

Substance Use and Crime Trends

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Substance Abuse Trend and Response Task Force
November 1, 2024



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Division of Criminal Justice
Department of Public Safety

Agenda

- Drug seizure data
- Drug arrest data
- Traffic safety & toxicology
- Data on drug-related school incidents



Accessibility Statement

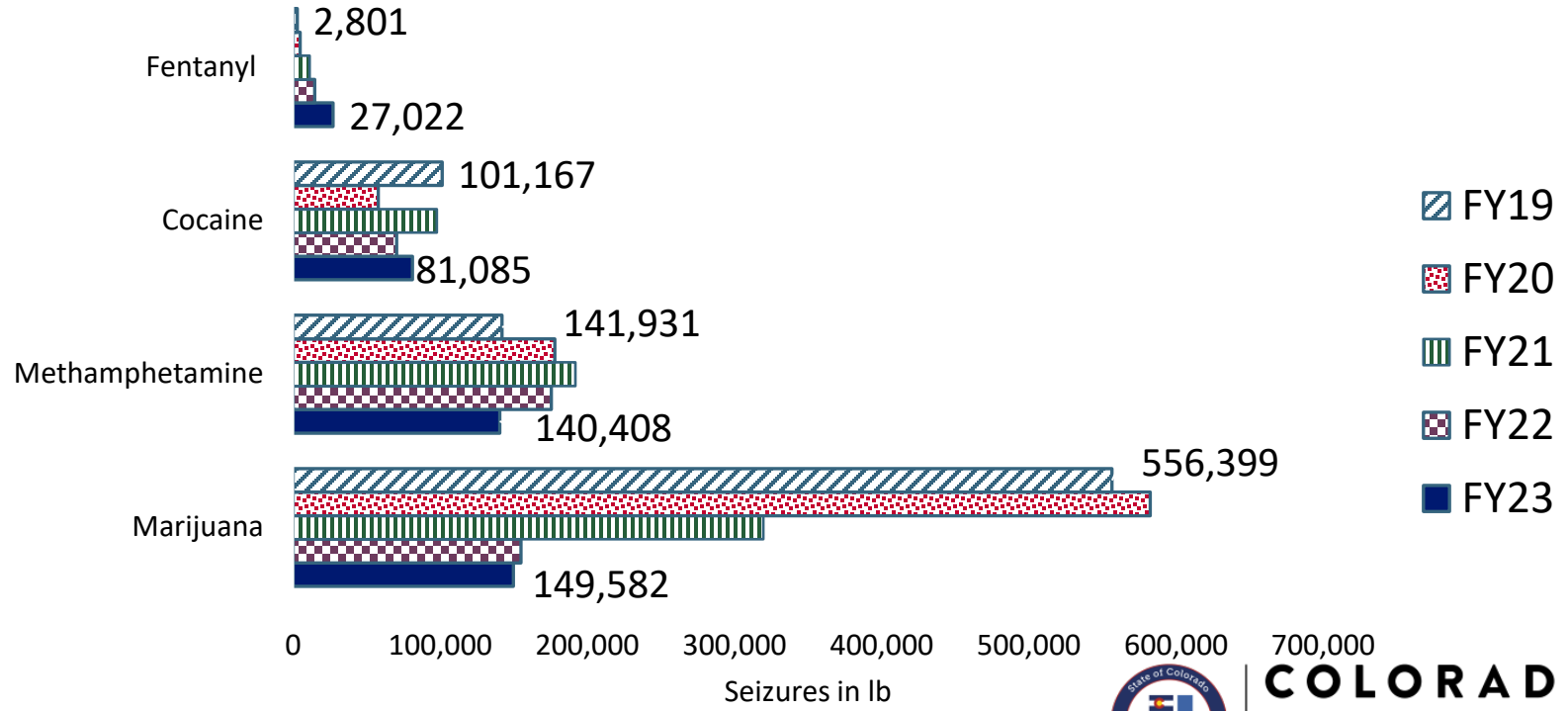
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Seizure Data



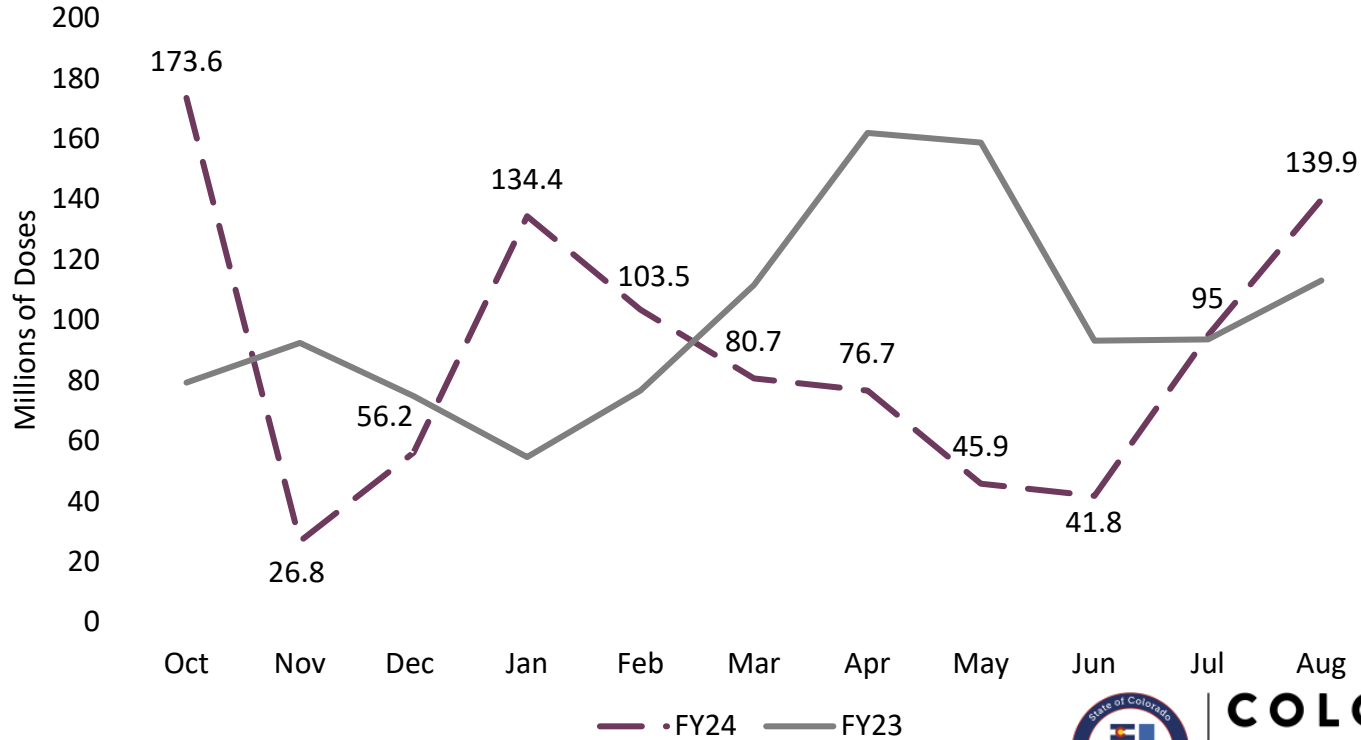
US Customs and Border Patrol drug seizures(lbs) by drug type, FY 2019-2023



