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# Addressing the Opioid Overdose Epidemic through Critical Partnerships: Public Health, Human Services, and Health Care

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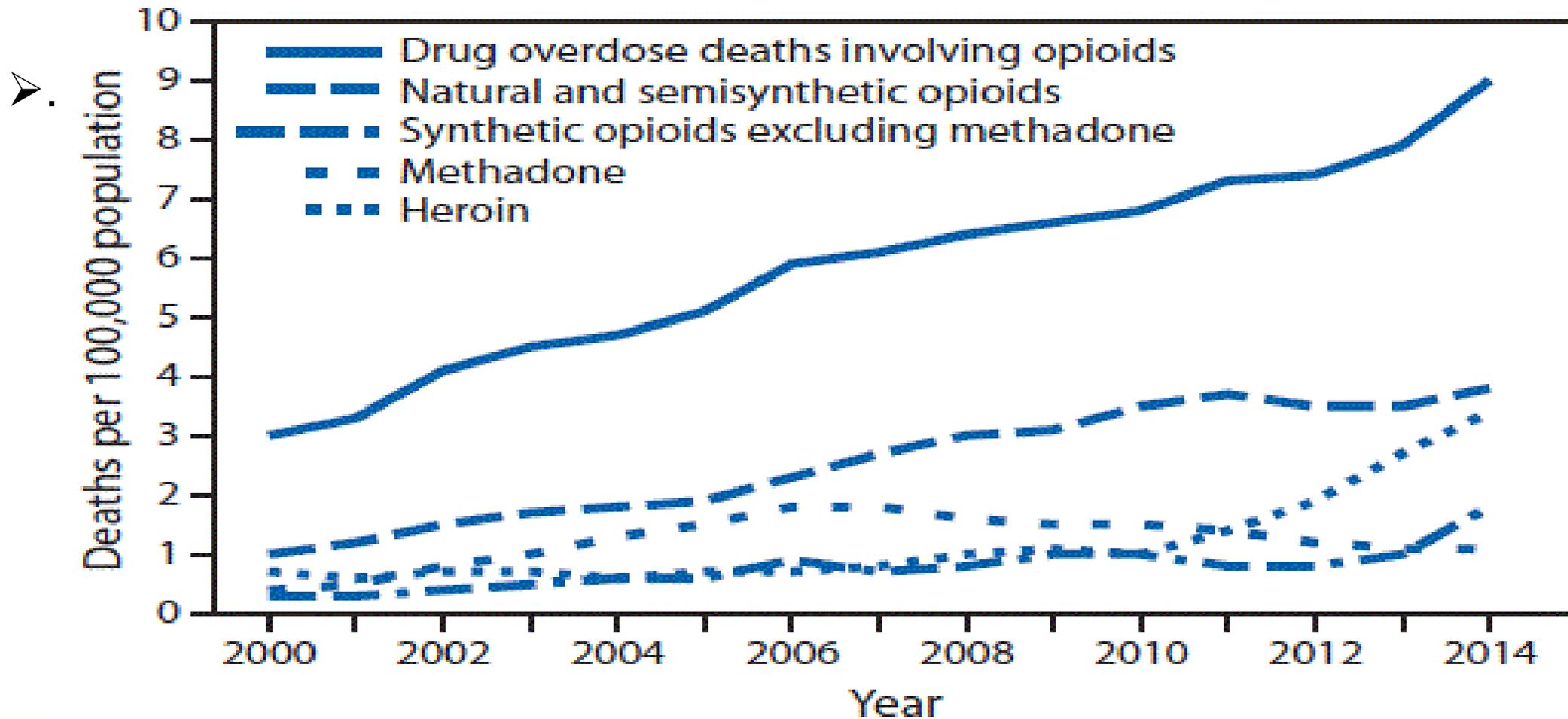
Pharmacist

