

Trends within Drug Abuse and Healthcare – COVID and Beyond

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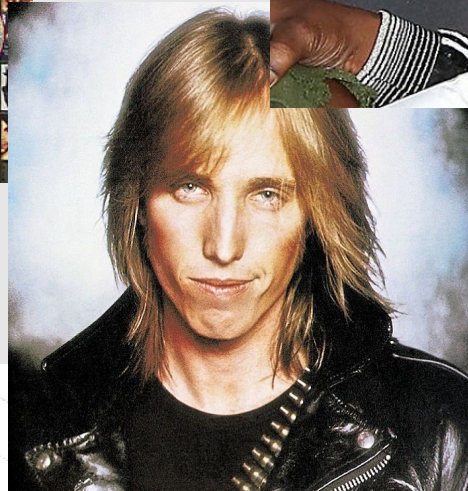
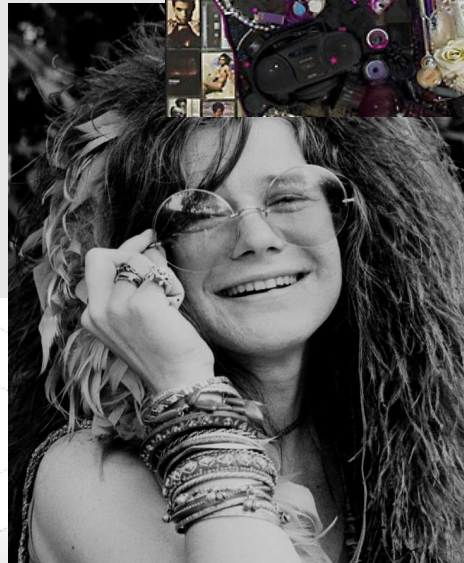
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Competing Interests

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What Caused the US Opioid Crisis - HHS

- In the late 1990s, pharmaceutical companies reassured the medical community that patients would not become addicted to opioid pain relievers and health care providers began to prescribe them at greater rates.
- Increased prescription of opioid medications led to widespread misuse of both prescription and non-prescription opioids before it came clear that these medications could indeed be highly addictive.
- 2017 HHS declared a public health emergency and announced a five point strategy to combat the opioid crisis

<https://www.hhs.gov/opioids/about-the-epidemic/index.html>

What Really Happened?

- Health care systems and regulation
 - Fifth vital sign, patient “satisfaction,” etc.
- Careless doctors
 - We knew better, but let convenience win out.
 - Criminal behavior
- Opioid marketing
 - Aggressive, irresponsible
- Increased supply of illicit opioids
- Lack of treatment for OUD
 - Good, but after the fact, insufficient to meet demand
- Increased demand?



What Happened to Rx Drug Abuse?



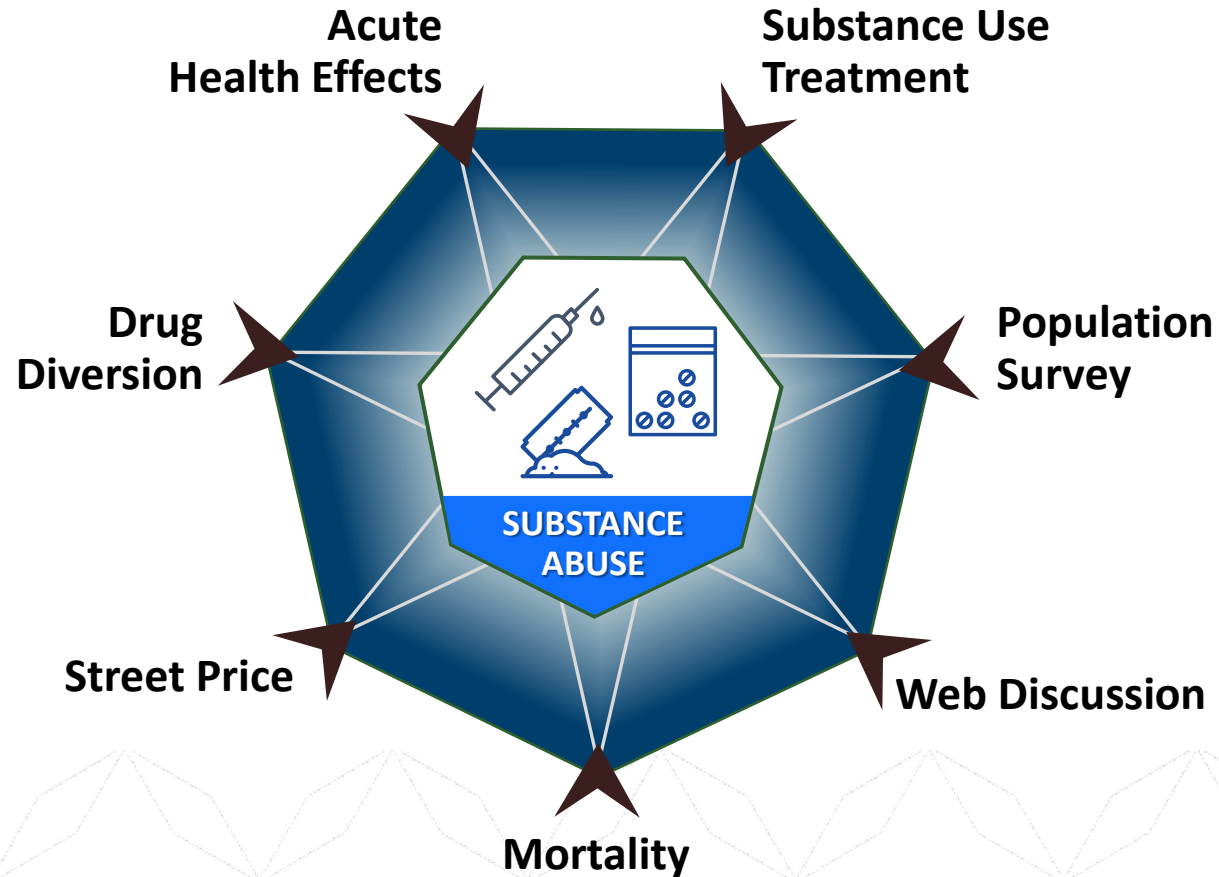
Office of National Drug Control Policy

10 Years ago...

Prescription drug abuse is the Nation's fastest-growing drug problem, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has classified prescription drug abuse as an epidemic. ... nearly one-third of people aged 12 and over who used drugs for the first time in 2009 began by using a prescription drug non medically.