Source: Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Patrol, [\[Dashboard\]](#)



US Customs and Border Patrol seized fentanyl doses in millions, by month, 2023-2024

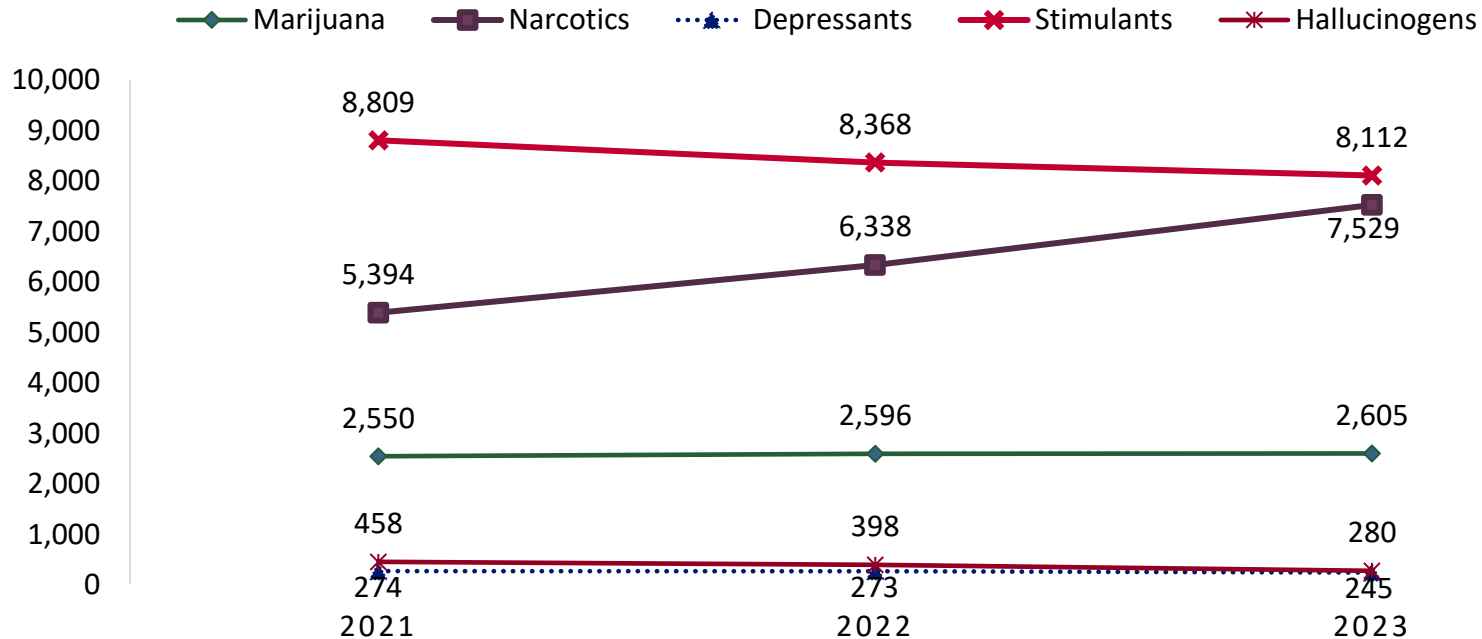


Source: Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Patrol, [\[Dashboard\]](#)