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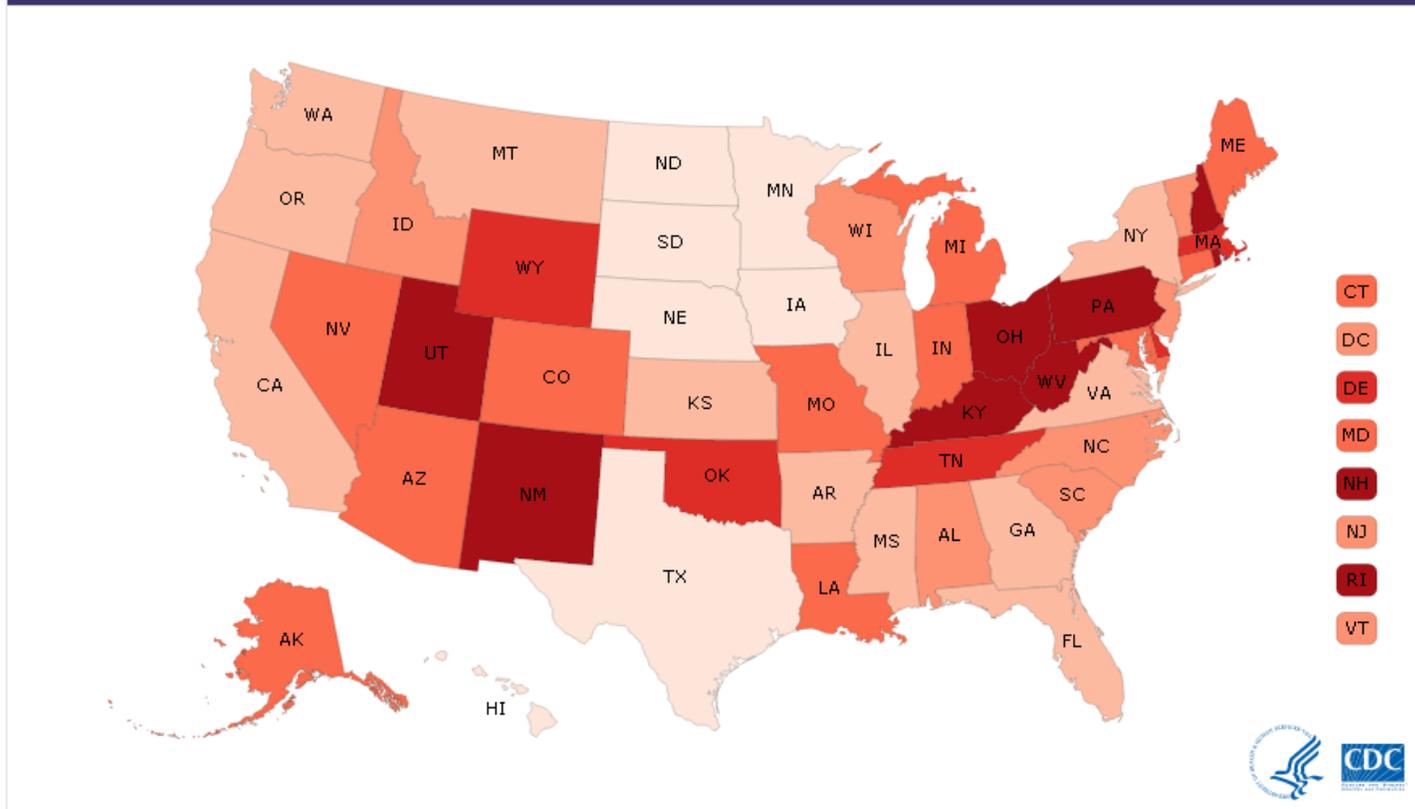
# The Problem

- Prescription painkiller overdoses killed over 17,000 people in the US in 2015. This is more than 4 times the 4,000 people killed by these drugs in 1999.
- 2008-2011: Average of 1.1 million emergency department visits per year for drug poisoning.
- Nonmedical use of prescription painkillers costs health insurers up to \$72.5 billion annually in direct health care costs.

