

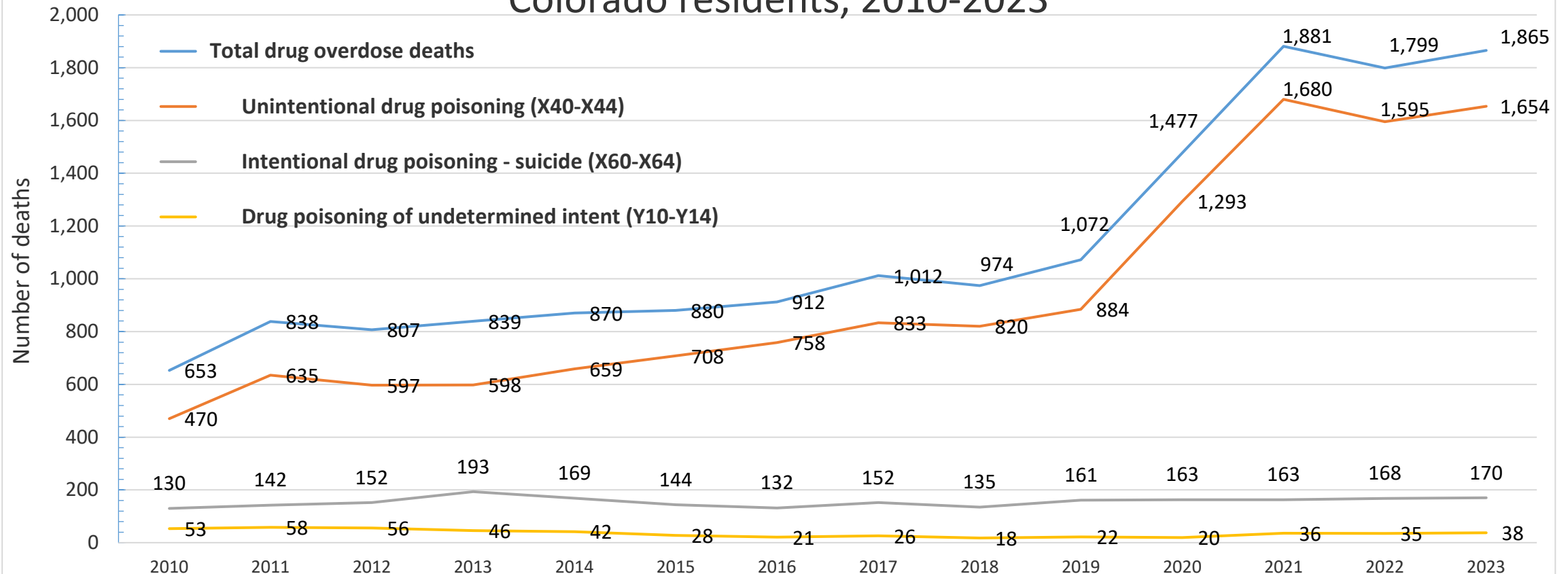
Trends in Fatal and Nonfatal Drug Overdoses in Colorado

Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force
June 21, 2024

Christine Demont, MPH - Data Analyst/Epidemiologist
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Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

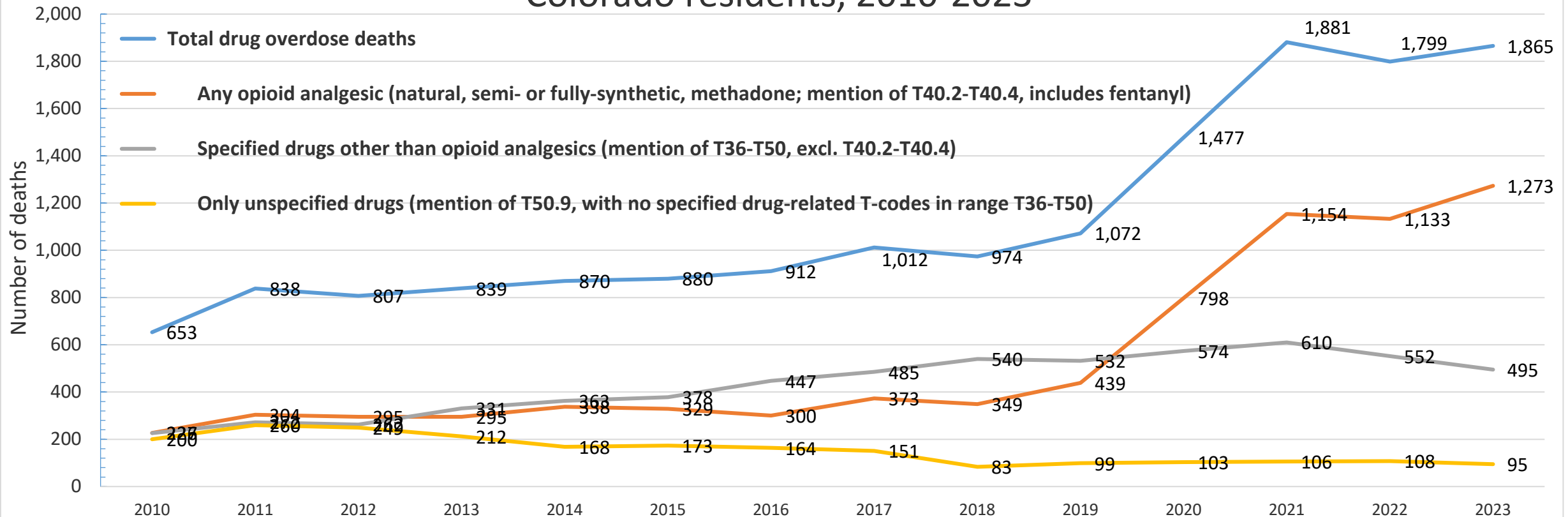
Current trends in overdose mortality

Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement:
Colorado residents, 2010-2023