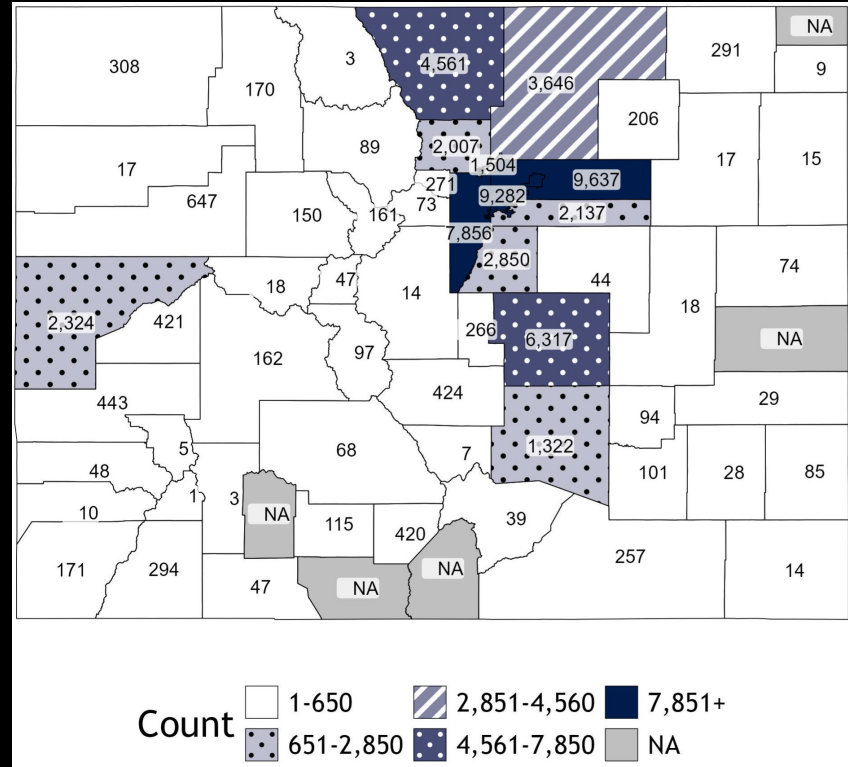
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Drug Seizure Reports by Drug Category, Colorado, 2021-2023



Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [Dashboard]

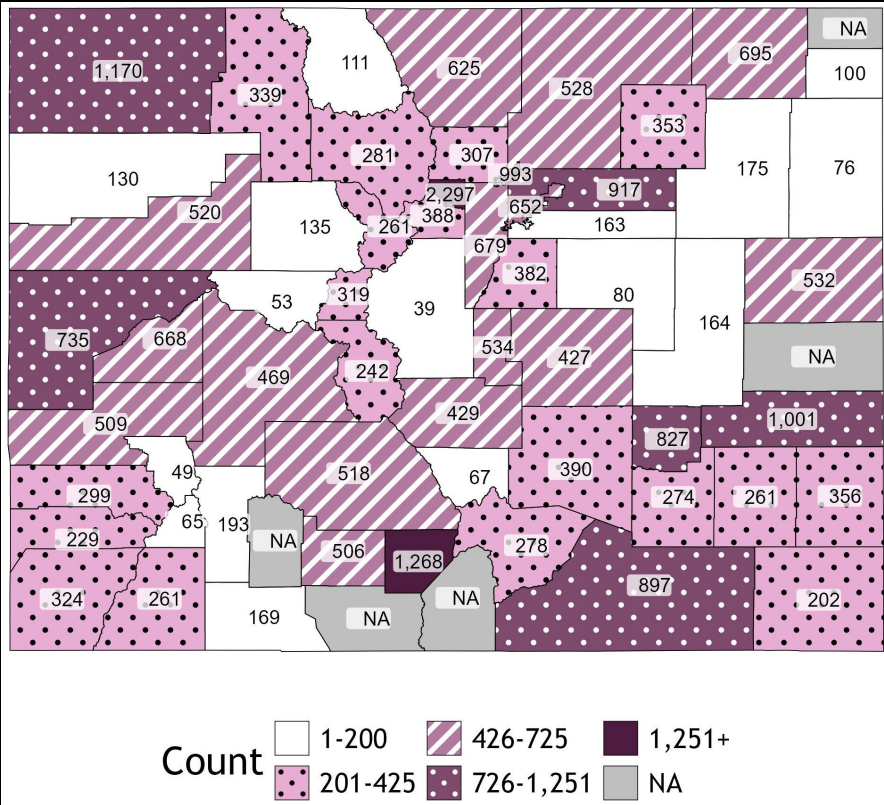
All Drug Seizures, Colorado, by County, 2021-2023



Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [\[Dashboard\]](#)

Note: Seizures for the city of Aurora are all recorded in Adams county.