# U.S Opioid Overdoses 2000-2014

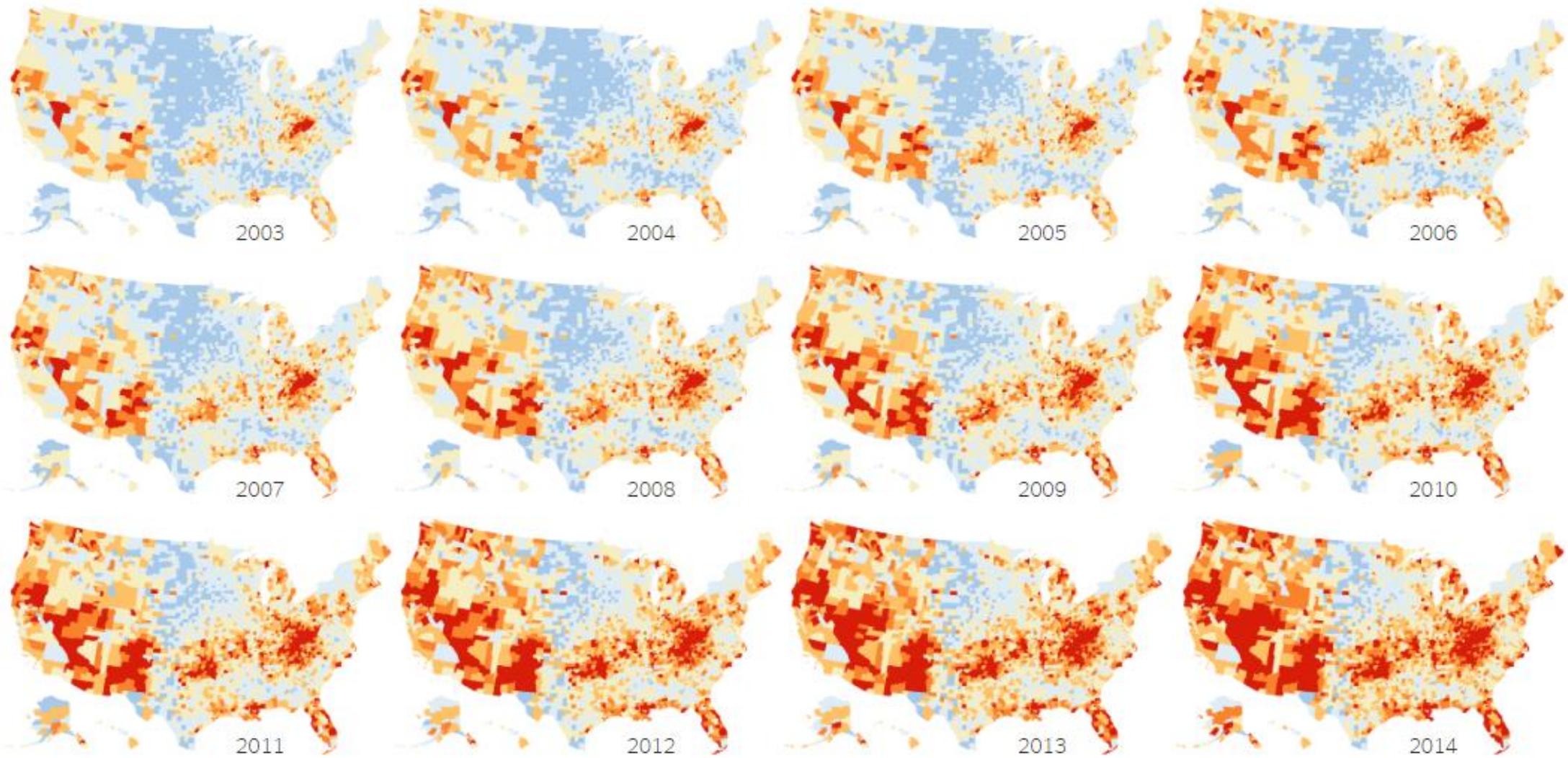


# Number and age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths by state, US 2014



## 2014 Age-adjusted rate

- 2.8 to 11.0
- 11.1 to 13.5
- 13.6 to 16.0
- 16.1 to 18.5
- 18.6 to 21.0
- 21.0 to 35.5