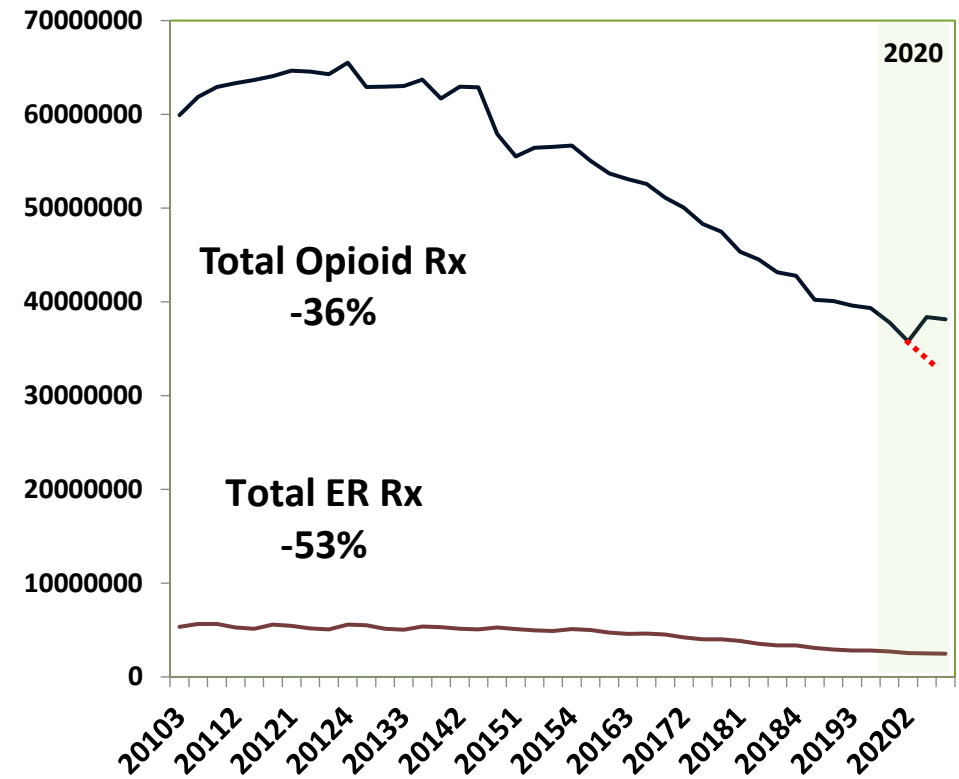
Real World Evidence and Triangulation

RADARS® System



Opioid Prescribing Decreased Until COVID

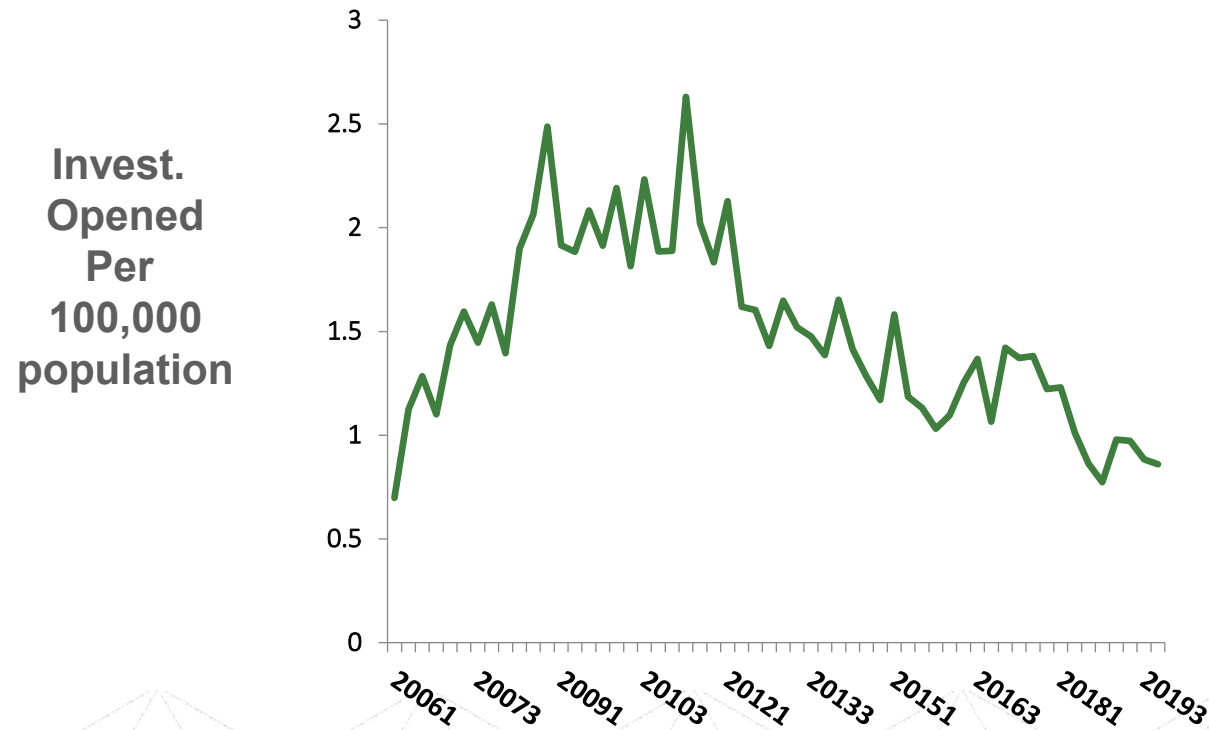
Rx
Dispensed



Source: IQVIA™ US-Based Longitudinal Prescription Data

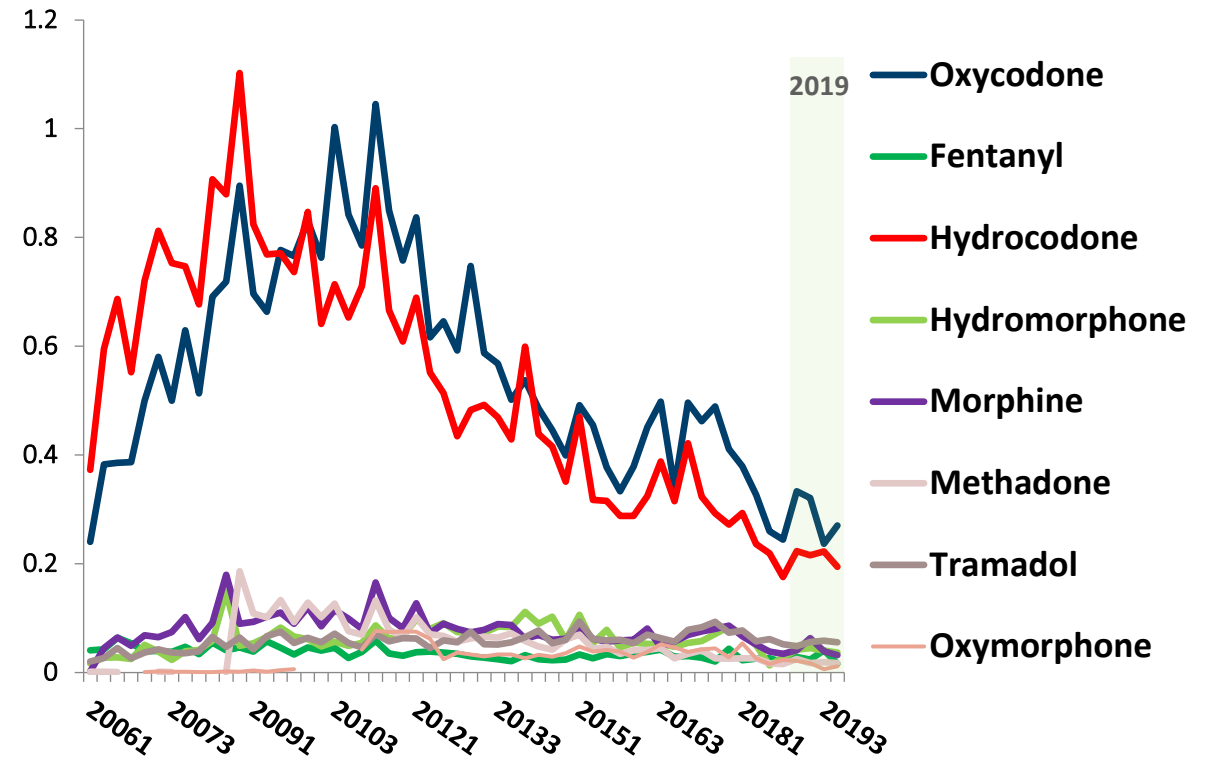
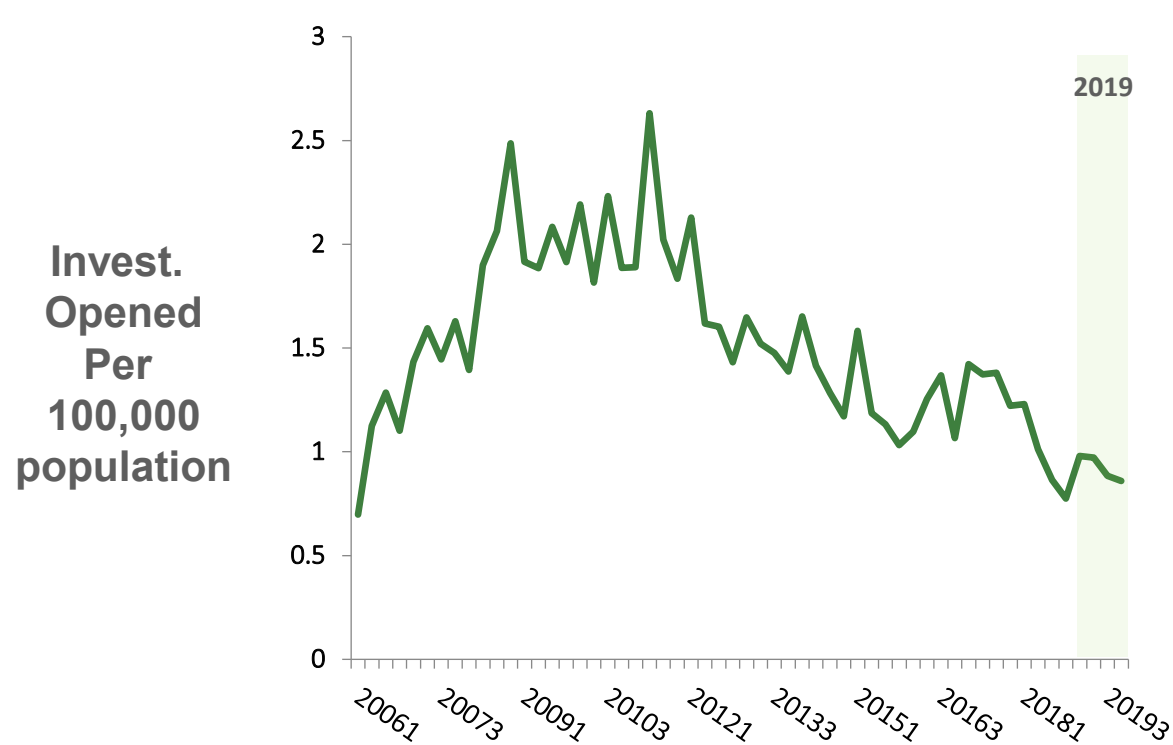
RADARS Drug Diversion Program, 2006 - 2020