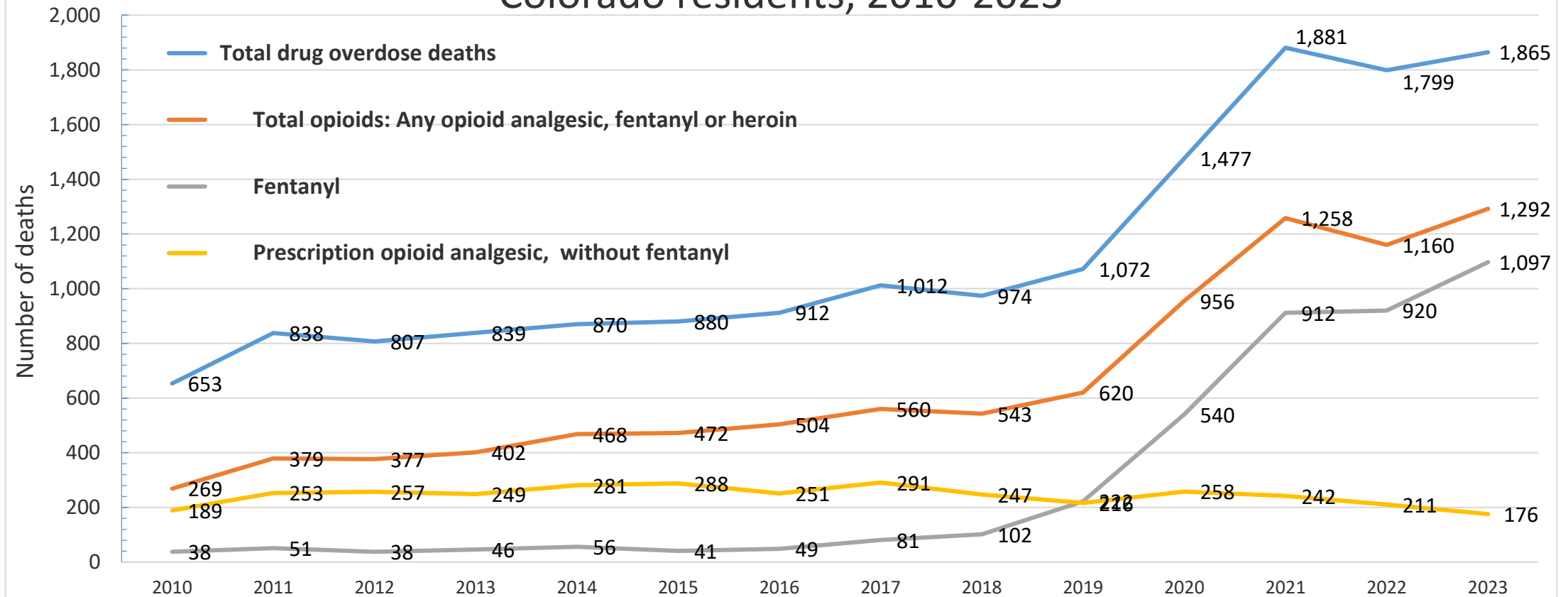
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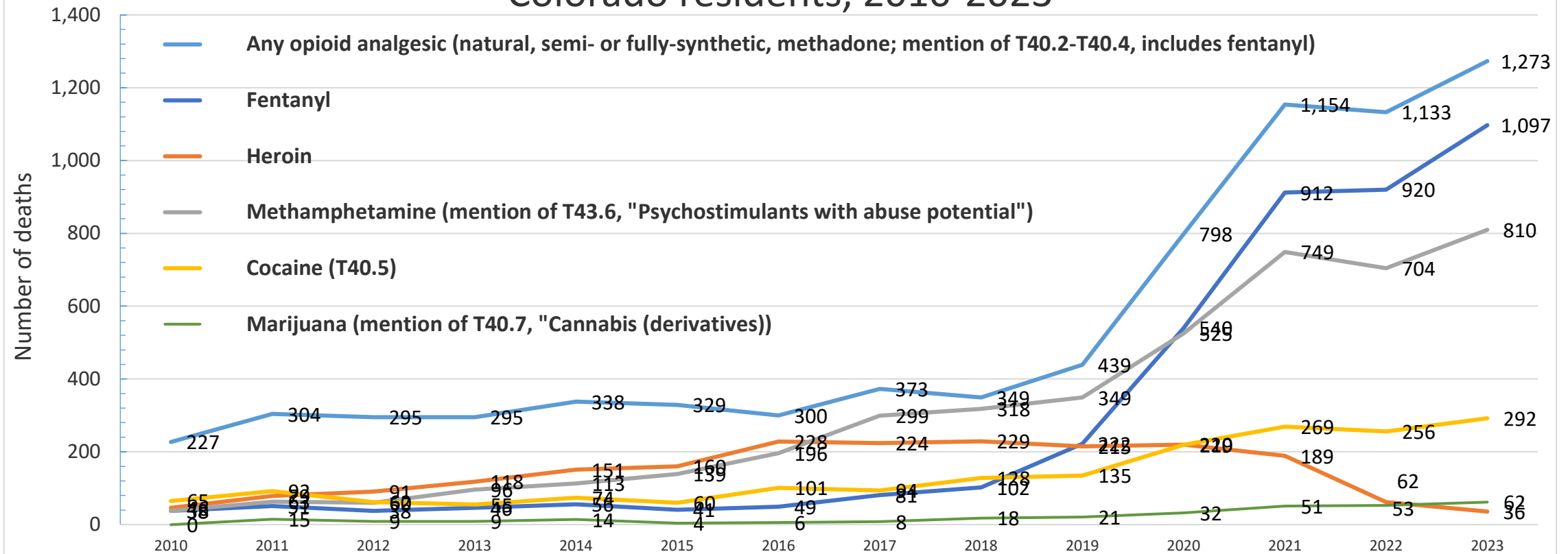
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Deaths involving more than one substance will be counted in each respective category.