Source: NYTimes, Jan 2016

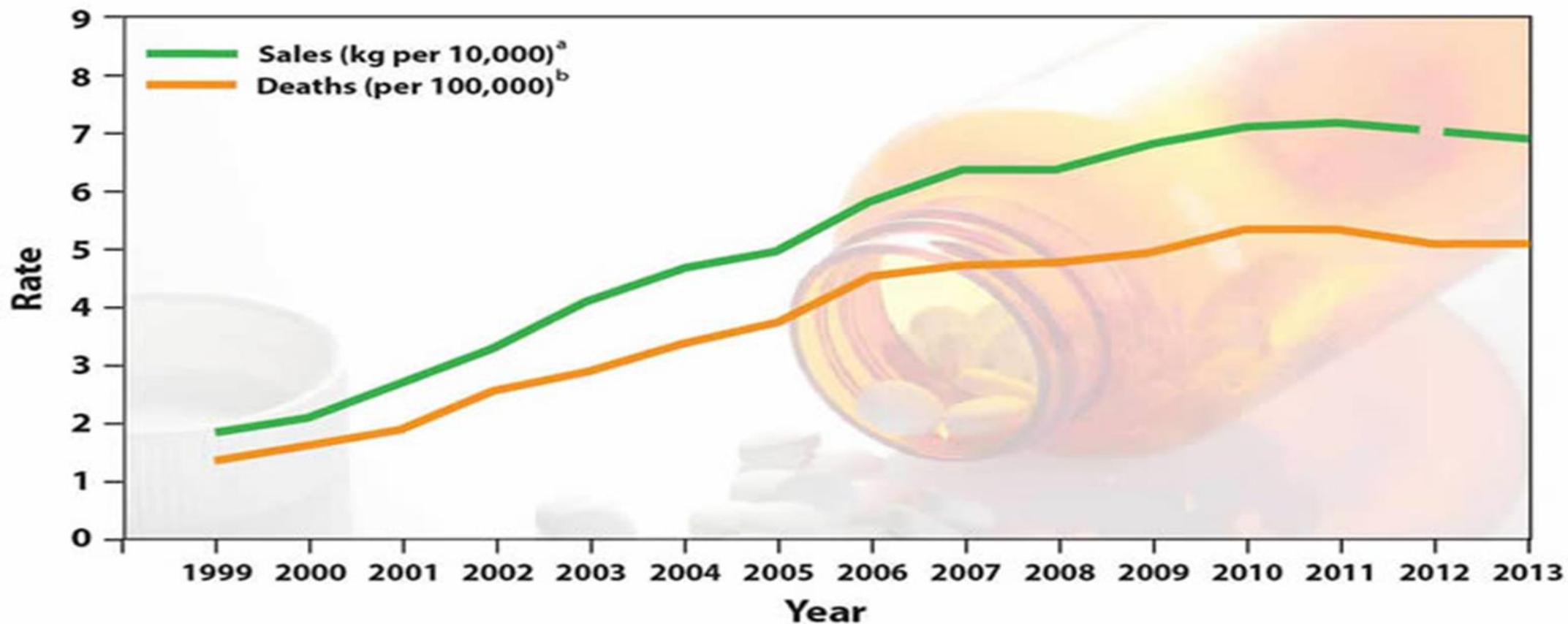
# Facts

- Overdoses in PA have increased substantially
- Statewide, overdoses have surpassed MVAs as leading cause of injury death
- Mainly impacting white males (69%), aged 20-50
- The majority of overdoses in Allegheny County involved opioids

# What Caused The Epidemic?

- Drastic increases in the number of prescriptions written and dispensed
- Greater social acceptability for using medications for different purposes
- Aggressive marketing by pharmaceutical companies of new long acting pain killers
- High addictive potential of pain killers
- Cheap cost of Heroin
- Entry of Fentanyl and its derivatives

## Prescription Painkiller Sales and Deaths



Sources:

<sup>a</sup>Automation of Reports and Consolidated Orders System (ARCOS) of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), 2012 data not available.