All Drug Seizure Rates per 100,000 residents, Colorado, by County, 2021-2023

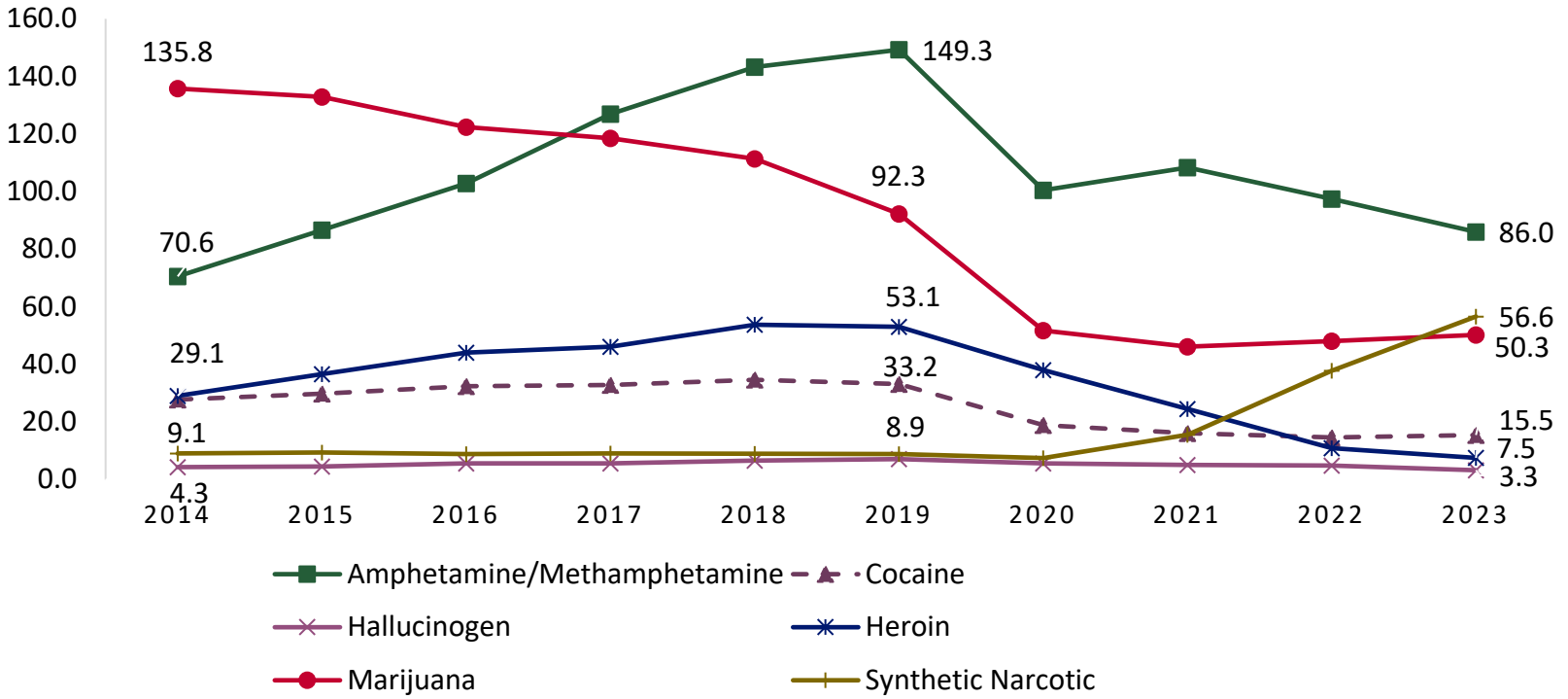


Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [\[Dashboard\]](#)
 Note: Seizures for the city of Aurora are all recorded in Adams county.

Arrest Data



Select drug arrest rates per 100,000 residents aged 10 and older, 2014-2023

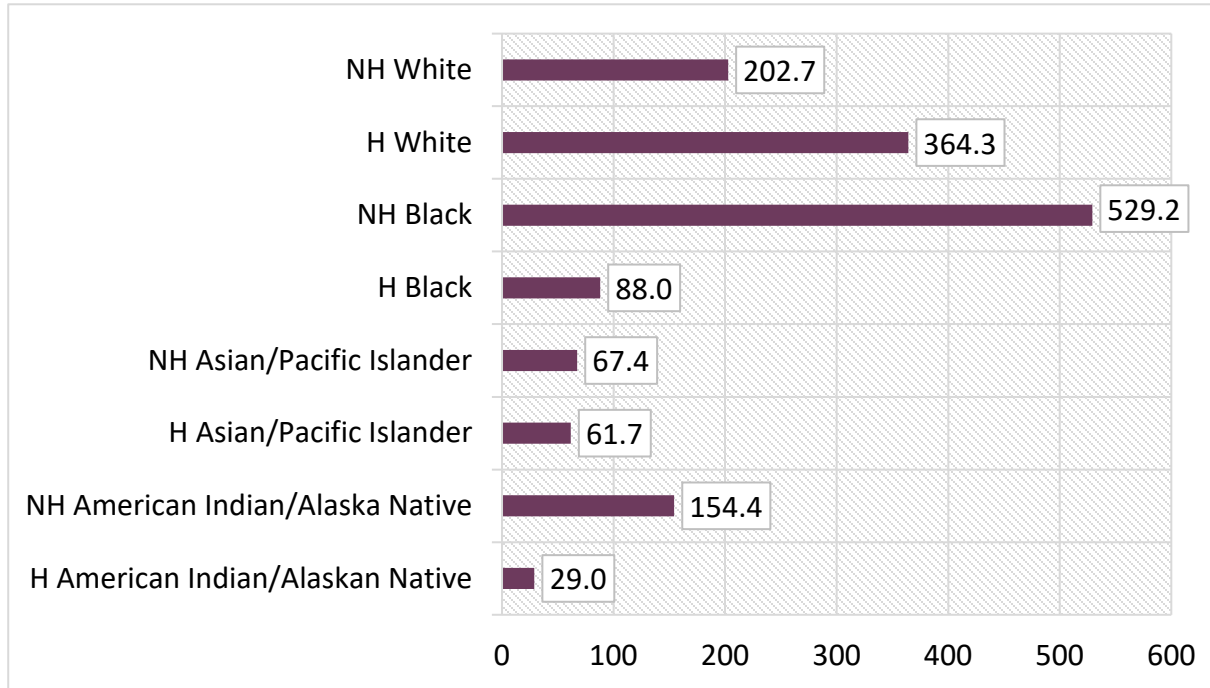


Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [\[Dashboard\]](#) & State Demography Office



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Drug arrest rates per 100,000 residents aged 10 and older by race/ethnicity, 2023

