

Trends in Opioid and Stimulant Use in the United States.

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Overview

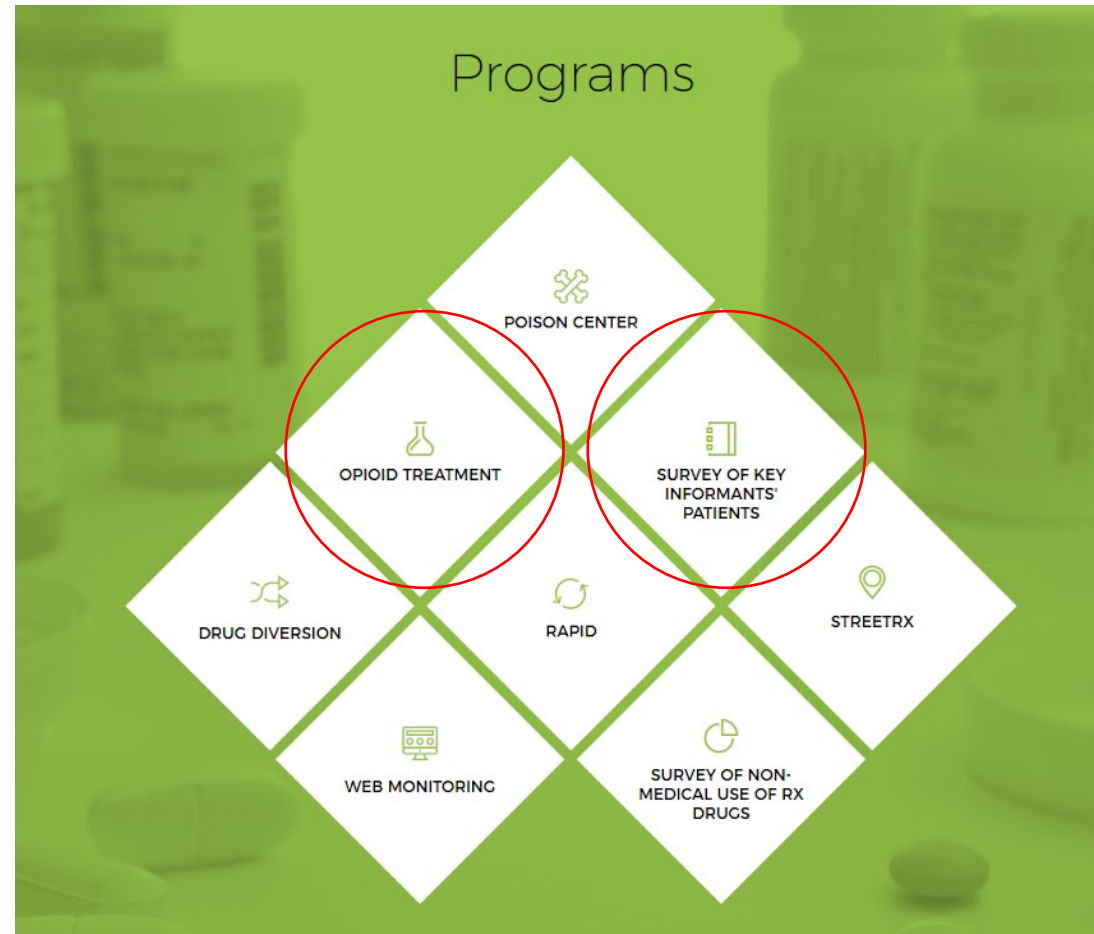
- Changes in opioid user trends over time
- Changes in opioid and stimulant drug trends over time
- Impact of COVID-19 on drug trends

Opioid User Trends

RADARS® (Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance System)



RADARS® (Researched Abuse, Diversion and Addiction-Related Surveillance System)



Treatment-seeking opioid users

- OTP and SKIP

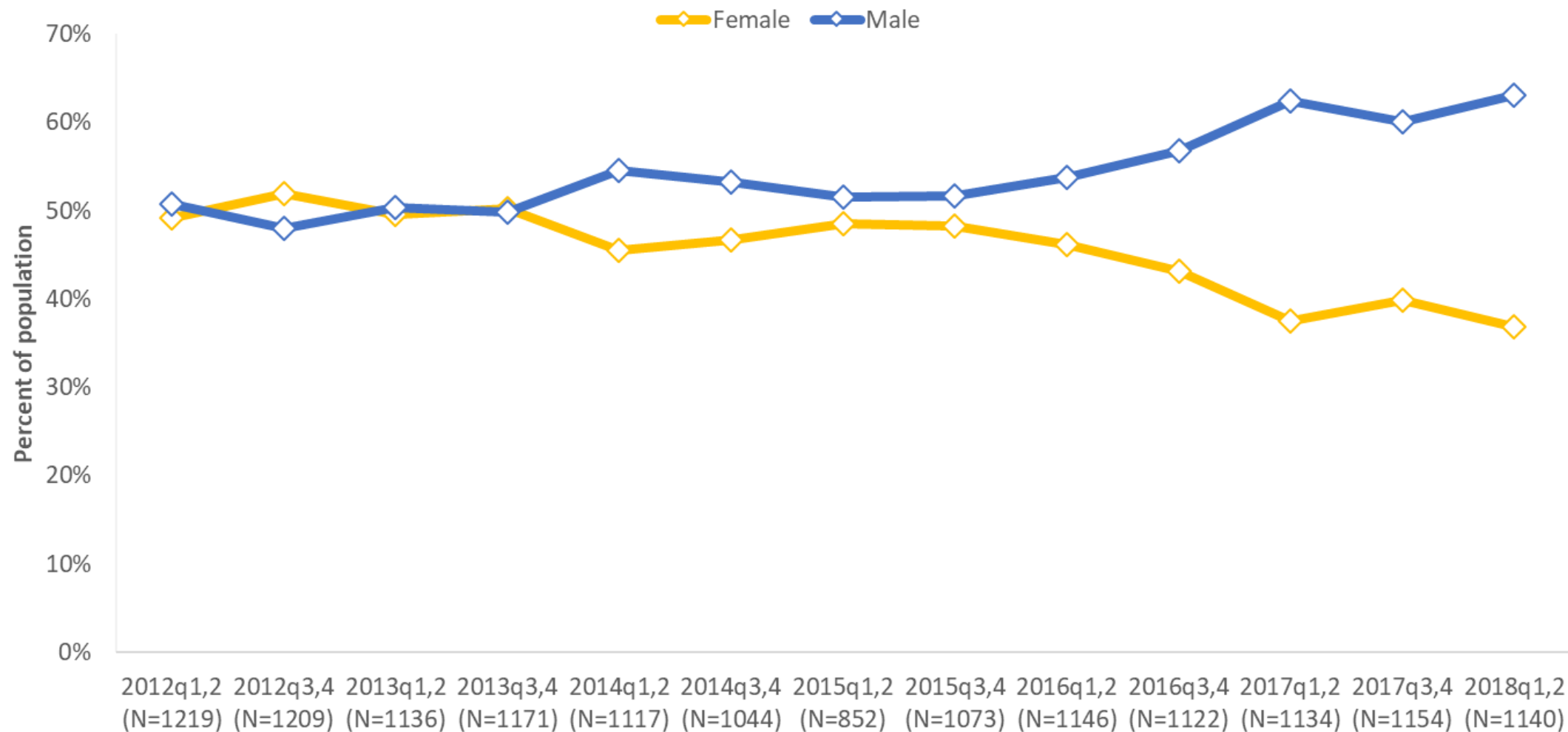
- ~100 nationally distributed opioid treatment programs in each program
- OTP sites are primarily methadone maintenance clinics
- SKIP sites are a variety of public and private non-methadone programs (e.g. community programs, buprenorphine providers, inpatient/residential programs, outpatient counseling)

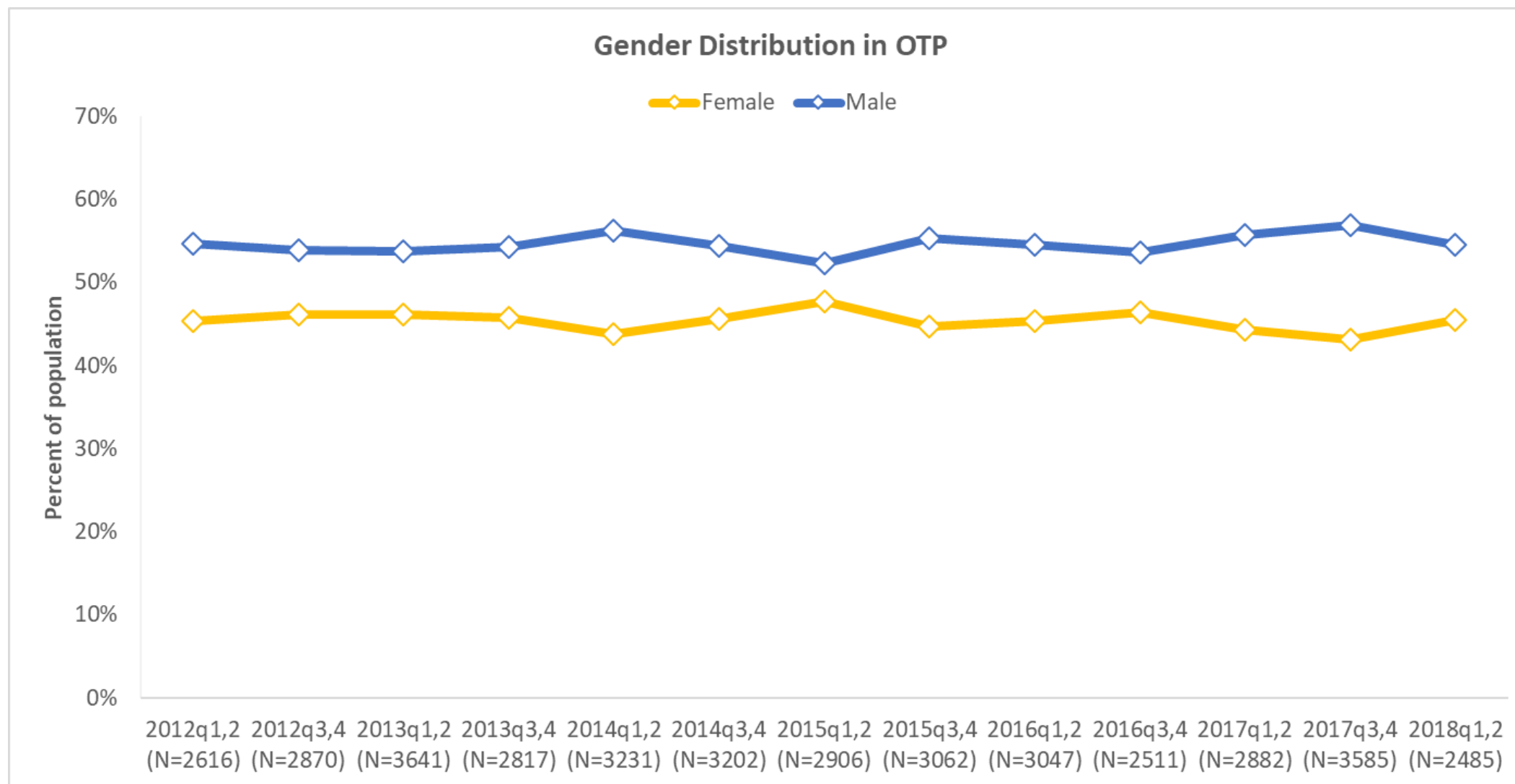
- Analyses

- Identical paper surveys distributed by sites to patients
- Trend analyses from 2012 to 2018
- OTP, n=39,492
- SKIP, n=14,579