<sup>b</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. National Vital Statistics System mortality data. (2015) Available from URL:

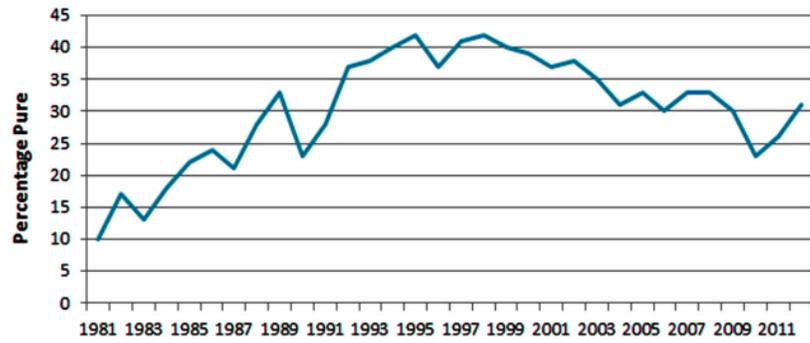
<http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/deaths.htm>.

# Reason for Using Prescription Drugs (Teens) PATS Attitude Tracking Study: 2005, 2008, 2012, 2013

Question	2005	2008	2012	2013
Easy to get from parents' medicine cabinets	62%	--	--	73%
Available everywhere	52%	--	--	33%
They are not illegal drugs	51%	--	--	--
Easy to get through other people's prescriptions	50%	--	--	--
Teens can claim to have a prescription if caught	49%	--	--	--
They are cheap	43%	--	--	--
Safer to use than illegal drugs	35%	--	27%	--
Less shame attached to using	33%	--	--	--
Easy to purchase over the internet	32%	34%	--	--
Fewer side effects than street drugs	32%	--	--	--
Easier to get than illegal drugs	--	--	43%	--
Parents don't care as much if you get caught	21%	--	23%	--

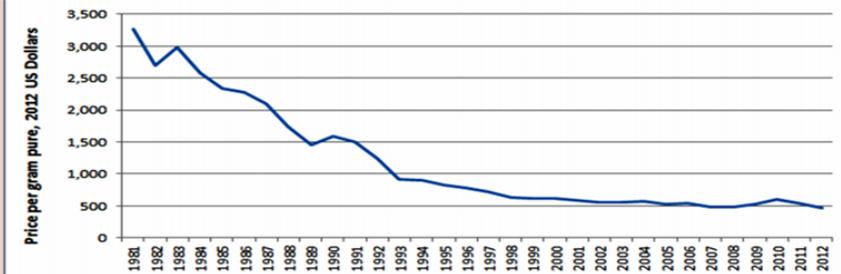
# Purity is increasing, price is decreasing, Fentanyl Arrived

(U) Chart 5. Retail-level Average Purity of Heroin in the United States, 1981 to 2012



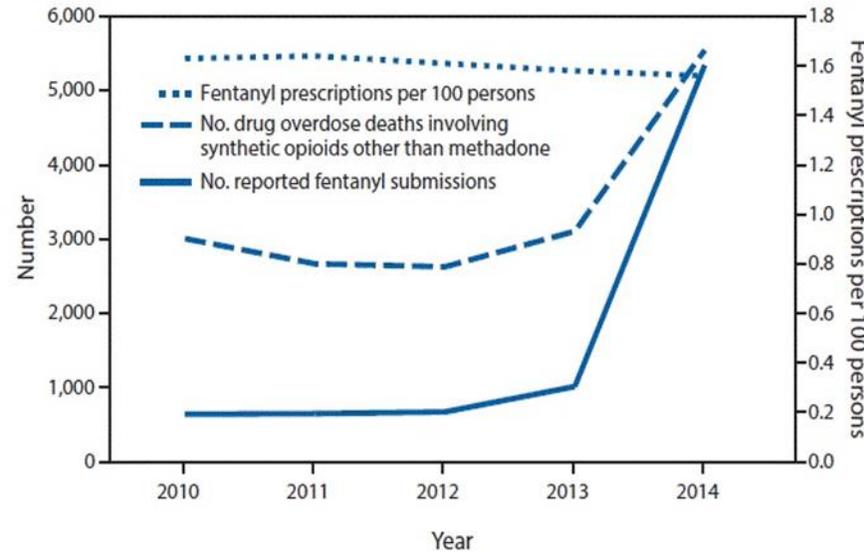
Source: Institute for Defense Analyses and ONDCP