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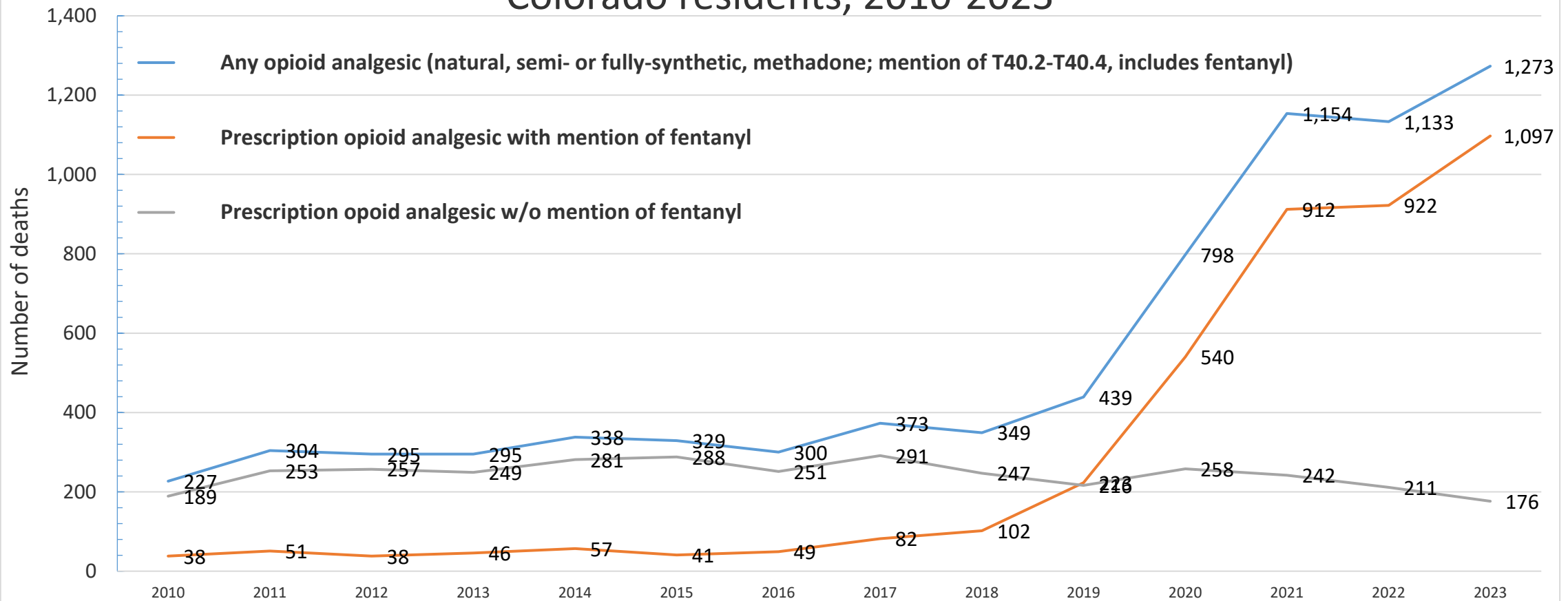
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Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment.

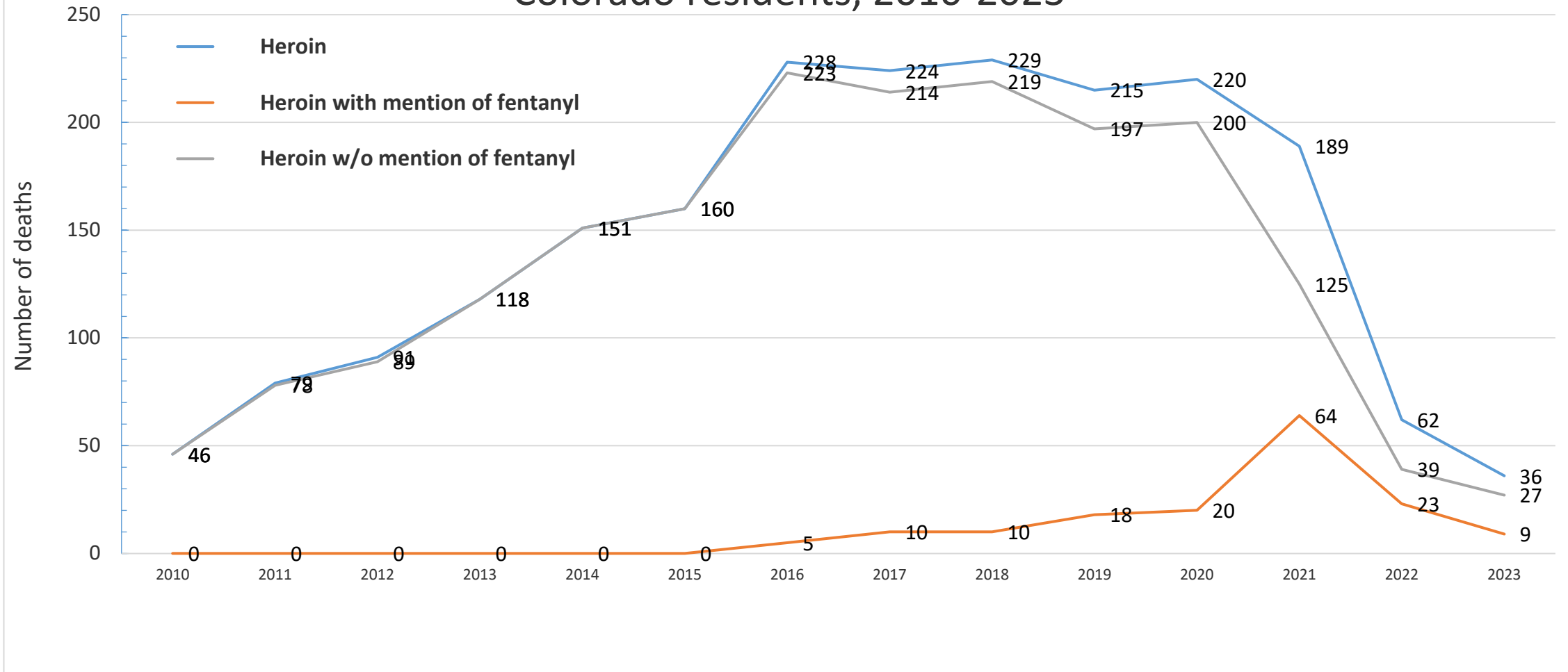


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Source: Vital Statistics Program, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