Diversion of Prescription Drugs



Combined: oxycodone, hydrocodone,
hydromorphone, fentanyl, morphine, tramadol

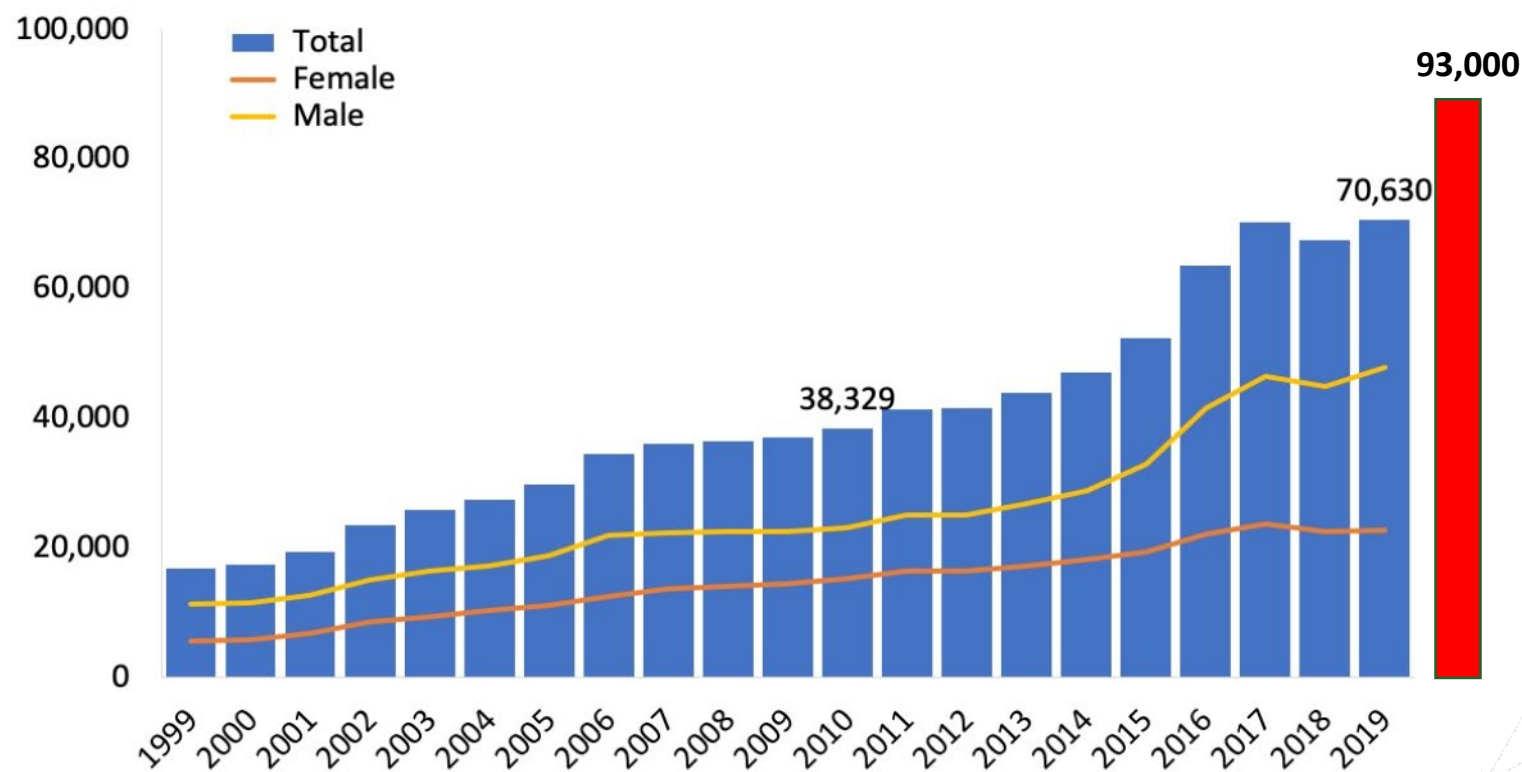
RADARS Drug Diversion Program, 2006 - 2019



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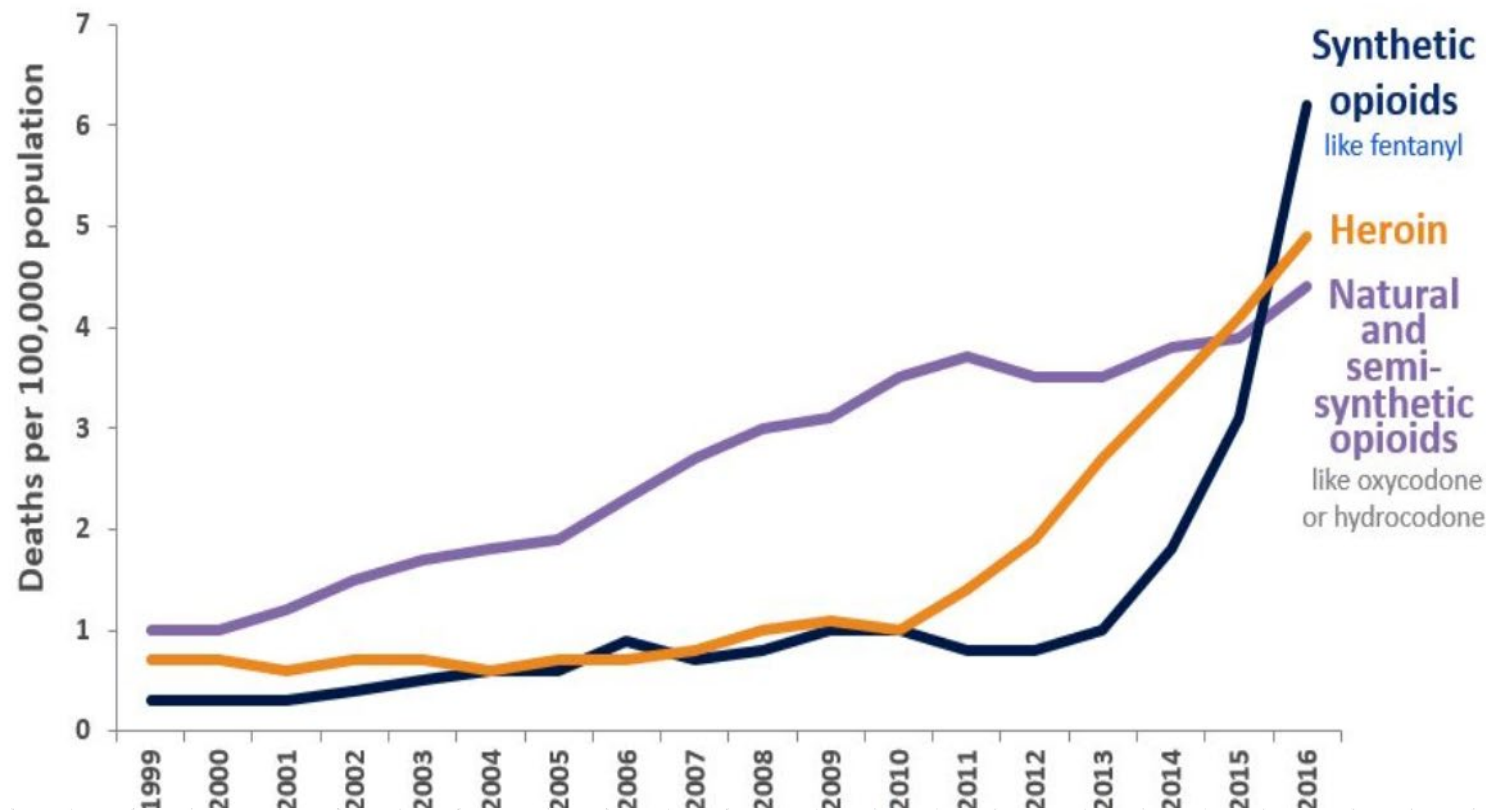
Total Drug-Involved Deaths in the US

Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*
Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2019

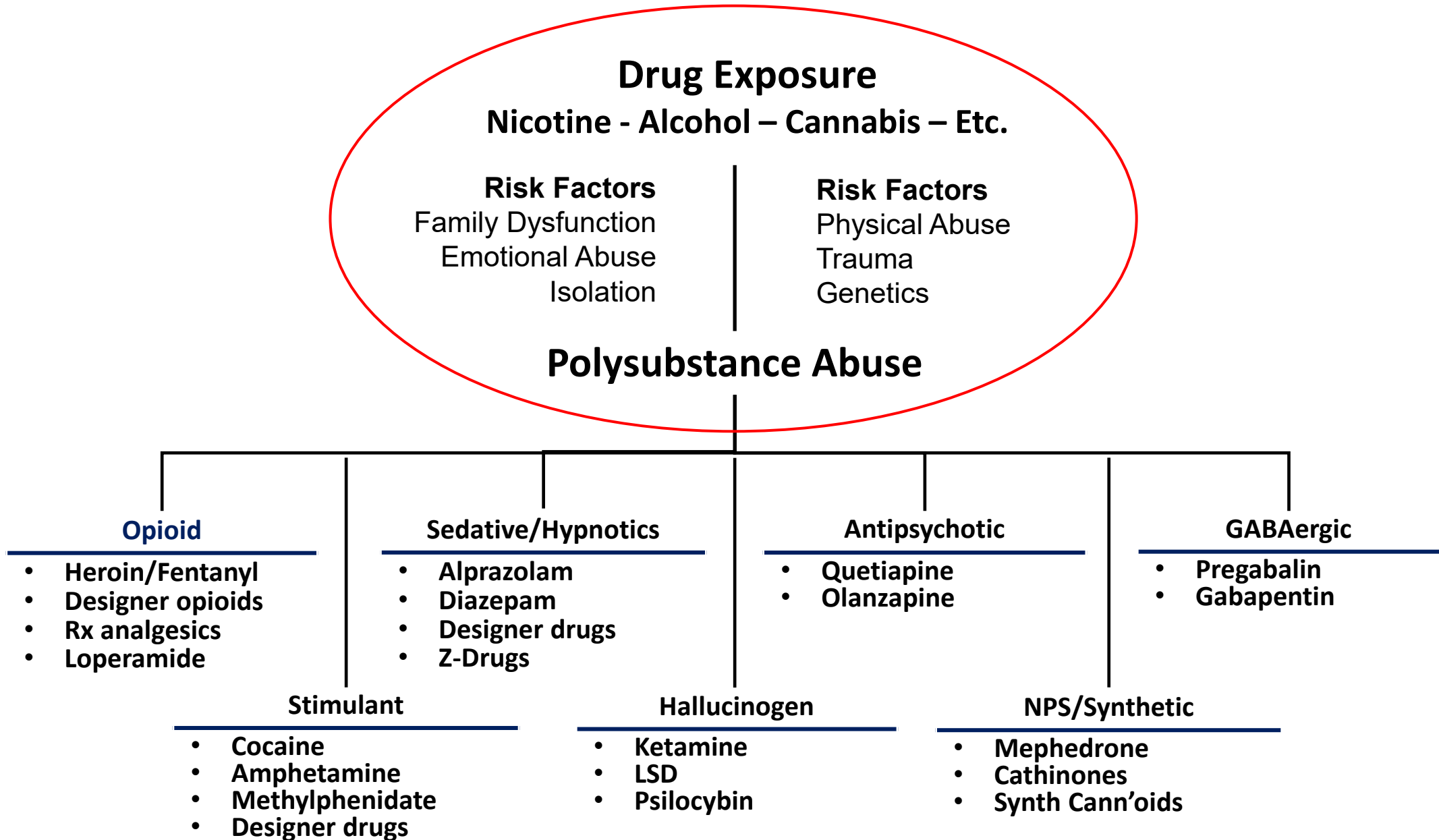


**HOW CAN WE HAVE
DECREASING
PRESCRIPTION DRUG ABUSE,
BUT INCREASING DEATHS?**

Most Deaths are Due to Fentanyl and Heroin (Often Adulterated with Fentanyl or Analogs)



Fentanyl is the reason that deaths are increasing while Rx opioids are decreasing



Drug Exposure

Nicotine - Alcohol – Cannabis – Etc.

Risk Factors

Family Dysfunction
Emotional Abuse
Isolation

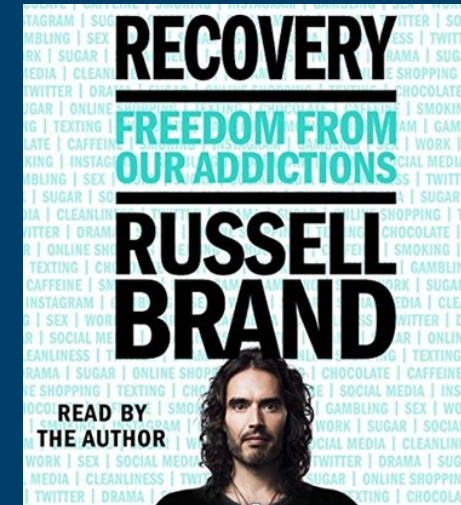
Risk Factors

Physical Abuse
Trauma
Genetics

Polysubstance Abuse

*Drugs are not my problem.
Reality is my problem.
Drugs are my solution.*

Russell Brand



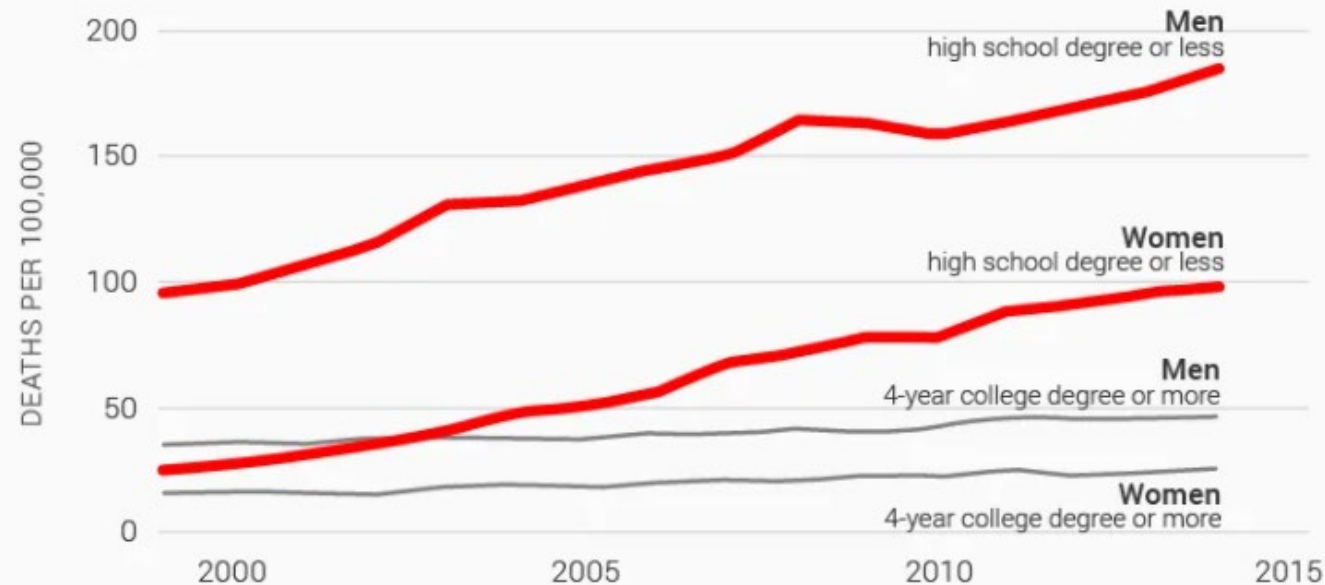
Just It's Not the Drug



Deaths of Despair

White non-Hispanic midlife mortality from “deaths of despair” in the U.S. by education

Ages 50-54, deaths by drugs, alcohol, and suicide



Source: “Mortality and morbidity in the 21st century” by Anne Case and Angus Deaton, Brookings Papers on Economic Activity, Spring 2017.