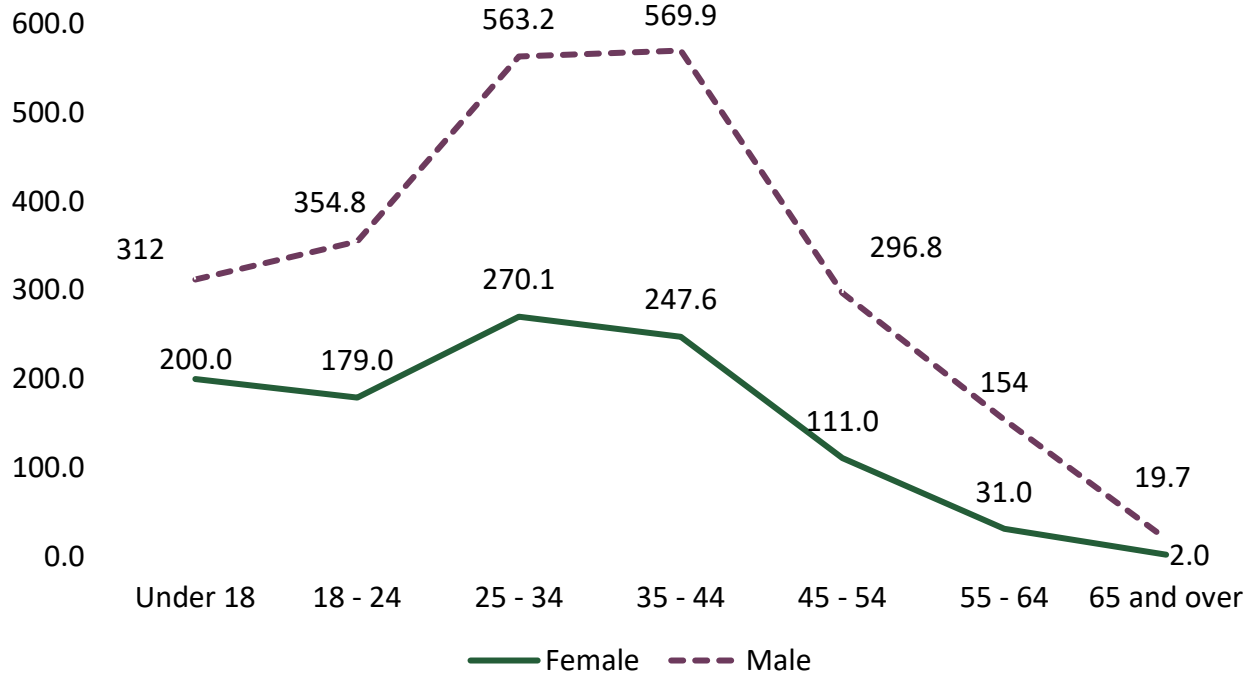


Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [\[Dashboard\]](#) & State Demography Office

Note: The race/ethnicity classifications in the arrest data did not match state demography categories due to [changes in the US Census definitions](#); the 2020 population estimate data was used, and each race/ethnicity was multiplied by the overall population increase from 2020-2023 (1.00438).



Drug arrest rates per 100,000 residents aged 10 and older by sex and age, 2023



Source: Colorado Bureau of Investigations, Colorado Crime Stats, [\[Dashboard\]](#) & State Demography Office