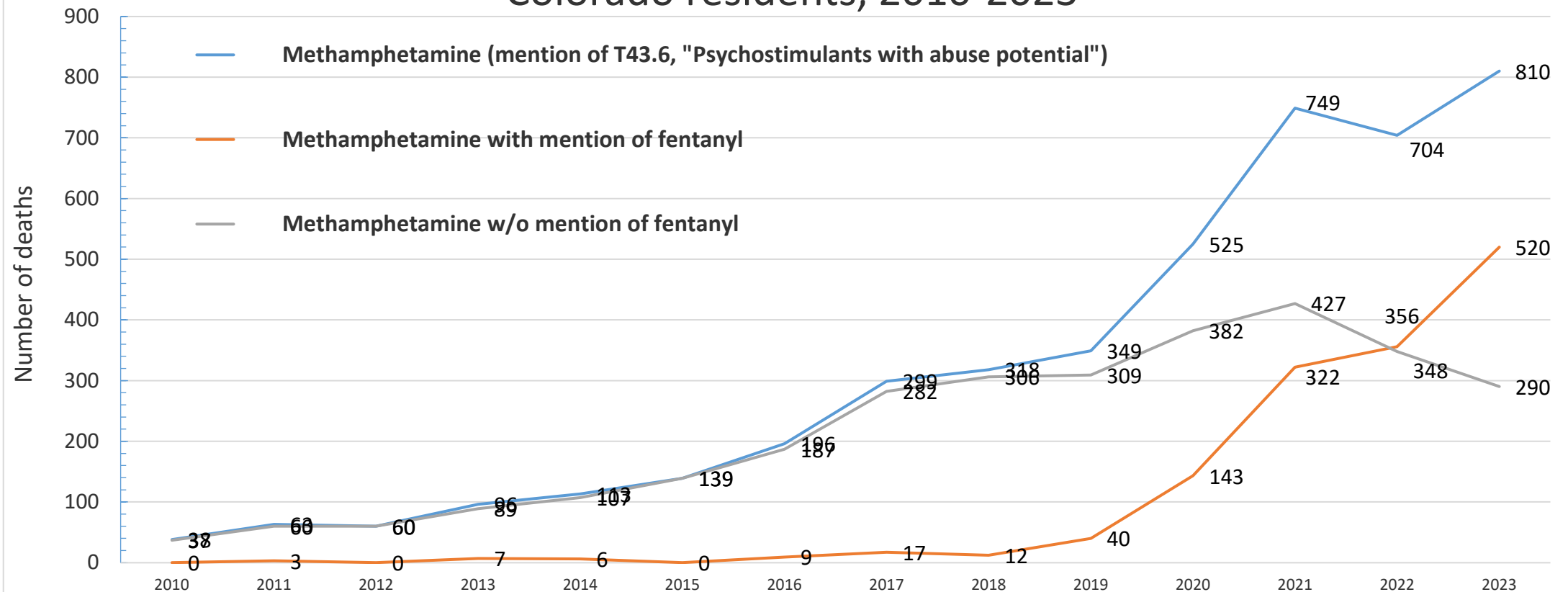
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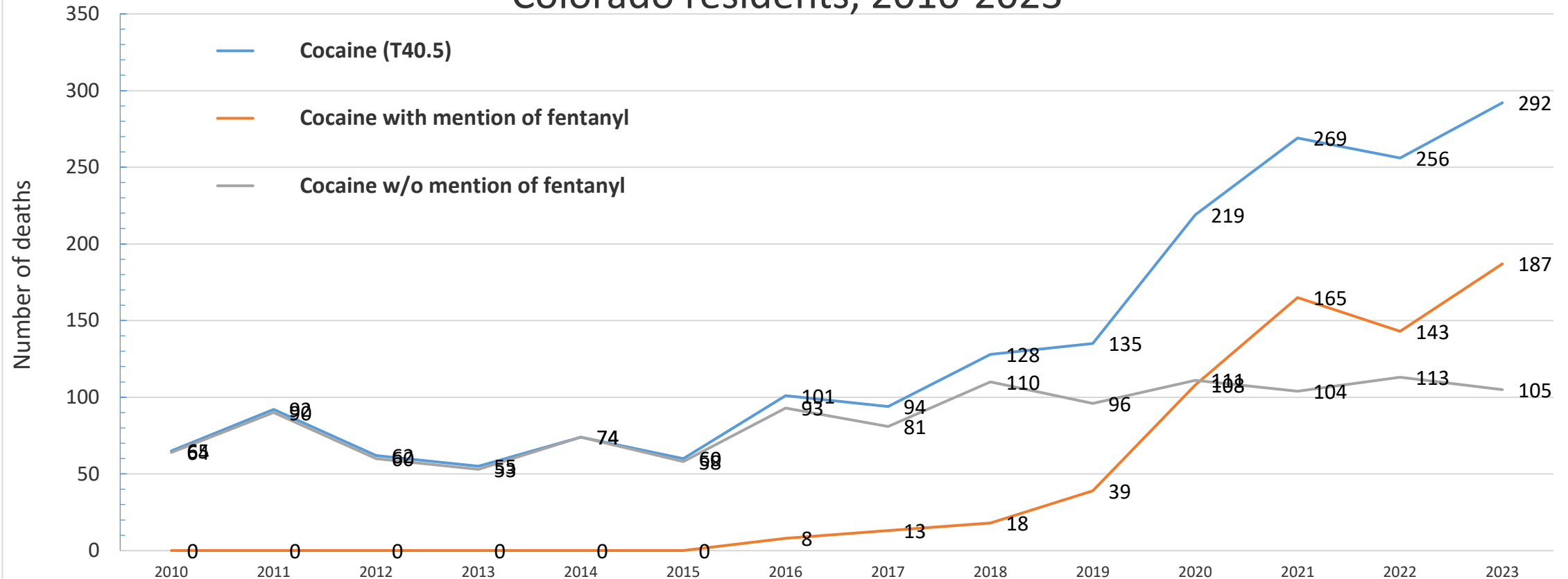
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State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

- Developed and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the OD2A* grant
- Administered in 49 states and District of Columbia (Colorado funding started in 2019)
- Data collected from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and postmortem toxicology reports
- Captures over 600 variables for overdoses of unintentional or undetermined intent
- Collect Who, When, Where, How in order to understand the WHY

*OD2A: Overdose Data to Action grant



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Characteristics and circumstances

Table 1. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) by selected demographic occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.