B | Economic Studies
at BROOKINGS

ROCKY MOUNTAIN
POISON & DRUG SAFETY
Saving lives with answers.™

Strategy Implications

- Supply reduction: “The War on Drugs”
 - Better law enforcement can reduce the amount of drug available
 - No drug = no abuse
 - But efforts have failed for over 50 years
- Demand reduction
 - If people don’t want to abuse drugs (e.g. no market for sale), then there will be no supply.
 - Community Coalitions
 - Substance abuse treatment facilities
- Harm reduction
 - Measures to reduce the harm produced by drug abuse (e.g. needle exchange programs, take-home naloxone, etc.)

Project Lazarus



- Provider Education
- Naloxone
- Community Education
- Pain Patient Support
- Public Awareness
- Pain Management
- Hospital ED Policies
- Data & Evaluation
- Addiction Treatment
- Harm Reduction
- Diversion control
- Legislation

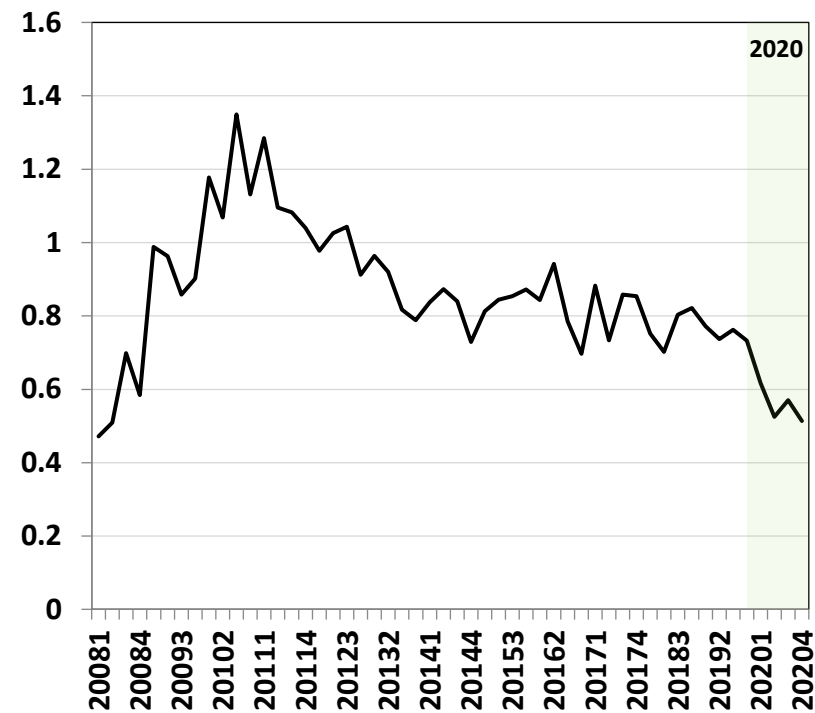
<https://www.projectlazarus.org/>

Covid and Beyond



Treatment Center Programs, 2008 - 2020

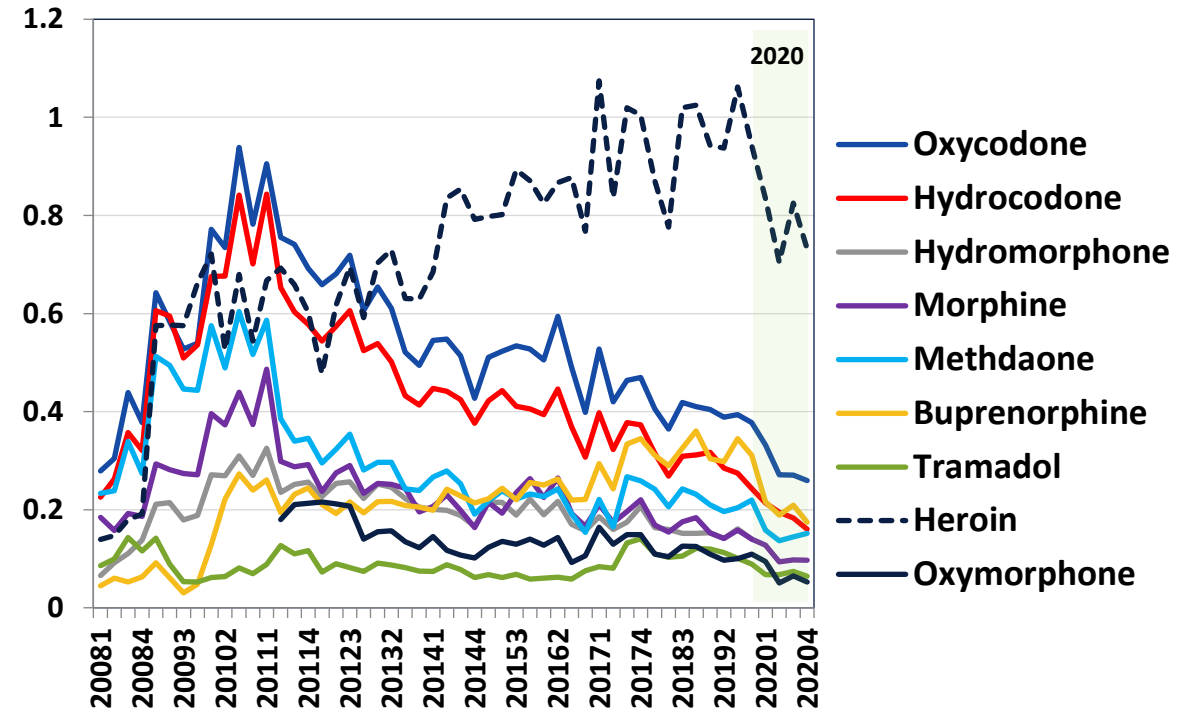
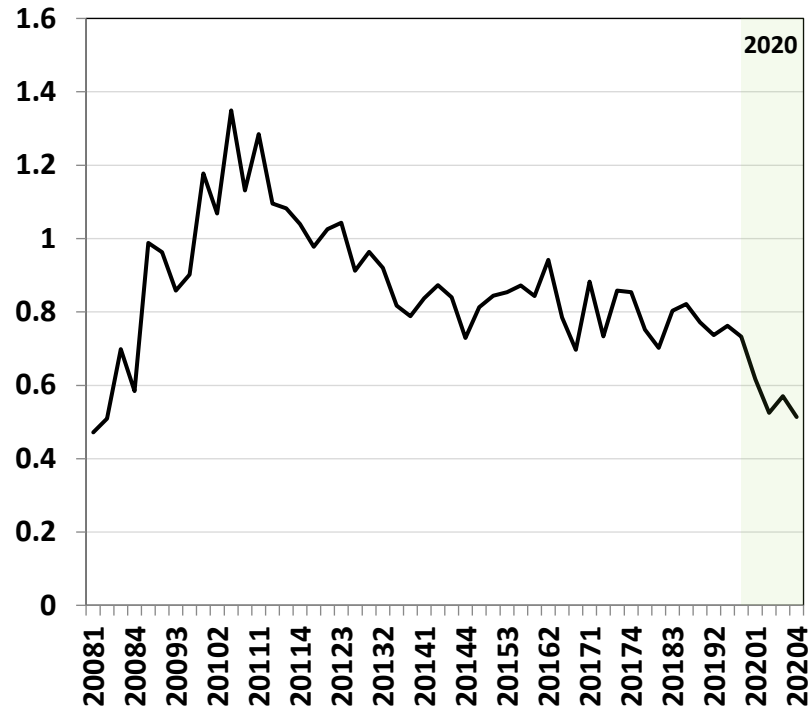
Endorse.
Per 100,000
population