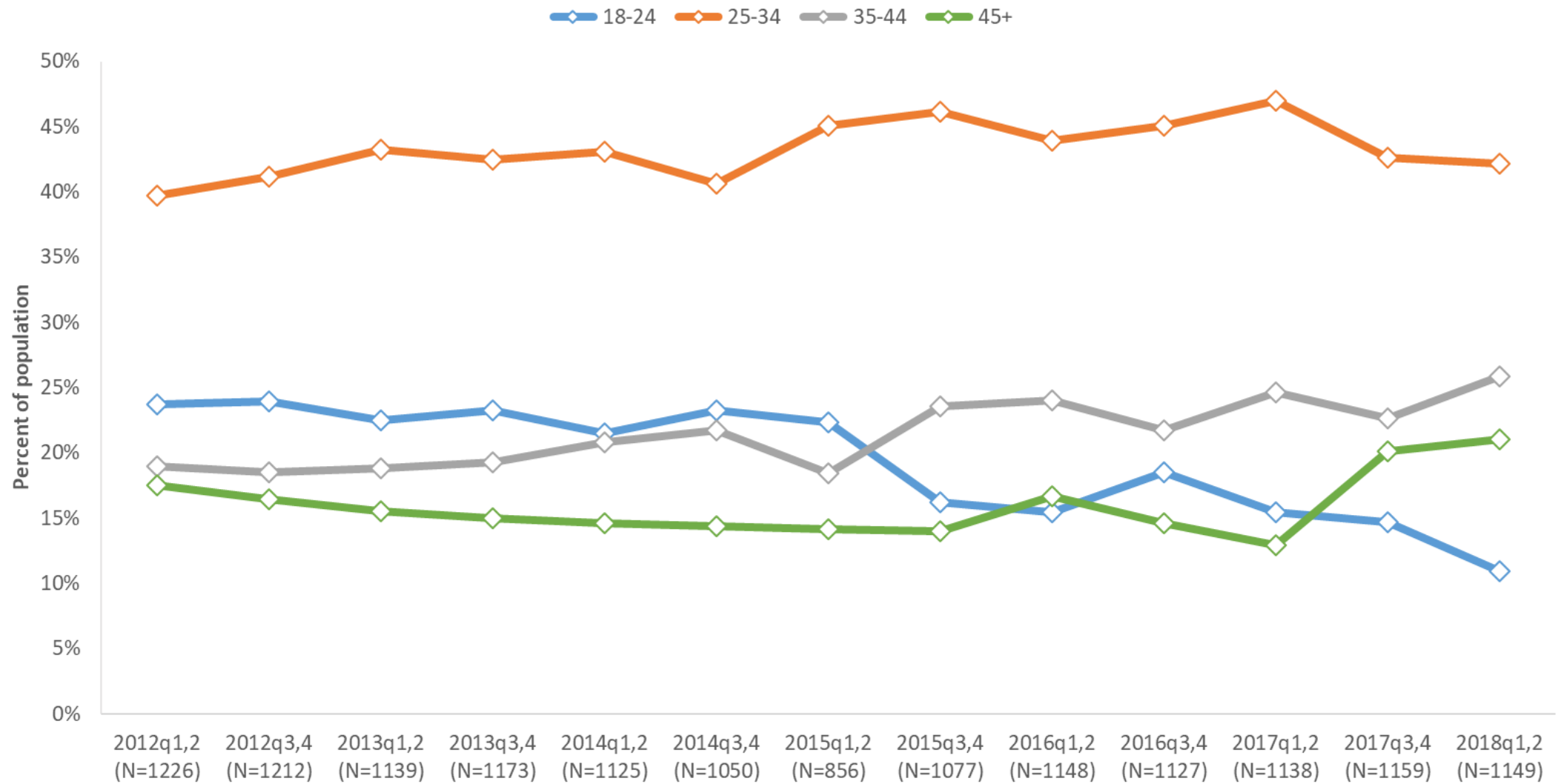
Demographics

Gender Distribution in SKIP

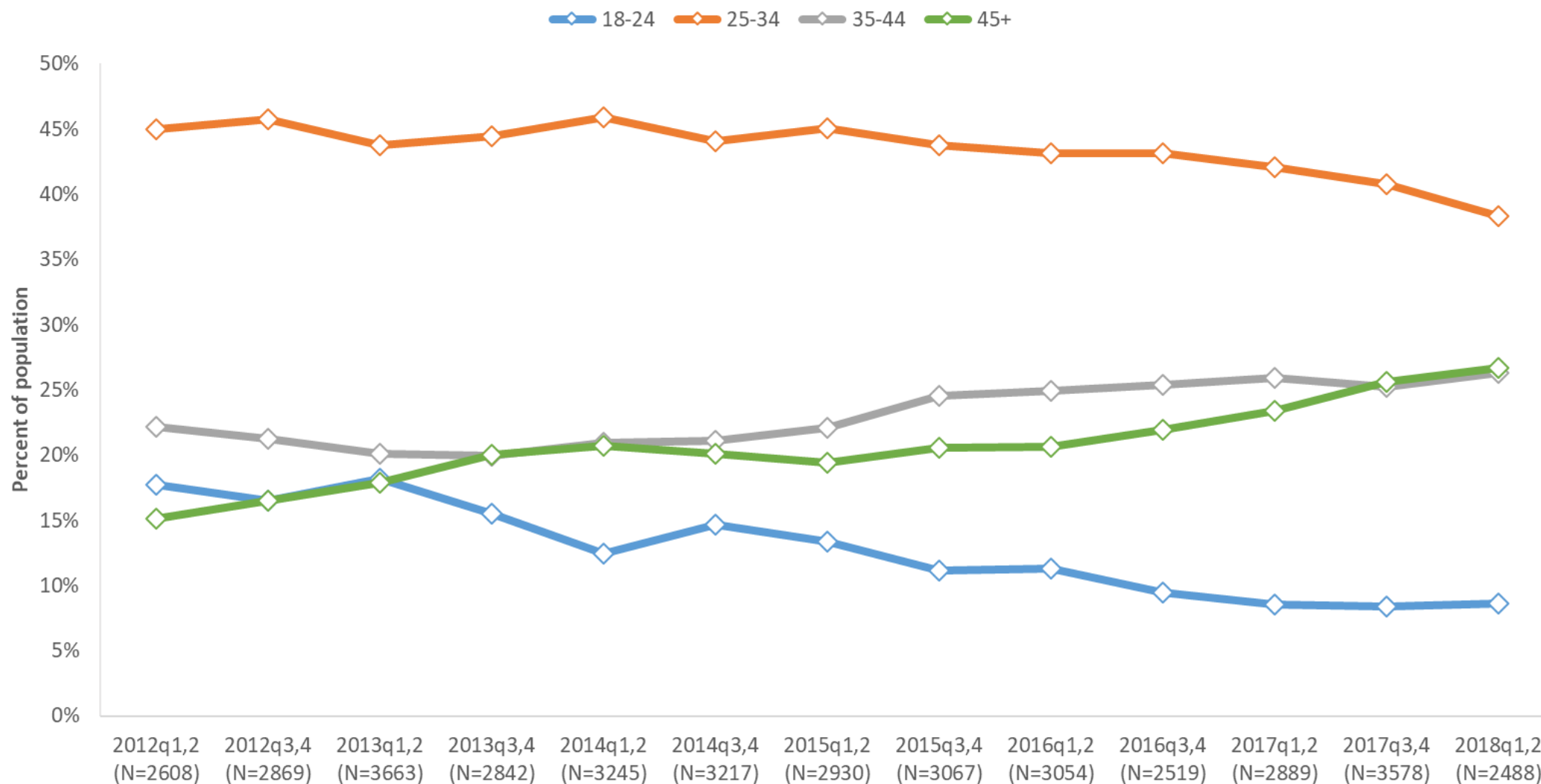


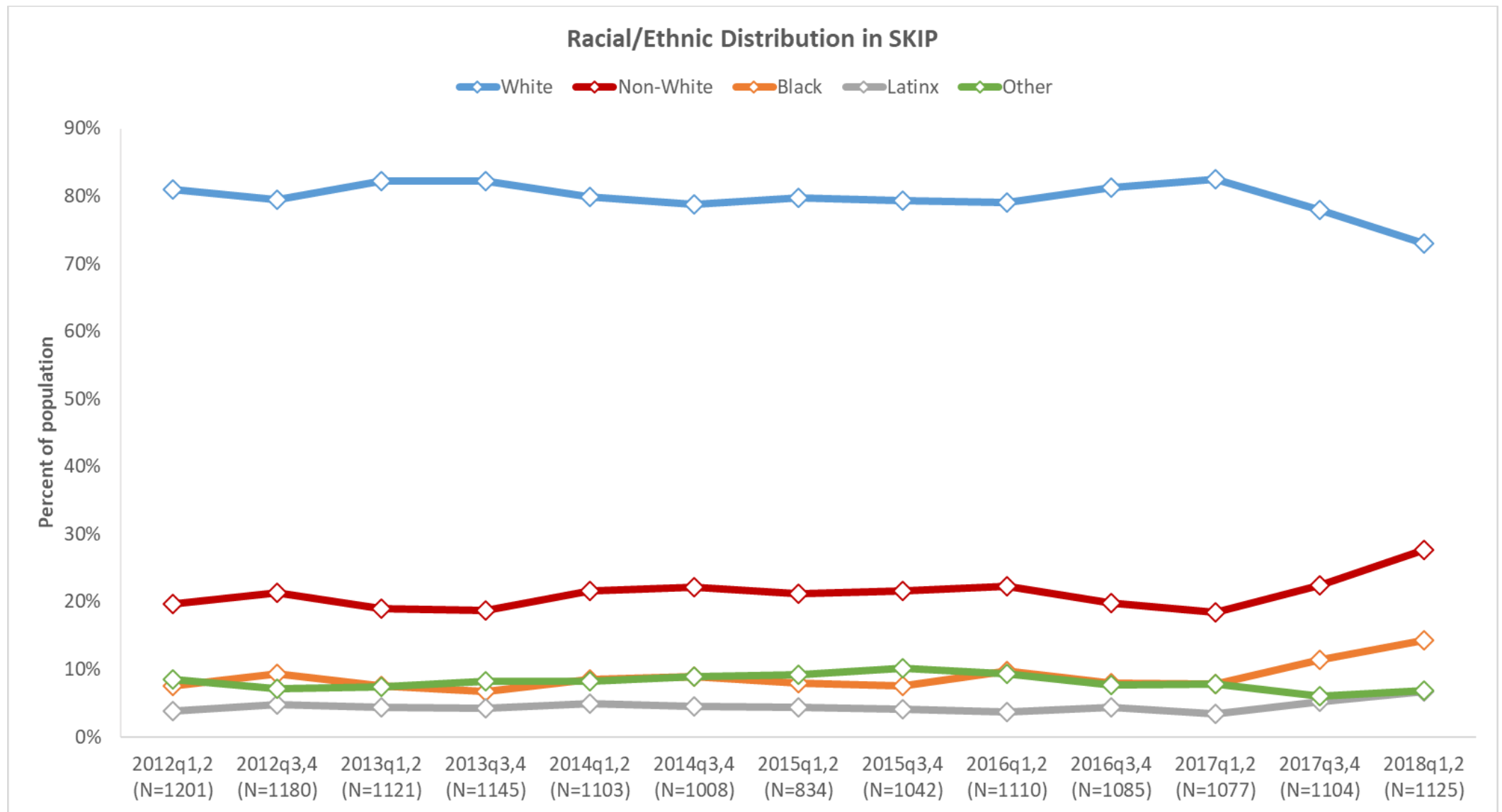


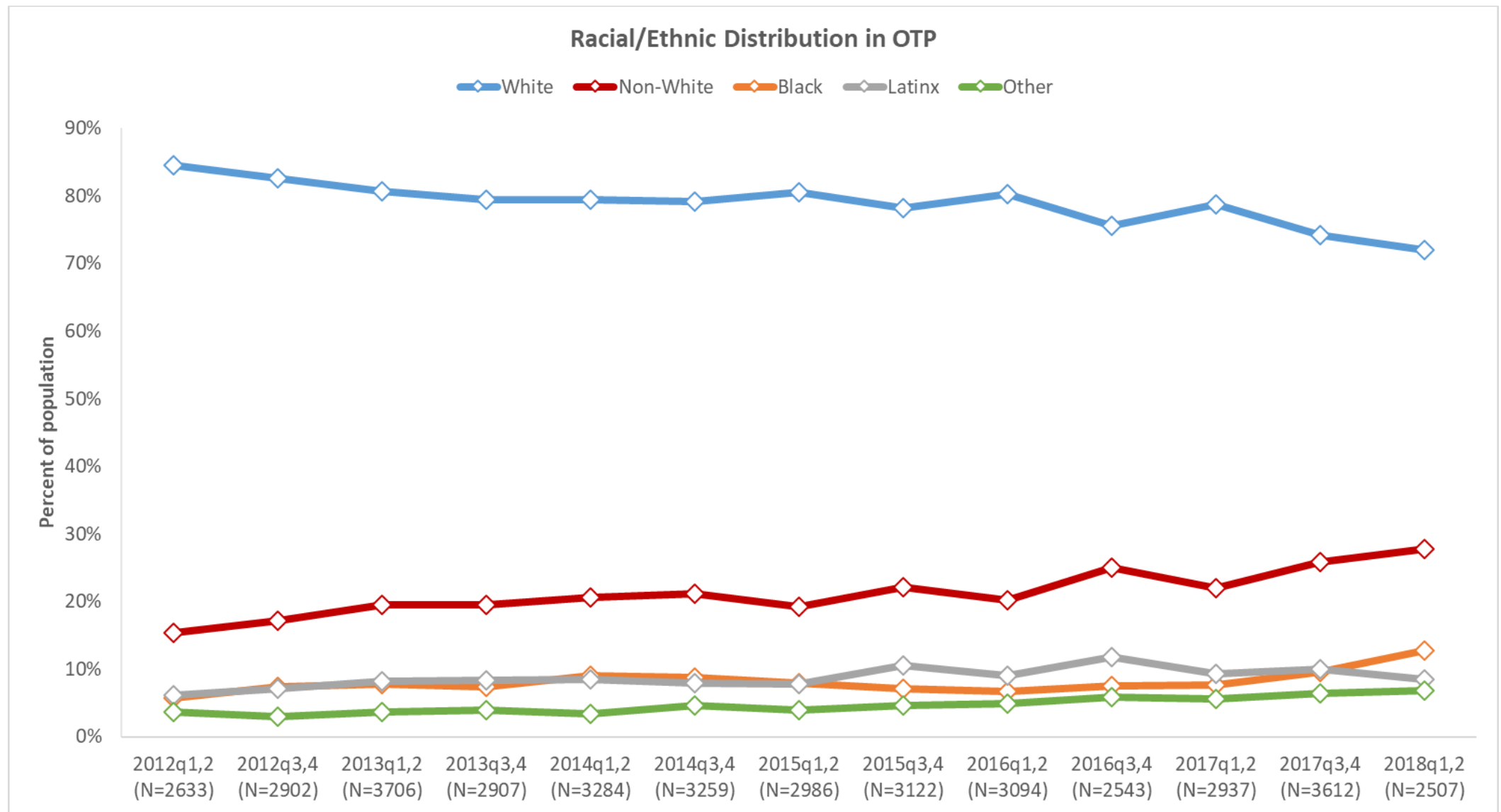
Age Distribution in SKIP



Age Distribution in OTP

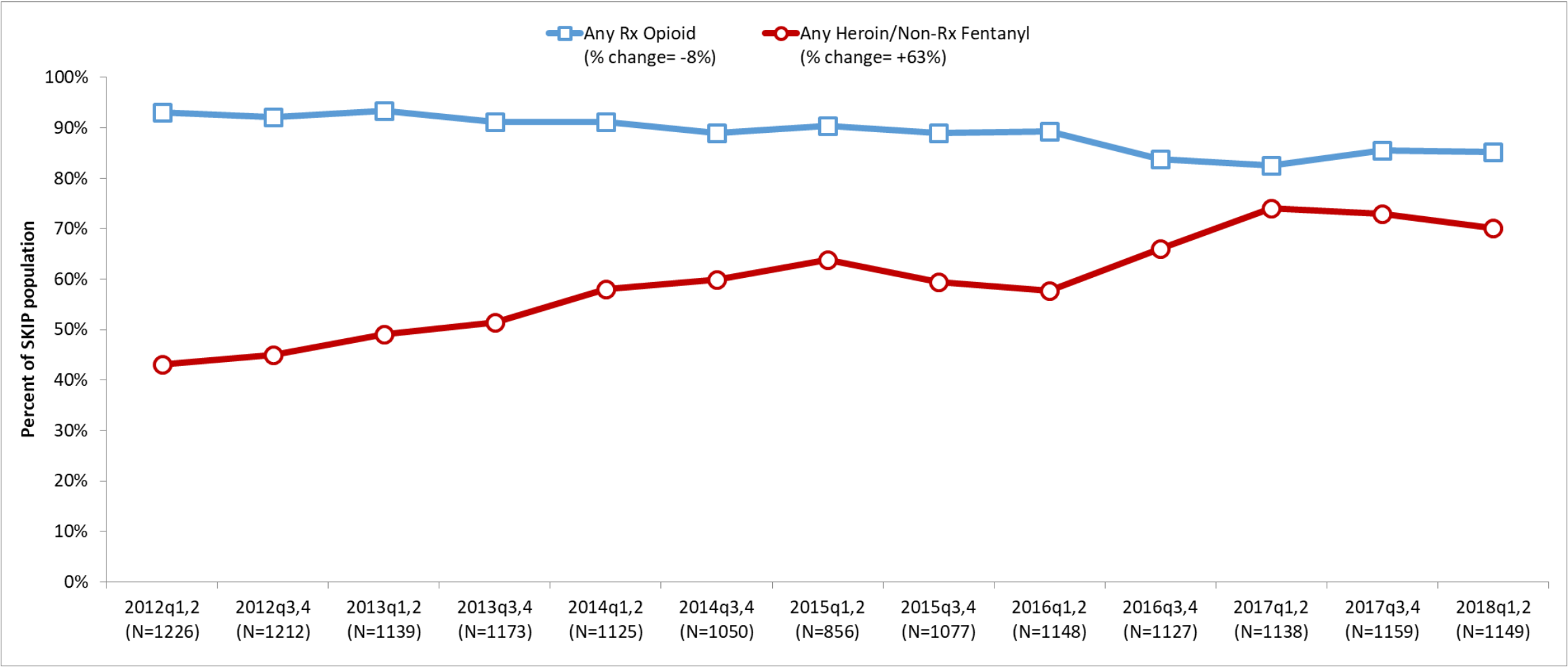




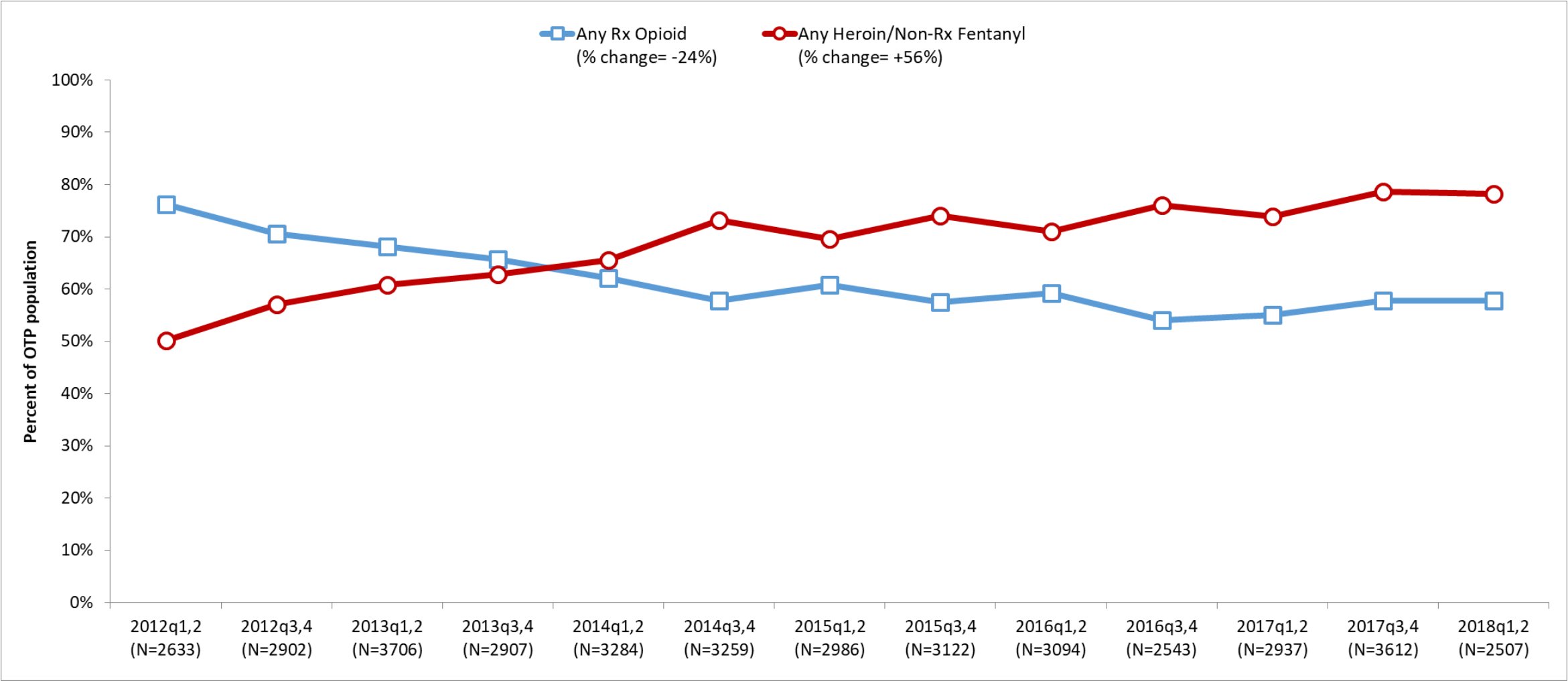


Opioid Trends

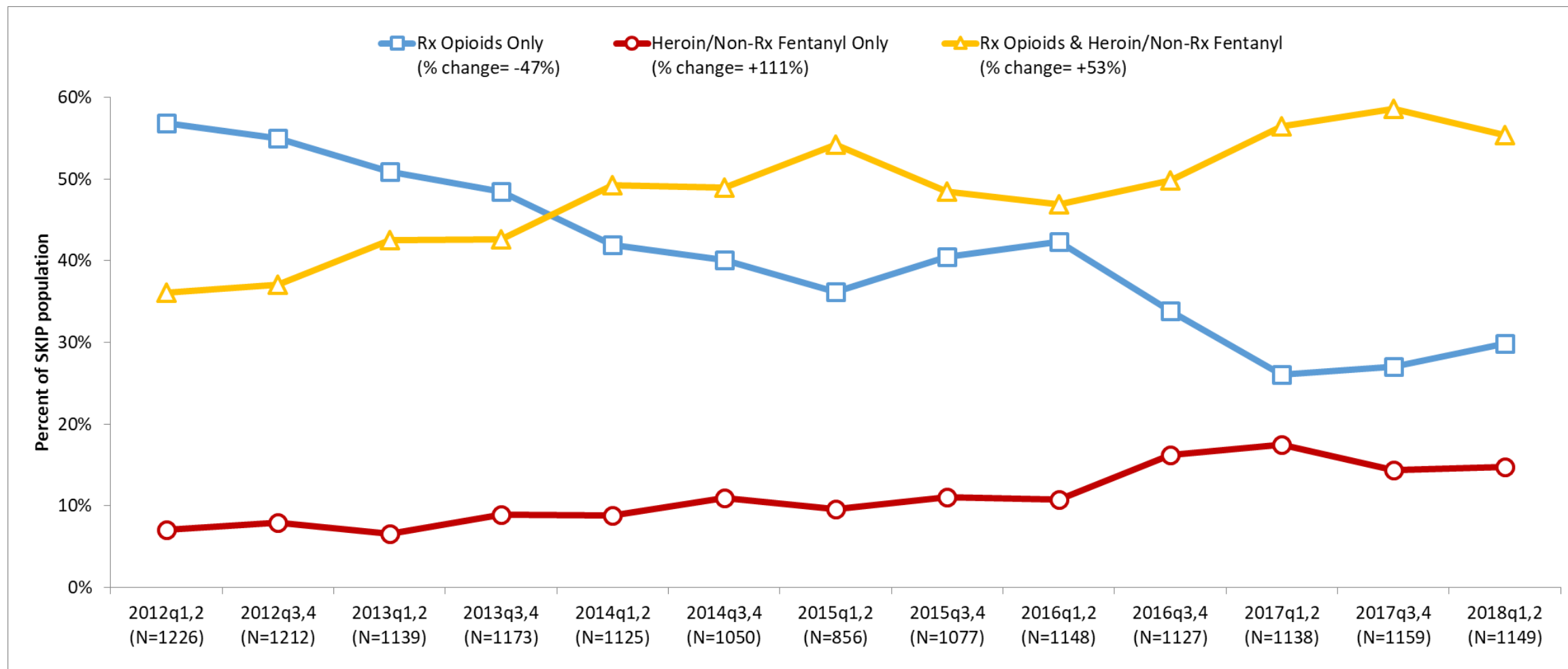
SKIP



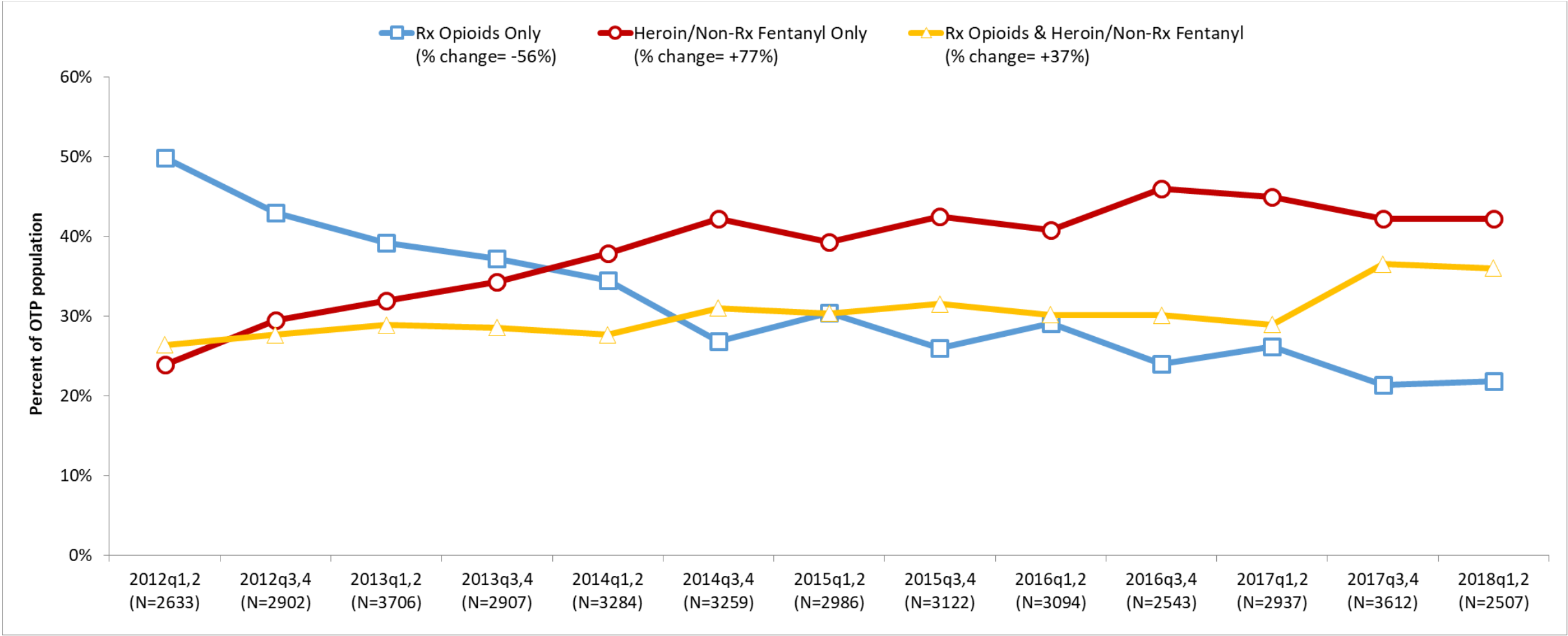
OTP



SKIP

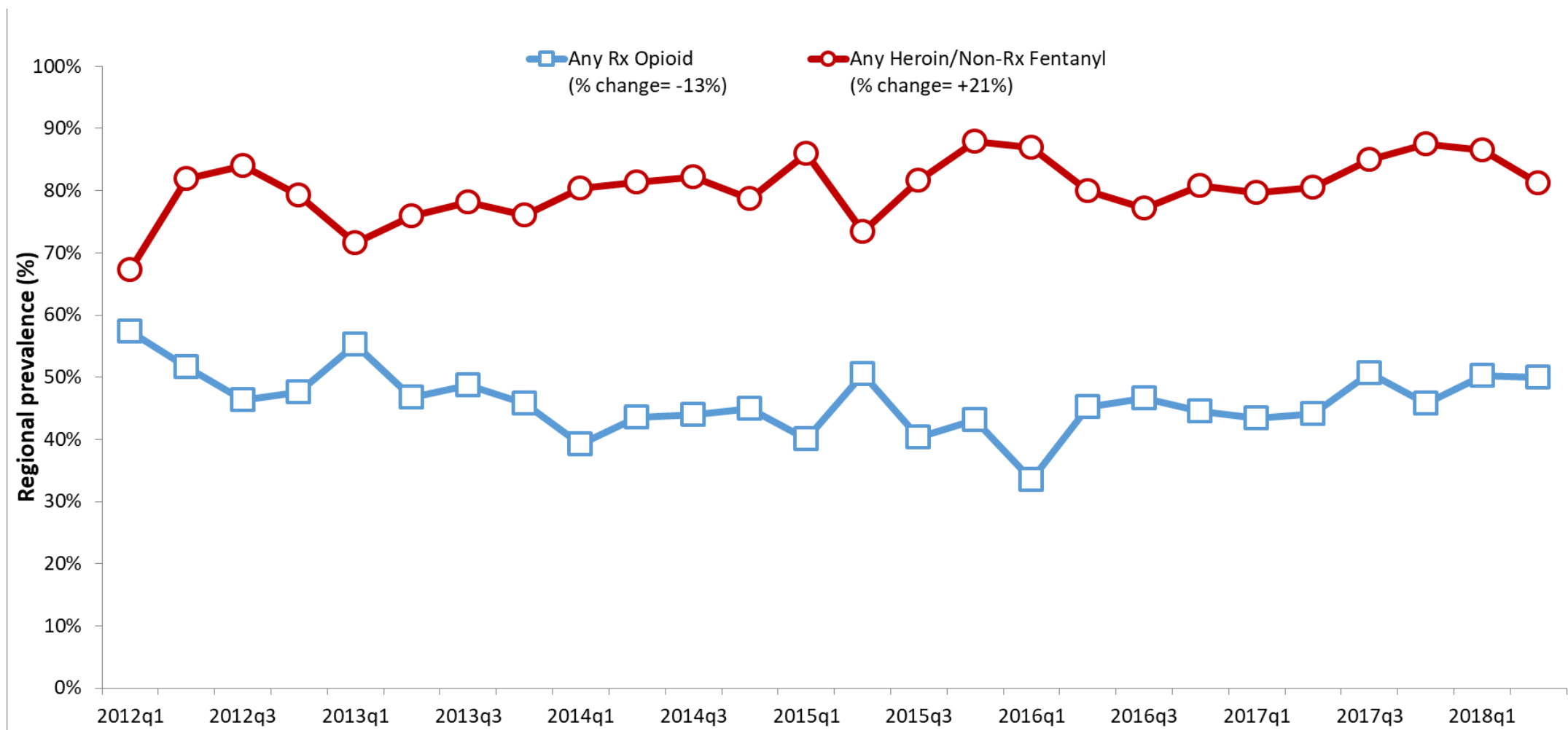


OTP

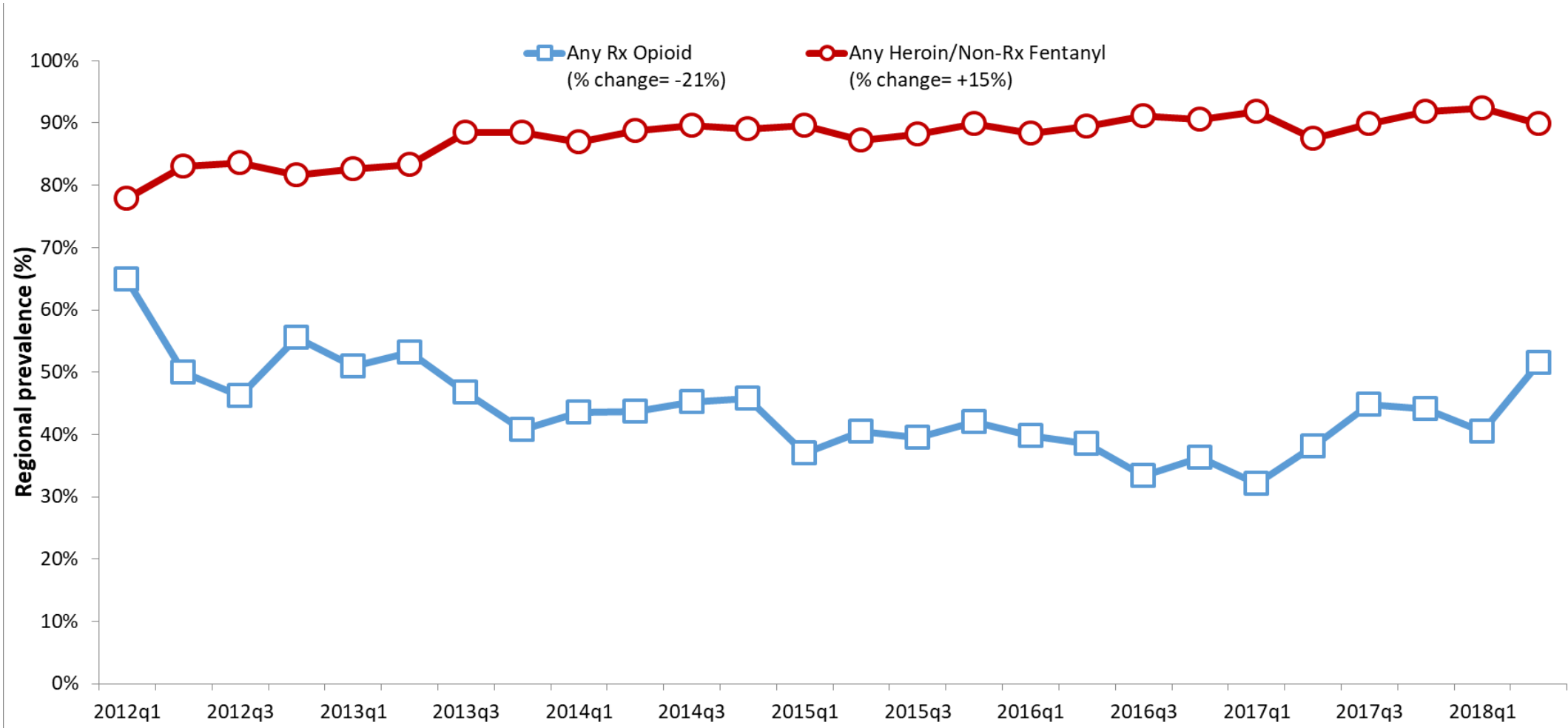


Regional Trends

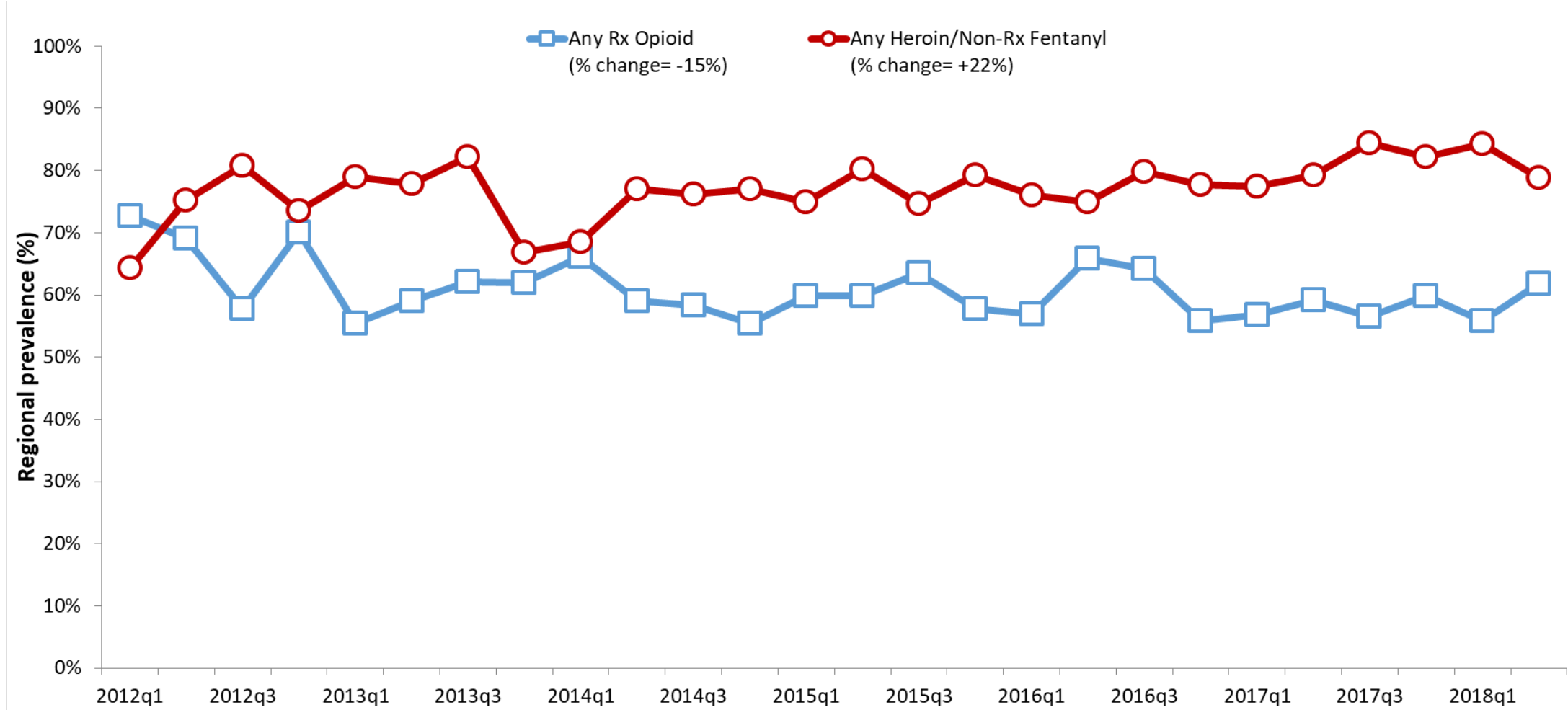
West



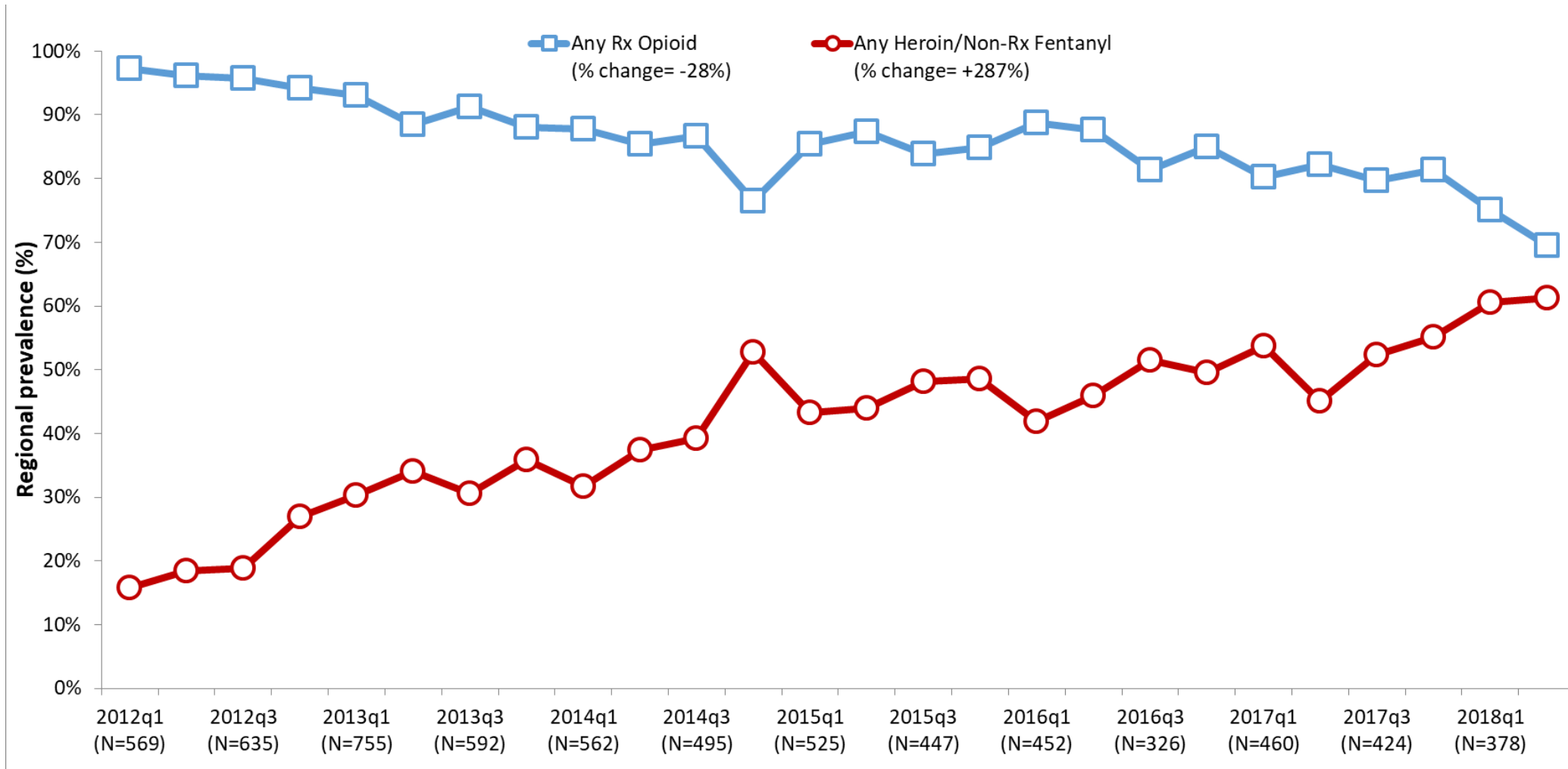
Northeast