Demographic category	Overdose decedents (N)	Percent of total
Age group		
0-14 years	20	0.4%
15-24	541	10.4%
25-34	1,347	25.9%
35-44	1,305	25.1%
45-54	899	17.3%
55-64	822	15.8%
65+	276	5.3%
Sex group		
Male	3,647	70.0%
Female	1,563	30.0%
Race/ethnic group		
White, non-Hispanic	3,234	62.1%
White, Hispanic	1,232	23.7%
Black/African American	429	8.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	54	1.0%
American Indian	132	2.5%
Other/unknown race	129	2.5%
Veteran status		
Non-veteran	4,787	91.9%
Veteran	318	6.1%
Unknown/missing	105	2.0%

Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Characteristics and circumstances

Table 2. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) by decedent residence: Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.

Residence information	Overdose deaths (N)	Percent of total
County of residence type		
Frontier	111	2.1%
Rural	396	7.6%
Urban	4,043	77.6%
Non-Colorado resident	244	4.7%
Unknown/missing	416	8.0%
Homeless status		
Not homeless	4,657	89.4%
Homeless	496	9.5%
Unknown/missing	57	1.1%



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Characteristics and circumstances

Table 3. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) by scene evidence of drug use, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.

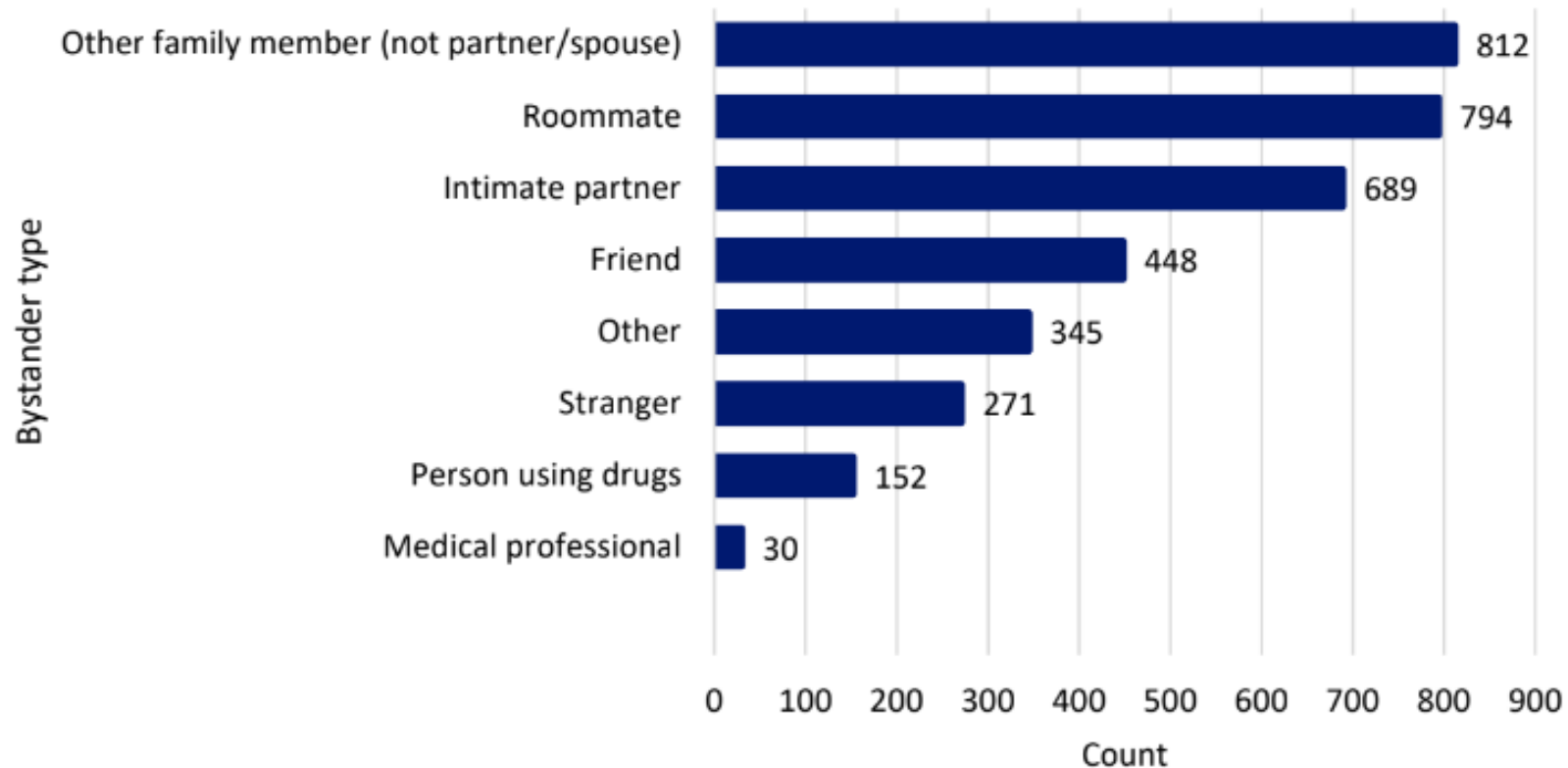
Scene evidence of drug use	Overdose deaths (N)	Percent of deaths with scene evidence of drug use
Any evidence of drug use	3,526	67.7%
Evidence of illicit drugs	1,789	50.7%
Evidence of prescription drugs	1,399	39.7%
Evidence of smoking	1,256	35.6%
Evidence of ingestion	1,208	34.3%
Evidence of injection	758	21.5%
Evidence of snorting/sniffing	657	18.6%
Evidence of rapid overdose	483	13.7%
Evidence of transdermal	27	0.8%



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Characteristics and circumstances