(U) Chart 6. Retail-level Average Price Per Gram Pure, for Heroin in the United States, 1981 to 2012



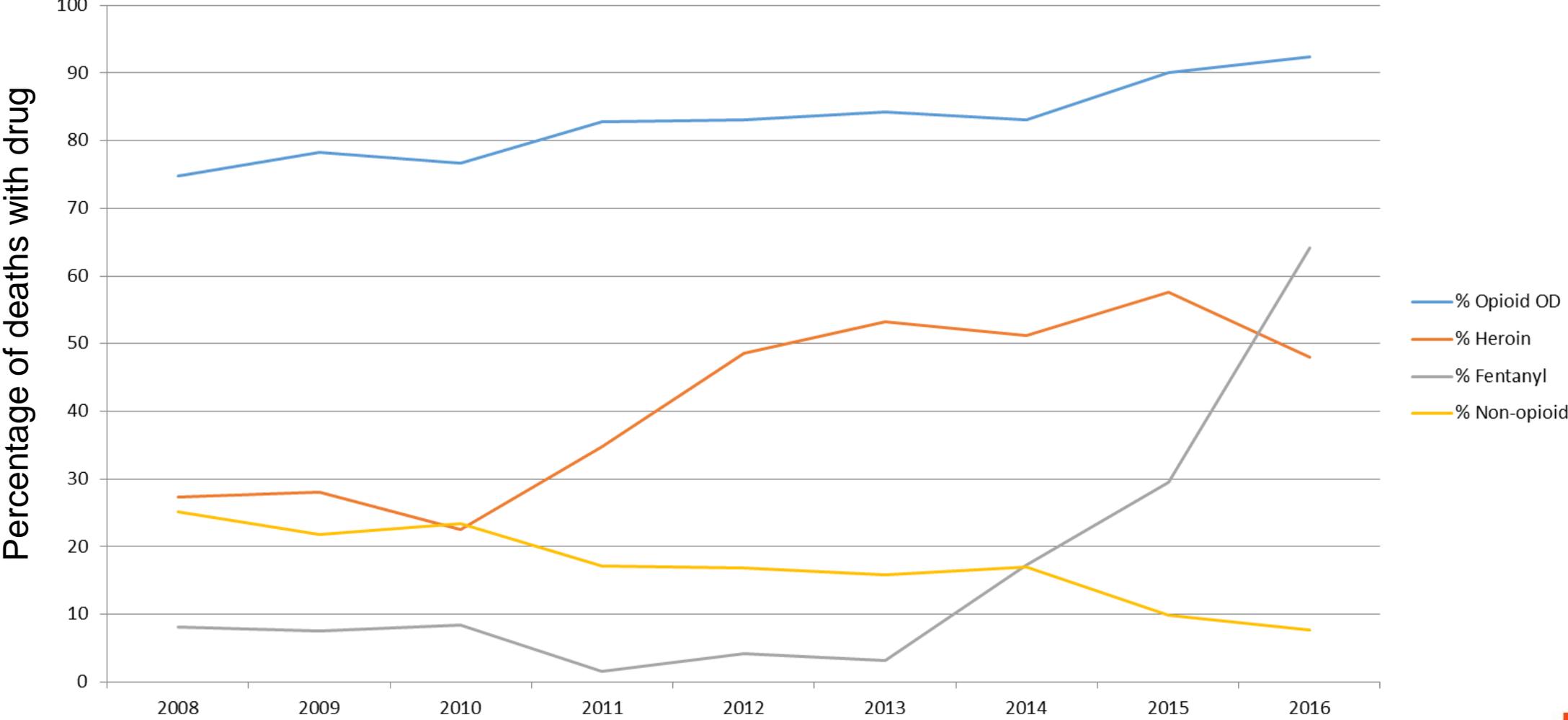
Source: Institute for Defense Analyses and ONDCP