oxycodone, hydrocodone, hydromorphone,
morphine, tramadol

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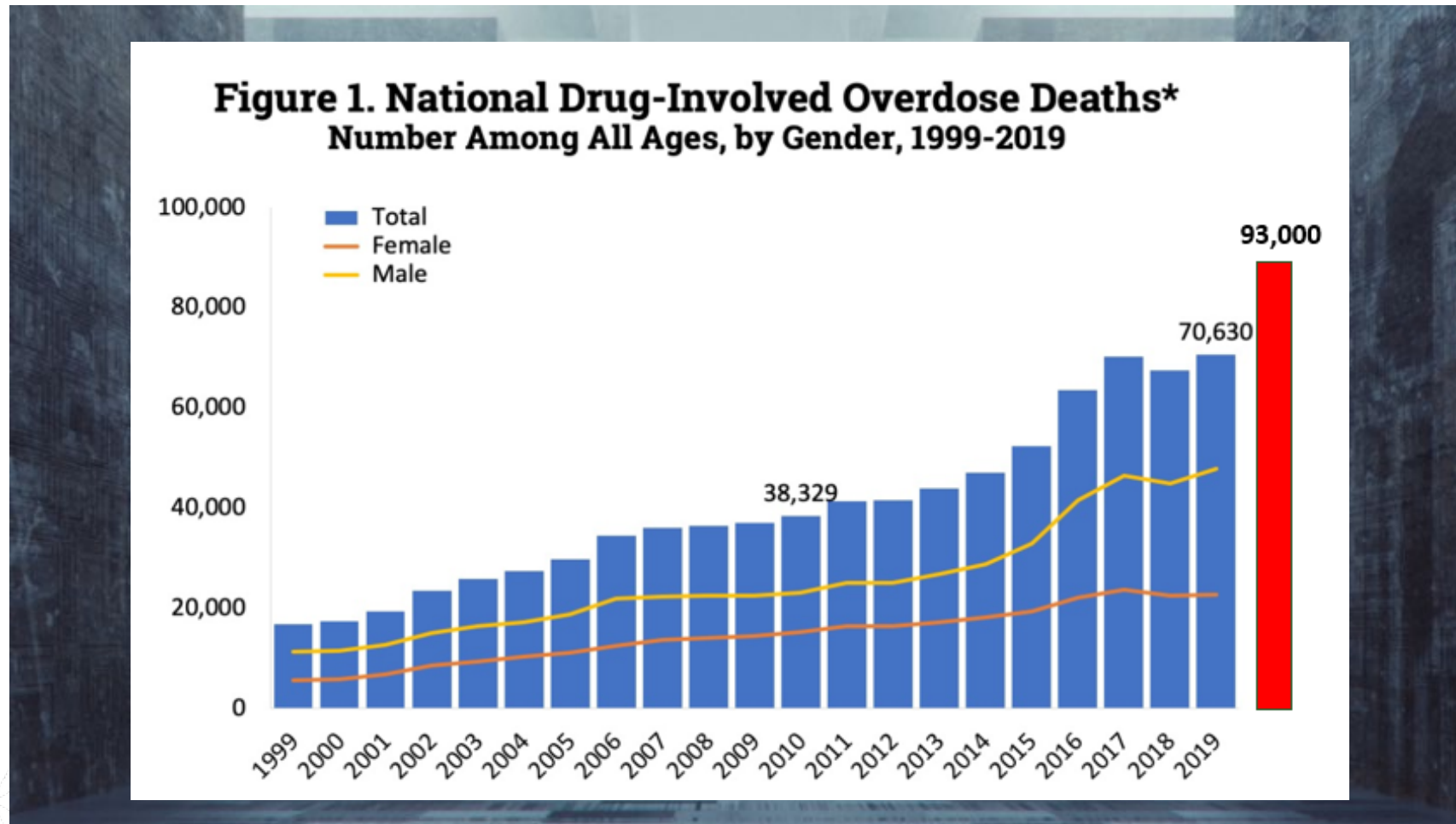
Changes in Treatment Center Operations

Operation Change	March 1, 2020 through May 31, 2020	June 1, 2020 through September 31, 2020	October 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020
Suspended patients from entering treatment	15.3%	3.1%	11.9%
Temporarily Closed and Reopened	6.9%	3.1%	5.1%
No closure/suspensions	76.4%	93.8%	83.1%

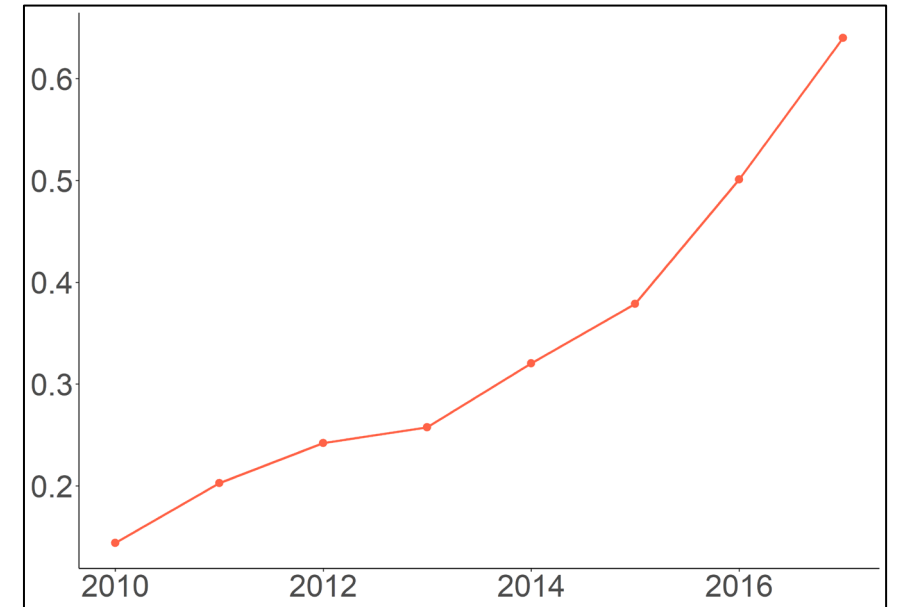
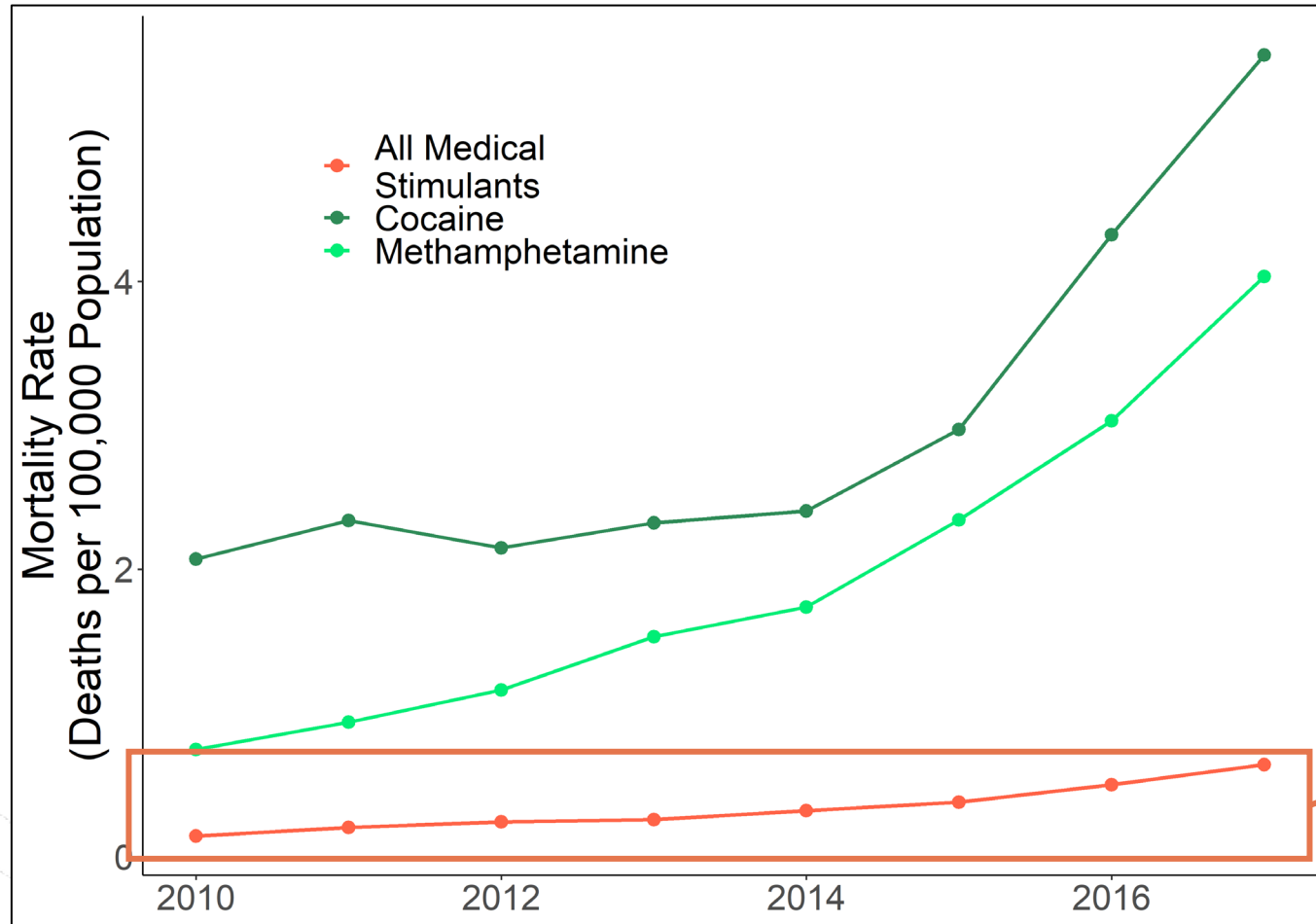
Open Ended Text Response Examples

