

# A public health strategy for the drug crisis

Overdose data to action: A project of SNHD's OEDS

OVERDOSE  
DATA TO  
ACTION



OEDS

# Overview

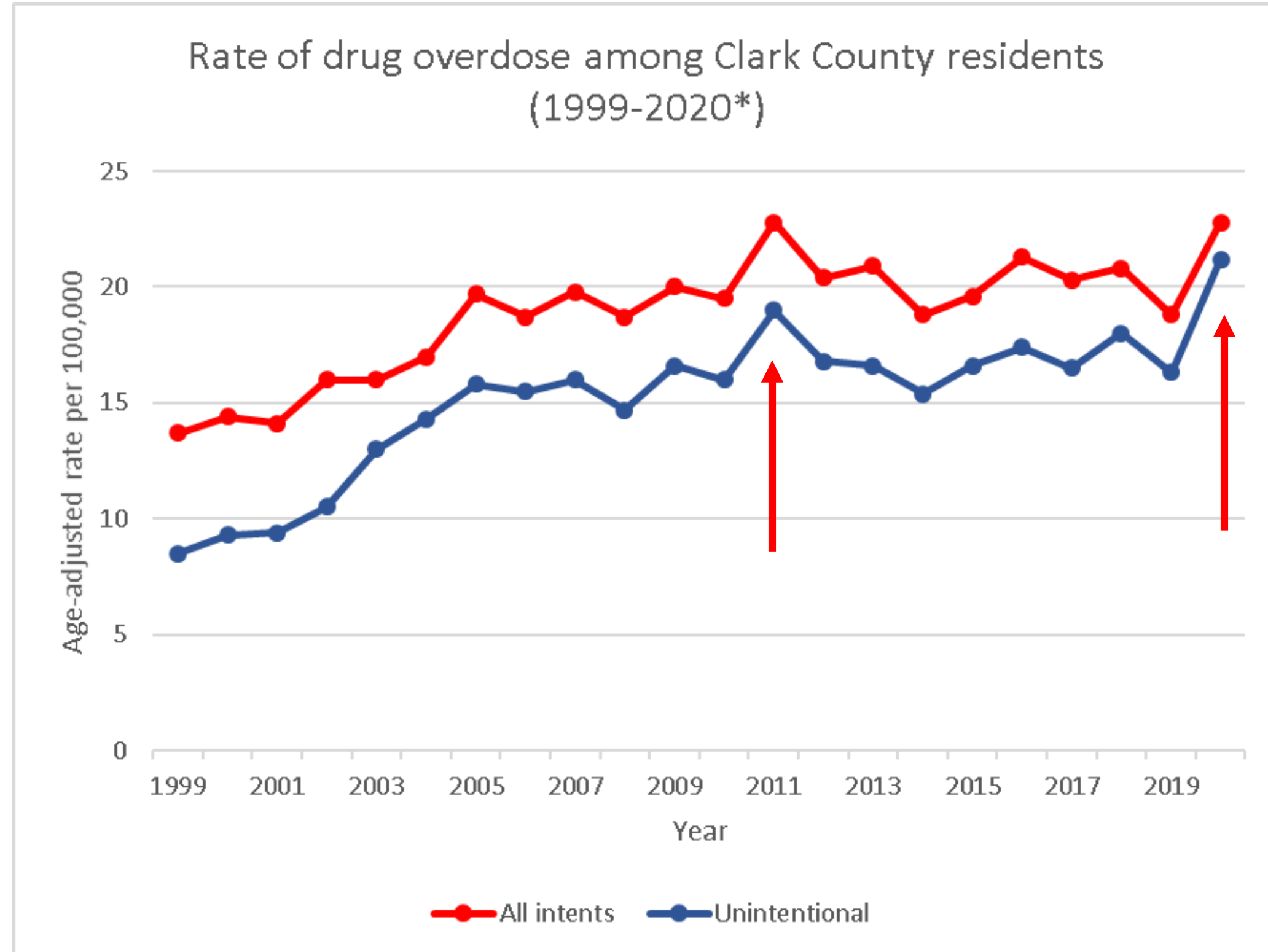


- Overdose as a public health issue
- Seven opportunities for public health impact
- Questions/Comments