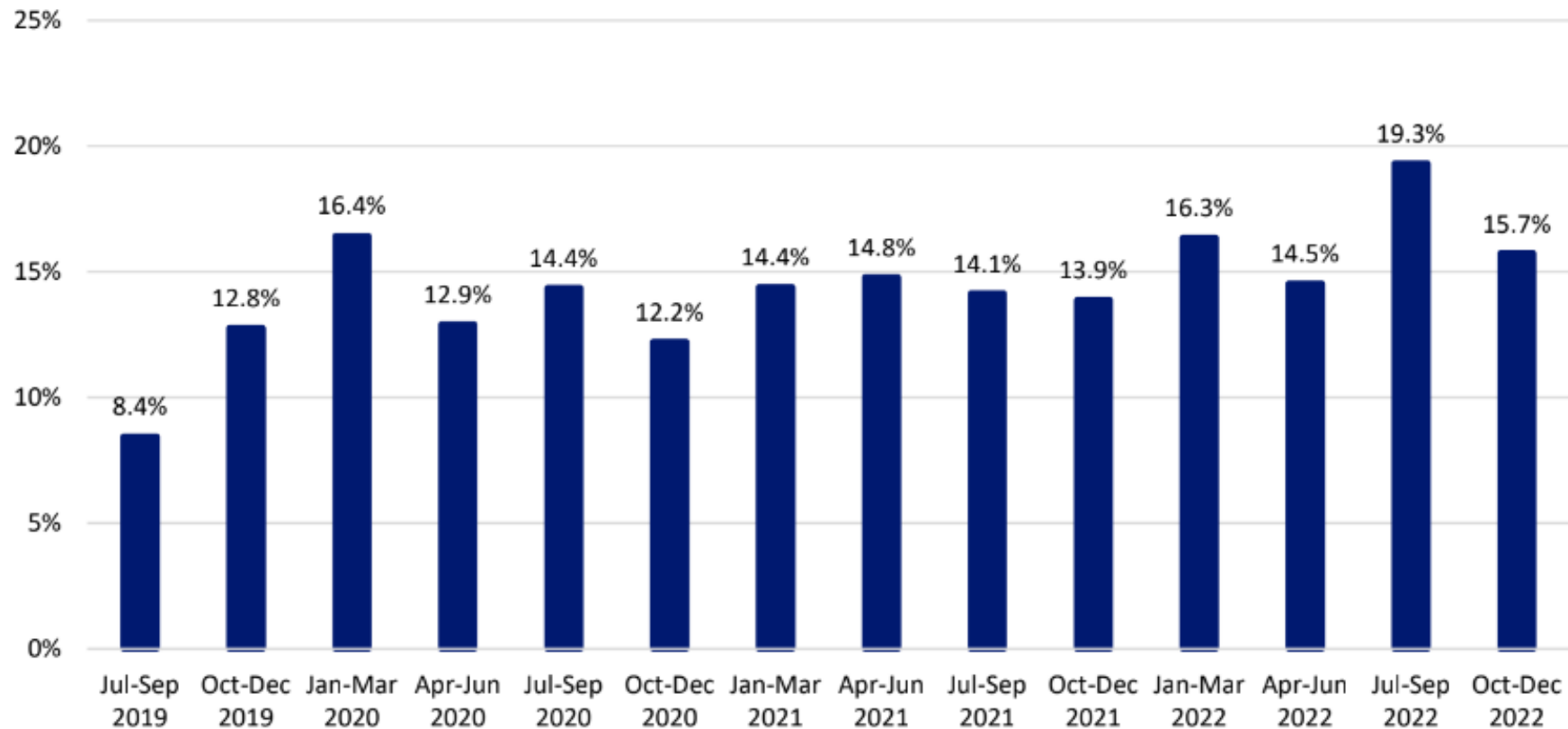
Figure 7. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) by type of bystander present, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Characteristics and circumstances

Figure 9. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) with naloxone administered by quarter, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

Characteristics and circumstances

Table 6. Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined manner) by circumstances, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2022.

Circumstances	Overdose deaths (N)	Percent of overdoses with known circumstance
Deaths with 1+ known circumstance	4,400	84.5%
Substance misuse problem (other than alcohol)	3,896	88.6%
Problem with alcohol	1,390	31.6%
Current mental health condition	1,388	31.6%
Diagnosis of depression	710	16.1%
Diagnosis of anxiety	543	12.3%
Diagnosis of bipolar disorder	319	7.3%
Diagnosis of schizophrenia	151	3.4%
Other mental health diagnosis	288	6.6%
Ever treated for mental health/substance misuse problem	914	20.8%
Current mental health/substance use treatment	557	12.7%
Current depressed mood	262	6.0%
Intimate partner problem	185	4.2%
Family relationship problem	154	3.5%
Death preceded by argument	134	3.1%
History of abuse as a child	40	0.9%
Victim of violence in the past 30 days	17	0.4%
Perpetrator of violence in the past 30 days	9	0.2%
Death preceded by physical fight	9	0.2%
Precipitated by another crime	6	0.1%



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment



SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data

Data updated February 28, 2024

What were the circumstances¹⁸ surrounding overdose deaths in 2022, *Colorado*?

Colorado ▾

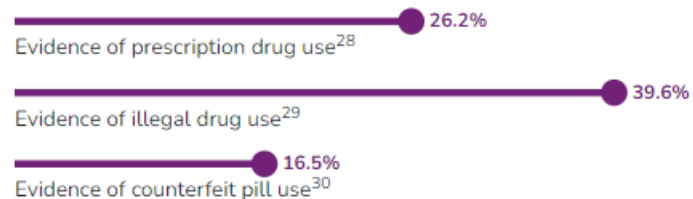
2022 ▾

View data for:

Scene evidence ▾



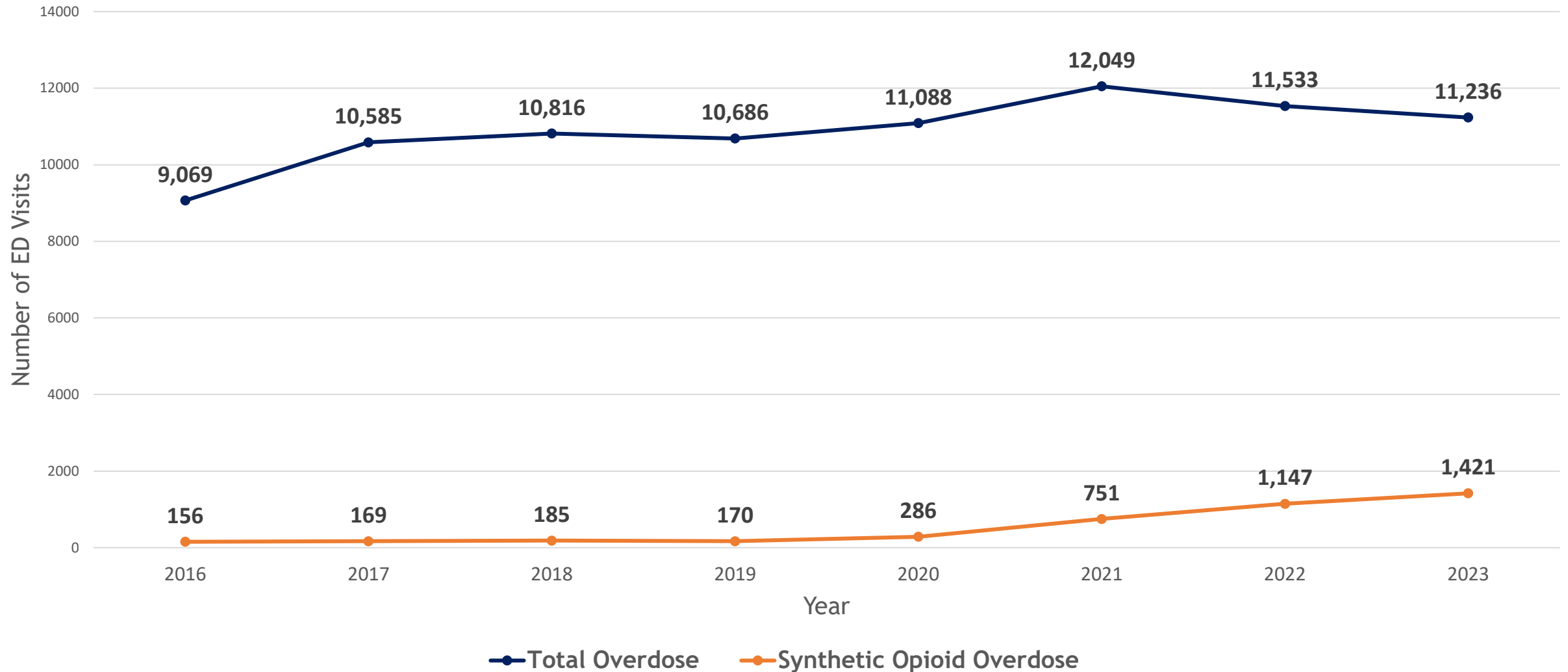
Scene evidence tells us what types of drugs were present at the location of the overdose. Evidence of illegal drugs includes, for example, powder and illegal drug packaging. Evidence of prescription drugs includes, for example, prescription bottles and pills. Counterfeit pills are typically made to look like real prescription pills, but often contain illegally-made fentanyl, illegal benzodiazepines, or other illegal drugs. This information can be used to inform [overdose prevention and response efforts](#).



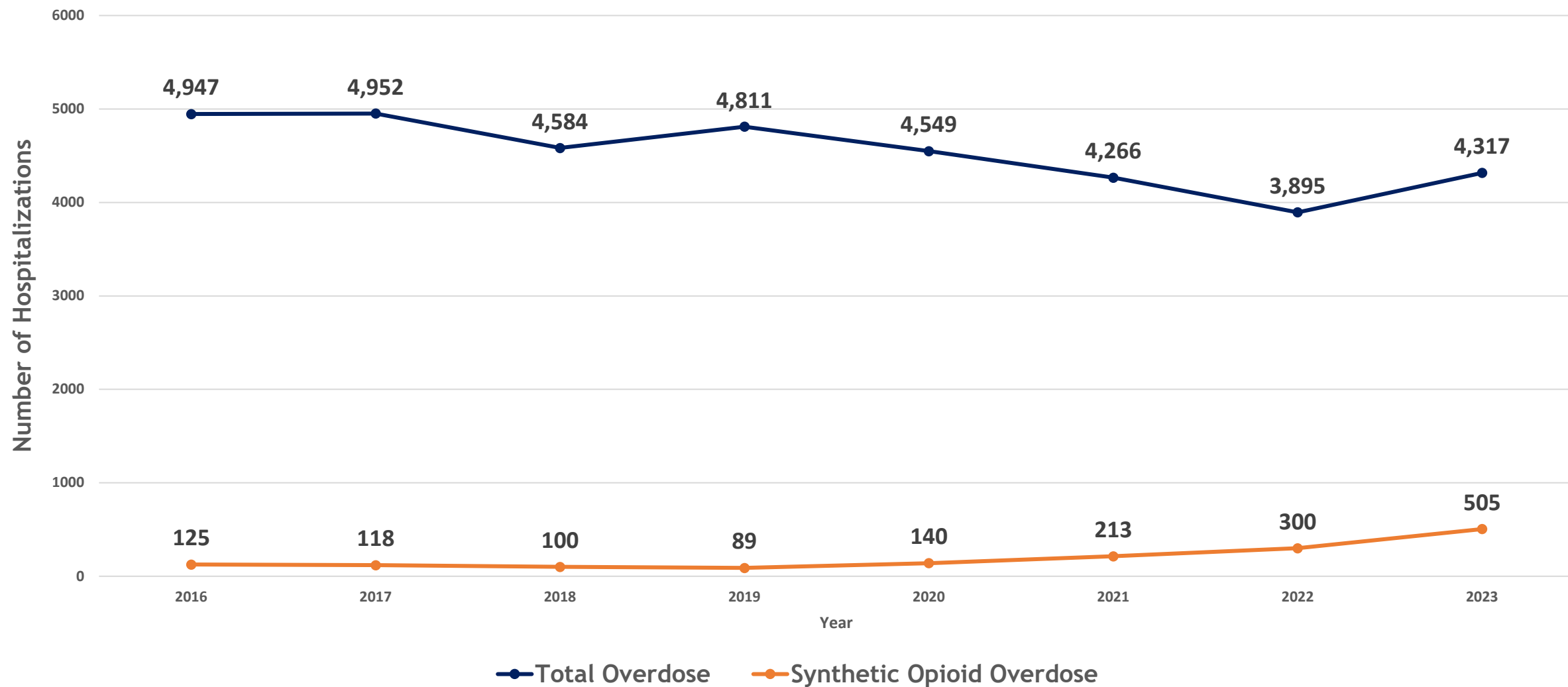
¹⁸Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with an available medical examiner or coroner report

³⁰Evidence of counterfeit pills includes pills found at the overdose scene that were identified as counterfeit (e.g., by witnesses, law enforcement, medical examiners, or coroners), pills appearing as oxycodone with no oxycodone detected on postmortem toxicology or appearing as alprazolam with no alprazolam detected, unmarked pills, and pills noted to contain or that tested positive for fentanyl.