- “A decrease in the number of patients seeking MAT services”
- “Moved to... two week or monthly take homes.”
- “Telehealth counseling; car dosing”
- “Staffing shortages have led to decreases in counseling services...”
- “Due to court and legal offices not meeting regularly, demand for treatment has decreased.”
- “Some clients who are positive for Covid or experience symptoms have been dosed in their cars.”
- Several noted increased use of telemedicine for treatment and counseling

What Comes Next?

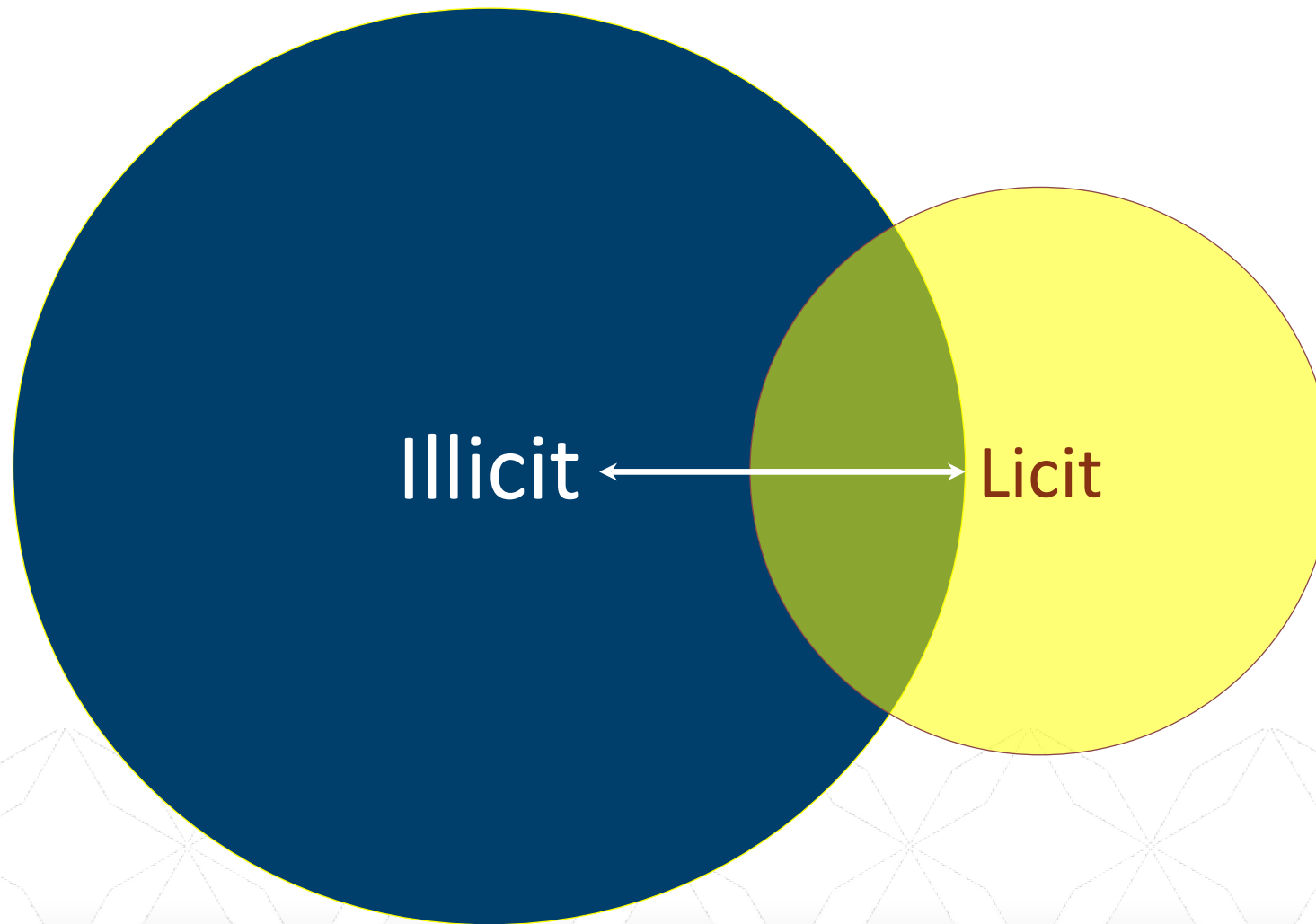


Stimulants - Increasing Mortality over Time



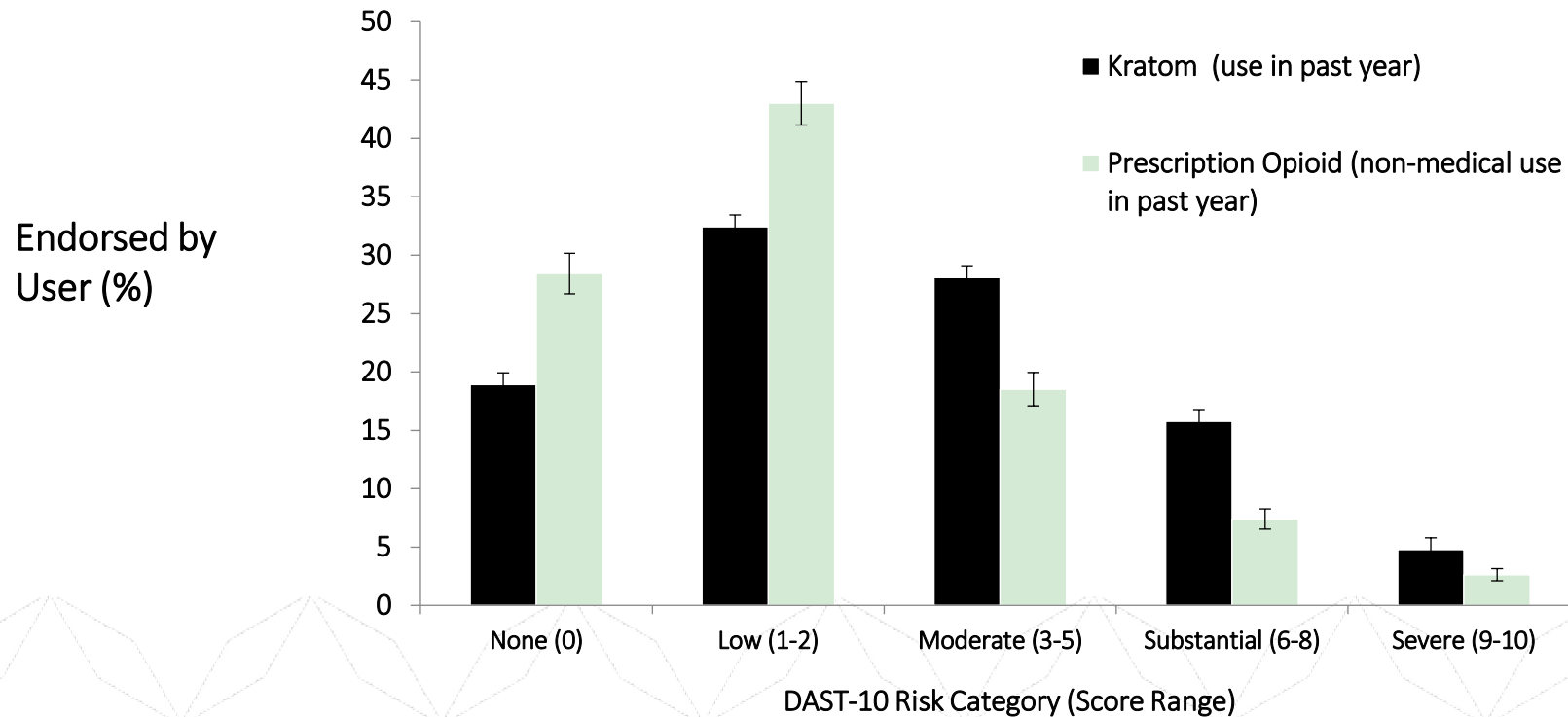
Mortality related to medical stimulants is rising rapidly alongside illicit substances like cocaine and methamphetamine.