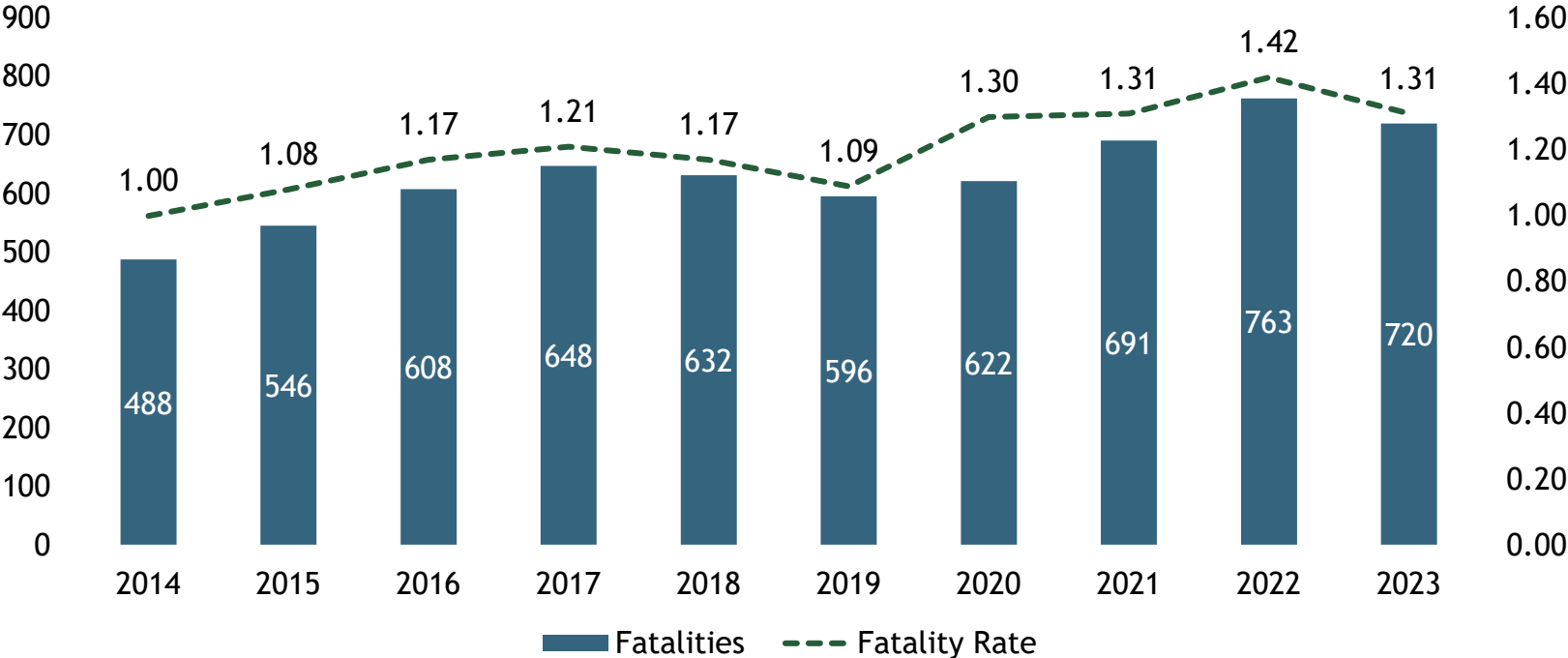


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Traffic Safety



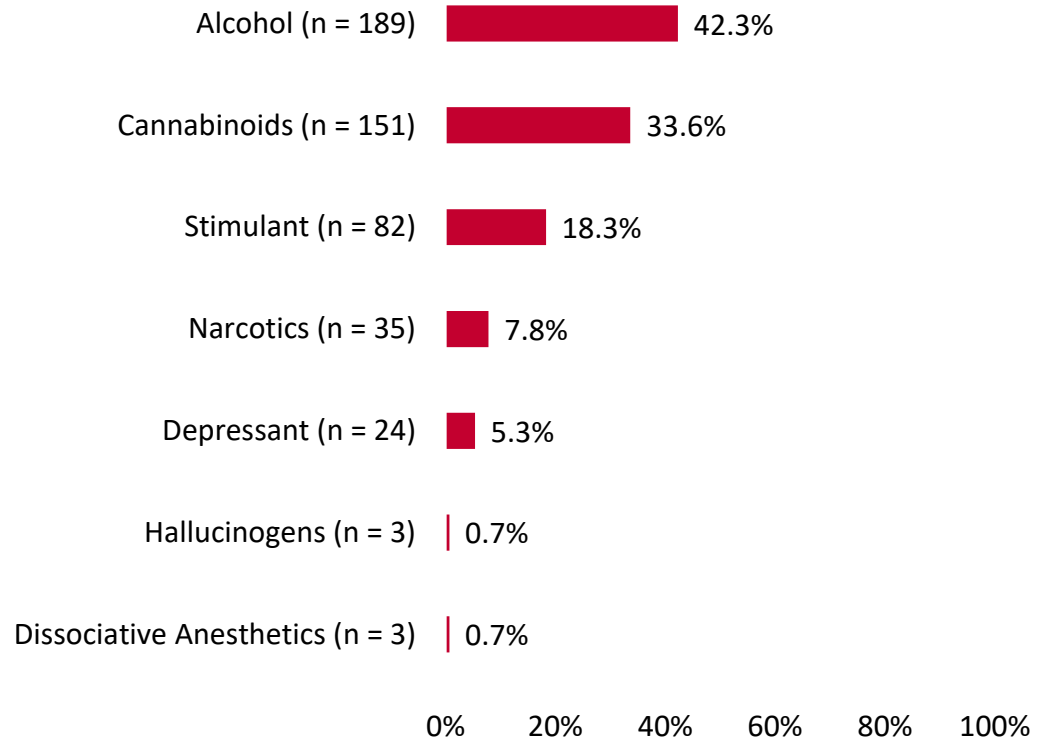
Motor vehicle crash fatalities and fatality rate per 100 million vehicle miles traveled, Colorado, 2014-2023



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, Colorado Department of Transportation
Note: The 2023 crash fatality rate is preliminary.



% of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes with positive tests out of all drivers who underwent toxicology testing for alcohol (n = 447) or drugs of abuse (n = 449), by drug category, 2023

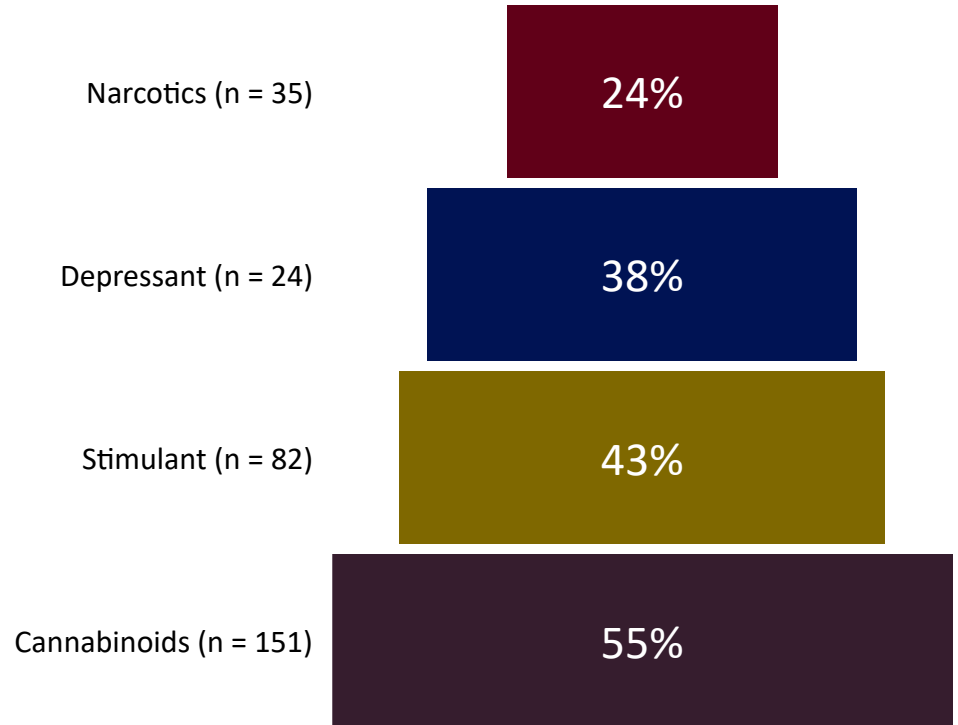


Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, Colorado Department of Transportation

Note: These substance categories are not mutually exclusive, and drivers could have tested positive for more than one category.



