

Prescription Stimulants: An Under Recognized Threat  
to Public Health

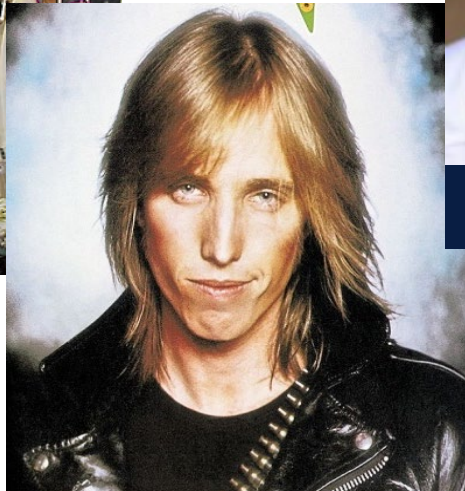
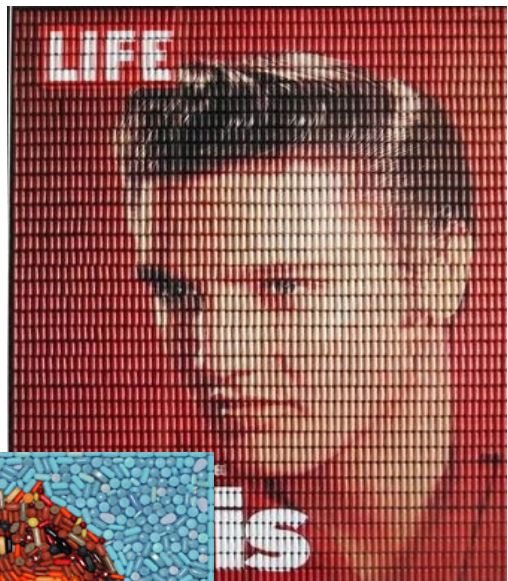
# **The Evolution of Substance Abuse Epidemic in the US: It's Not Just the Drug**

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Center

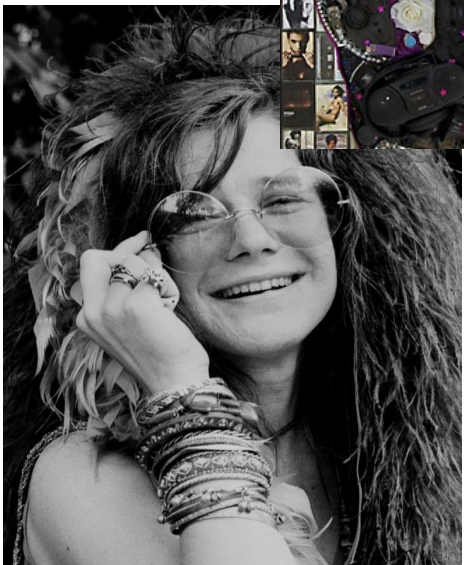
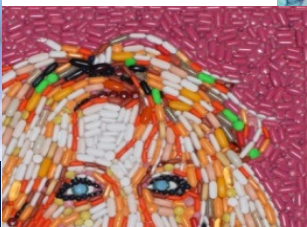
# Conflict of Interest Statement

- Many manufacturers of prescription opioids or stimulants as well as federal agencies subscribe to RADARS System. No company has special privileges.
- Subscribers receive information, but do not participate in developing the System, data collection, or analysis of the data. They do not have access to the raw data
- Employees are prohibited from having personal financial relationships with any company
- RADARS System is the property of Denver Health and Hospital Authority, a political subdivision of the State of Colorado



