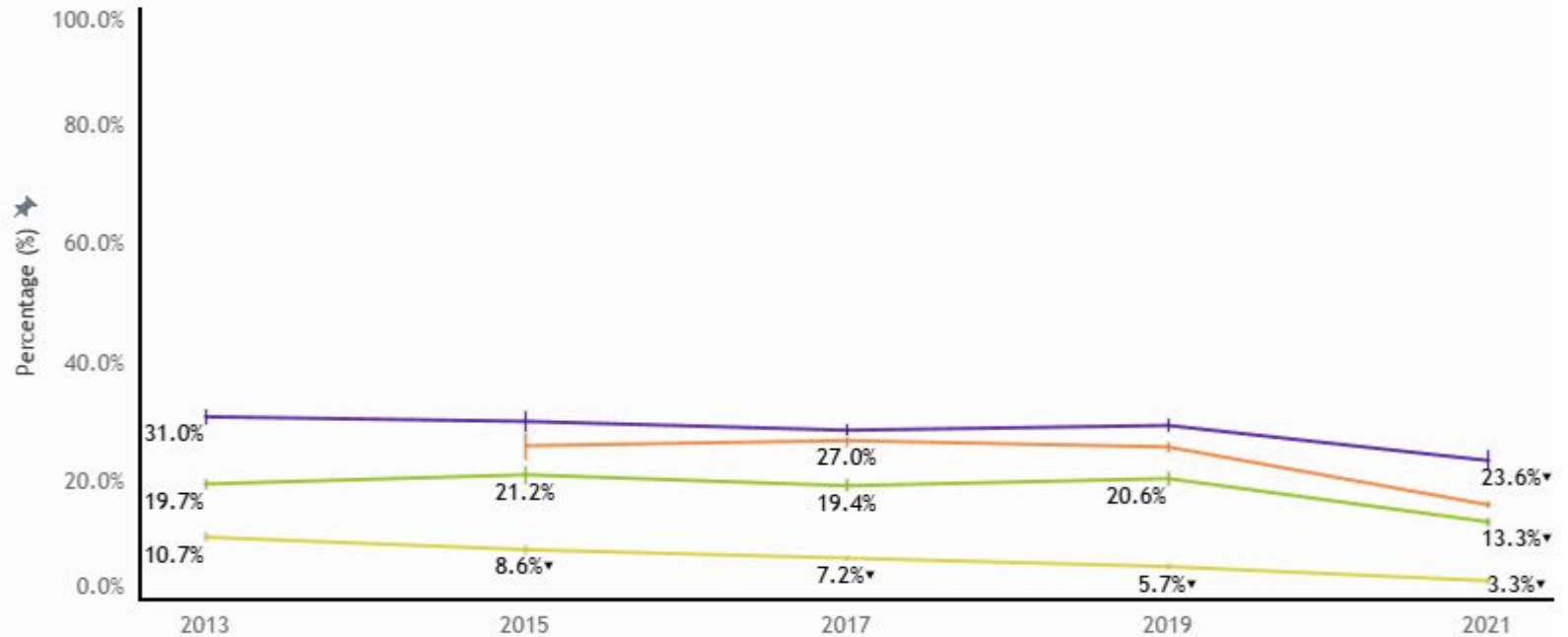
**13.3%**  
High School Students  
Used marijuana 1+ times past 30 days

**3.0%**  
Middle School Students  
Used marijuana 1+ times past 30 days

**12.5%**  
High School Students  
Rode 1+ times with driver who was using marijuana past 30 days

**5.5%**  
High School Students that Drove  
Drove 1+ times using marijuana past 30 days

Past 30 Day Substance Use among High School Students, Colorado 2013 to 2021



**Figure Notes**

Significant decrease (\*) or increase (★) compared to previous year determined by non-overlapping 95% Confidence Intervals (bars on line)  
Denominator includes all respondents except those with missing responses

- Marijuana
- Alcohol
- Cigarettes
- Vapor Products (Tobacco)

# Method of Marijuana Use, 2021

Among the **13.3%** of high school students that used marijuana in the past 30 days:

**79.5%**

Smoked marijuana at least one time in the past 30 days

**49.2%**

Dabbed marijuana at least one time in the past 30 days

**39.1%**

Vaporized marijuana at least one time in the past 30 days

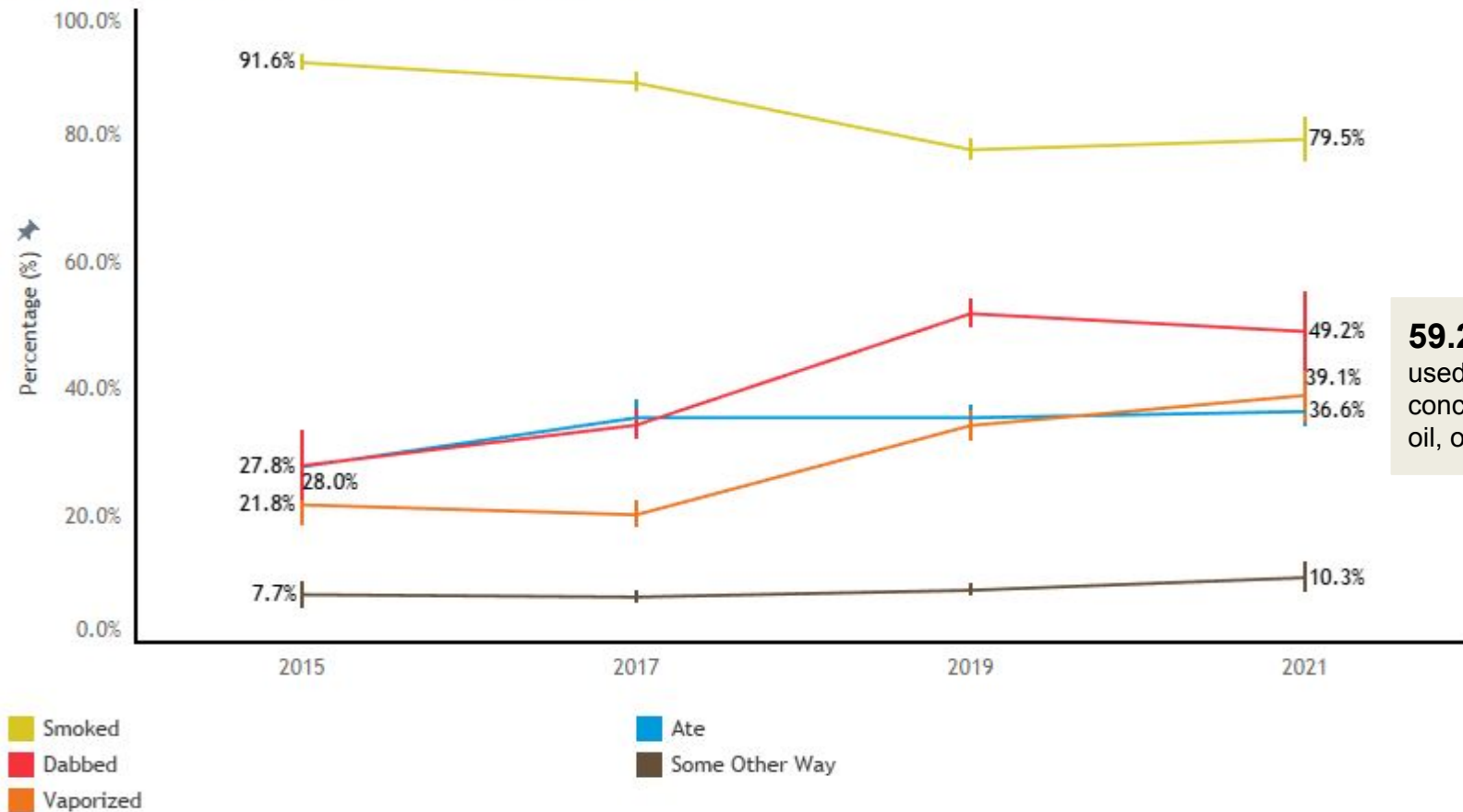