Midwest

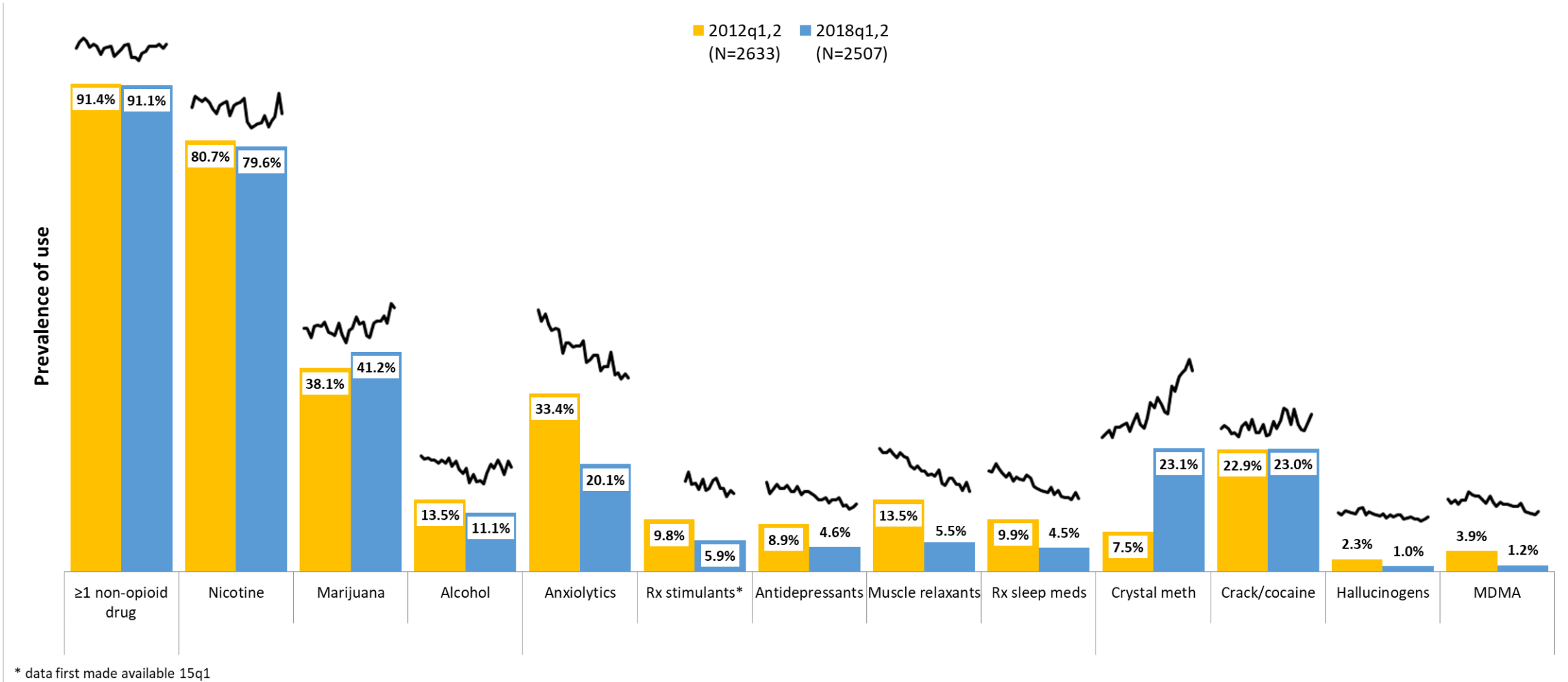


South

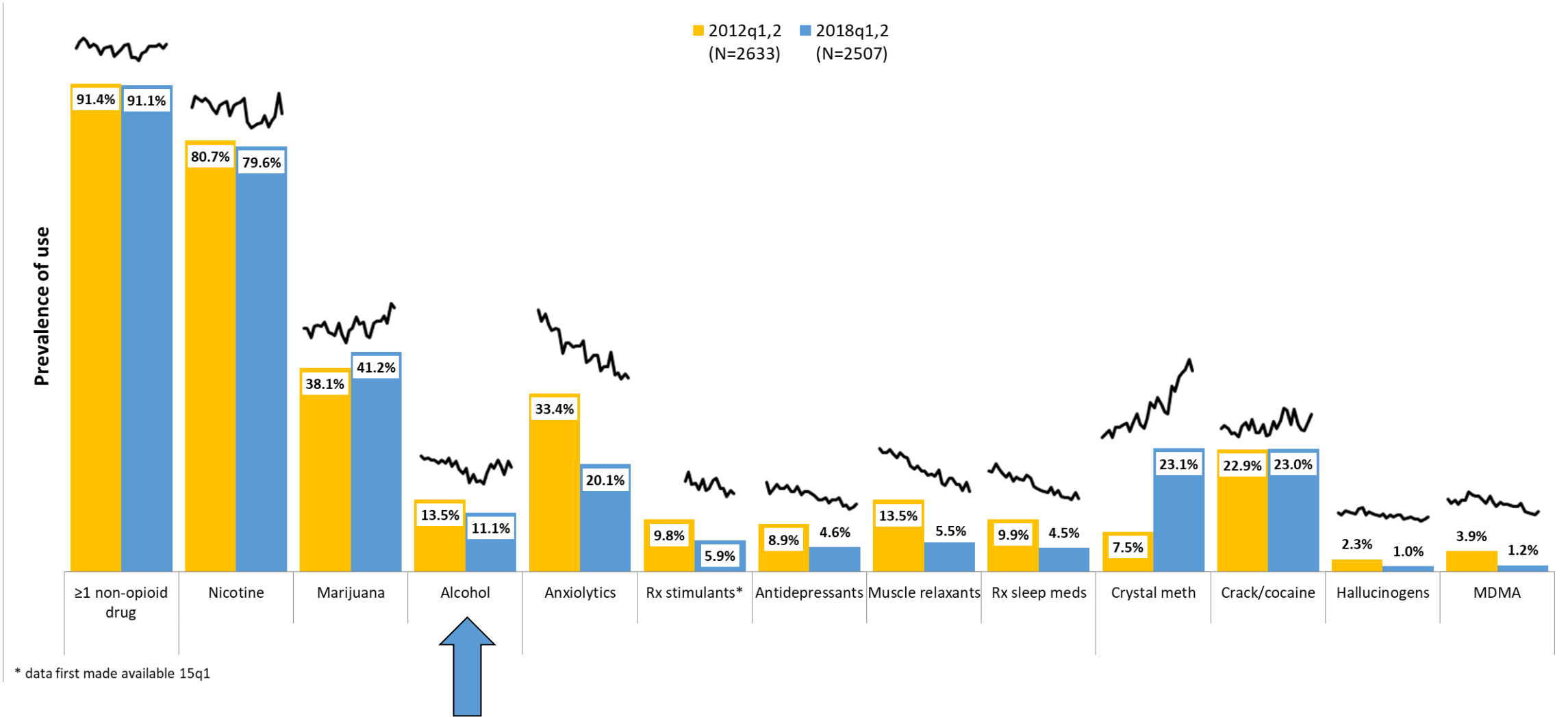


Polysubstance Use

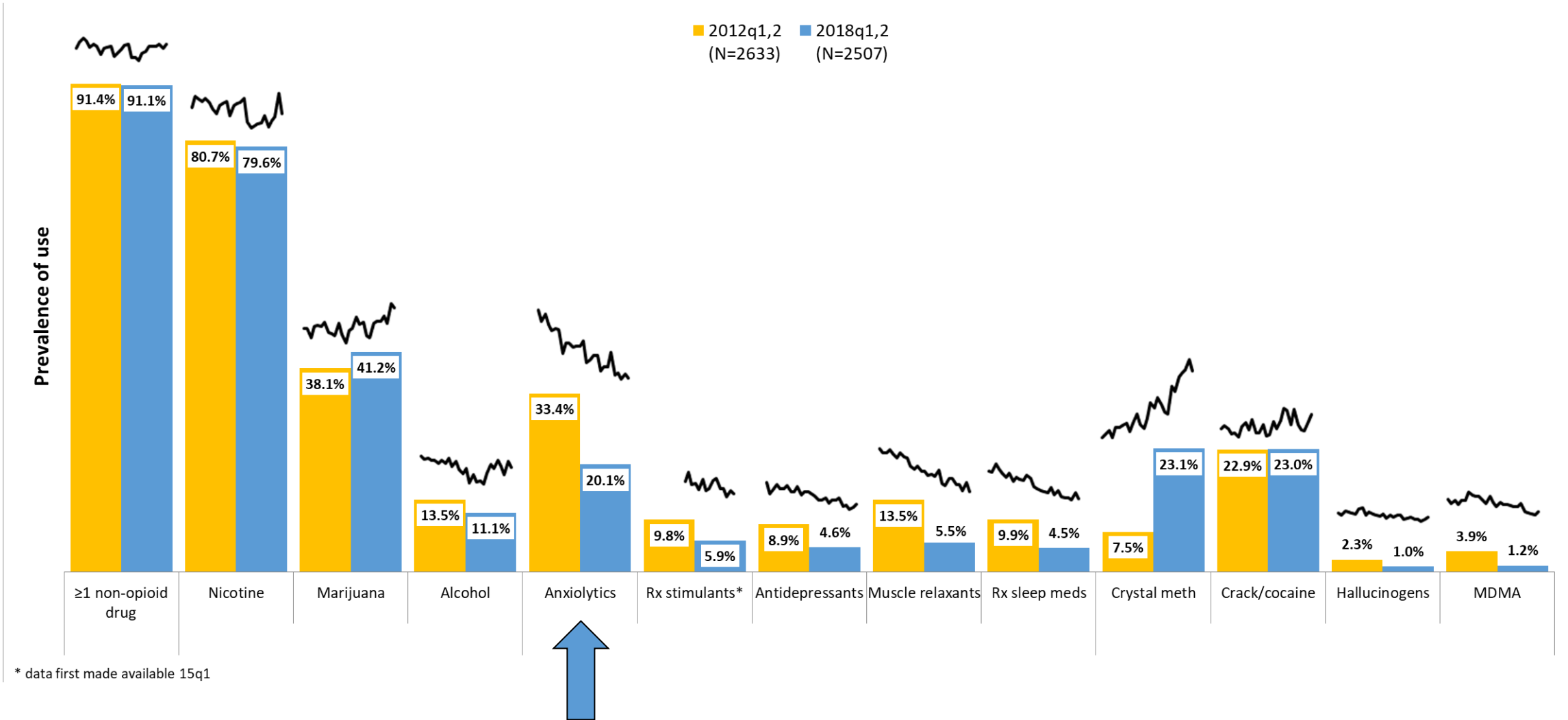
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, OTP 2012/2018



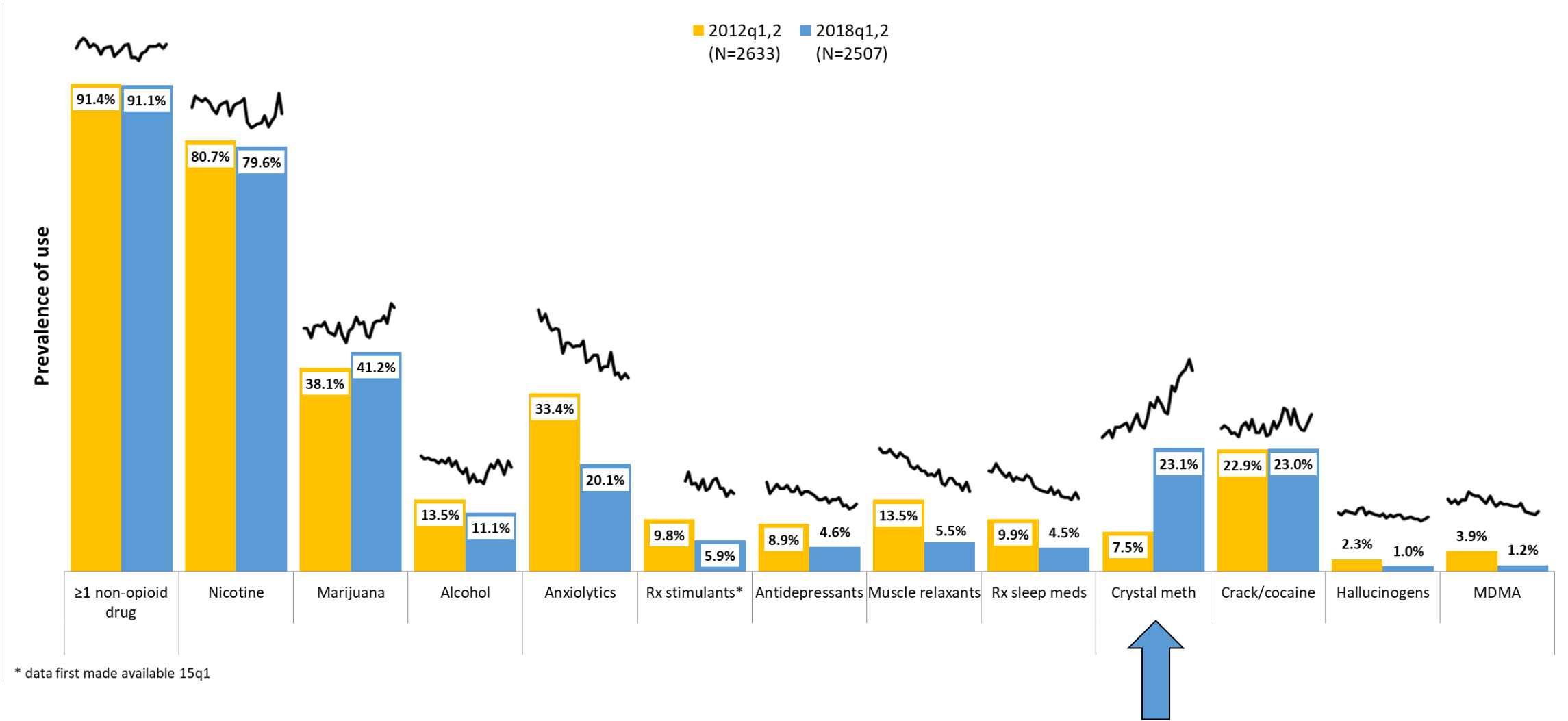
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, OTP 2012/2018



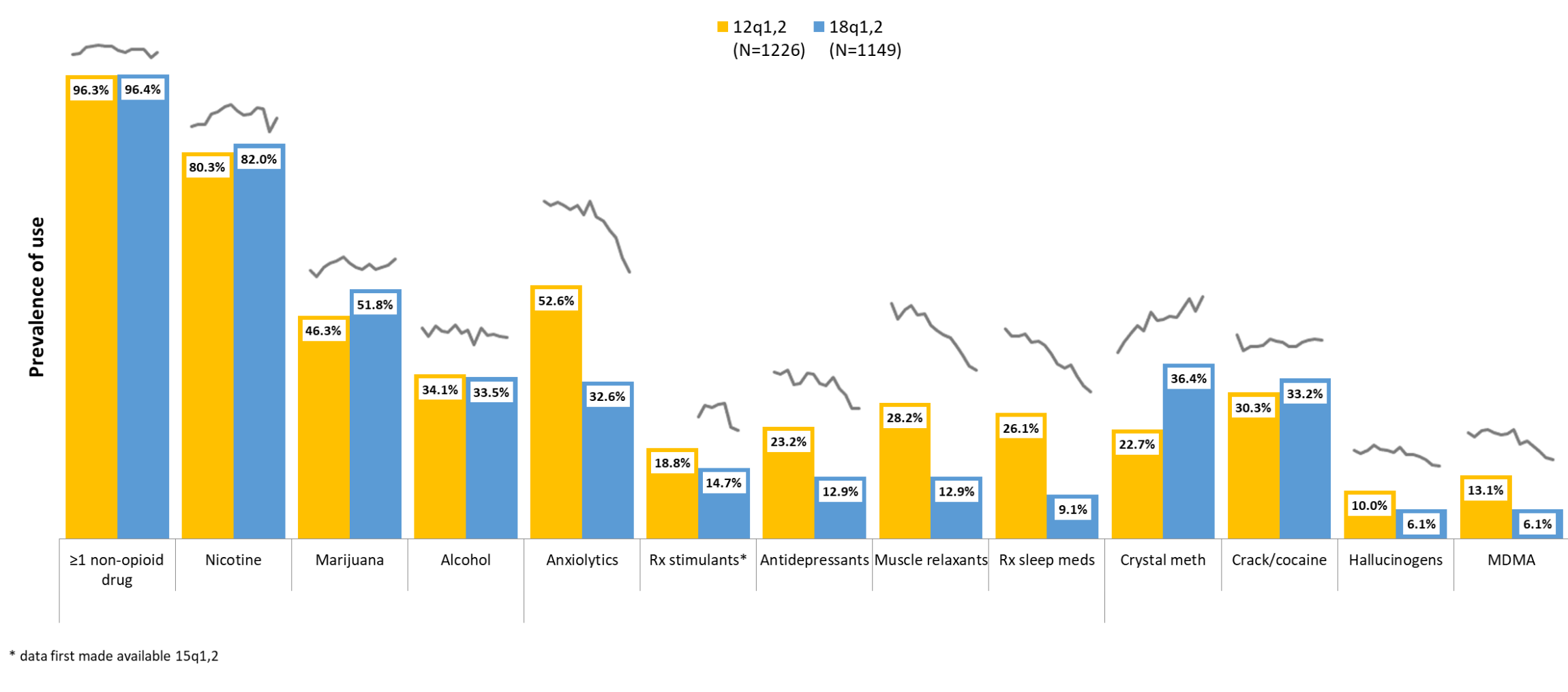
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, OTP 2012/2018



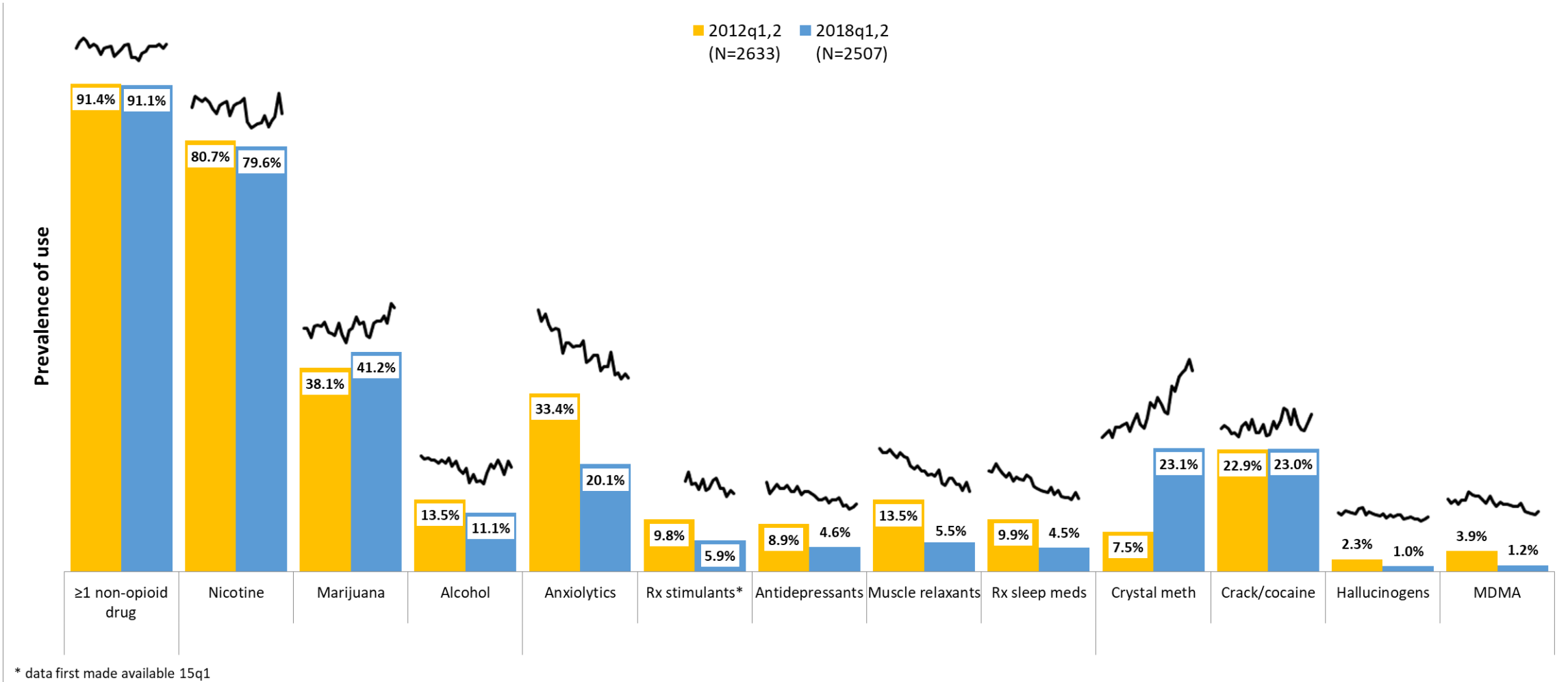
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, OTP 2012/2018



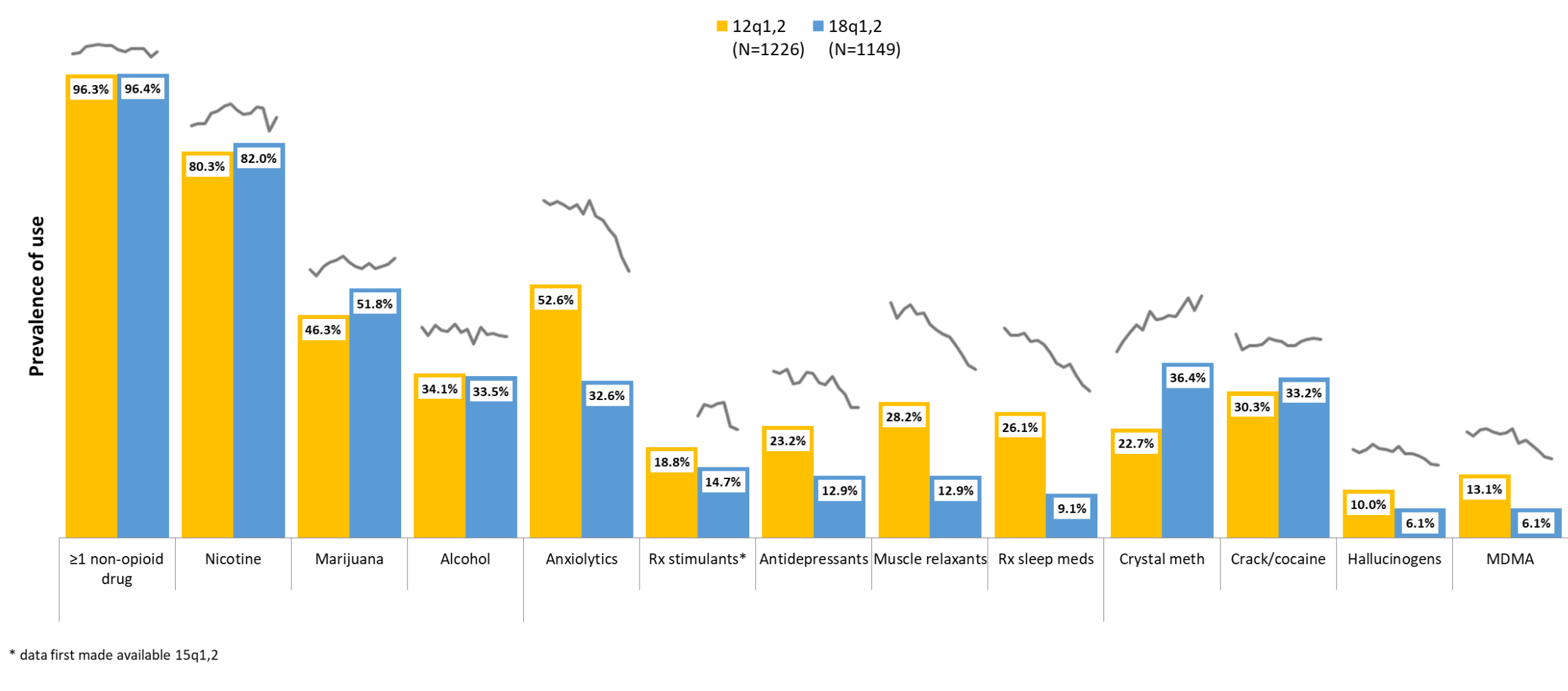
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, SKIP 2012/2018