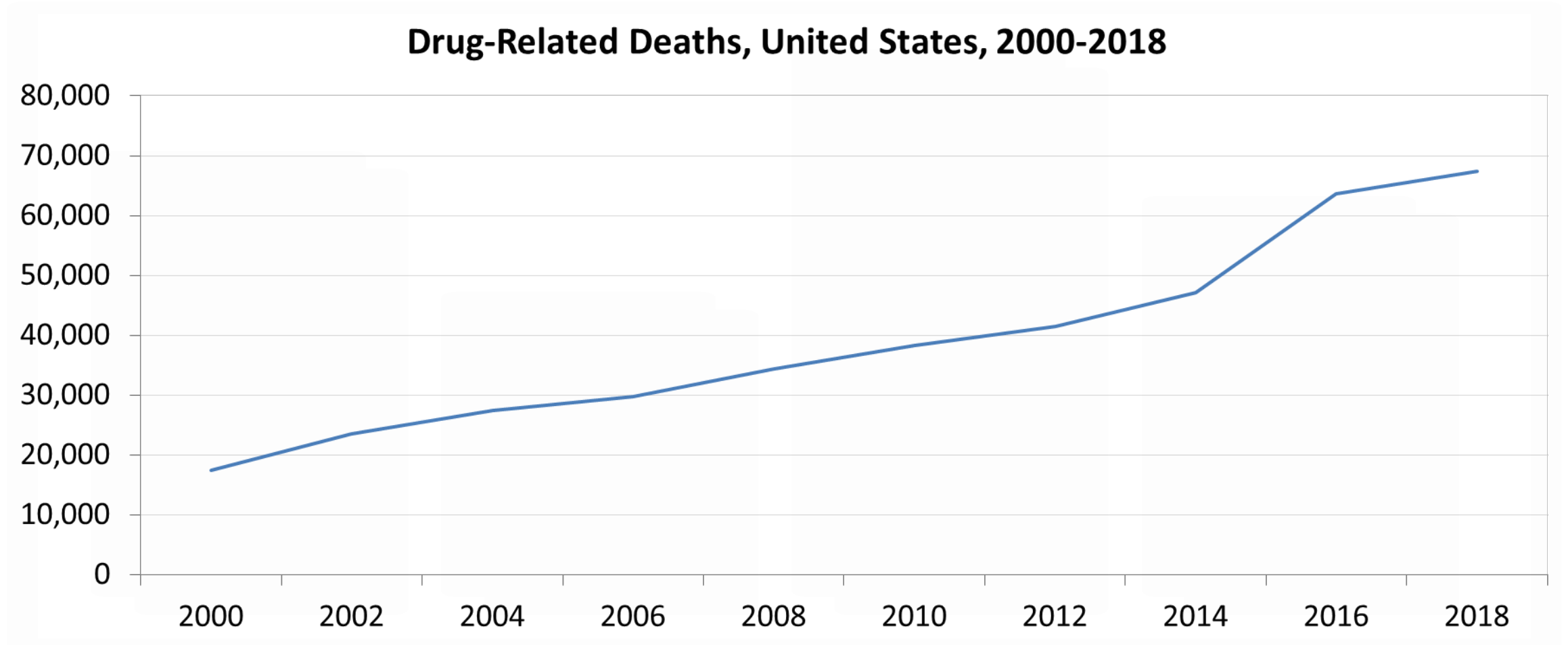


Tyler Skaggs

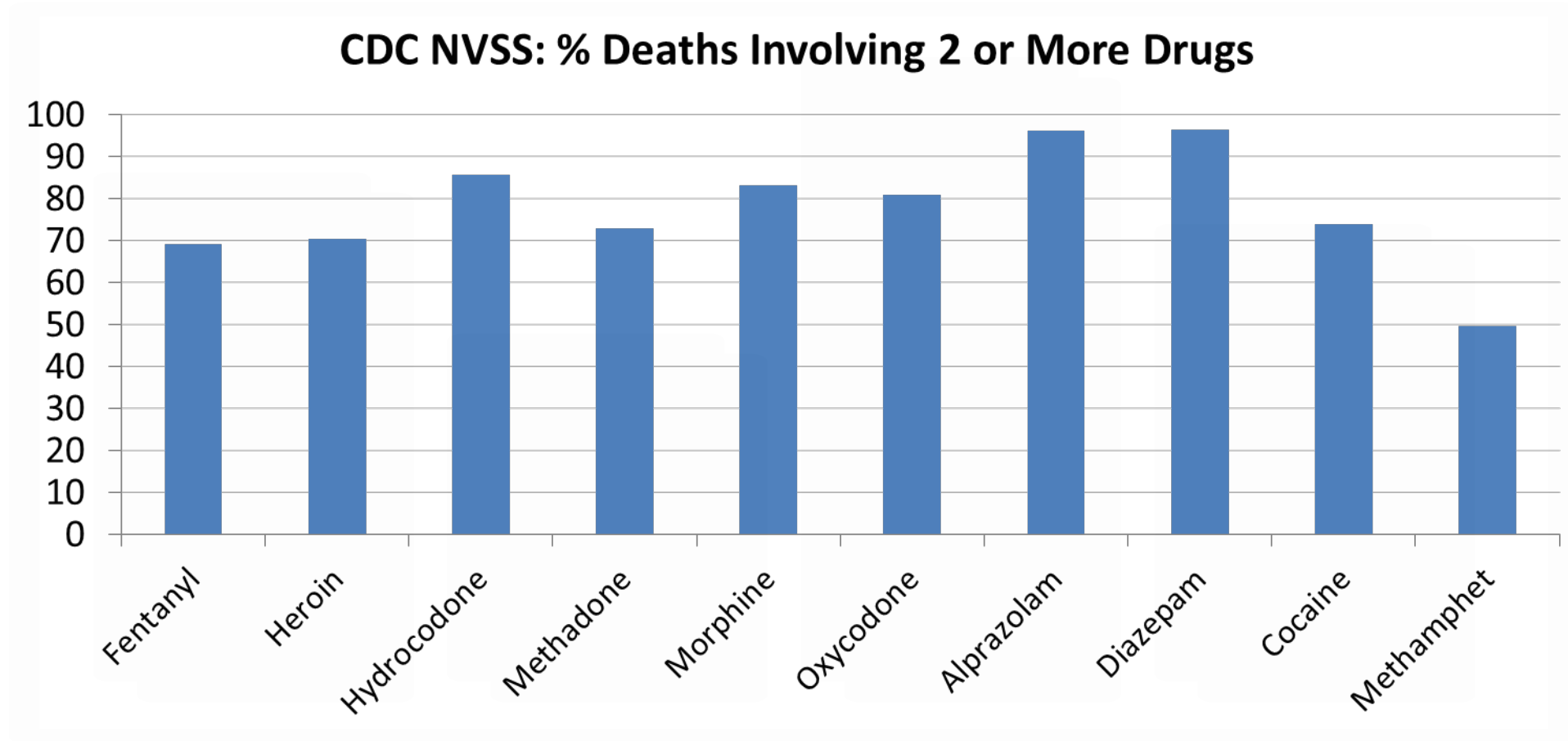




# Epidemic of Drug Mortality - Still Increasing

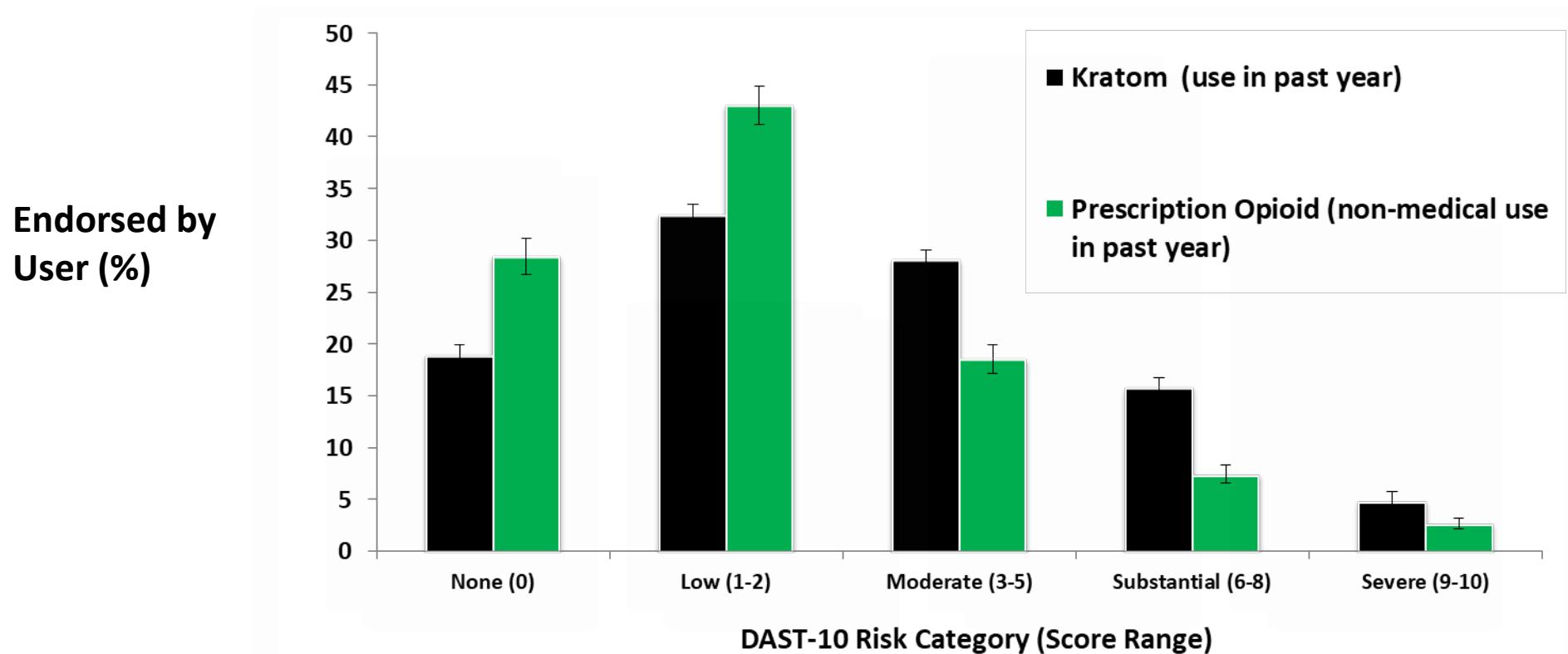


# Most Deaths Involve Multiple Drugs