**36.6%**

Ate marijuana at least one time in the past 30 days

**10.3%**

Used marijuana some other way at least one time in the past 30 days

## Method of Marijuana Use, Colorado 2015 to 2021





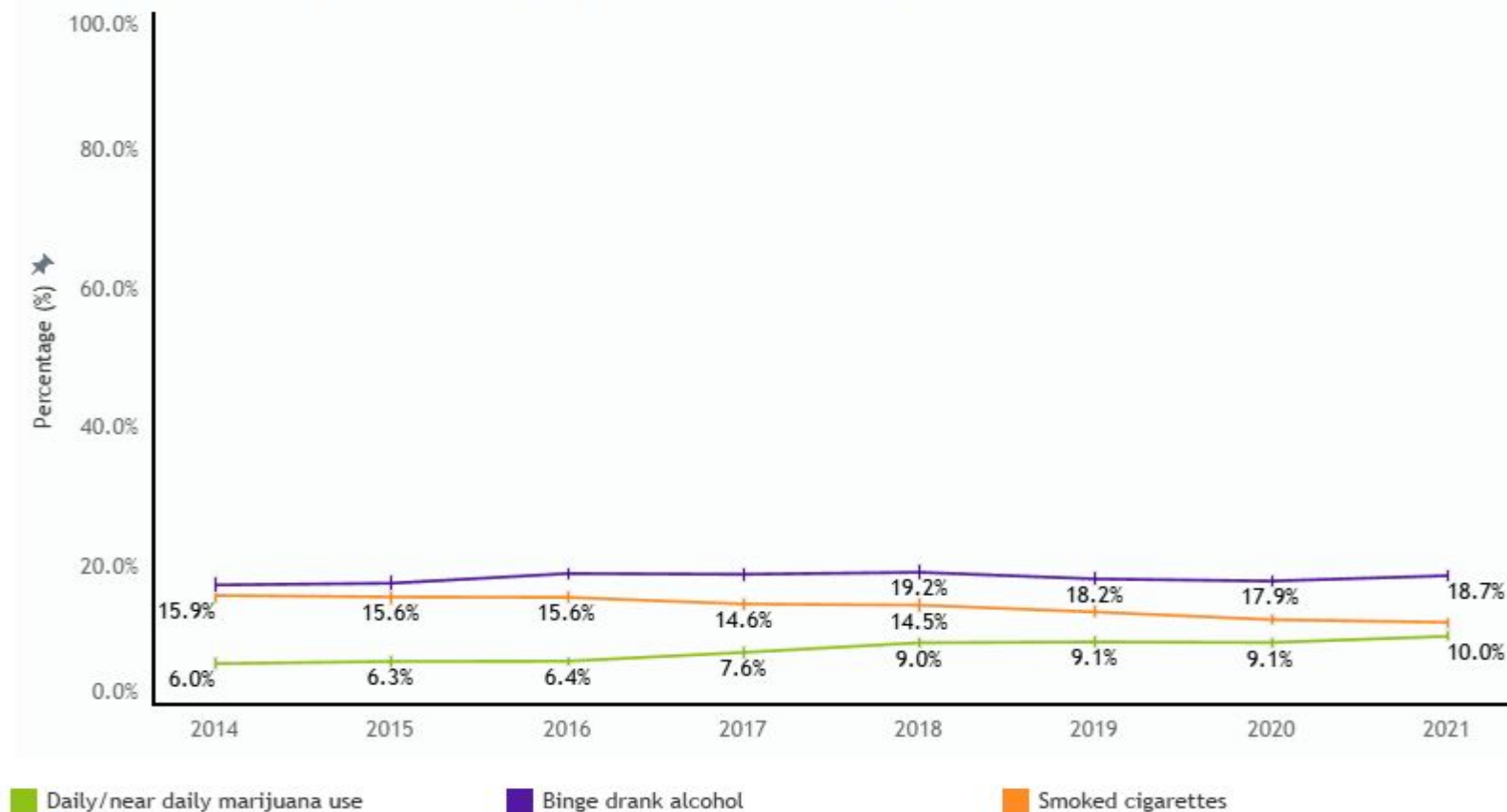
# Adult Marijuana Use, Colorado 2021

19.0%  