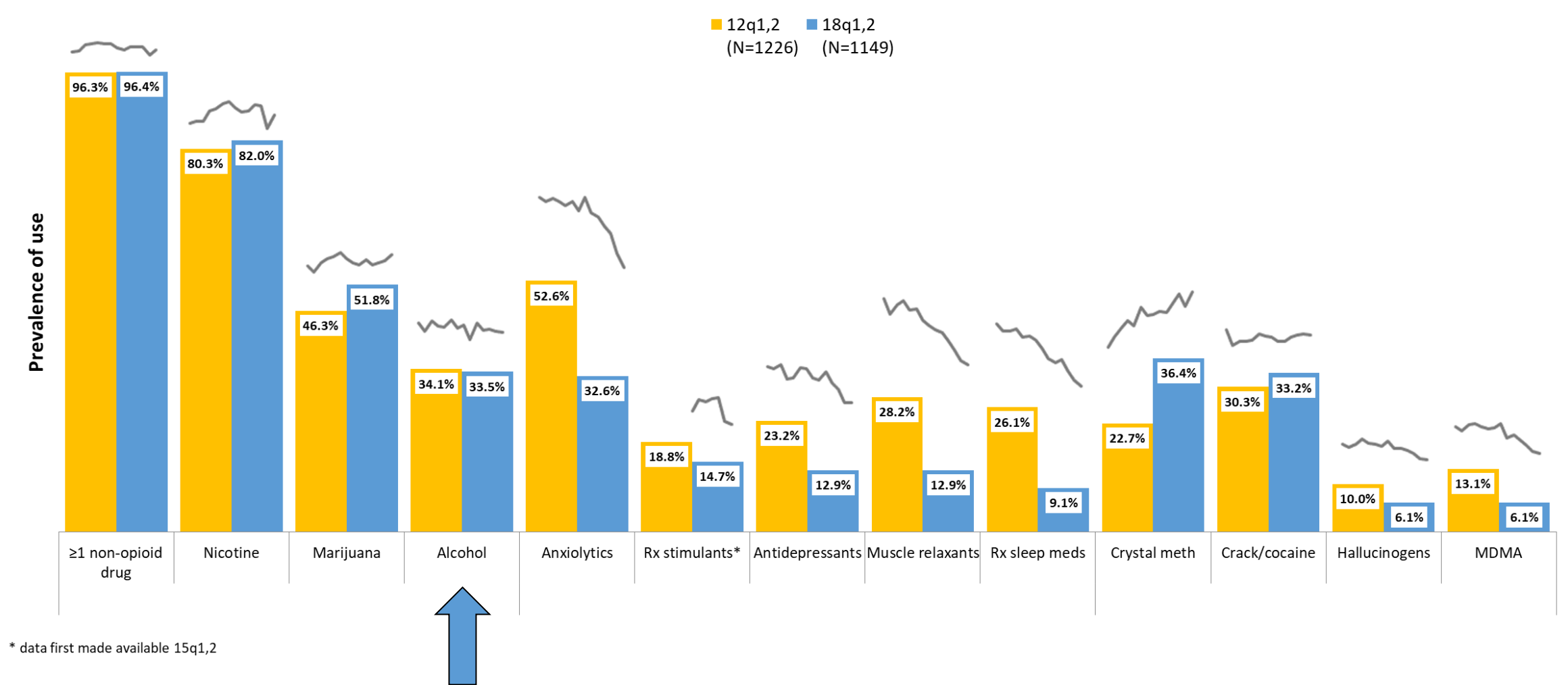
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, OTP 2012/2018



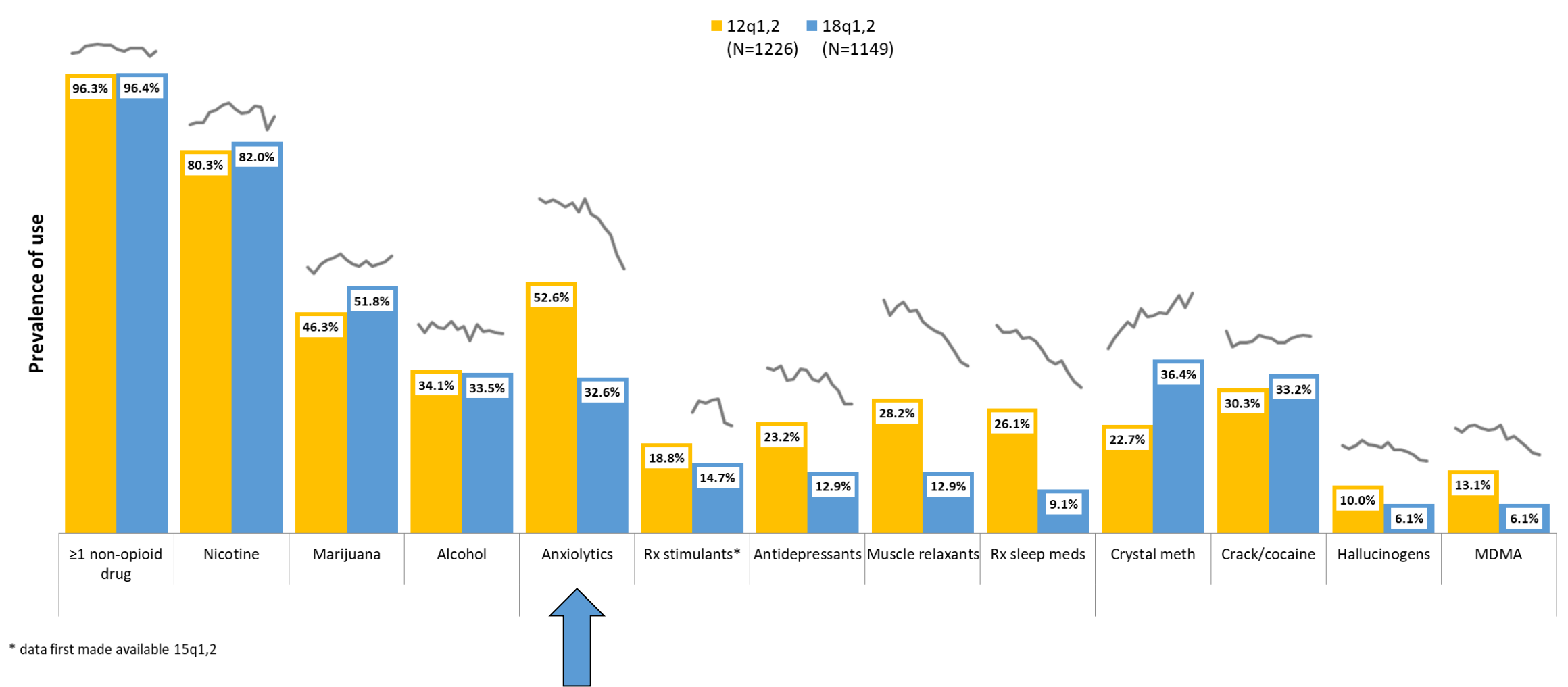
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, SKIP 2012/2018



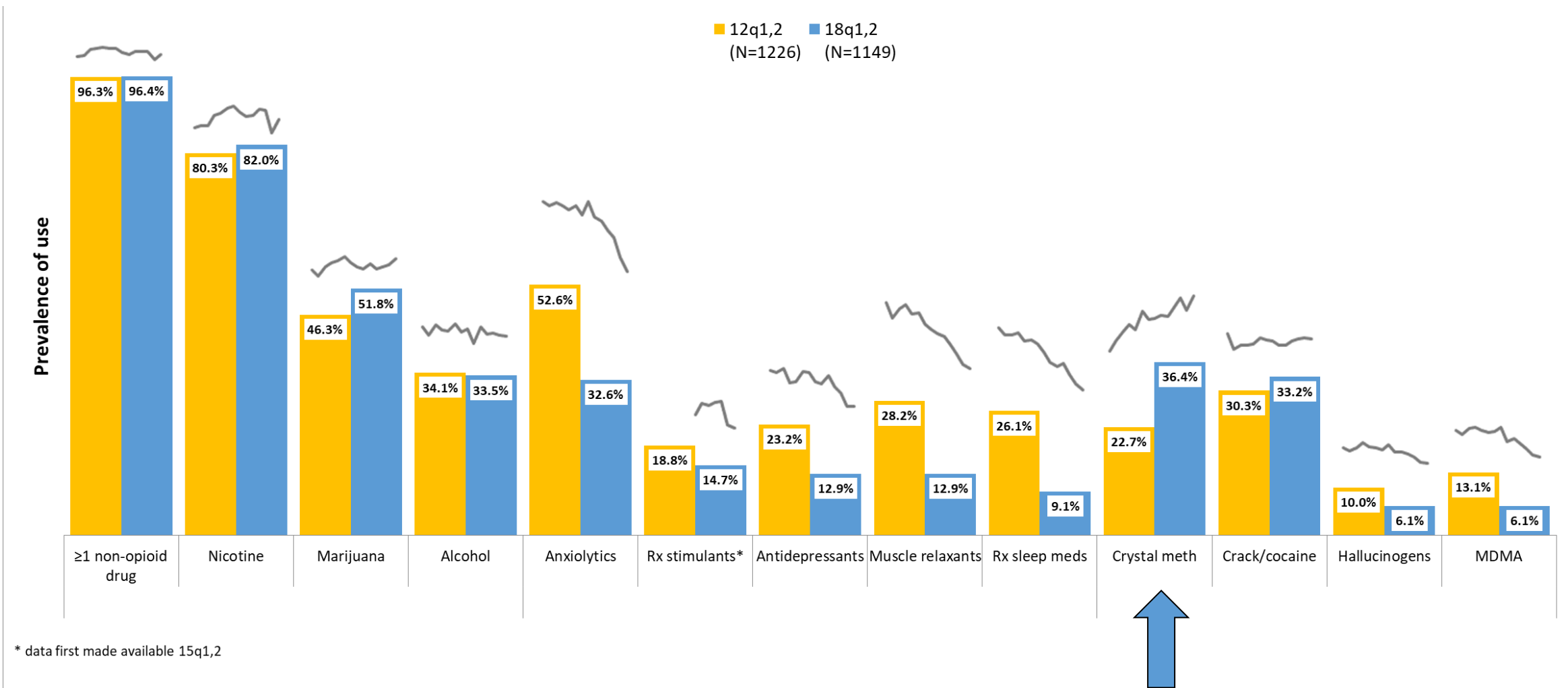
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, SKIP 2012/2018



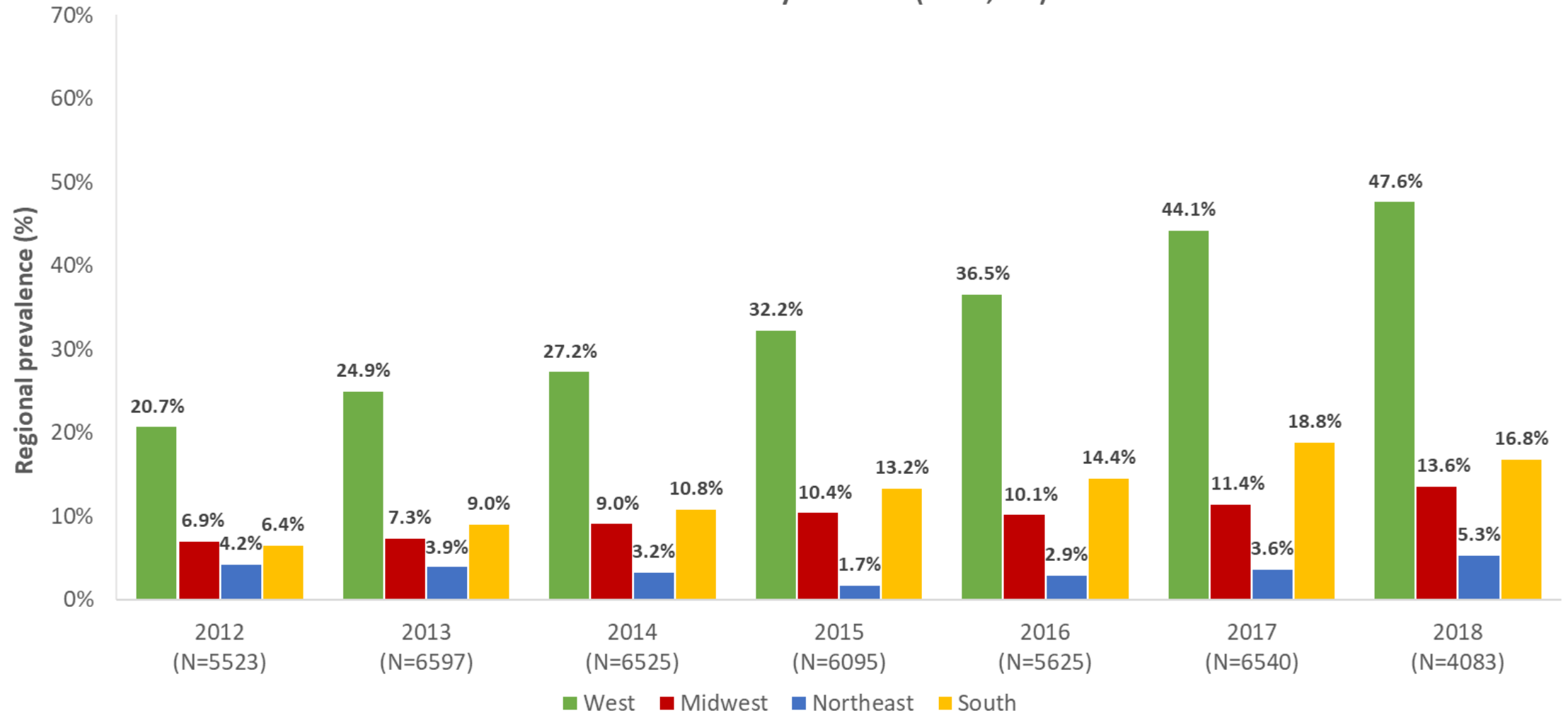
Past month use of non-opioid drugs, SKIP 2012/2018



Past month use of non-opioid drugs, SKIP 2012/2018



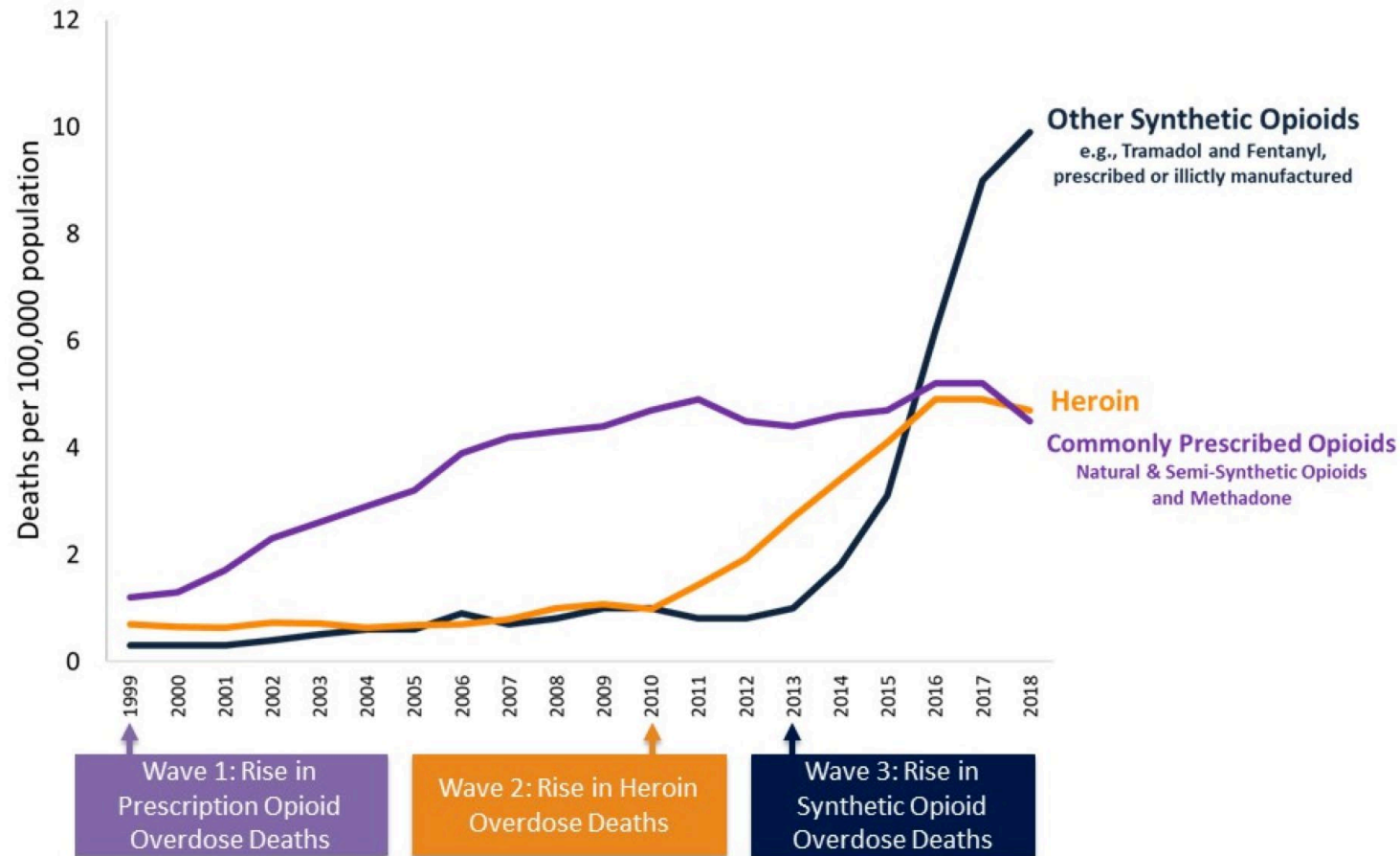
Past Month Use of Crystal Meth (N=40,988)



Opioid and Stimulant Trends

Overdose deaths

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



Introduction

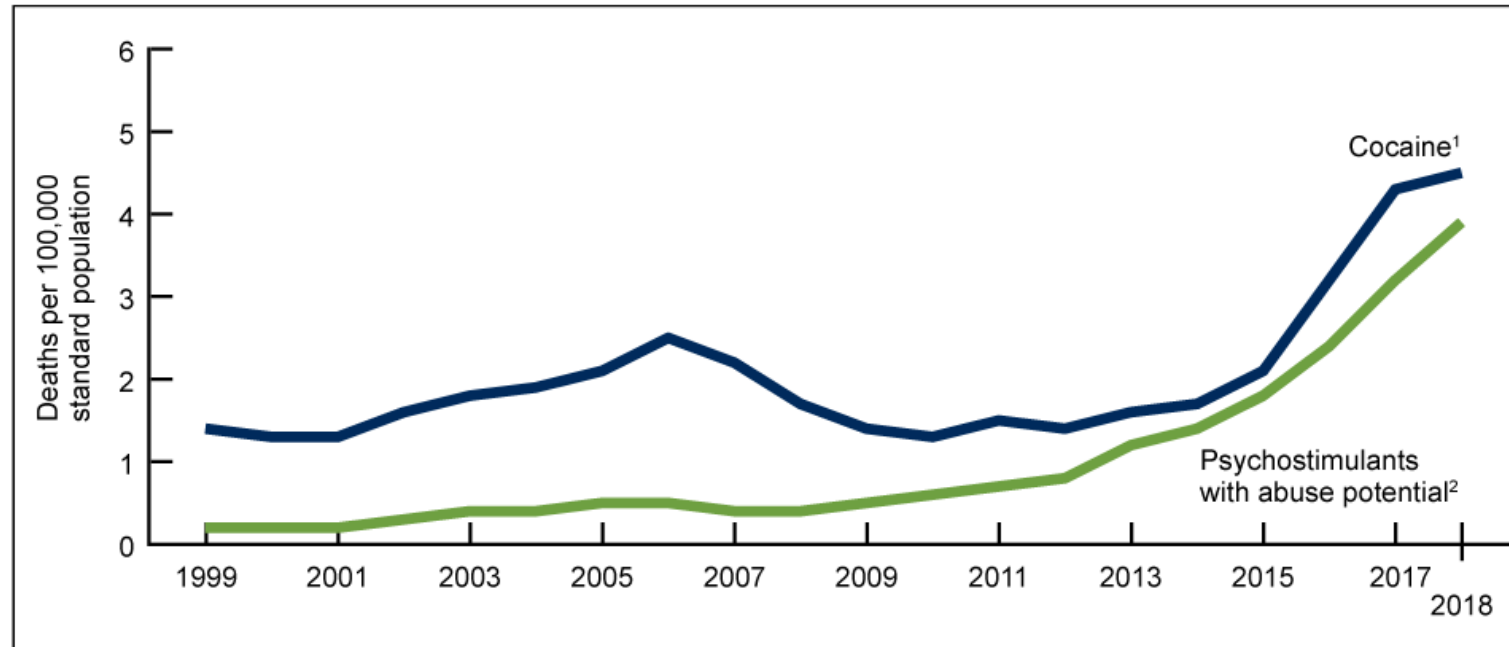
Methamphetamine versus Cocaine

Methamphetamine	Cocaine
Stimulant	Stimulant and local anesthetic
Man-made	Plant-derived
Smoking produces a long-lasting high	Smoking produces a brief high
50% of the drug is removed from the body in 12 hours	50% of the drug is removed from the body in 1 hour
Increases dopamine release and blocks dopamine re-uptake	Blocks dopamine re-uptake
Limited medical use for ADHD, narcolepsy, and weight loss	Limited medical use as a local anesthetic in some surgical procedures

NIDA. 2020, May 29. Overview. Retrieved from <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/methamphetamine/overview>

Overdose deaths

Figure 4. Age-adjusted drug overdose death rates involving stimulants, by type of stimulant: United States, 1999–2018



¹Significant increasing trend from 1999 through 2006, decreasing trend from 2006 through 2012, and increasing trend from 2012 through 2018 with different rates of change over time, $p < 0.05$.

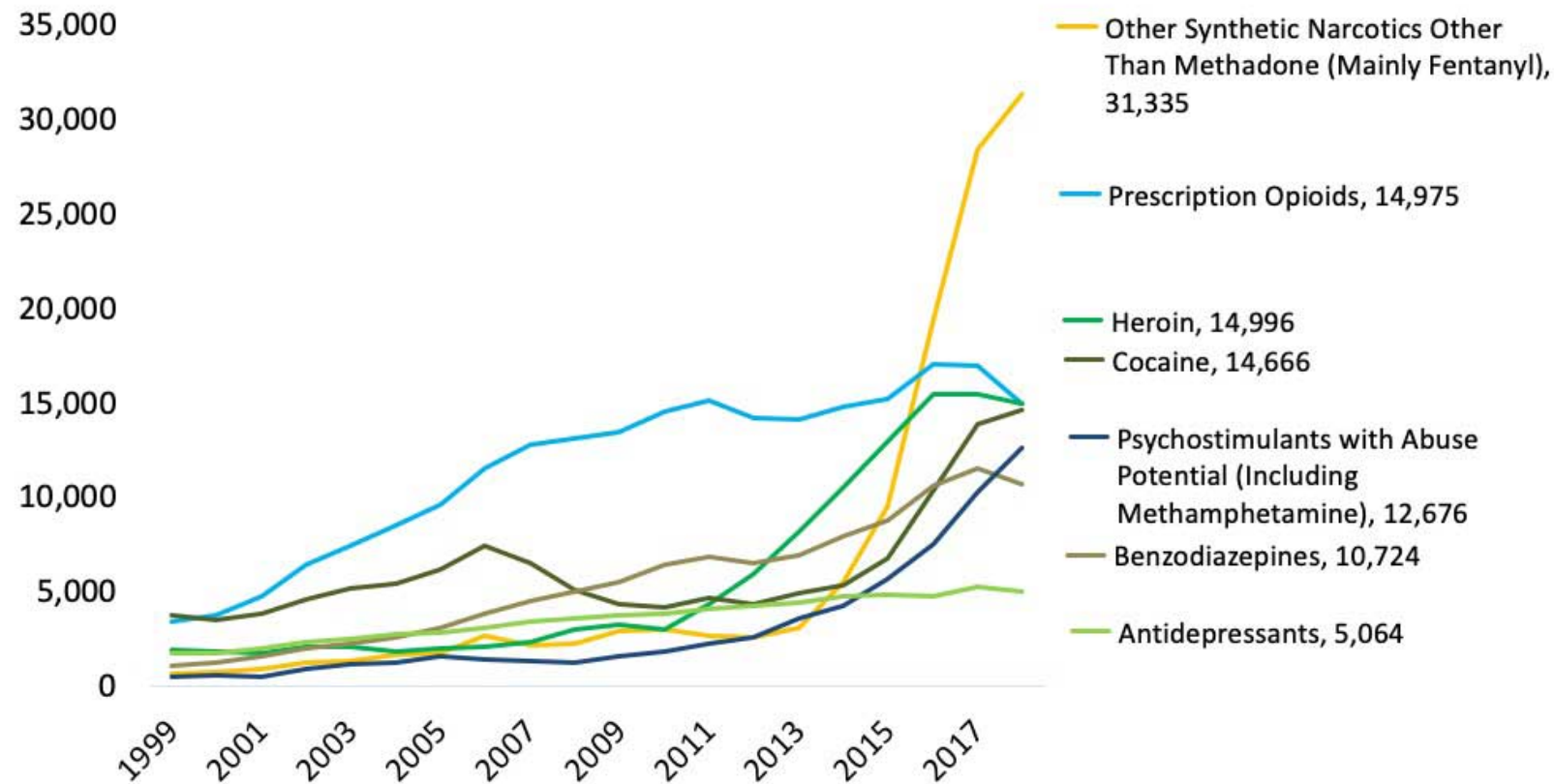
²Significant increasing trend from 1999 through 2005, 2008 through 2012, and 2012 through 2018 with different rates of change over time, $p < 0.05$.

NOTES: Deaths are classified using the *International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision*. Drug-poisoning (overdose) deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes X40–X44, X60–X64, X85, and Y10–Y14. Drug overdose deaths involving selected drug categories are identified by specific multiple-cause-of-death codes: cocaine, T40.5; and psychostimulants, T43.6. Deaths may involve multiple drugs. The percentage of drug overdose deaths that identified the specific drugs involved varied by year, with ranges of 75%–79% from 1999 through 2013 and 81%–92% from 2014 through 2018. Access data table for Figure 4 at: https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/databriefs/db356_tables-508.pdf#4.

SOURCE: NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality.

Hedegaard H, Miniño AM, Warner M. Drug overdose deaths in the United States, 1999–2018. NCHS Data Brief, no 356. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2020.