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

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

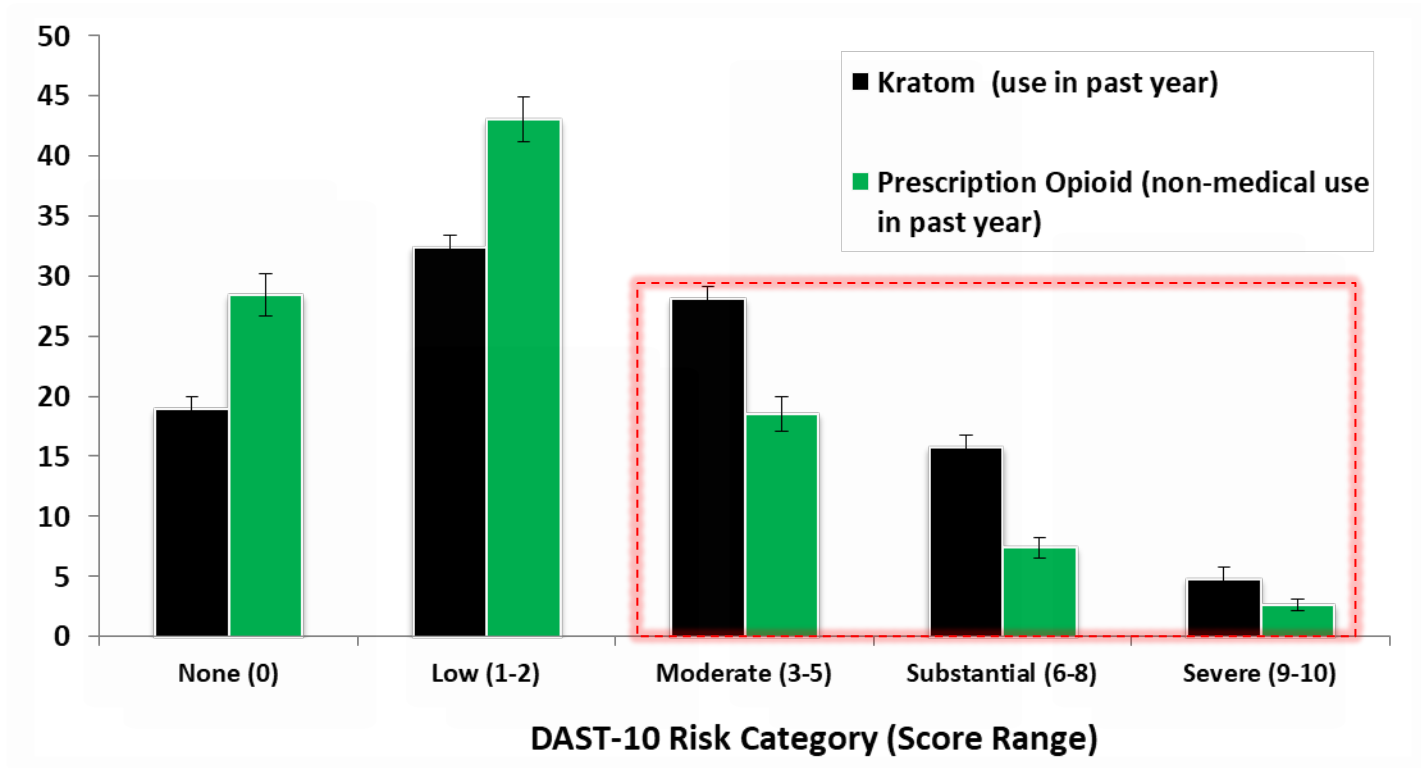


Schimmel J, et al. Prevalence and description of kratom (*Mitragyna speciosa*) use in the United States: A cross-sectional study. *Addiction*. 