Counts of Nonfatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits at Acute Care Hospitals in Colorado, 2016-2023

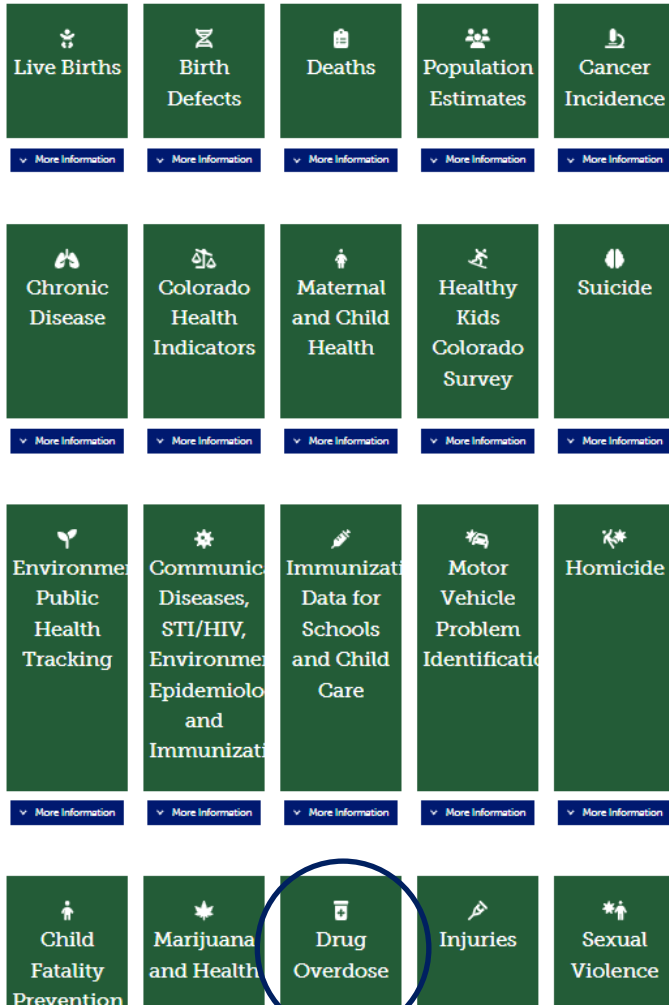


Counts of Nonfatal Overdose Hospitalizations at Acute Care Hospitals in Colorado, 2016-2023



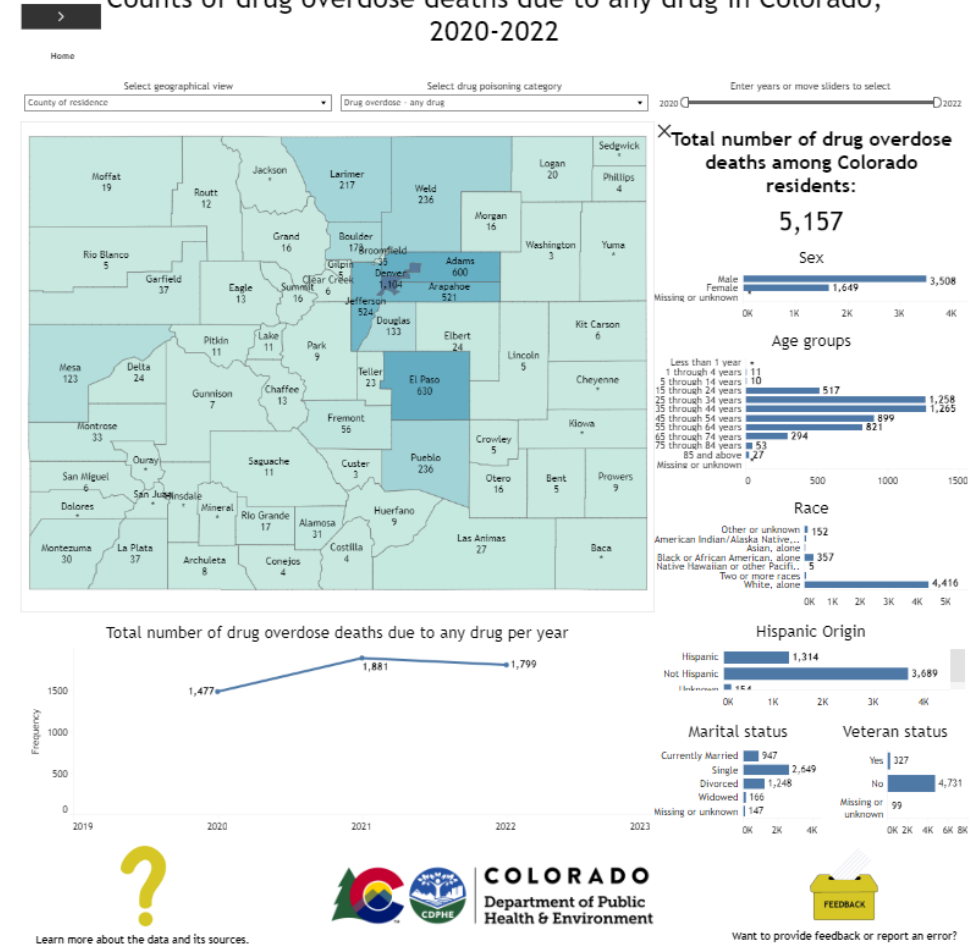
Accessing overdose data

Colorado Health Data and Statistics



[CDPHE COHID Link](#)

Counts of drug overdose deaths due to any drug in Colorado, 2020-2022



Thank you

Questions & Discussion

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