Trends in number of drug overdose deaths involving synthetic opioids other than methadone, number of reported fentanyl submissions, and rate of fentanyl prescriptions — United States, 2010–2014

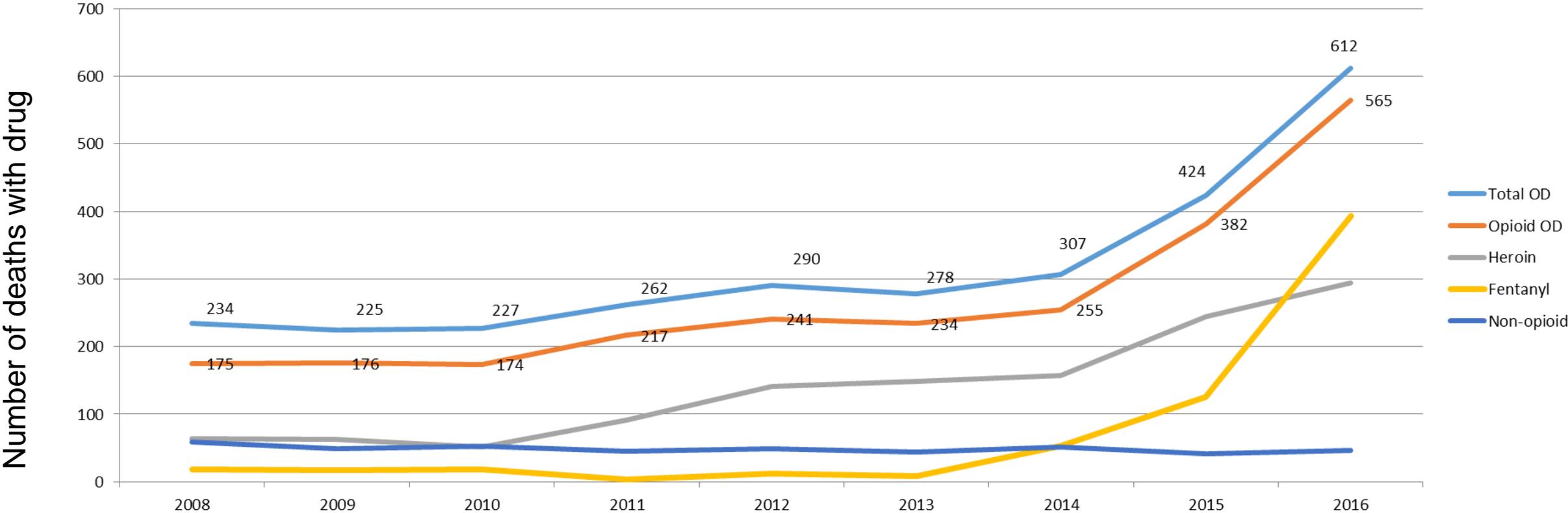


Source: MMWR 65(33):837–843, <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6533a2.htm>