2020 <https://doi.org/10.1111/add.15082>.

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

## Kratom Abuse Profile Worse Than Prescription Opioids

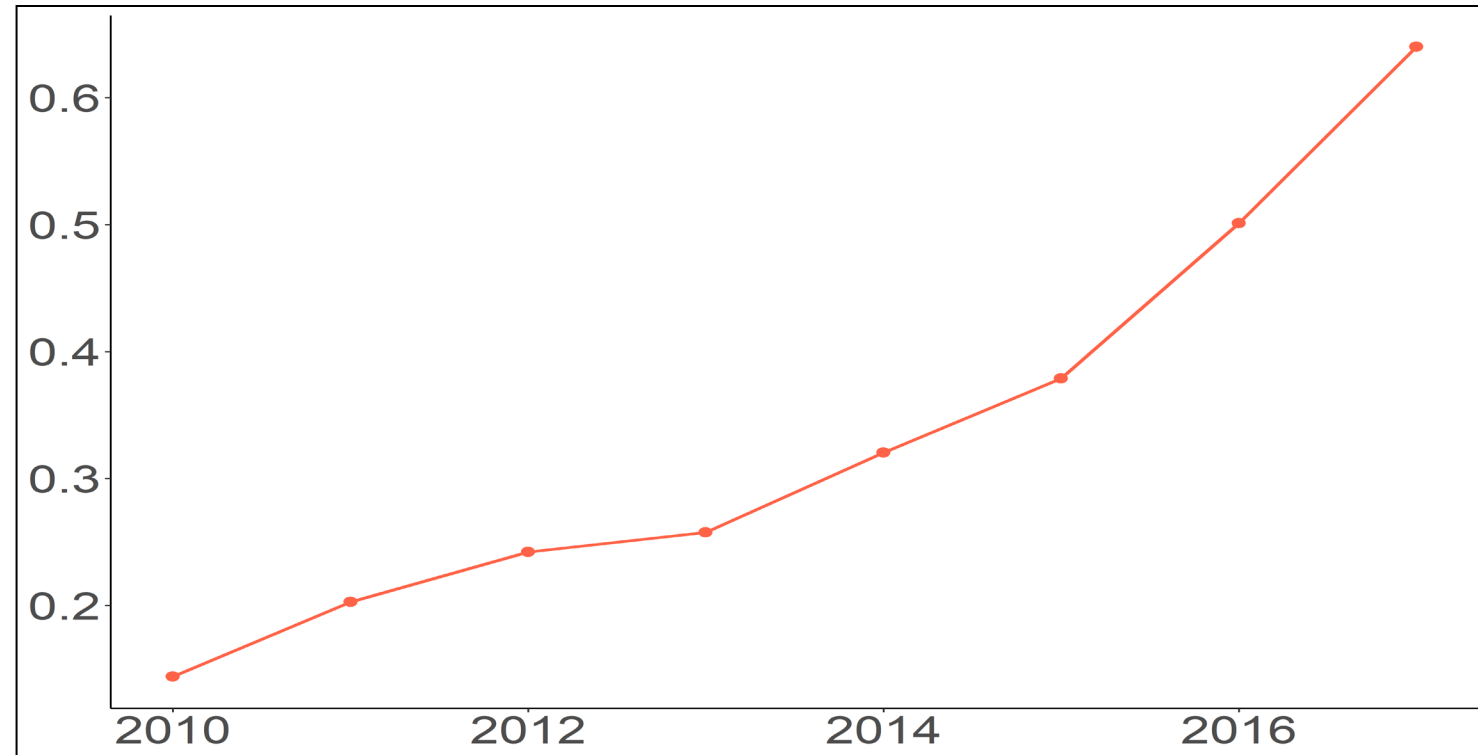
Endorsed by  
User (%)