Interaction of Licit and Illicit Pharmaceuticals



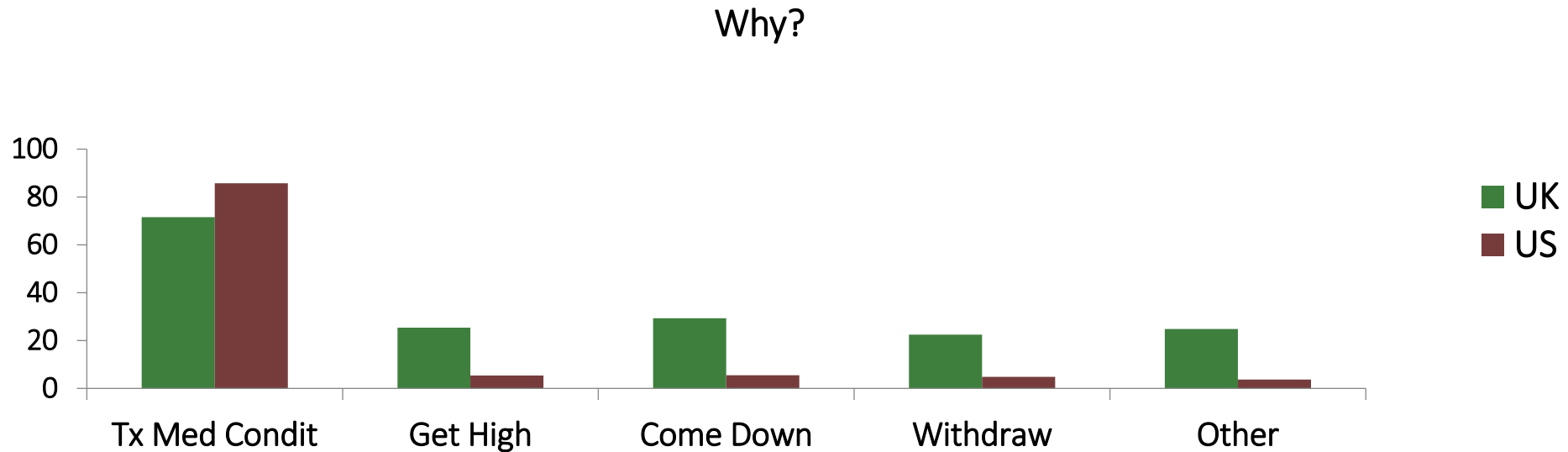
3 Million Adults Have Used Kratom, NMURx, 2018-2019

Estimated prevalence of lifetime Kratom use is 1.3% = 3,353,624 adults



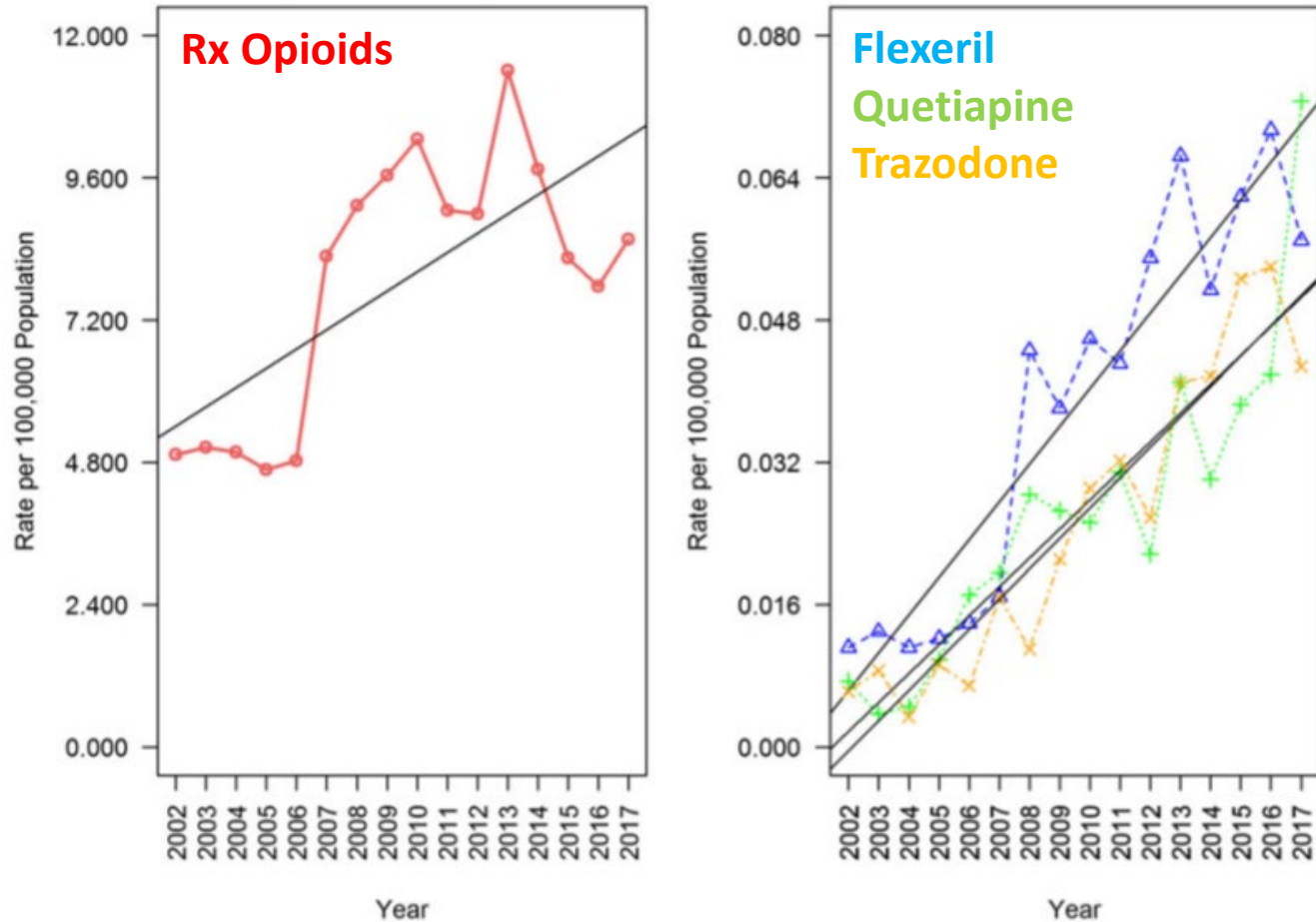
Schimmel J, et al. Prevalence and description of kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) use in the United States: A cross-sectional study. *Addiction*. 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15082>.

Nonmedical Use of Loperamide (Immodium) in UK and US, NMURx, 2017



Webb NE, et al. Non-medical use of loperamide in the UK and USA. *QJM*. 2020 DOI: 10.1093/qjmed/hcz215

Increasing Diversion of Nonscheduled Psychoactive Prescription Medications



Kurtz SP, et al. Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Safety, 2019

Summary

- Opioid deaths are still rising
 - Deaths mainly due to synthetic opioid analog
- It's Not Just The Drug
 - Most patients misuse more than one drug
 - Most deaths involve more than one drug
 - Treatment needs to address the underlying causes of opioid use
- Abuse of other drugs is skyrocketing
- Societal mirror?

Questions?

www.RADARS.org

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