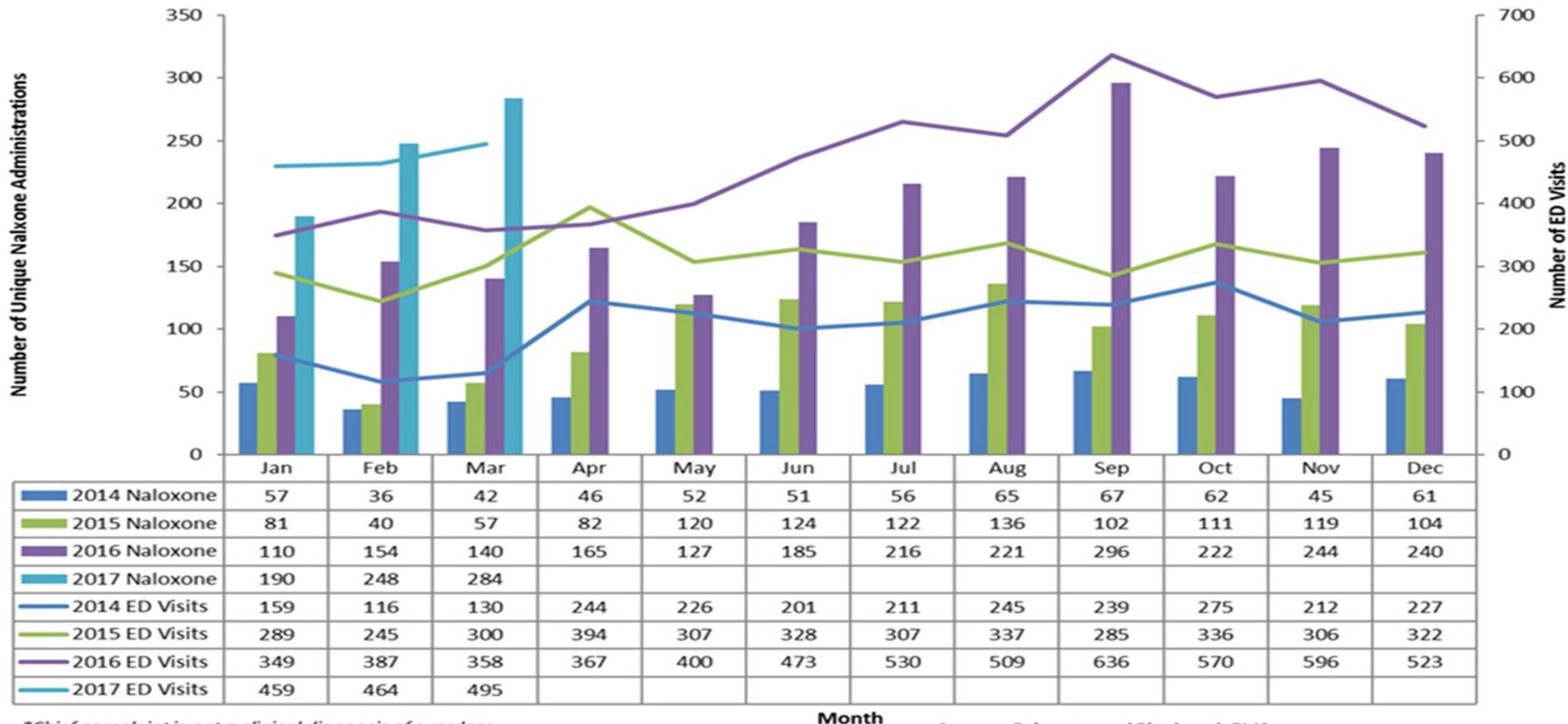
# Trends in Opioid Overdose 2008-2016 Allegheny County



# Type of Opioid Contributing to Overdose 2008-2016 Allegheny County



## Monthly Naloxone Administration by EMS and Emergency Department Visits for Chief Complaint of Overdose\* January 2014 to March 2017



\*Chief complaint is not a clinical diagnosis of overdose.

Source: Epicenter and Pittsburgh EMS

# Allegheny Context of Multiple Stakeholders

- ACHD-County Health Department
- DHS-Health and Human Services
- Medical Examiner
- US Attorney
- Institute of Politics (IOP)
- Health Care and Treatment Provider community
- State Policy
  - Prescription monitoring program
  - Limiting supply in ED
  - Standing order for Naloxone
  - Treatment-Centers of Excellence

# A Critical Partnership



# Departmental and Joint Actions



## ACHD

- Naloxone access
- Surveillance
- Education
- Health Care
- Community level work



## DHS

- Treatment providers (MAT)
- Data analytics
- Internal Education
- Jail Programming

## Joint Activities

Overdose Report

Educational Efforts

Policy Work