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>.

# Mortality of Prescription Stimulants is Rising

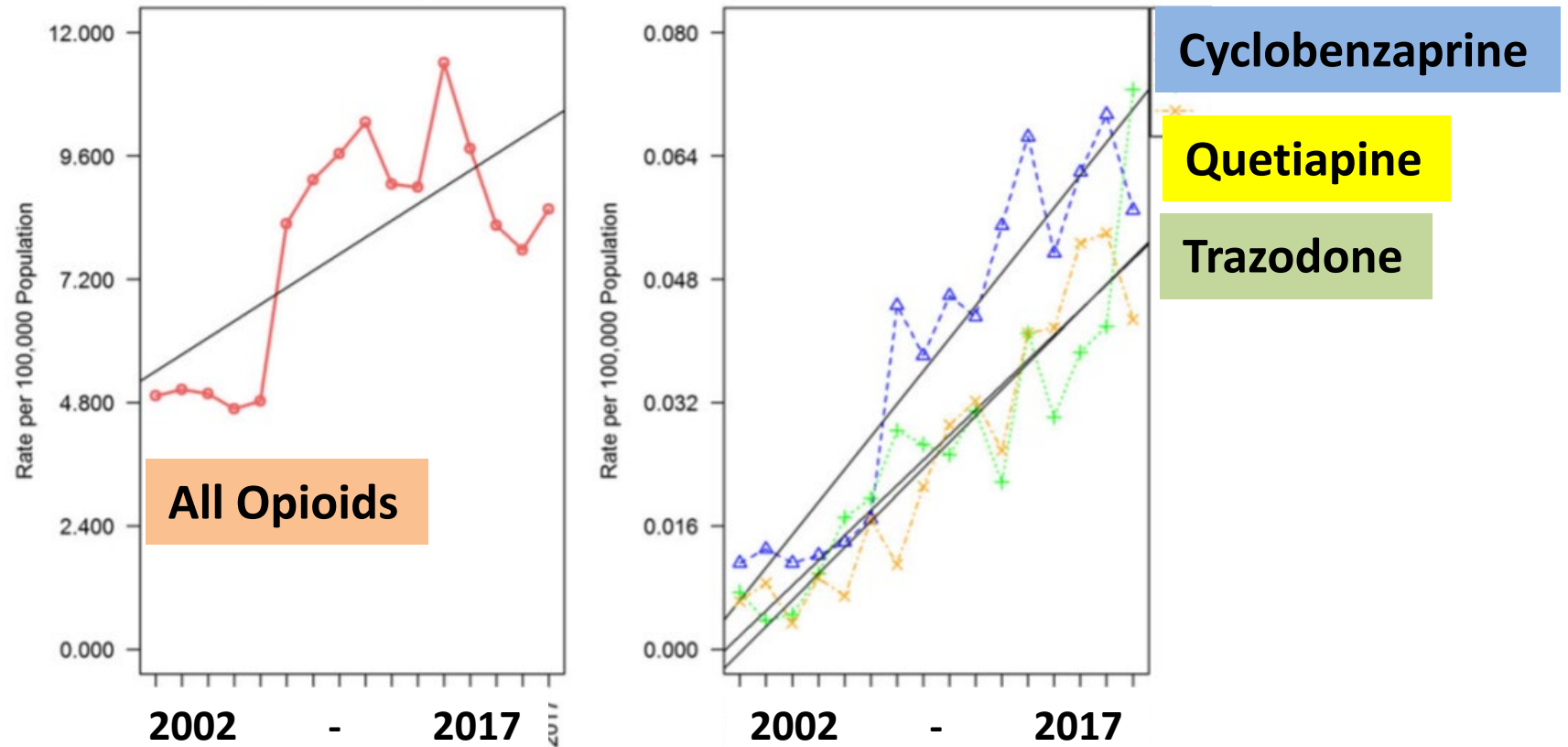
**Mortality Rate**  
Deaths /100,000  
population