% of drivers involved in fatal motor vehicle crashes with positive tests who also tested positive for alcohol out of all drivers who tested positive, by substance category, 2023



Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System, Colorado Department of Transportation
Note: Substance categories are not mutually exclusive, and drivers could have tested positive for more than one category.

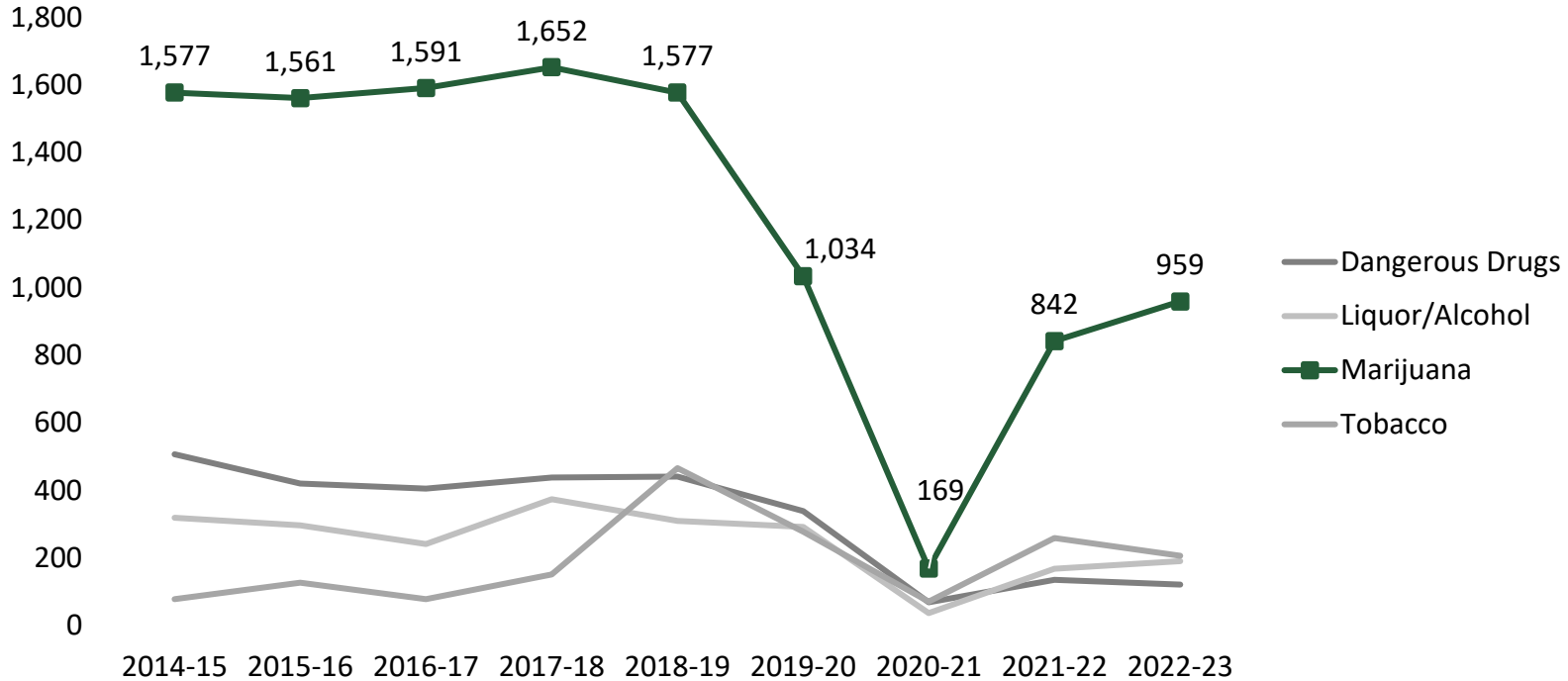


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School Data



Law Enforcement Contacts with Students, 2014-2023

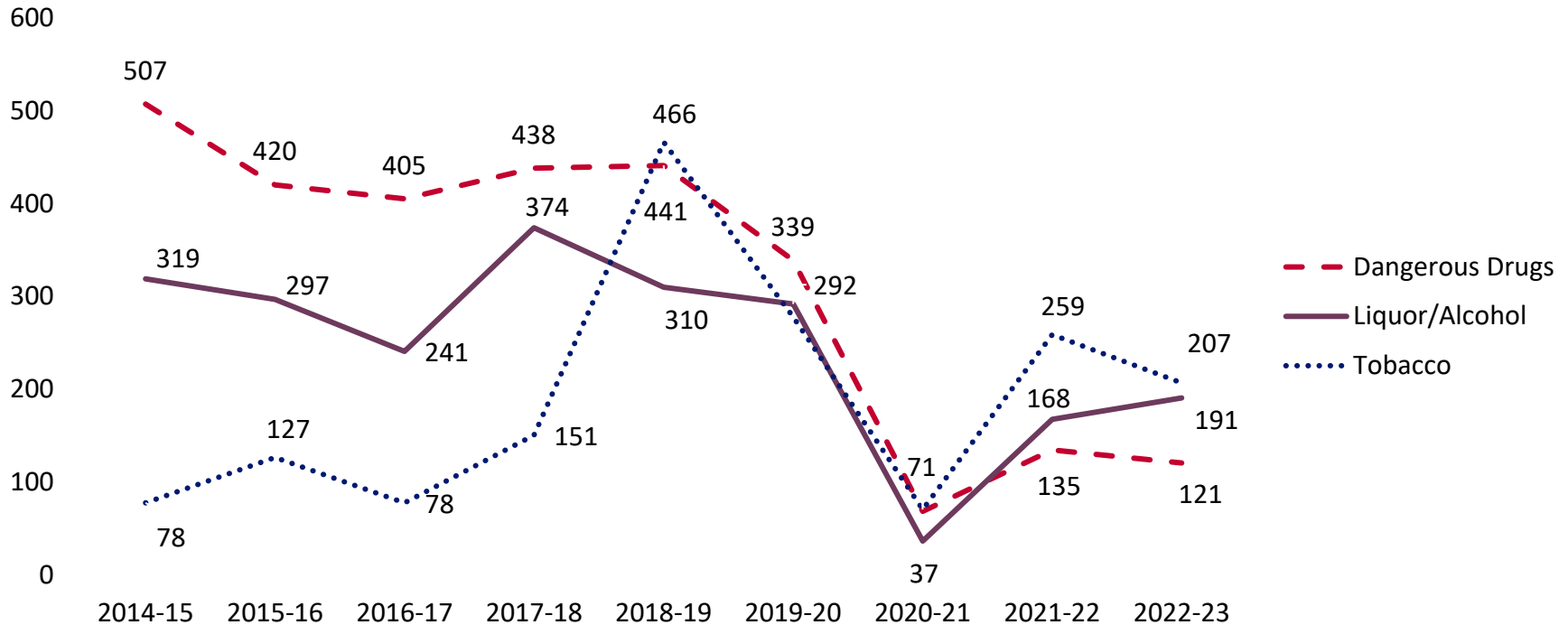


Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice Contacts with Students [\[Dashboard\]](#)



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Law Enforcement Contacts with Students, 2014-2023

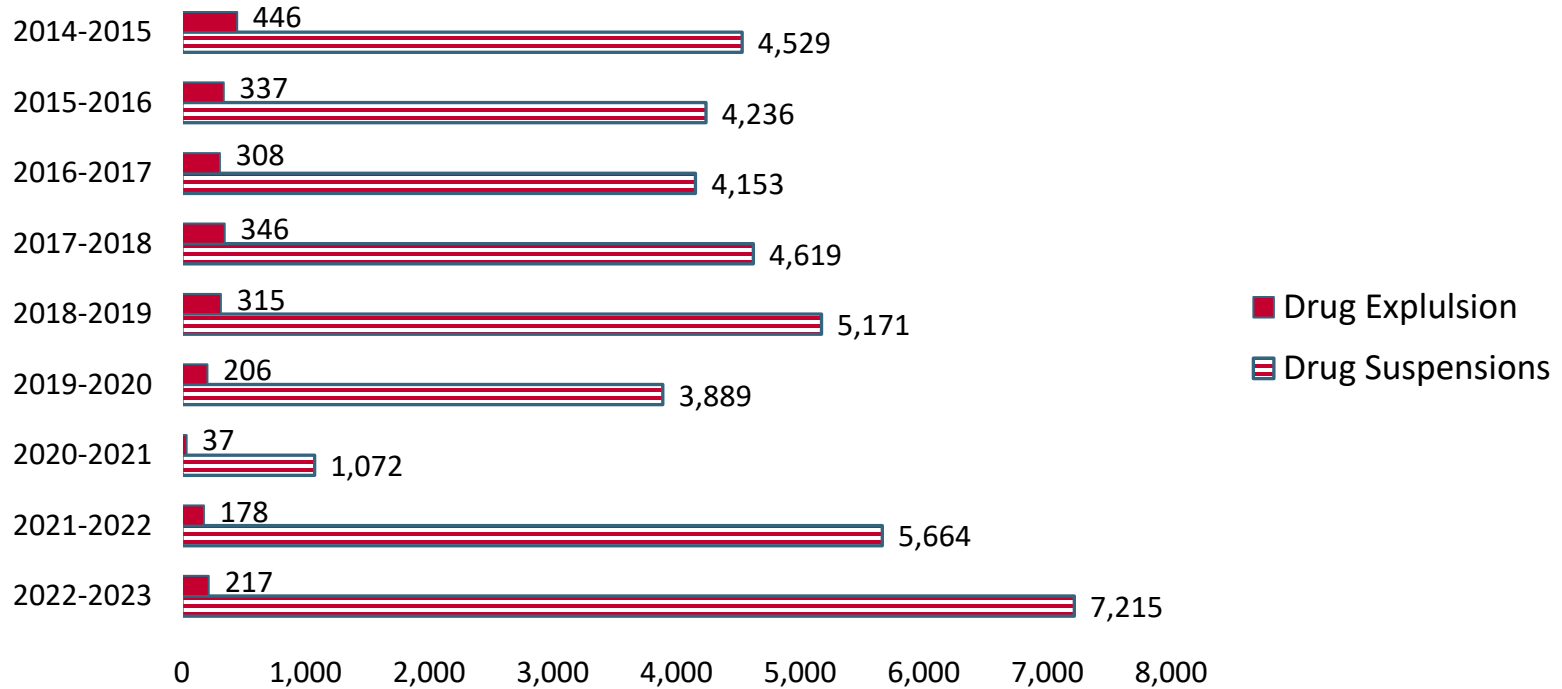


Source: Colorado Department of Public Safety, Division of Criminal Justice, Criminal Justice Contacts with Students [\[Dashboard\]](#)



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Drug suspensions and expulsions, 2014-2023



Source: Colorado Department of Education, [Suspension/Expulsion Statistics](#).



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Conclusions

- Rise in fentanyl seizures and arrests in US and Colorado from 2021 to 2023.
- Racial disparities in arrest rates still a public safety issue.
- There were declines in crash fatalities in 2023 from the all-time high in 202; toxicology testing results highlight the role of alcohol and polydrug consumption in fatal crashes.
- Drug-related law enforcement contacts with students are still lower compared to pre-pandemic levels; however, seeing more drug-related suspensions in the 2021 school years and on.



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