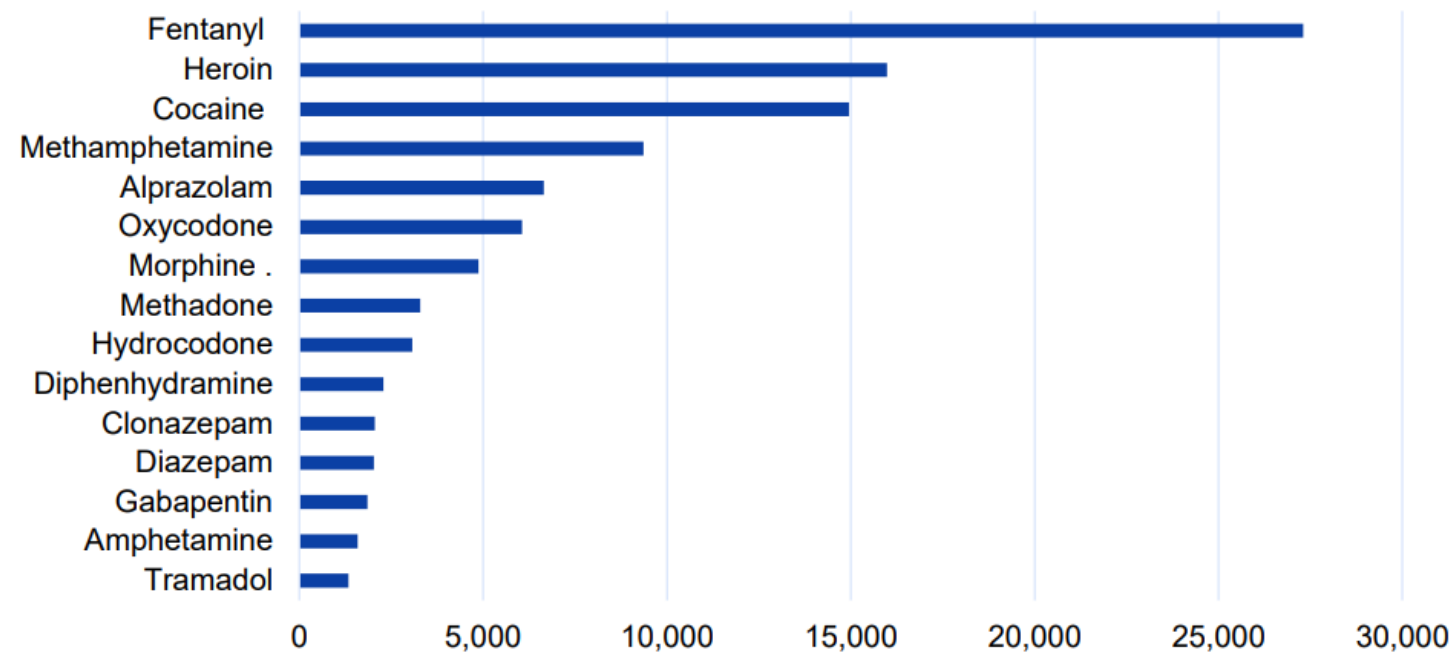
Overdose deaths



Source: : Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2018 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released January, 2019

Overdose deaths

Top 15 drugs involved in drug overdose deaths, United States, 2017

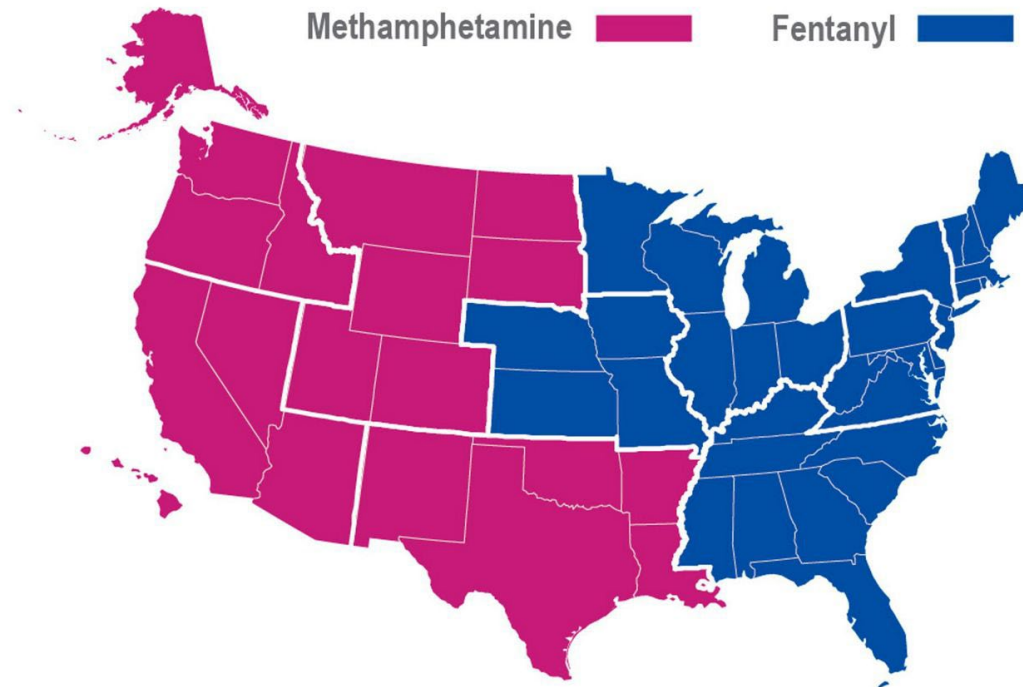


Source: Hedegaard H, Bastian BA, Trinidad JP, Spencer M, Warner M. Drugs most frequently involved in drug overdose deaths: United States, 2011–2016. National Vital Statistics Reports; vol 67 no 9. Hyattsville, MD: National Center for Health Statistics. 2018. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nvsr/nvsr67/nvsr67_09-508.pdf; https://www.radars.org/system/events/RADARS%20System%202020%20Annual%20Meeting_Warner.pdf.tmp

Overdose deaths: Regionality

Drug overdose deaths by region

Methamphetamine was the top drug involved in overdose deaths in most of the western half of the U.S. while fentanyl pervaded the eastern half.



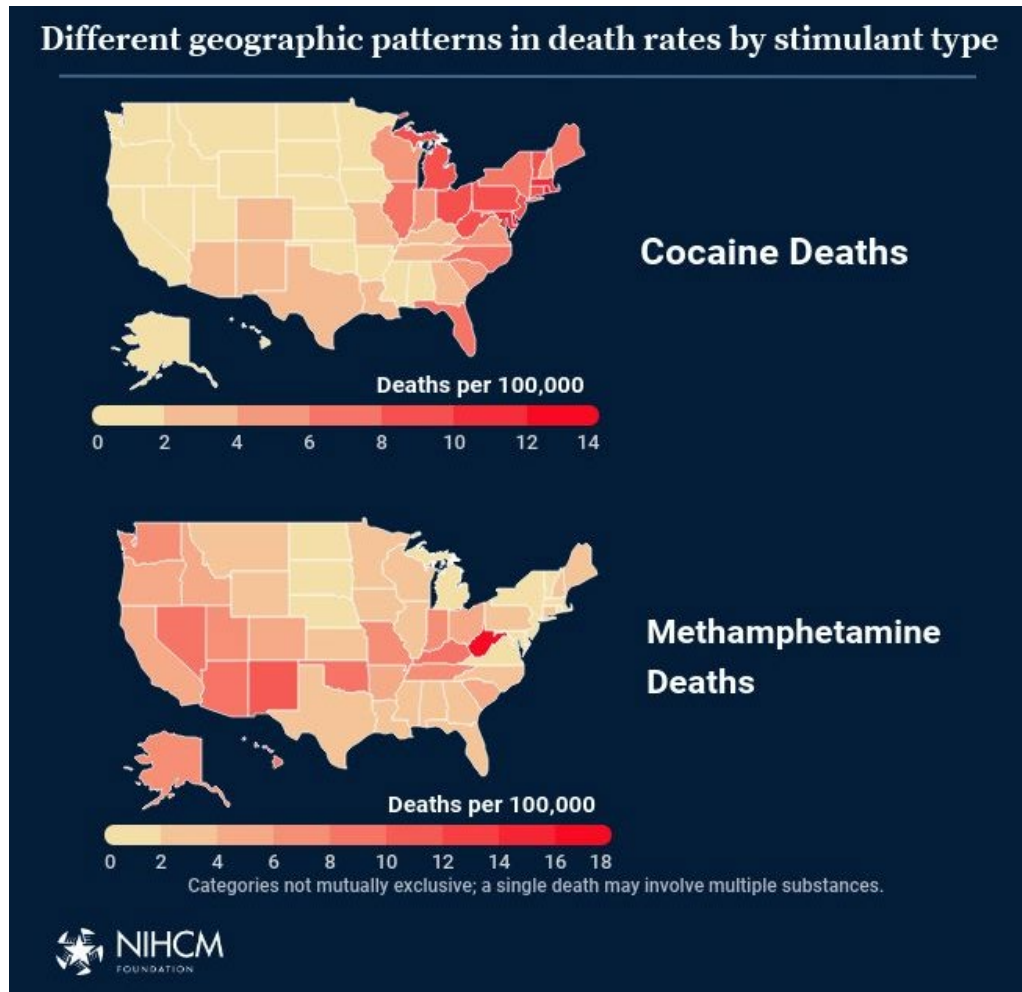
NOTE: Data from 2017. Deaths may include additional drugs.

SOURCE: NCHS National Vital Statistics System

AP

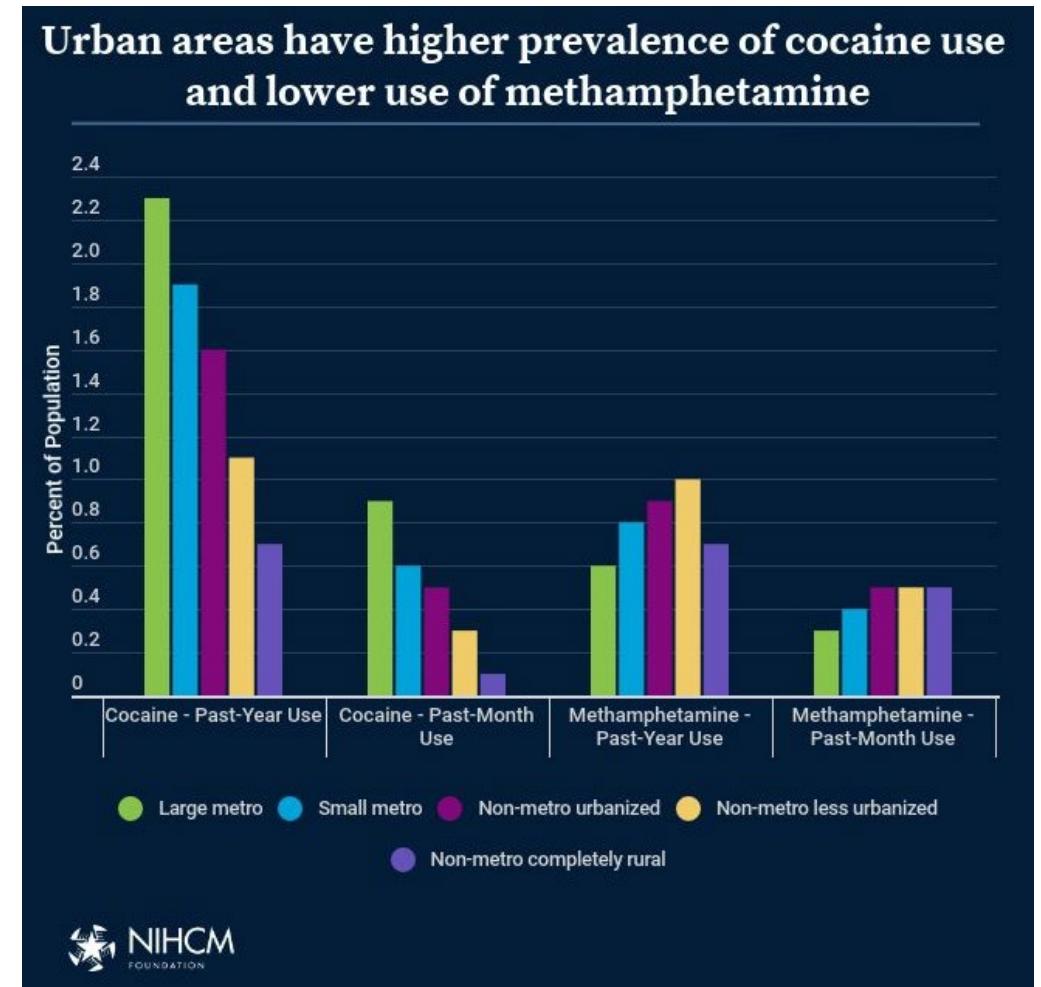
Stobbe, Mike. Meth is most common drug in overdose deaths in chunk of US. AP News October 24, 2019. <https://apnews.com/f57bbc469d9f47519f373ee932cfb8a2>

Overdose deaths: Regionality



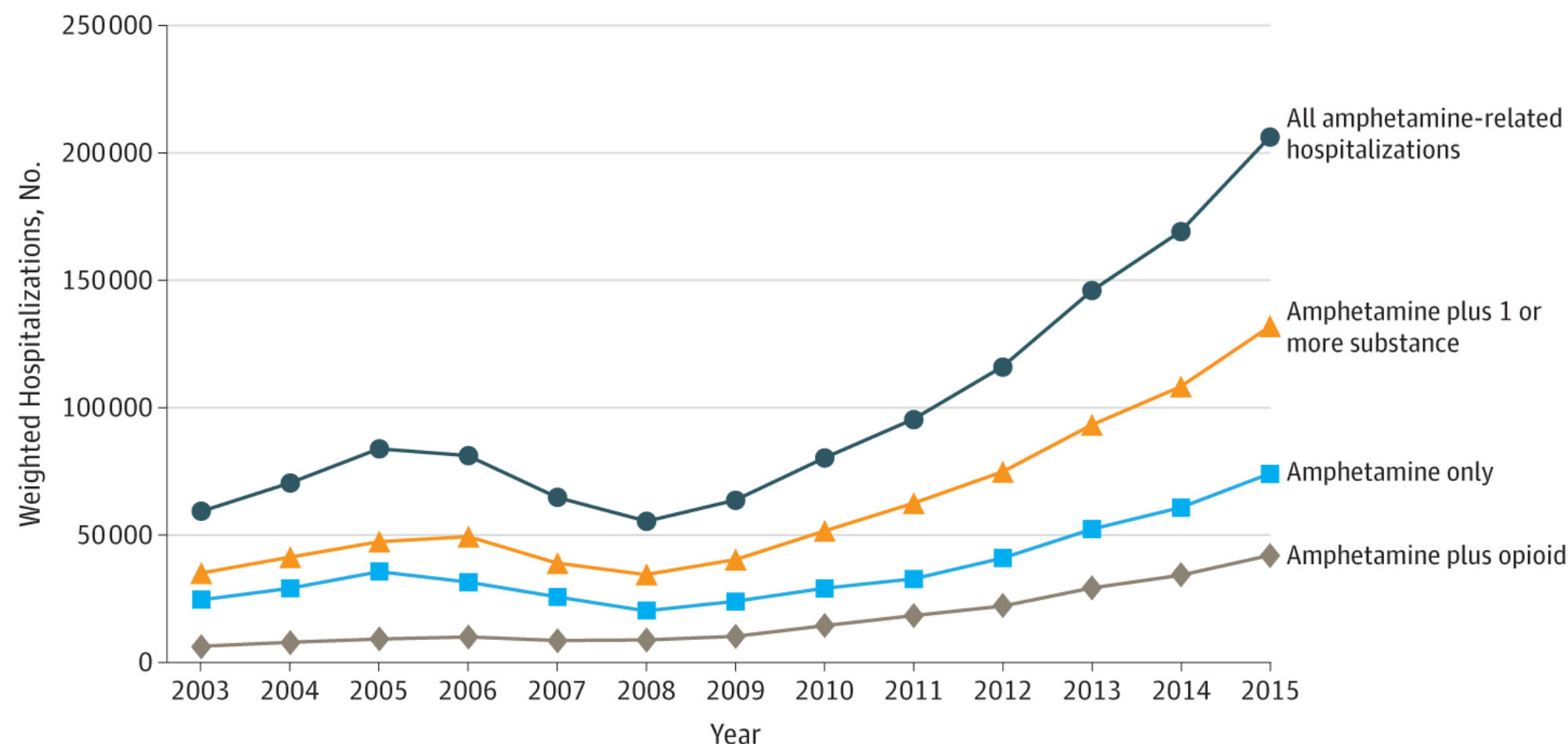
NIHCM. May 2020. Beyond Opioids: Rapid Increase in Drug Deaths Involving Stimulants. <https://www.nihcm.org/categories/beyond-opioids-rapid-increase-in-drug-deaths-involving-stimulants>

Overdose deaths: Urbanicity



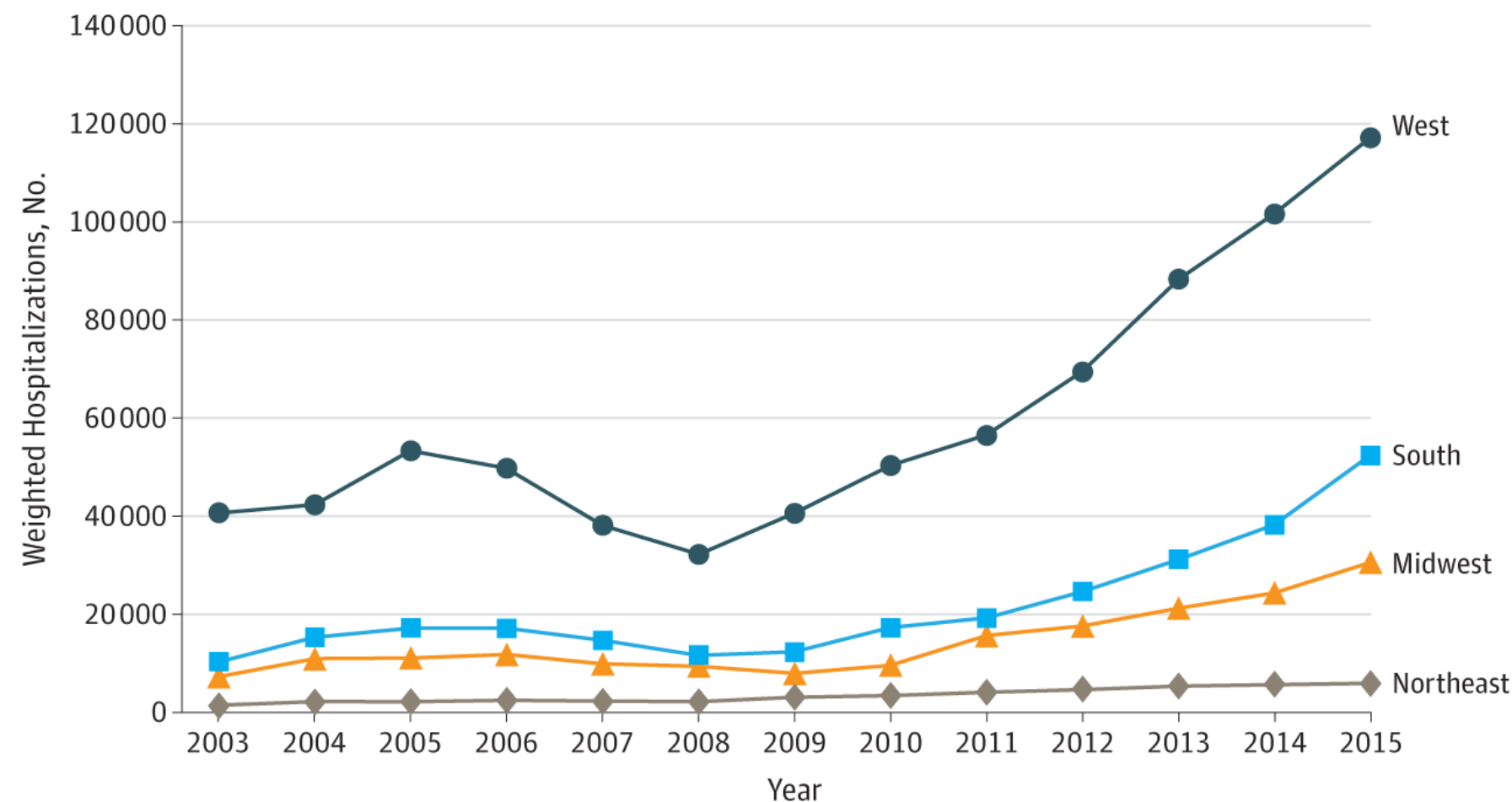
NIHCM. May 2020. Beyond Opioids: Rapid Increase in Drug Deaths Involving Stimulants. <https://www.nihcm.org/categories/beyond-opioids-rapid-increase-in-drug-deaths-involving-stimulants>

Hospitalizations



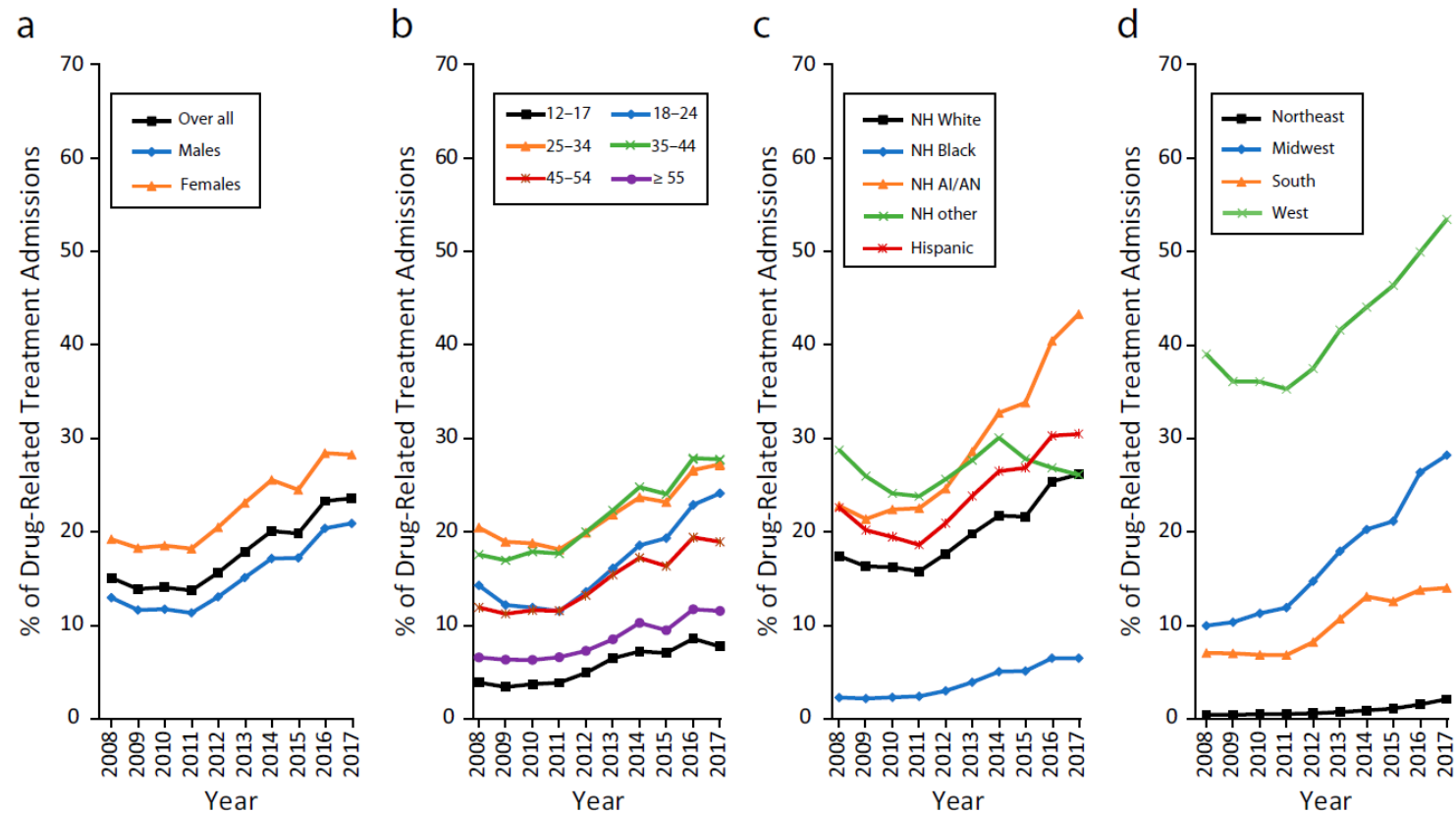
Winkelman TNA, Admon LK, Jennings L, Shippee ND, Richardson CR, Bart G. Evaluation of Amphetamine-Related Hospitalizations and Associated Clinical Outcomes and Costs in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2018;1(6):e183758. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.3758

Hospitalizations



Winkelman TNA, Admon LK, Jennings L, Shippee ND, Richardson CR, Bart G. Evaluation of Amphetamine-Related Hospitalizations and Associated Clinical Outcomes and Costs in the United States. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2018;1(6):e183758. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2018.3758

Treatment Admissions



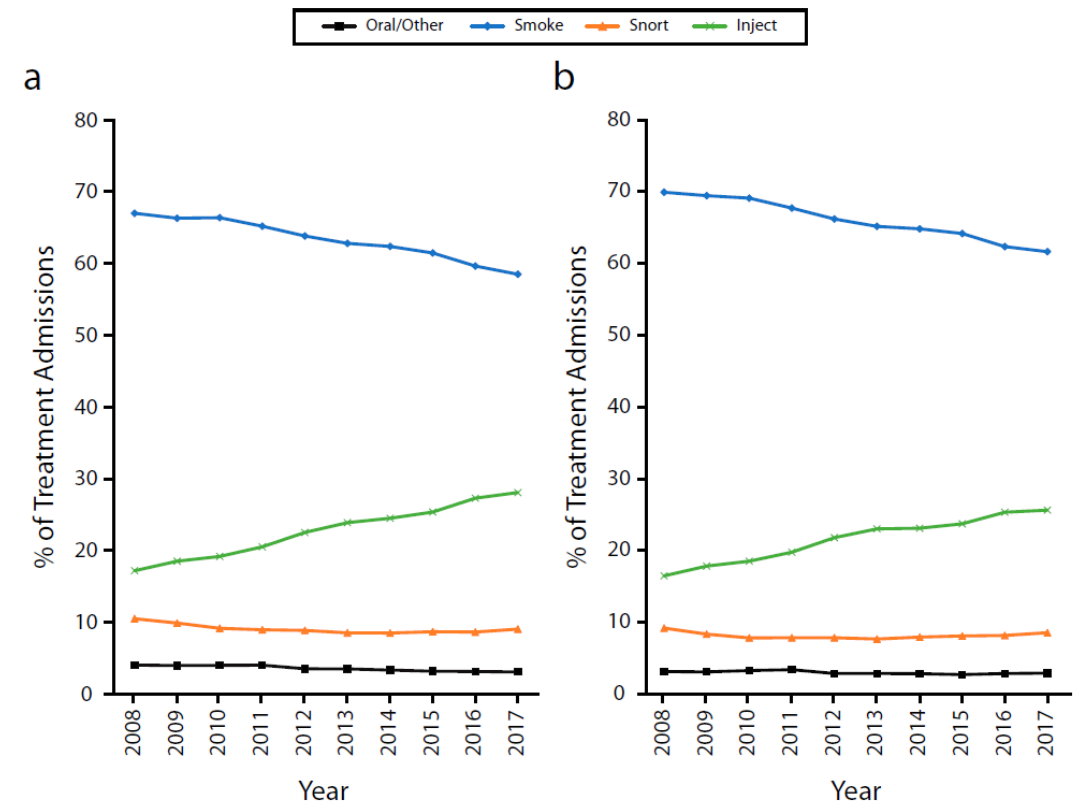
Note. AI/AN=American Indian/Alaska Native; NH=non-Hispanic. Percentage of drug-related treatment admissions reporting any methamphetamine use. Any methamphetamine treatment admissions were defined as treatment admissions in which methamphetamine was listed as a primary, secondary, or tertiary substance of use.