**Included: Cocaine, methamphetamine, MDMA, pseudoephedrine, amphetamine, methylphenidate, generic terms, other terms**

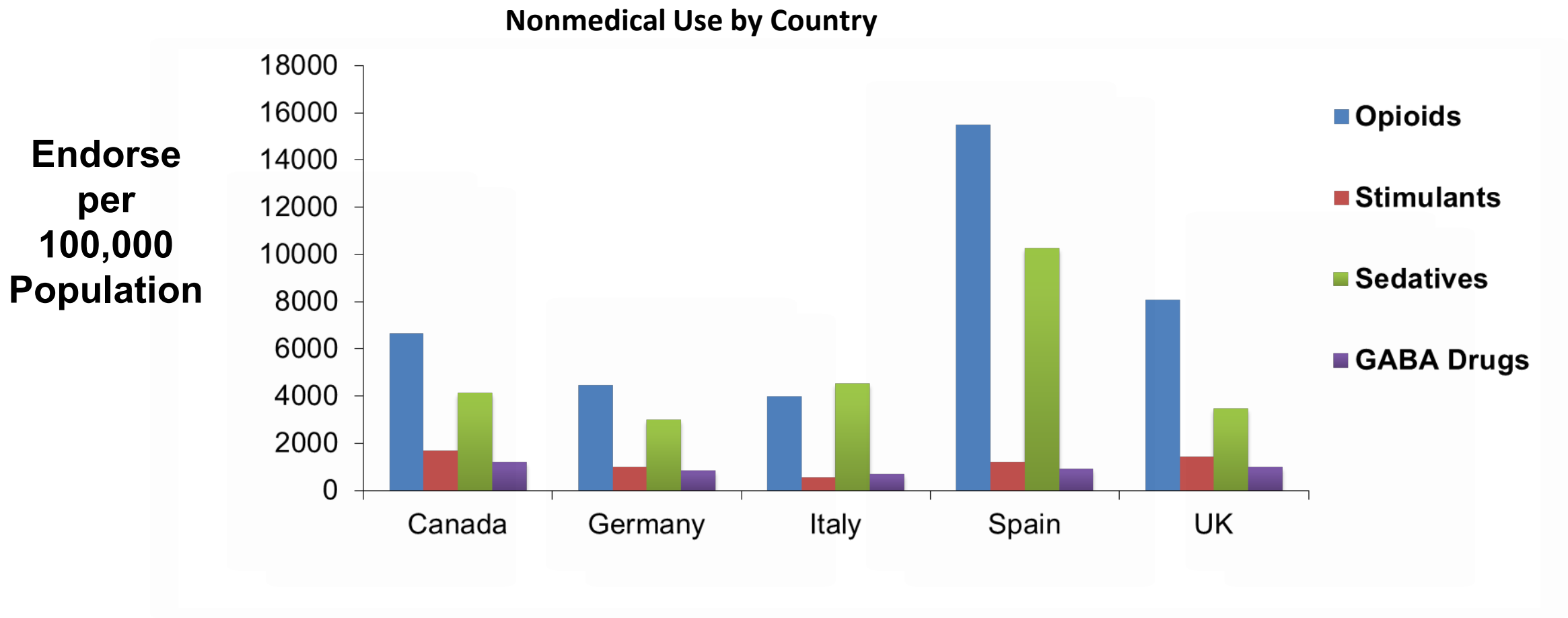


# Diversion of Nonscheduled Psychoactive Rx Medications in the US, 2002 - 2017



Kurtz, SP, et al. The diversion of nonscheduled psychoactive prescription medications in the United States, 2002 to 2017. *Pharmacoepidemiol Drug Saf.* 2019; 28: 700– 706. <https://doi.org/10.1002/pds.4771>

# Global Mosaic of Nonmedical Use: NMURx Program Prescription Opioids, 2018



Unpublished data, RADARS® System

# Drugs with Documented Abuse

Prescription	Non-Prescription	Illicit
All Opioid Analgesics	Alcohol	Marijuana
Anxiolytics	Nicotine	Heroin
Sleeping meds	Kratom	Fentanyl
Stimulants	Diphenhydramine	Cocaine
Antidepressants	Dextromethorphan	Methamphetamine
Muscle relaxants		MDMA and similar