# What We Know: Drug Overdose

- Most fatal drug overdoses are unintentional
- The *preliminary* rate of fatal unintentional overdose in 2020 was higher than the peak in 2011 (21.2 vs 19.2 per 100,000)

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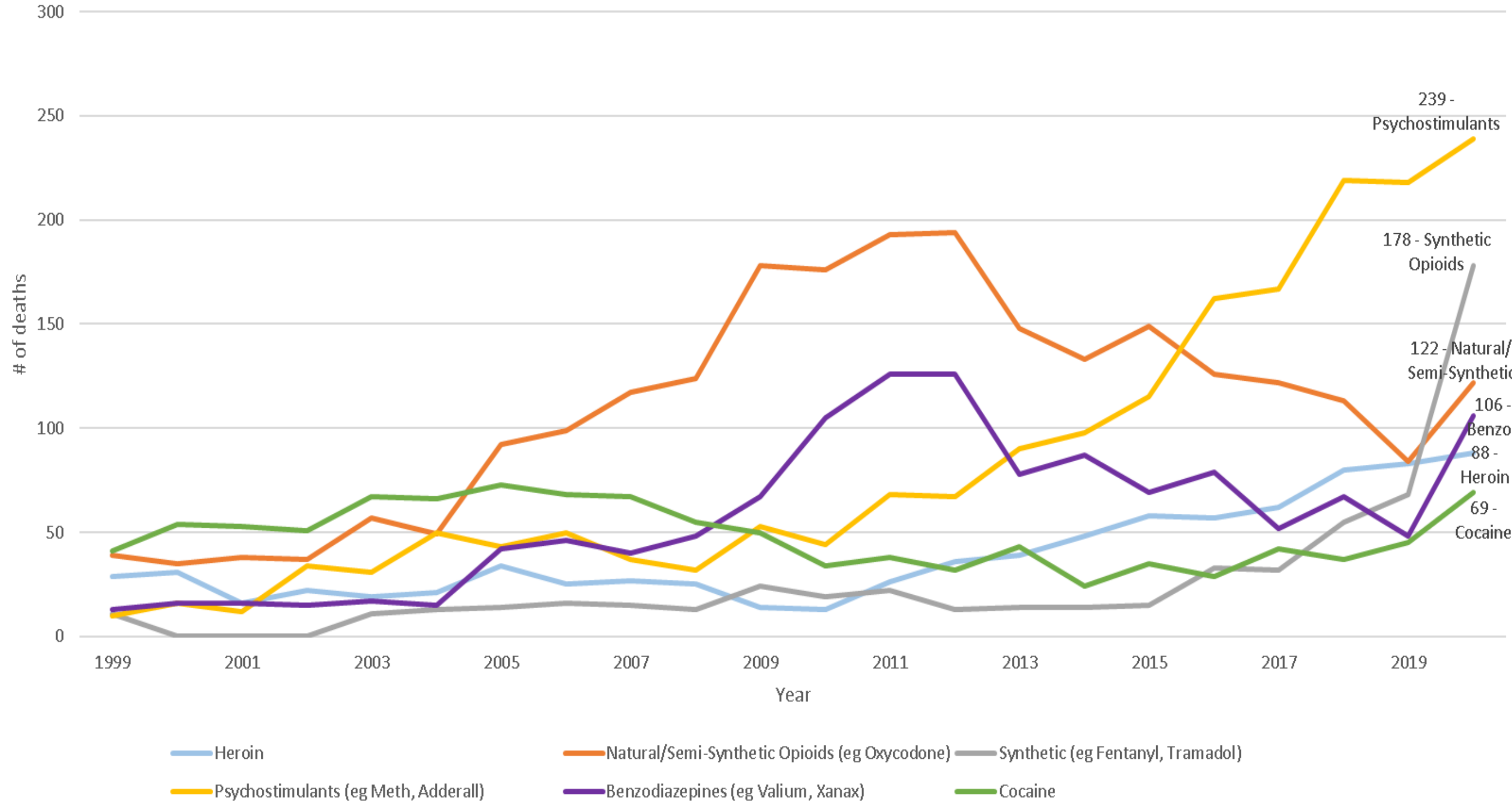