used marijuana at least once in past 30 days

10.0%  
used marijuana daily/near daily in the past 30 days

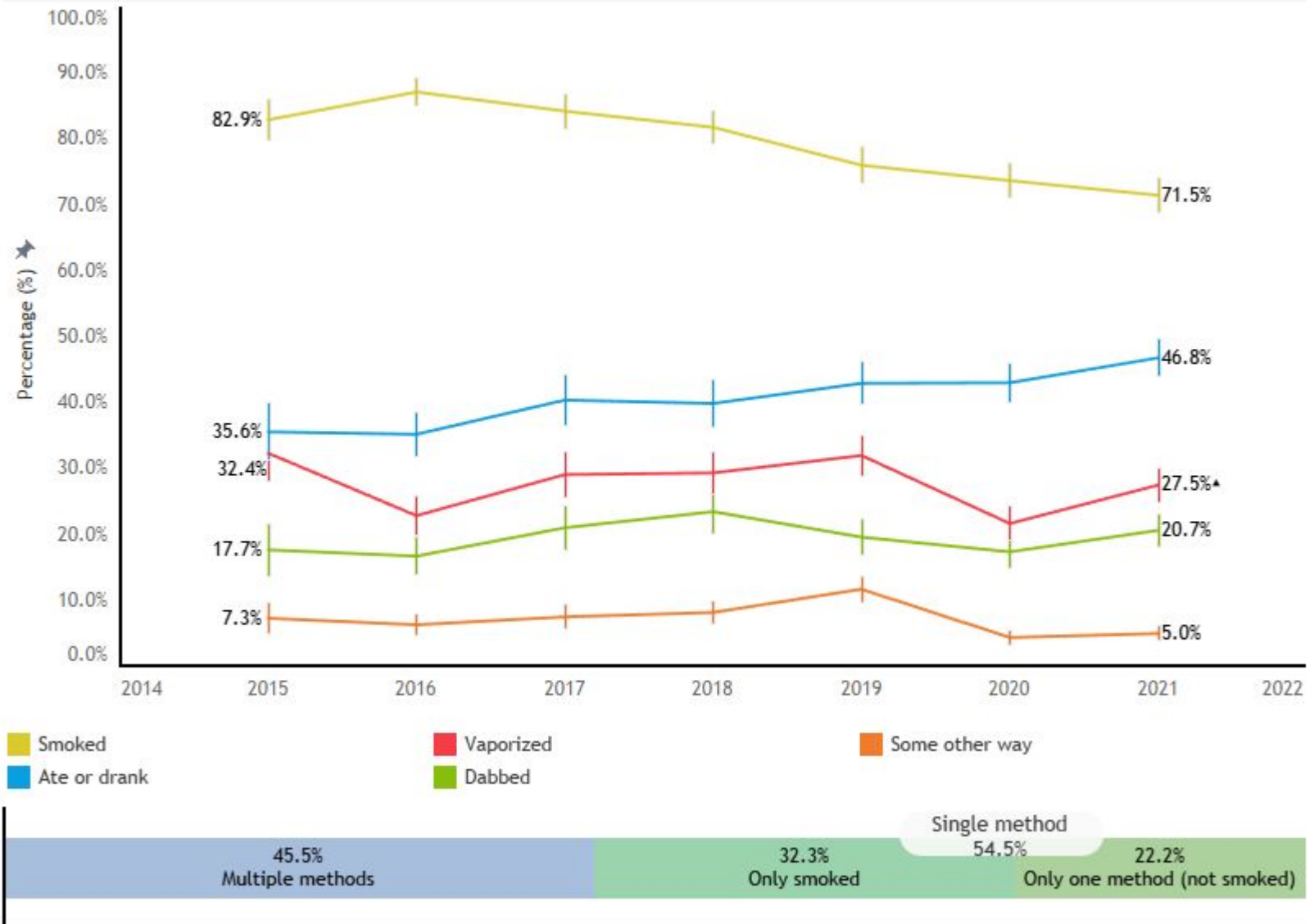
3.3%  
drove after recent marijuana use

Percentage of Past 30 Day Substance Use among Colorado Adults, Colorado 2014 to 2021