Source. 2008–2017 Treatment Episode Data Set.

FIGURE 1—Percentage of Treatment Admissions Reporting Methamphetamine Use Among Drug-Related Treatment Admissions (a) Overall and by Sex, (b) by Age Group, (c) by Race/Ethnicity, and (d) by US Census Region: United States, 2008–2017

Christopher M. Jones, Emily O. Olsen, Julie O'Donnell, and Desiree Mustaquim, 2020: [Resurgent Methamphetamine Use at Treatment Admission in the United States, 2008–2017](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527) American Journal of Public Health **110**, 509_516, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527>

Route of Administration



Note. Any methamphetamine treatment admissions were defined as treatment admissions in which methamphetamine was listed as a primary, secondary, or tertiary substance of use. Primary methamphetamine treatment admissions were defined as treatment admissions in which methamphetamine was listed as the primary substance of use.

Source. 2008–2017 Treatment Episode Data Set.

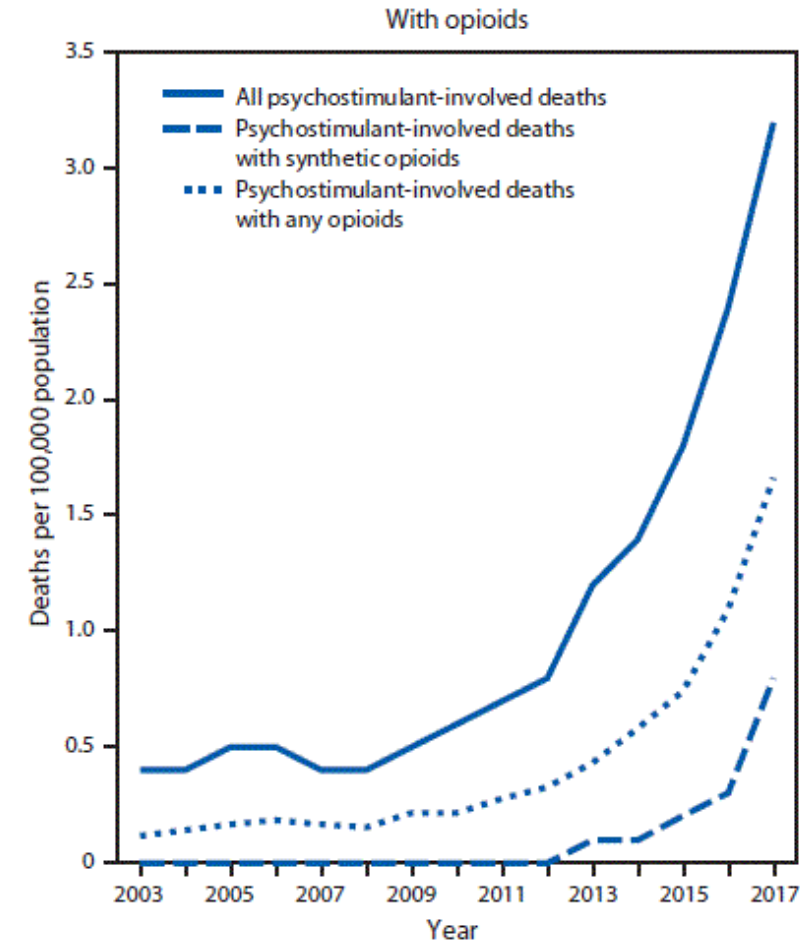
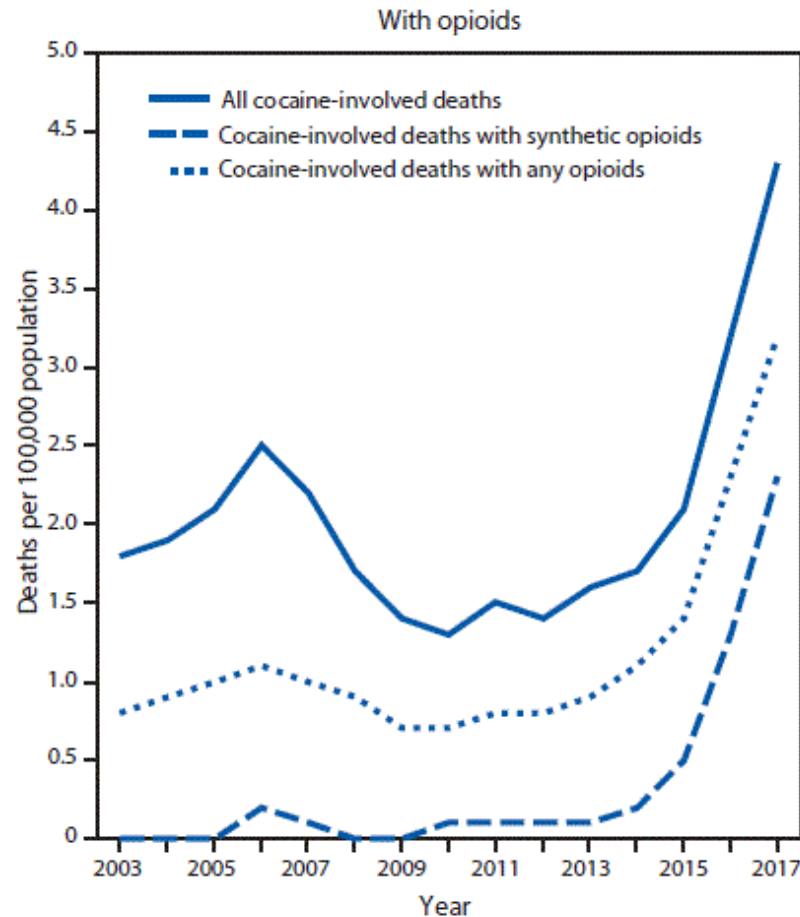
FIGURE 2—Usual Route of Methamphetamine Use Reported at Treatment Admissions for (a) Any Methamphetamine and (b) Primary Methamphetamine: United States, 2008–2017

Christopher M. Jones, Emily O. Olsen, Julie O'Donnell, and Desiree Mustaquim, 2020:[Resurgent Methamphetamine Use at Treatment Admission in the United States, 2008–2017](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527) American Journal of Public Health **110**, 509–516, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527>

Disparate Data

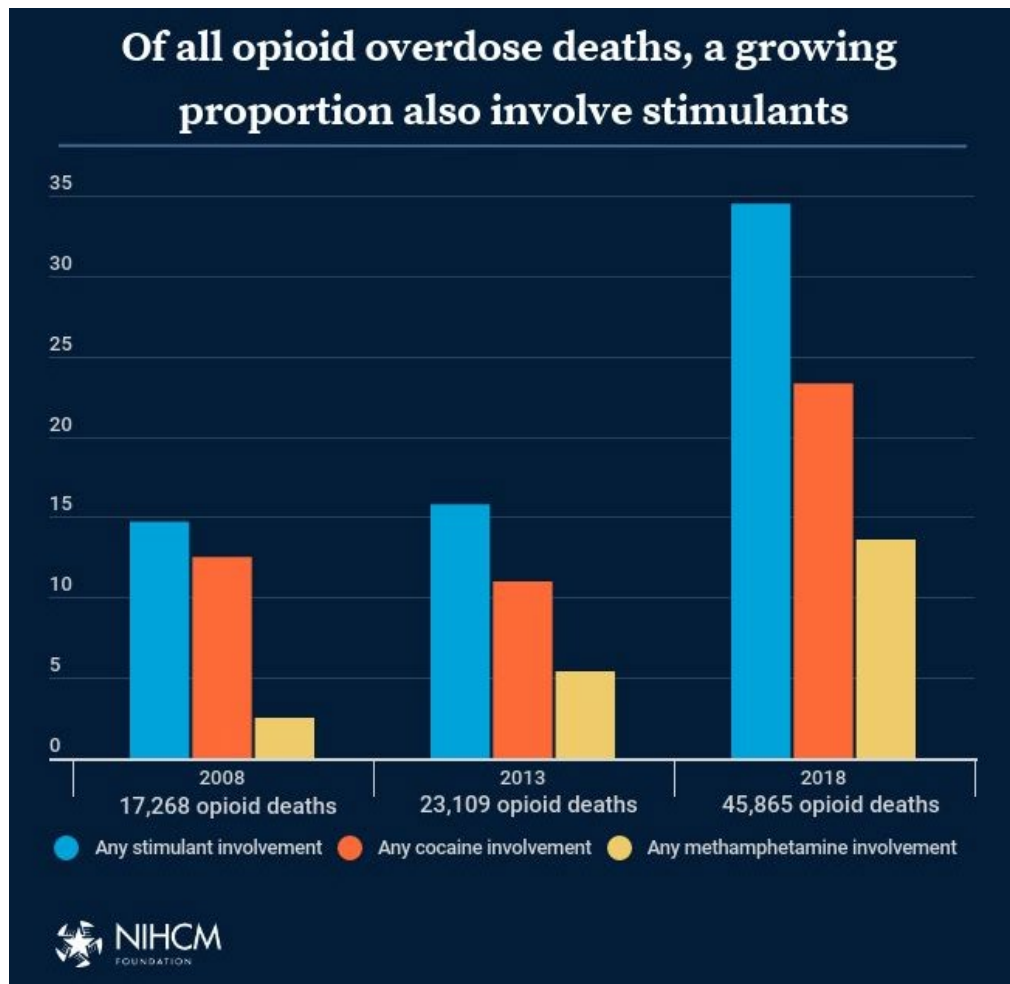
- General population use is stable or has small increases (NSDUH)
- Treatment admissions for cocaine have decreased (TEDS)
- Significant relationship to the opioid epidemic

Opioids + Stimulants: Overdose deaths



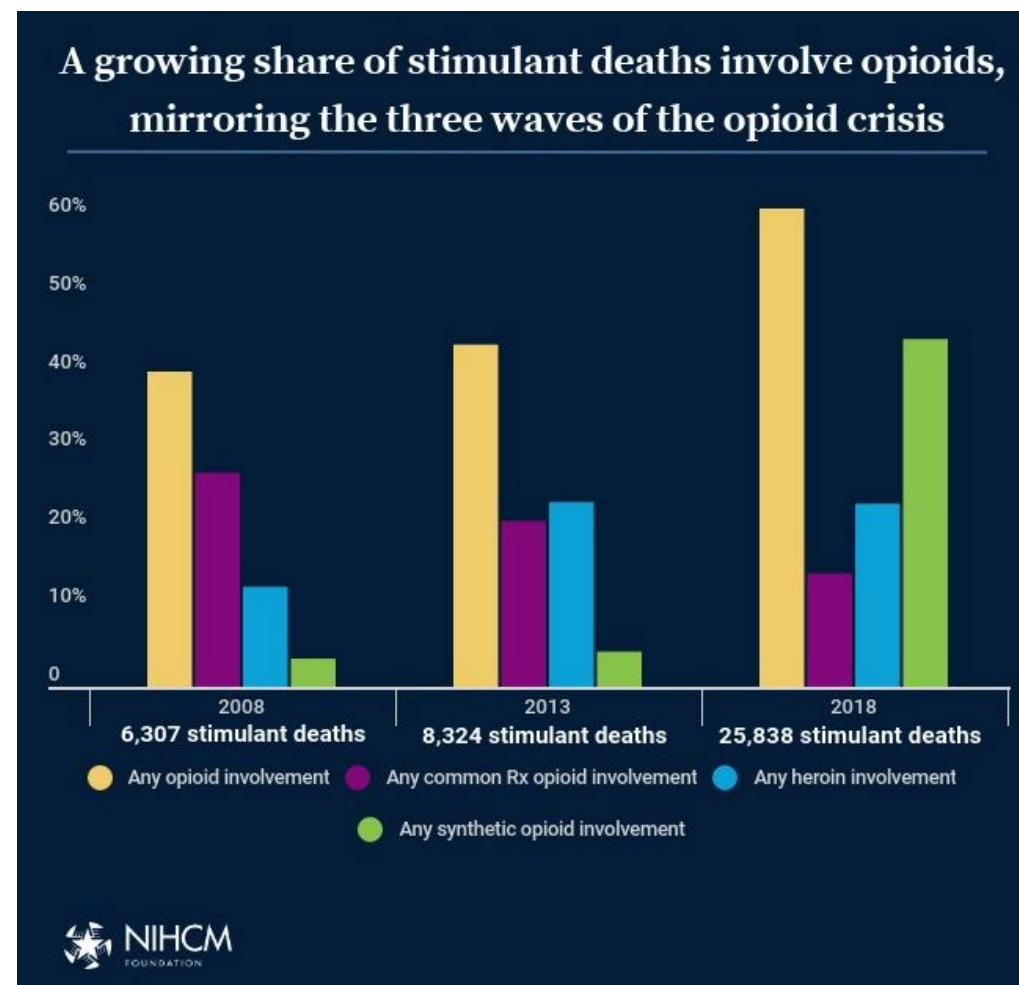
Kariisa M, Scholl L, Wilson N, Seth P, Hoots B. Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Cocaine and Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential — United States, 2003–2017. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly Rep 2019;68:388–395.
DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6817a3external_icon.

Opioids + Stimulants: Overdose deaths



NIHCM. May 2020. Beyond Opioids: Rapid Increase in Drug Deaths Involving Stimulants. <https://www.nihcm.org/categories/beyond-opioids-rapid-increase-in-drug-deaths-involving-stimulants>

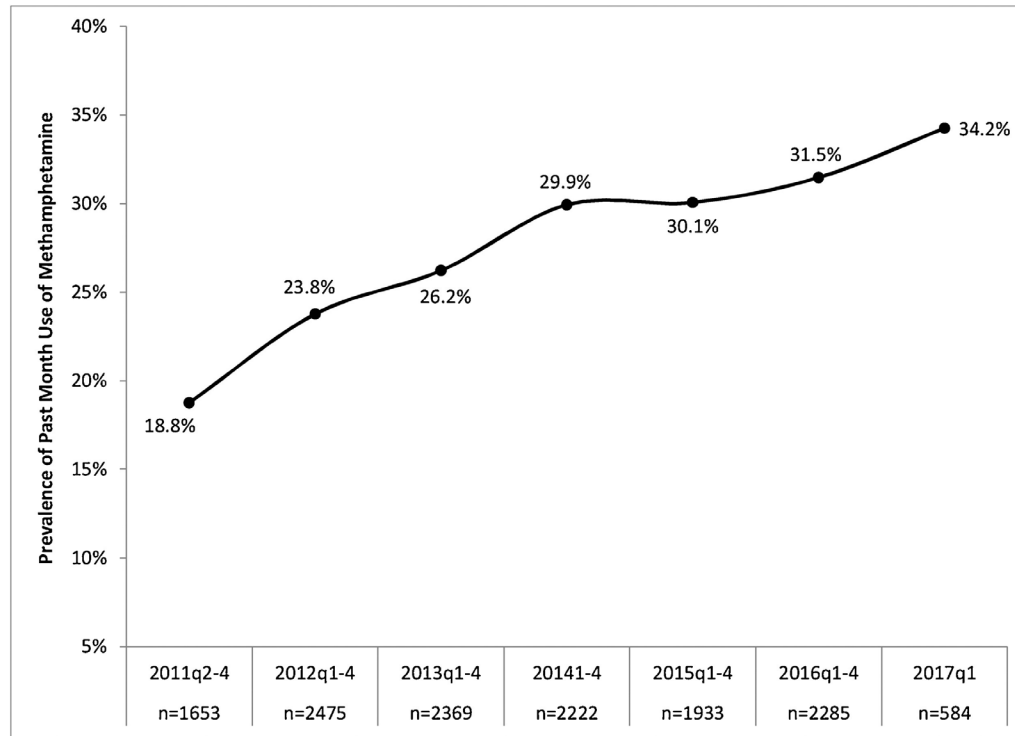
Opioids + Stimulants: Overdose deaths



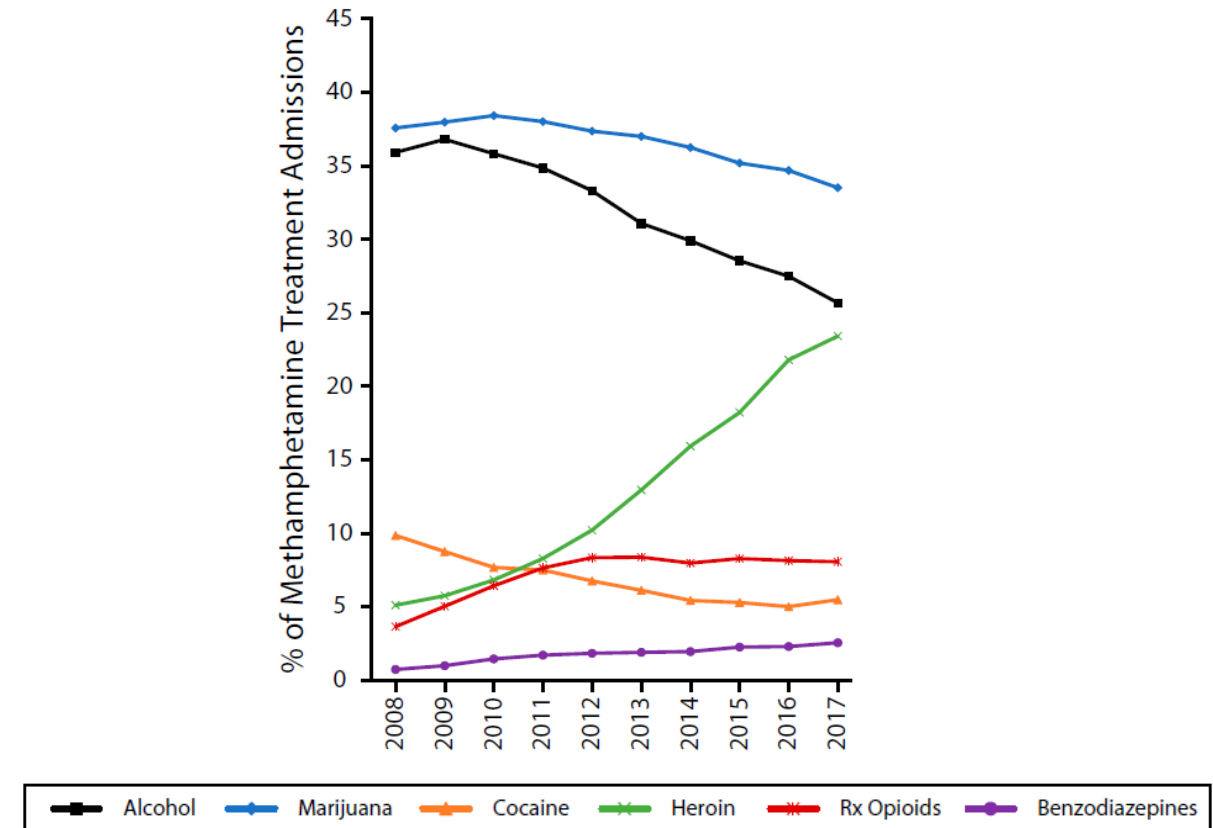
NIHCM. May 2020. Beyond Opioids: Rapid Increase in Drug Deaths Involving Stimulants. <https://www.nihcm.org/categories/beyond-opioids-rapid-increase-in-drug-deaths-involving-stimulants>

Opioids + Stimulants: Treatment Admissions

Methamphetamine use among opioid users

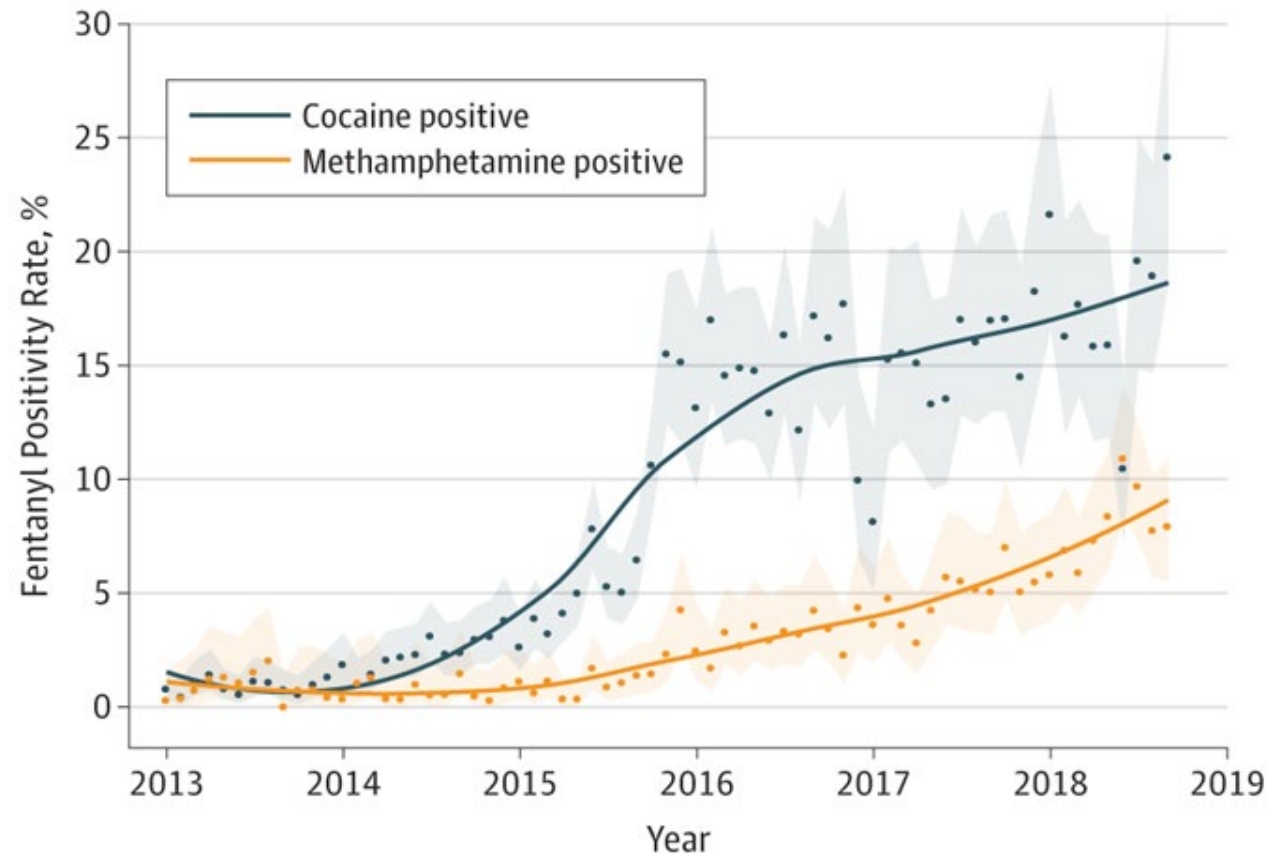


Heroin use among methamphetamine users



Ellis MS, Kasper ZA, Cicero TJ. Twin epidemics: The surging rise of methamphetamine use in chronic opioid users. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2018;193:14-20. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.08.02; Christopher M. Jones, Emily O. Olsen, Julie O'Donnell, and Desiree Mustaquim, 2020: [Resurgent Methamphetamine Use at Treatment Admission in the United States, 2008–2017](https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527) American Journal of Public Health **110**, 509_516, <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.2019.305527>

Opioids + Stimulants: Fentanyl Tests

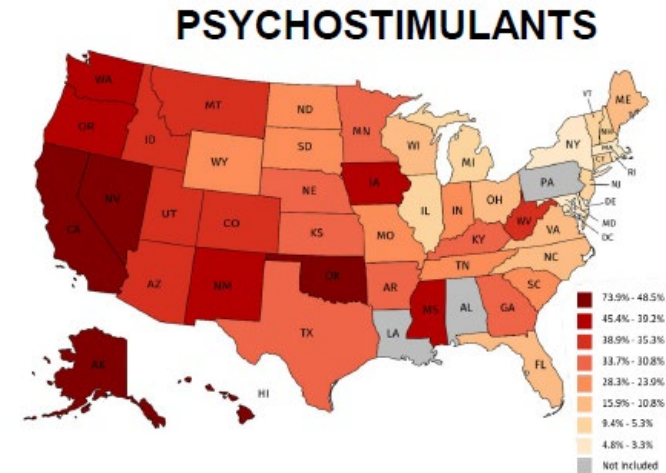
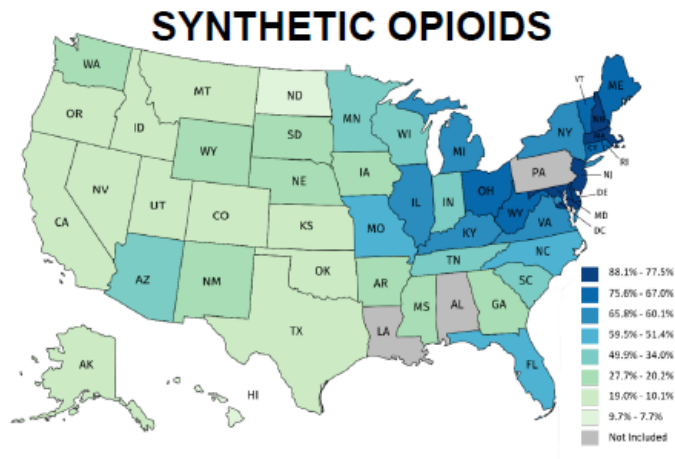


LaRue L, Twillman RK, Dawson E, et al. Rate of Fentanyl Positivity Among Urine Drug Test Results Positive for Cocaine or Methamphetamine. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2019;2(4):e192851. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.2851