# It's Not the Drug



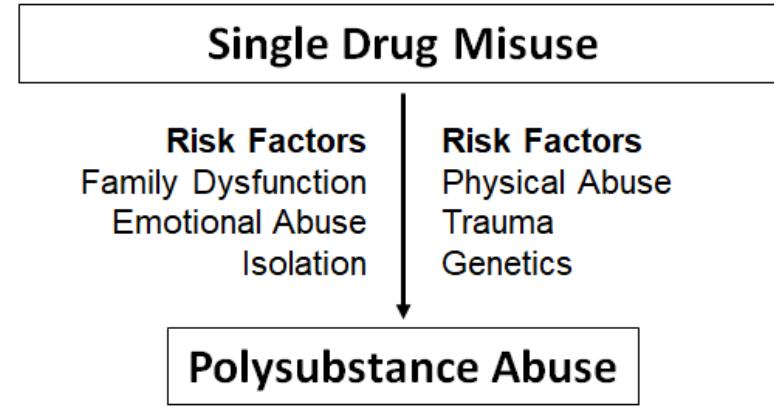
# **'It was like whatever meth says, I do': Recovering addict recounts drug addiction**

**How OxyContin became America's most widely  
abused prescription drug**

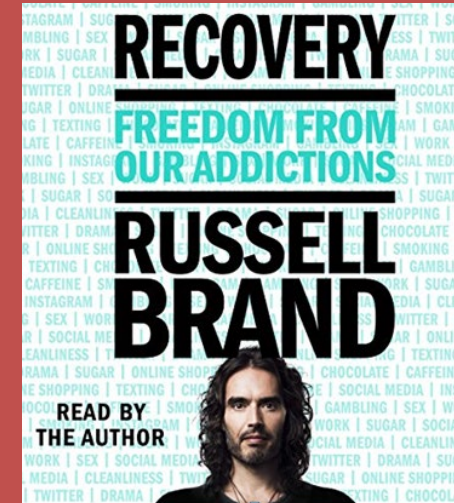




# It's Not the Drug!



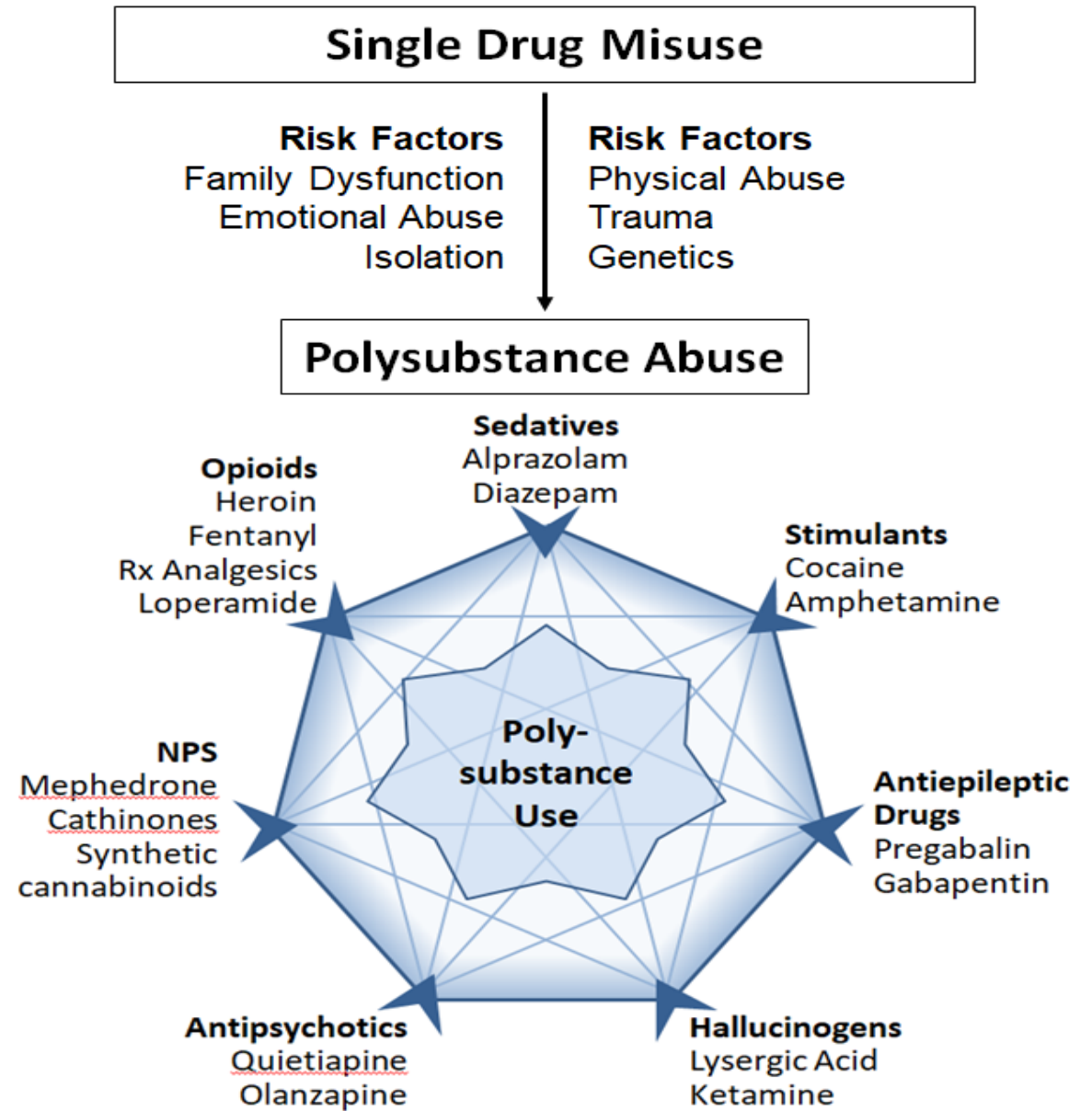
*Drugs are not my problem.  
Reality is my problem.  
Drugs are my solution.*