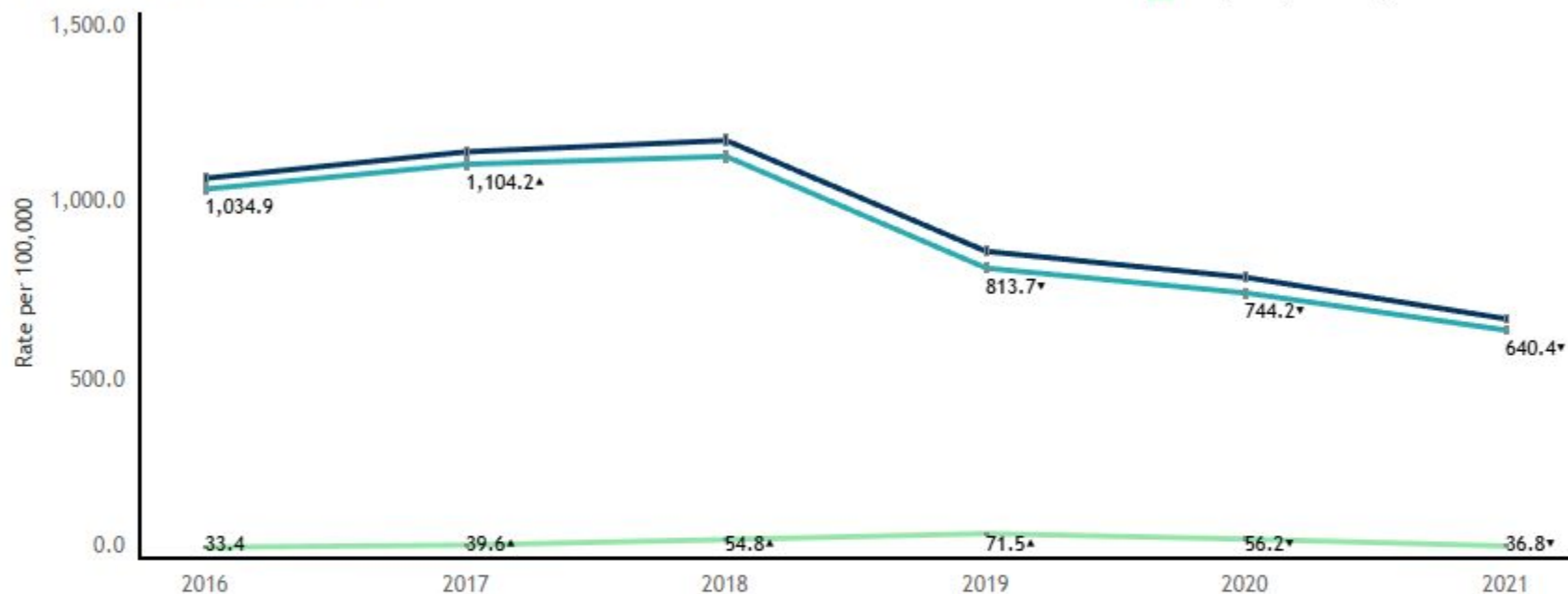
# Method of Marijuana Use

Among Adult Marijuana Consumers, Colorado 2015 to 2021



# Annual Emergency Department Discharge Rate Cannabis ICD-10-CM Billing Codes per 100,000 Discharges Colorado 2016 to 2021

- Marijuana, All Codes
- Marijuana, Abuse, Dependence, Use
- Marijuana, Poisoning



These codes are intended for billing purposes. Presence of a marijuana code does not mean marijuana caused the health event.

### Figure Notes

Significant decrease (\*) or increase (▲) compared to previous year

When comparing 2019 to 2021 the Discharge Rate increased among:

**5 years old and younger**

48.0 to 89.1 Marijuana codes per 100,000 Discharges ▲

**5 years old and younger**

36.7 to 75.9 Marijuana Poisoning codes per 100,000 Discharges ▲

## Reported Marijuana Exposures, Colorado 2021

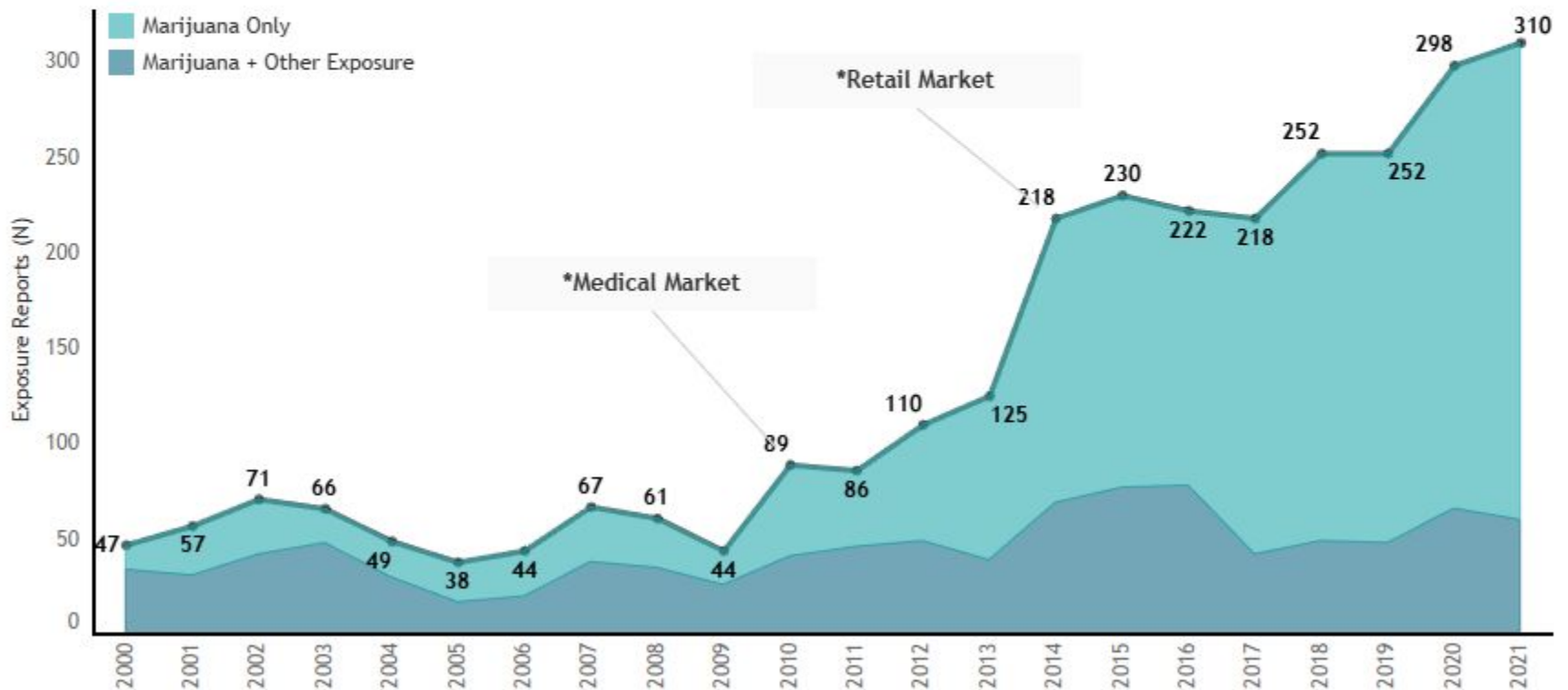
In 2021, there were 34,229 human exposures reported to RMPDS and 310 (0.9%) were marijuana exposures.

48.7%  
5 years old and younger

56.5%  
Edible

57.7%  
Unintentional

### Annual Frequency of Reported Marijuana Exposures, Colorado 2000-2021



\*The largest percentage increases in reported marijuana exposures to RMPDS occurred when adult use cannabis retail and medical markets opened to the public in 2014 & 2010, respectively.

# SUMMARY: MARIJUANA

## From 2019 to 2021

- Decreases in marijuana use and marijuana-related vehicle safety in youth, but no changes in adults
- No changes in methods of marijuana use
  - Smoking most prevalent
  - Dabbing & vaporizing second among youth
  - Eating/drinking second among adults
- Decreases in ED/hospital discharges with marijuana-related codes
- Increases in marijuana-related outcomes among children 5 years old or younger



# THANKS!

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# Q & A