Opioids + Stimulants: Regionality

OD Deaths: Provisional Data 3/ 2018 – 2/ 201

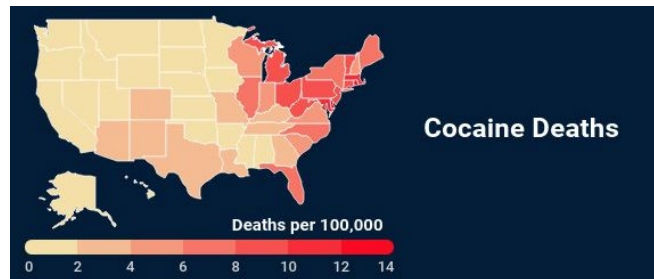
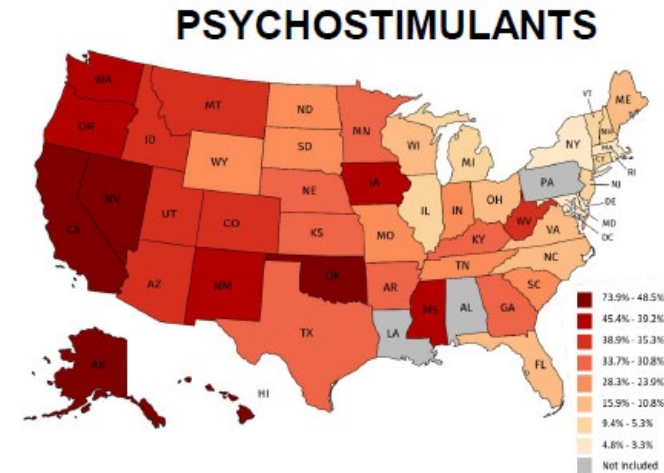
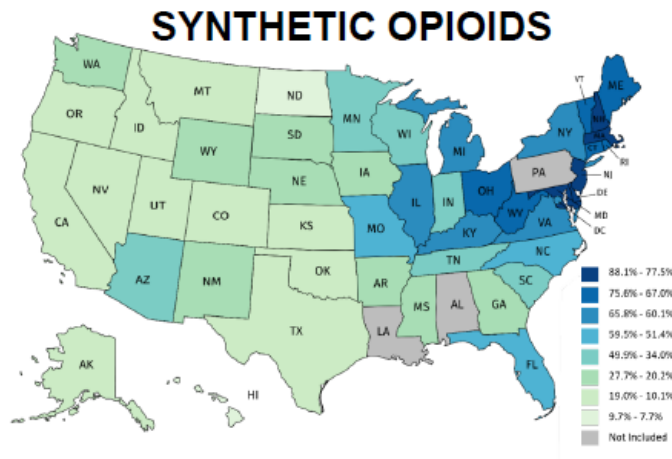
Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, September 12, 2019



Opioids + Stimulants: Regionality

OD Deaths: Provisional Data 3/ 2018 – 2/ 201

Source: CDC National Vital Statistics System, September 12, 2019



Opioids + Stimulants: Non-Fatal Overdoses in Emergency Rooms 2018-2019

ED patient/ visit characteristic	Rate change from 2018 to 2019 ^{§§}		
	Opioids	Cocaine	Amphetamines
	Relative (%)	Relative (%)	Relative (%)
All	9.7 ^{¶¶}	11.0 ^{¶¶}	18.3 ^{¶¶}
Sex			
Female	7.1 ^{¶¶}	8.5 ^{¶¶}	13.1 ^{¶¶}
Male	10.7 ^{¶¶}	12.4 ^{¶¶}	20.5 ^{¶¶}
Age group, yrs			
15–24	3.7 ^{¶¶}	–0.4	4.3
25–34	7.8 ^{¶¶}	2.0	18.5 ^{¶¶}
35–44	15.2 ^{¶¶}	20.1 ^{¶¶}	16.4 ^{¶¶}
45–54	14.4 ^{¶¶}	9.8	35.8 ^{¶¶}
≥55	12.9 ^{¶¶}	26.4 ^{¶¶}	60.0 ^{¶¶}
U.S. Census region^{***}			
Northeast	0.0	10.0	18.9 ^{¶¶}
South	16.5 ^{¶¶}	12.0 ^{¶¶}	14.3 ^{¶¶}
Midwest	8.3 ^{¶¶}	14.9 ^{¶¶}	2.2
West	11.5 ^{¶¶}	8.1	21.2 ^{¶¶}
County urbanization^{†††}			
Urban	13.6 ^{¶¶}	16.2 ^{¶¶}	21.7 ^{¶¶}
Rural	10.1 ^{¶¶}	–7.5	20.8 ^{¶¶}

Opioids + Stimulants: Non-Fatal Overdoses in Emergency Rooms 2018-2019

ED patient/ visit characteristic	Rate change from 2018 to 2019 ^{§§}	
	Opioids and cocaine	Opioids and amphetamines
	Relative (%)	Relative (%)
All	4.4	37.3 ^{¶¶}
Sex		
Female	0.6	32.7 ^{¶¶}
Male	6.2	38.3 ^{¶¶}
Age group, yrs		
15–24	1.6	50.3 ^{¶¶}
25–34	–0.1	35.5 ^{¶¶}
35–44	22.1 ^{¶¶}	38.6 ^{¶¶}
45–54	–0.9	26.0
≥55	15.3	66.0 ^{¶¶}
U.S. Census region ^{***}		
Northeast	–1.4	116.3 ^{¶¶}
South	6.1	33.3 ^{¶¶}
Midwest	19.2	21.1
West	–13.7	26.7 ^{¶¶}
County urbanization ^{†††}		
Urban	11.3 ^{¶¶}	54.1 ^{¶¶}
Rural	–26.1	15.2

Opioids + Stimulants: Non-Fatal Overdoses in Emergency Rooms 2018-2019

ED patient/ visit characteristic	Rate change from 2018 to 2019 ^{§§}	
	Opioids and cocaine	Opioids and amphetamines
	Relative (%)	Relative (%)
All	4.4	37.3 ^{¶¶}
Sex		
Female	0.6	32.7 ^{¶¶}
Male	6.2	38.3 ^{¶¶}
Age group, yrs		
15–24	1.6	50.3 ^{¶¶}
25–34	–0.1	35.5 ^{¶¶}
35–44	22.1 ^{¶¶}	38.6 ^{¶¶}
45–54	–0.9	26.0
≥55	15.3	66.0 ^{¶¶}
U.S. Census region ^{***}		
Northeast	–1.4	116.3 ^{¶¶}
South	6.1	33.3 ^{¶¶}
Midwest	19.2	21.1
West	–13.7	26.7 ^{¶¶}
County urbanization ^{†††}		
Urban	11.3 ^{¶¶}	54.1 ^{¶¶}
Rural	–26.1	15.2

37.2% of non-fatal overdoses involved multiple drugs

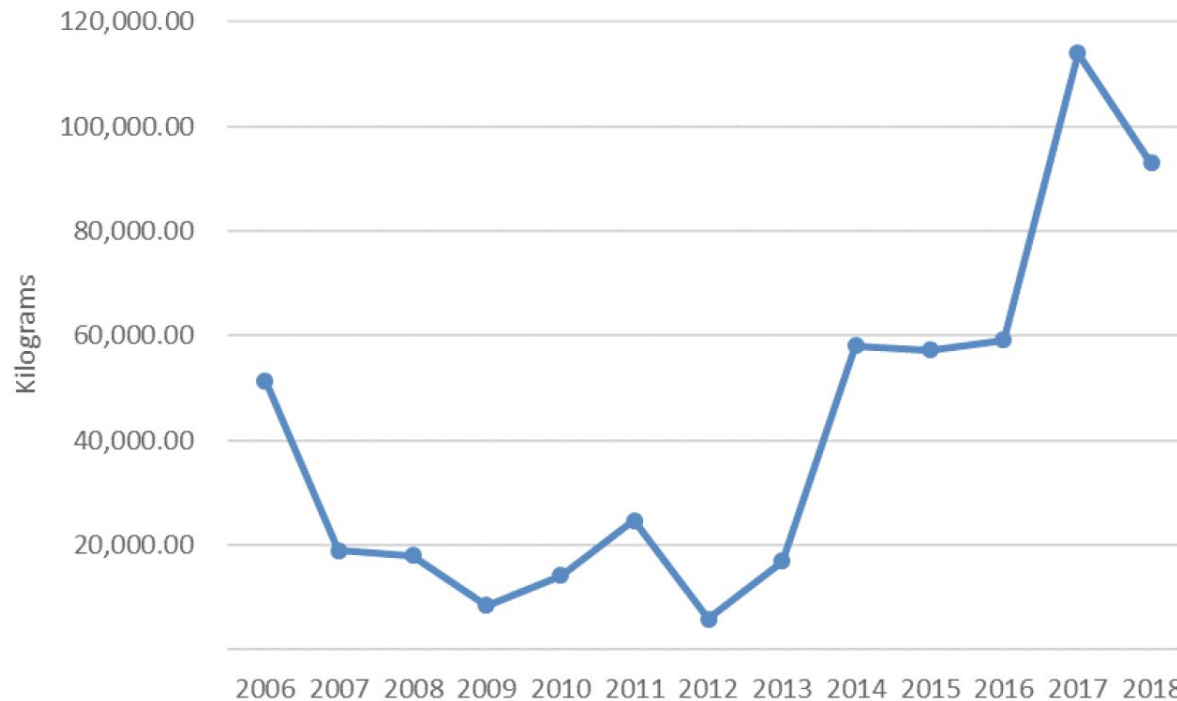
Opioids + Stimulants: Motivations for Use

Balance of effect	56 (38.6)	(1) <i>I could function on them together</i> (2) <i>I used meth to give me the rush & to have energy. I used heroin to numb myself or to get the high from the opioids. If i used too much meth id use heroin to calm down;</i> (3) <i>Cause I was trying to get allot of work done energy with no pain make you be able to get stuff done</i> (4) <i>Use meth sometimes to counter the drowsiness from opiods</i>
Available as Opioid Substitute	22 (15.2)	(1) <i>So when i couldn't use opioids because of money or availability, i used methamphetamine</i> (2) <i>I would use meth when I had ran out.</i> (3) <i>When I was really sick from the withdrawal and I couldn't find opioids, I would use methamphetamine</i>

Ellis MS, Kasper ZA, Cicero TJ. Twin epidemics: The surging rise of methamphetamine use in chronic opioid users. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2018;193:14-20. doi:10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2018.08.02

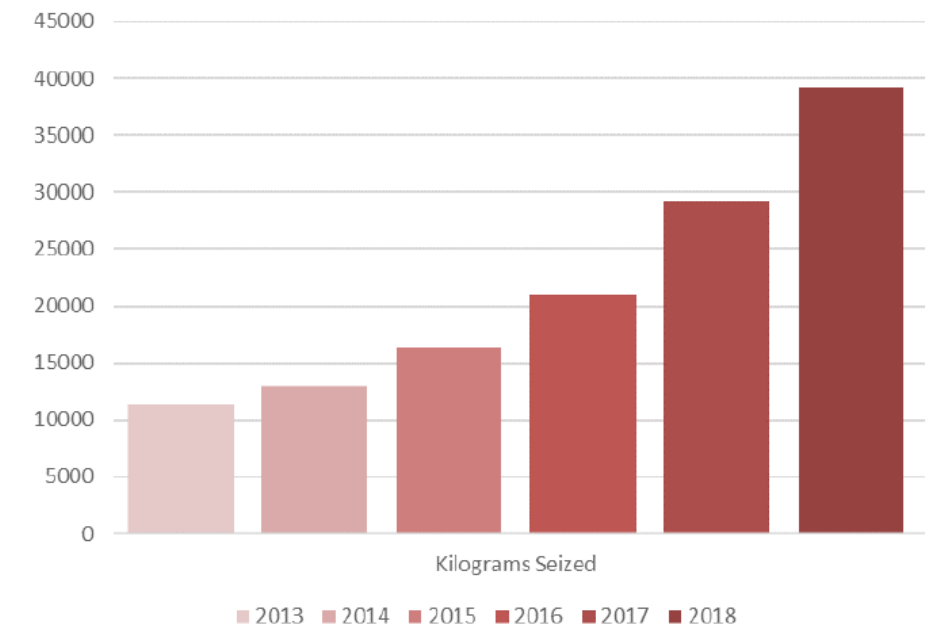
Supply Side Forces: Seizures

Figure 65. DEA Nationwide Cocaine Removals, 2006 – 2018



Source: DEA

Figure 45. Customs and Border Protection Southwest Border Methamphetamine Seizures, 2013 – 2018

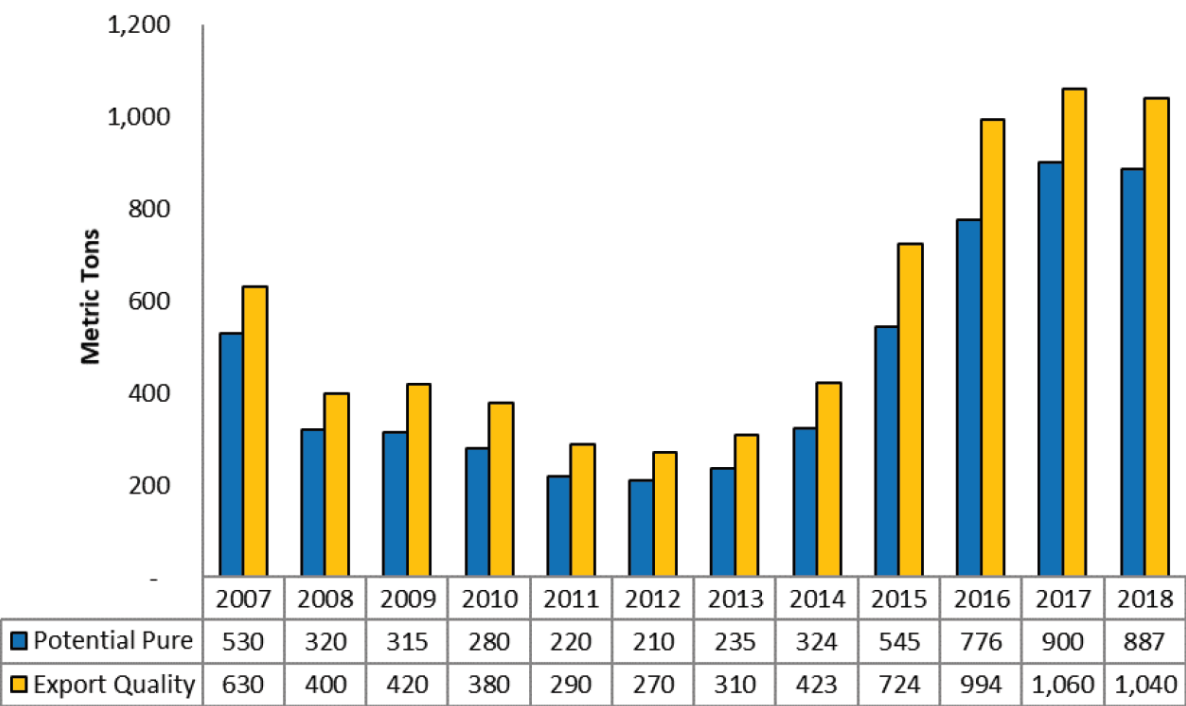


Source: Customs and Border Protection

DEA. 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment. December 2019. DEA-DCT-DIR-007-20. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-DIR-007-20_2019.pdf

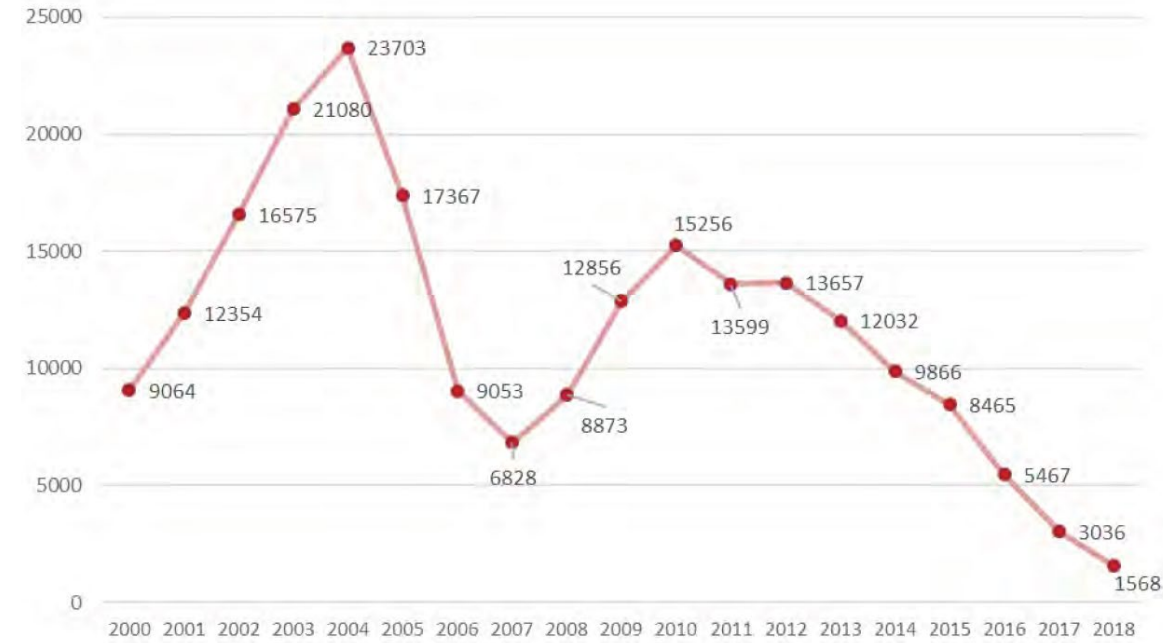
Supply Side Forces: Production

Figure 63. Colombian Cocaine Production, 2007 – 2018



Source: U.S. Government Estimates

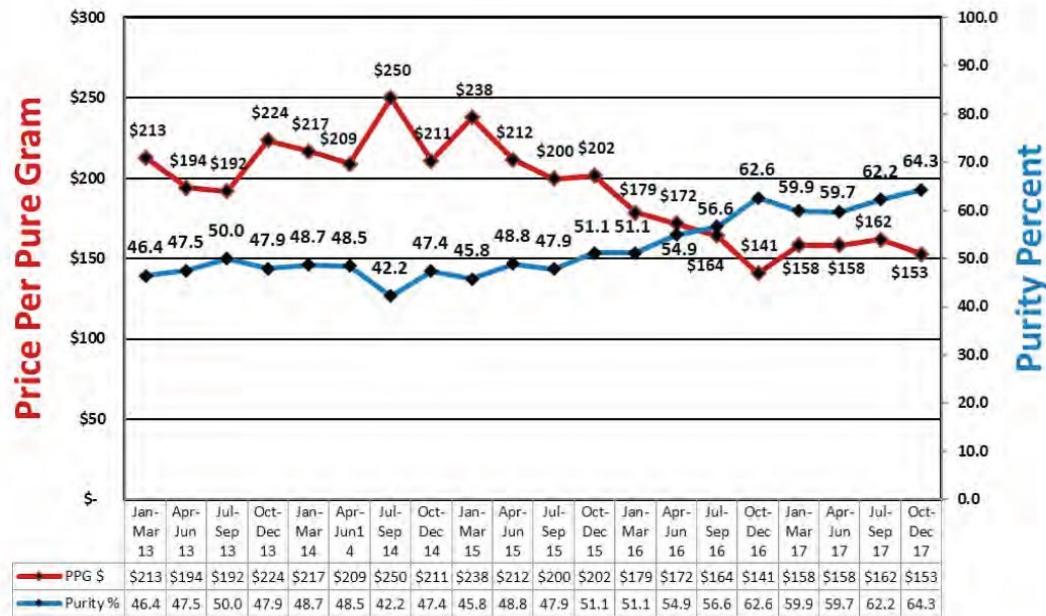
Figure 41. Number of Methamphetamine Laboratory Incidents, 2000 – 2017



Source: El Paso Intelligence Center as of March 27, 2019

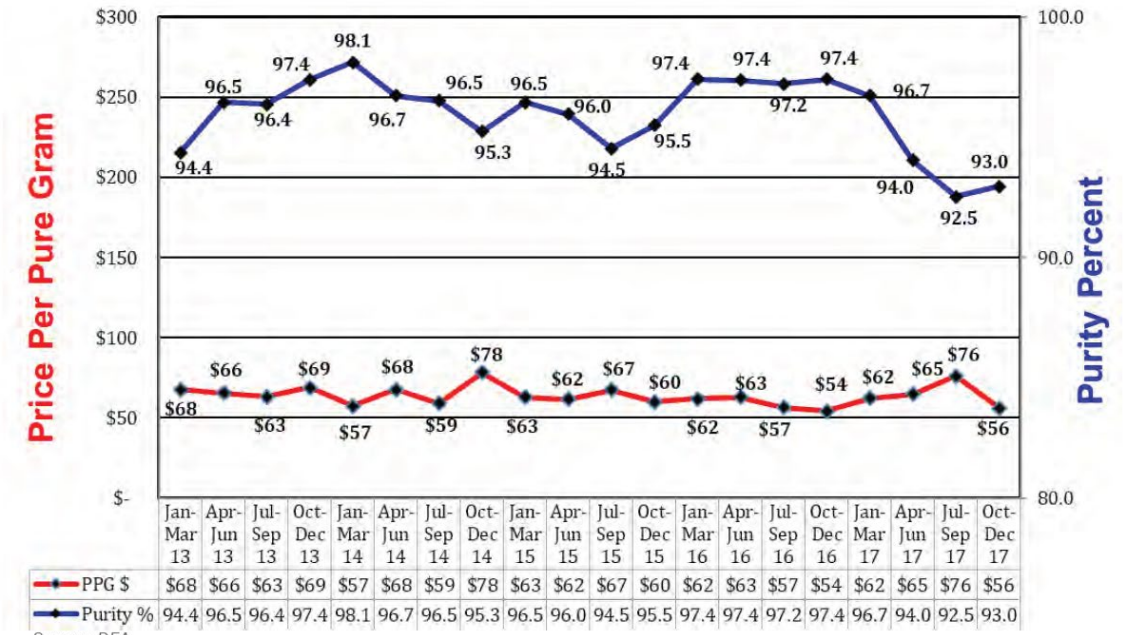
Supply Side Forces: Price & Purity

Figure 56. Price and Purity of Domestic Cocaine Purchases, January 2013 – December 2017



Source: DEA

Figure 36. Domestic Methamphetamine Purchases, January 2013 – December 2017

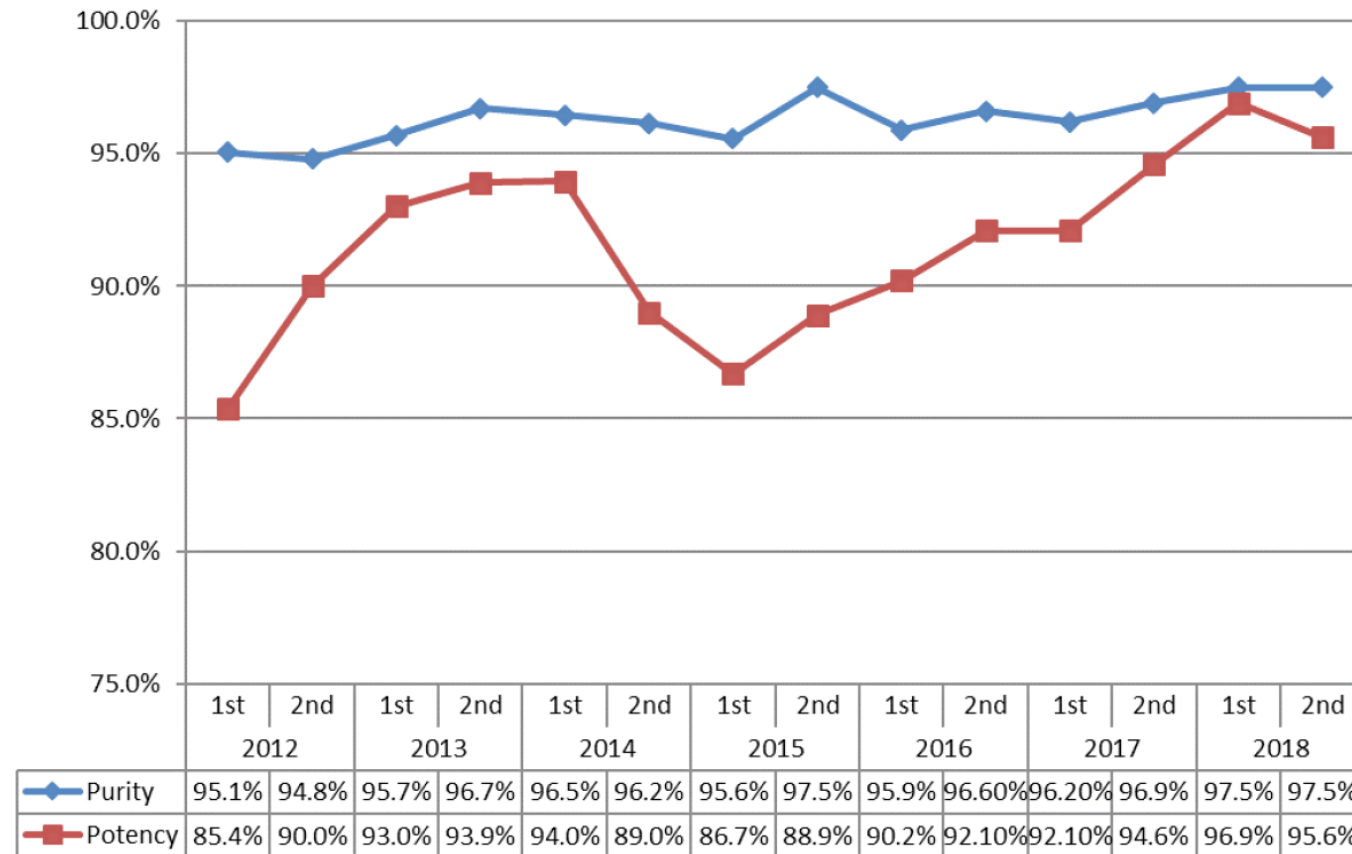


Source: DEA

DEA. 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment. December 2019. DEA-DCT-DIR-007-20. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-DIR-007-20_2019.pdf