# The Intersection of Drugs and Abusers

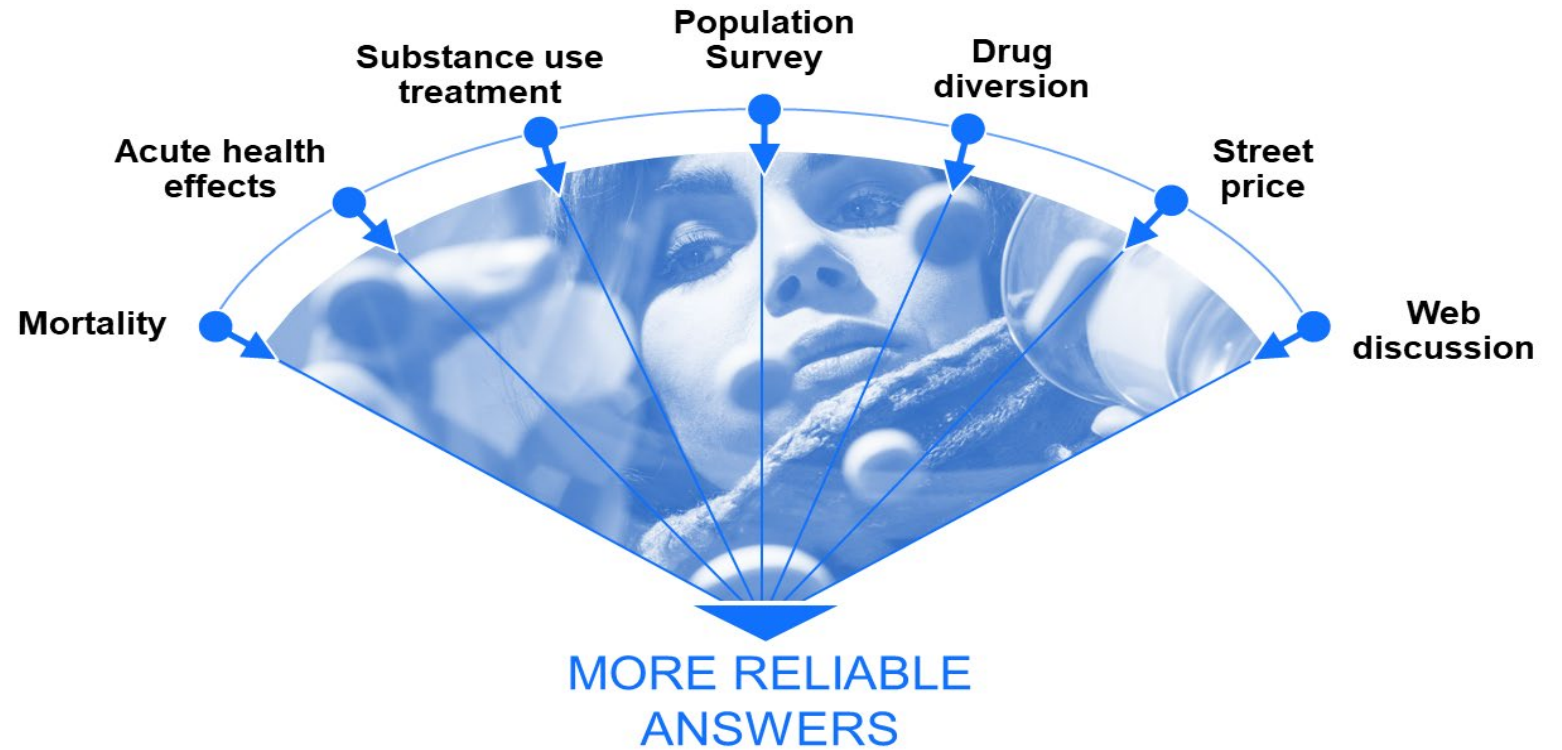
## Interpretation

- Futility
- Supply reduction
- Demand reduction



# Summary

- Research
- Surveillance
- Policy
- Personal



# Thank you!

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