Supply Side Forces: Price & Purity

Figure 37. Methamphetamine Purity and Potency

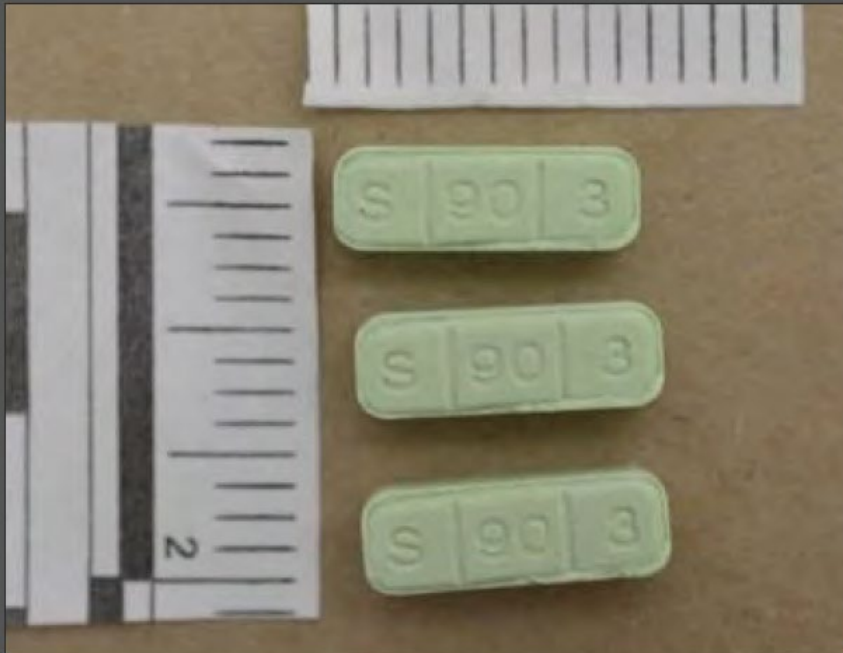


Source: DEA

DEA. 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment. December 2019. DEA-DCT-DIR-007-20. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-DIR-007-20_2019.pdf

Supply Side Forces: Emerging Trends

Figure 60. Counterfeit Xanax Pills Also Containing Cocaine and Fentanyl



Source: Wilmington, Massachusetts Police Department

Figure 49. Counterfeit Adderall Tablets Containing Methamphetamine seized in Michigan



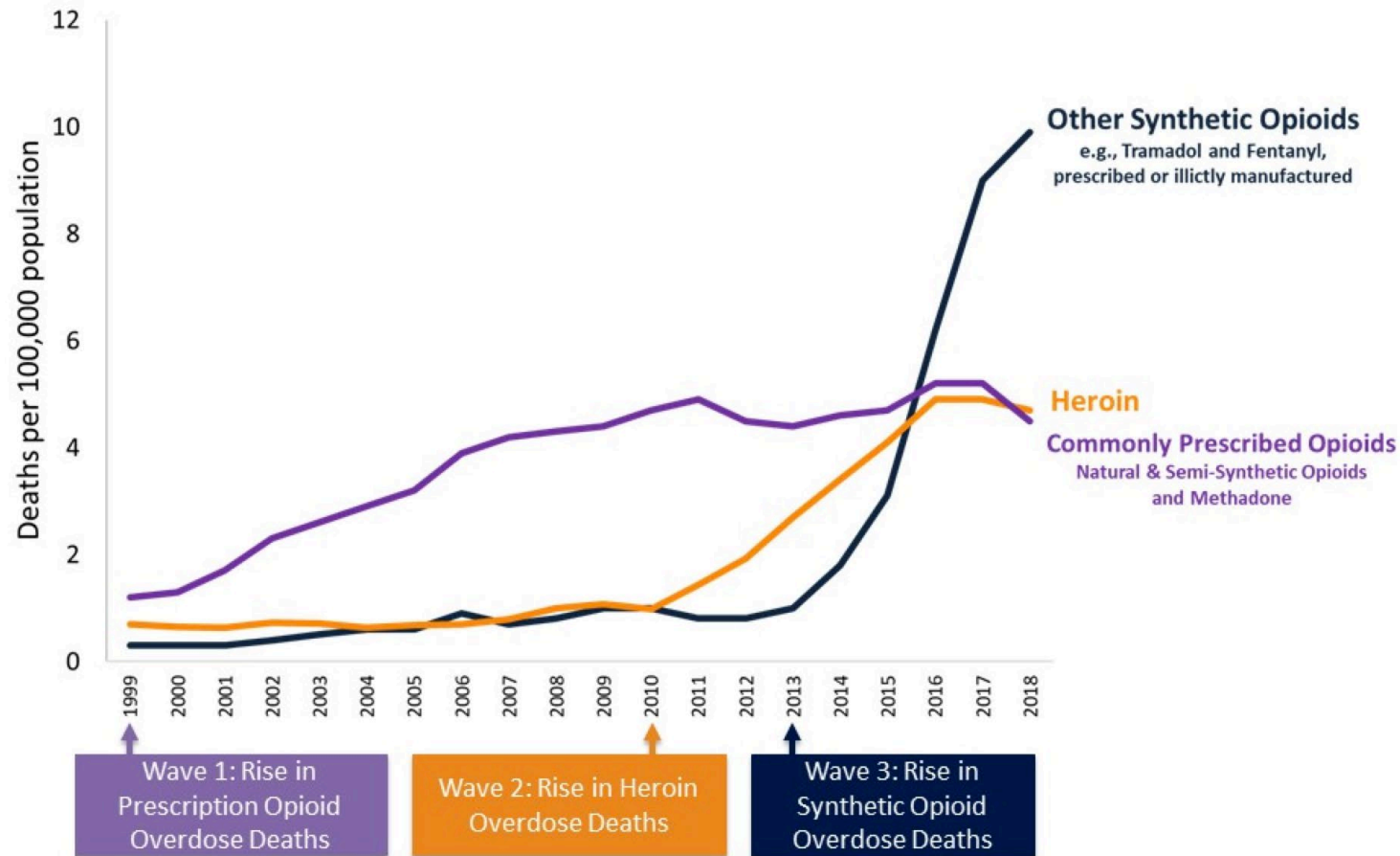
Source: Michigan State Police

DEA. 2019 National Drug Threat Assessment. December 2019. DEA-DCT-DIR-007-20. https://www.dea.gov/sites/default/files/2020-01/2019-NDTA-final-01-14-2020_Low_Web-DIR-007-20_2019.pdf

Impact of COVID-19

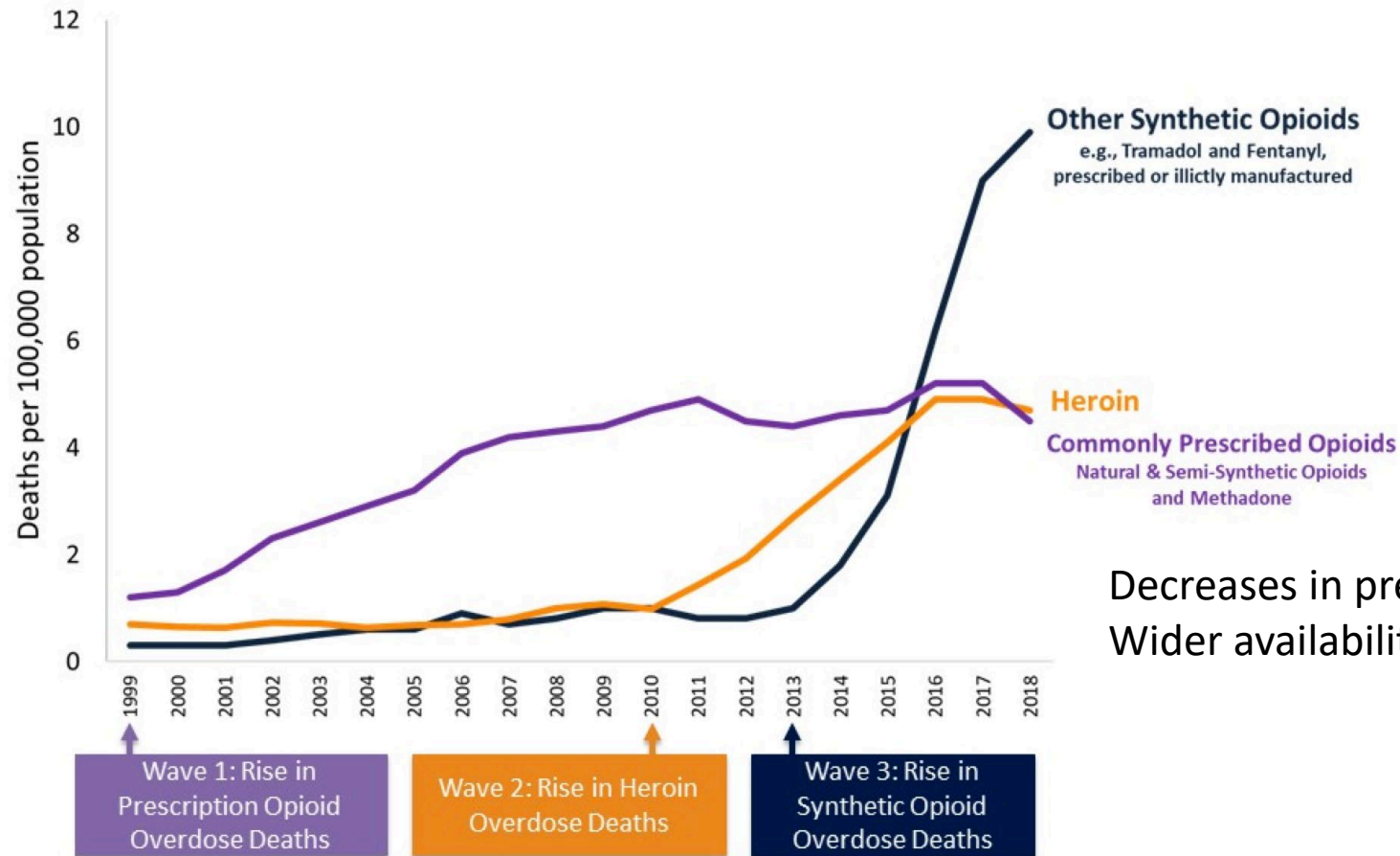
Opioid overdose deaths

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



Opioid overdose deaths

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths

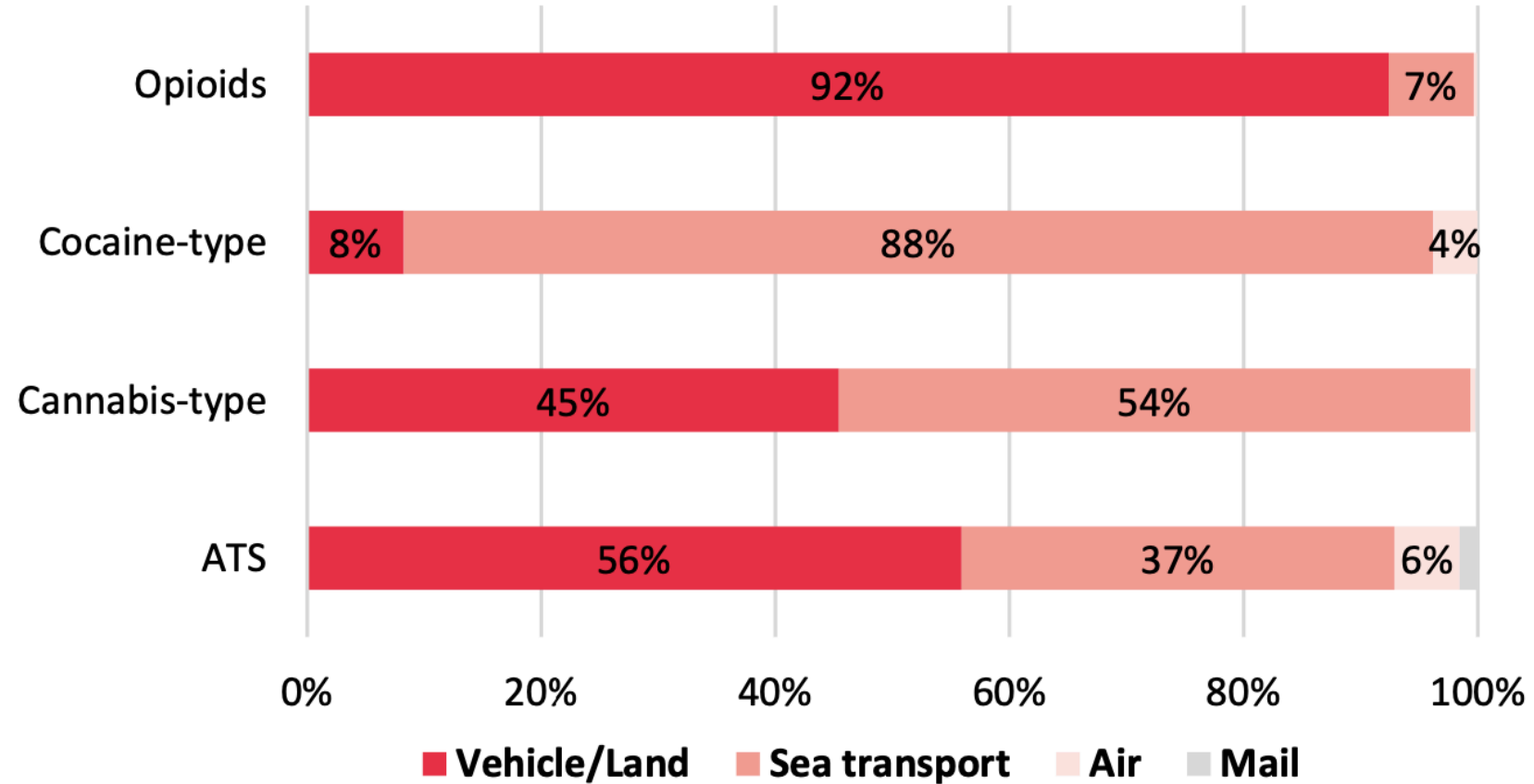


Supply Side Forces: Early COVID-19

Cocaine	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl/Heroin
Production disruptions in Columbia	Precursor disruptions in China impacting production in Mexico	Precursor disruptions in China; opium disruptions in Afghanistan
Little disruption in sea trafficking	Disruptions in ground trafficking	Disruptions in air trafficking (fentanyl)
Economic crises could increase coca cultivation		Economic crises could increase opium cultivation

UNODC. Research Brief: COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use. May 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-19-and-drug-supply-chain-Mai2020.pdf>

Supply Side Forces: COVID-19



Source: UNODC Drugs Monitoring Platform.

Supply Side Forces: Early COVID-19

Cocaine	Methamphetamine	Fentanyl/Heroin
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Opioid Overdose deaths

- **The Opioid Crisis, Already Serious, Has Intensified During Coronavirus Pandemic.**
<https://www.wsj.com/articles/the-opioid-crisis-already-serious-has-intensified-during-coronavirus-pandemic-11599557401> September 8, 2020
 - **Opioid overdoses on the rise during COVID-19 pandemic, despite telemedicine care.**
<https://abcnews.go.com/Health/opioid-overdoses-rise-covid-19-pandemic-telemedicine-care/story?id=72442735> August 24, 2020
 - **U.S. Sees Deadly Drug Overdose Spike During Pandemic.**
<https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/08/13/901627189/u-s-sees-deadly-drug-overdose-spike-during-pandemic> August 13, 2020
 - **As overdoses rise during pandemic, 2 moms share their stories of loss.**
<https://www.today.com/health/overdoses-rise-during-coronavirus-pandemic-moms-speak-out-t188420> August 5, 2020
 - **AMA Urges Changes After Dramatic Increase in Illicit Opioid Fatalities.**
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/934548> July 24, 2020
 - **Drug overdose deaths jump in 2019 to nearly 71,000, a record high, CDC says.**
<https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/15/health/drug-overdose-deaths-2019/index.html> July 16, 2020
 - **'Opioid overdoses are skyrocketing': as Covid-19 sweeps across US an old epidemic returns.** <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2020/jul/09/coronavirus-pandemic-us-opioids-crisis> July 9, 2020
 - **High Rate of Stimulant Use in Opioid ED Cases.**
<https://www.medscape.com/viewarticle/933527> July 7, 2020
 - **Coronavirus Crisis Disrupts Treatment For Another Epidemic: Addiction.**
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Opioid Overdose deaths

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Drug overdose death rates increased 13% in the first half of 2020.

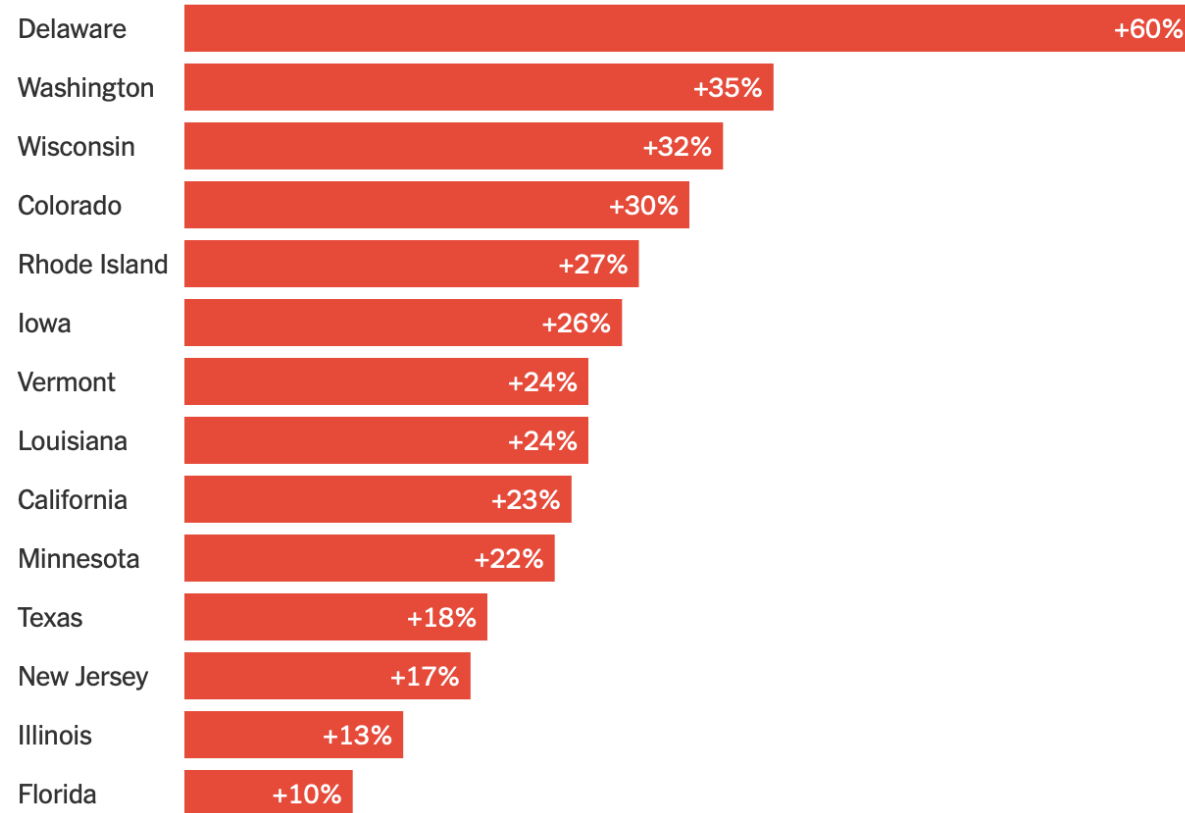
Opioid Overdose deaths

Florida

- **Experts: Coronavirus Contributing To Increase In Substance Abuse.**
<https://miami.cbslocal.com/2020/09/01/coronavirus-substance-abuse-south-florida/>
September 1, 2020
- **Overdose calls up 40% during COVID-19 pandemic; treatment centers seeing relapses in long-time sober patients.**
<https://www.firstcoastnews.com/article/entertainment/television/programs/gmj/jfrd-averaging-15-overdose-calls-a-day-group-provides-narcan-training-in-response/77-fa78a385-d445-4e64-b31c-bcabb57a0925> July 23, 2020
- **Manatee County reports 44% increase in opioid overdoses since last year.**
<https://www.fox13news.com/news/manatee-county-reports-44-increase-in-opioid-overdoses-since-last-year> July 7, 2020
- **Fake pills laced with fentanyl are causing overdoses in west Pasco, deputies say.**
<https://www.tampabay.com/news/pasco/2020/05/05/fake-pills-laced-with-fentanyl-are-causing-overdoses-in-west-pasco-deputies-say/> May 5, 2020
- **Jacksonville overdose calls increased 20% in March.**
<https://www.news4jax.com/news/local/2020/04/14/jfrd-jacksonville-overdose-calls-increased-by-20-in-march/> April 13, 2020

Drug-related deaths have risen in 2020 in states across the country.

Increase in drug-related deaths from 2019 through the first portion of 2020.

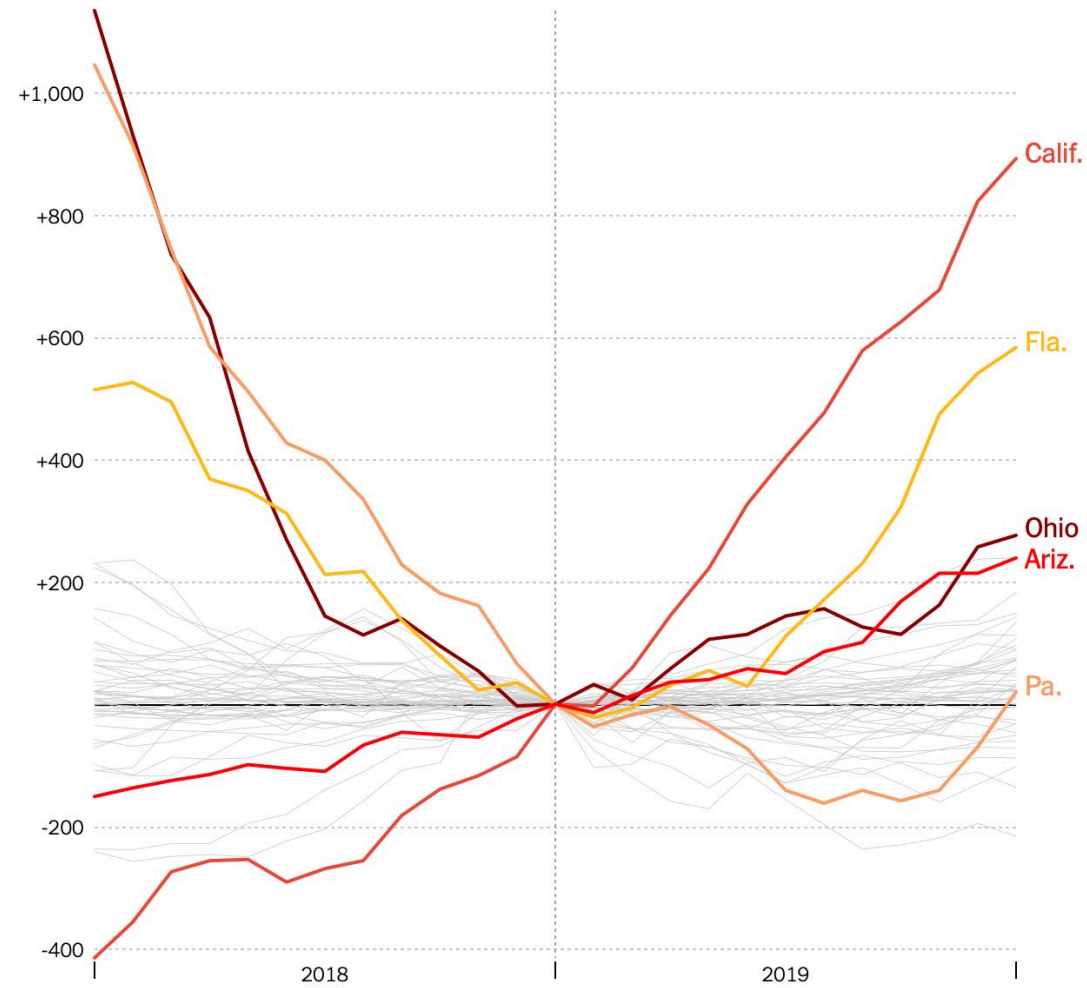


All data is provisional. Definitions of what counts as a drug-related death vary by state. Data for Arizona, California, Florida, Minnesota, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin includes only a subset of counties within each state.

Source: State and local health departments, coroners and medical examiners

Change in total drug deaths from 2018

Drug deaths in Western states like California and Arizona have risen steadily, while progress in states like Florida and Ohio has stalled and reversed.



Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

Supply Side Forces: Current COVID-19

Office of Field Operations Nationwide Drug Seizures

Numbers below reflect FY 2014 - FY 2019 and FY20 To Date (TD).

Fiscal Year 2020 runs October 01, 2019 - September 30, 2020.

	FY 14	FY 15	FY 16	FY 17	FY 18	FY 19	FY20 TD AUG
Cocaine	45,323	38,346	52,838	62,415	51,592	89,207	37,380
Heroin	4,356	6,023	4,224	3,398	5,205	5,427	4,552
Marijuana	438,146	602,821	516,122	366,627	299,419	289,529	313,813
Methamphetamine ⁵	19,613	25,495	33,086	46,247	57,440	68,585	141,663
Fentanyl	n/a	70	596	1,875	1,895	2,545	3,302

*weights are in pounds (lb)

⁵ As of 01 October 2019, category includes both Methamphetamine and Crystal Methamphetamine.

Supply Side Forces: Current COVID-19

Office of Field Operations Nationwide Drug Seizures

Numbers below reflect FY 2014 - FY 2019 and FY20 To Date (TD).

Fiscal Year 2020 runs October 01, 2019 - September 30, 2020.

Seizures of “hard” drugs at the border were up 56% from July to August

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*weights are in pounds (lb)

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Supply Side Forces: COVID-19

- Diverted resources could make it easier for traffickers
- Shortages/Increases of drugs could shift drug use patterns
 - Shift to cheaper drugs
 - Use of multiple drugs
 - Lack of experience with different drugs may result in increased risk of overdose
 - Increased injection/sharing

UNODC. Research Brief: COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use. May 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-19-and-drug-supply-chain-Mai2020.pdf>

Demand Side Forces: COVID-19

- Life changes/Economic downturn
 - Loss of job, income or housing
 - Loss of social support
 - Increased stress on individuals/relationships
 - Worsening mental health
- Changes in treatment access
 - Loss/change in treatment structure
 - Less willingness to go to ERs or healthcare clinics
 - Less support
 - Increased stress and anxiety about treatment

UNODC. Research Brief: COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use. May 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-19-and-drug-supply-chain-Mai2020.pdf>

Demand Side Forces: COVID-19

- Changes in drug use patterns
 - New initiation/more novice users
 - Increased use
 - Increased suicidality

UNODC. Research Brief: COVID-19 and the drug supply chain: from production and trafficking to use. May 2020. <https://www.unodc.org/documents/data-and-analysis/covid/Covid-19-and-drug-supply-chain-Mai2020.pdf>

Conclusions

- Stimulant and polysubstance use have significantly increased
- Greater need to focus on treatment of opioids and stimulants
 - Lack of pharmacological treatments for stimulant use disorder
- COVID-19 has significantly altered both supply and demand

THANK YOU

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