\*2020 data are provisional estimates and subject to change. Current as of 2/12/21.  
 Data Source: CDC WONDER (1999-2019), Nevada Electronic Death Registry System (2020)  
 NOTE: 2020 rate was estimated using 2019 population data from CDC WONDER

# Unintentional overdose deaths among Clark County residents by drug class (1999-2020\*)

2021

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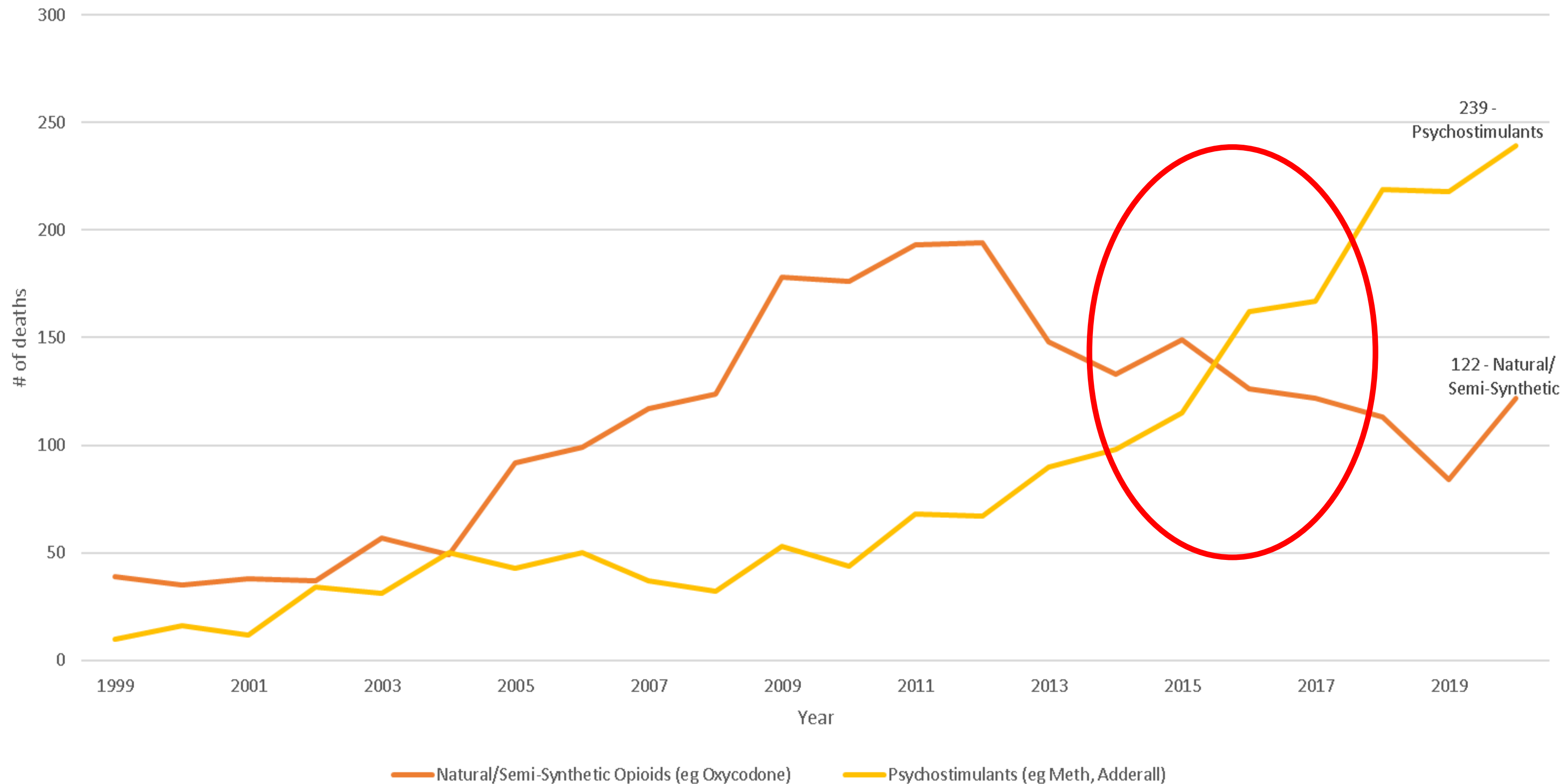
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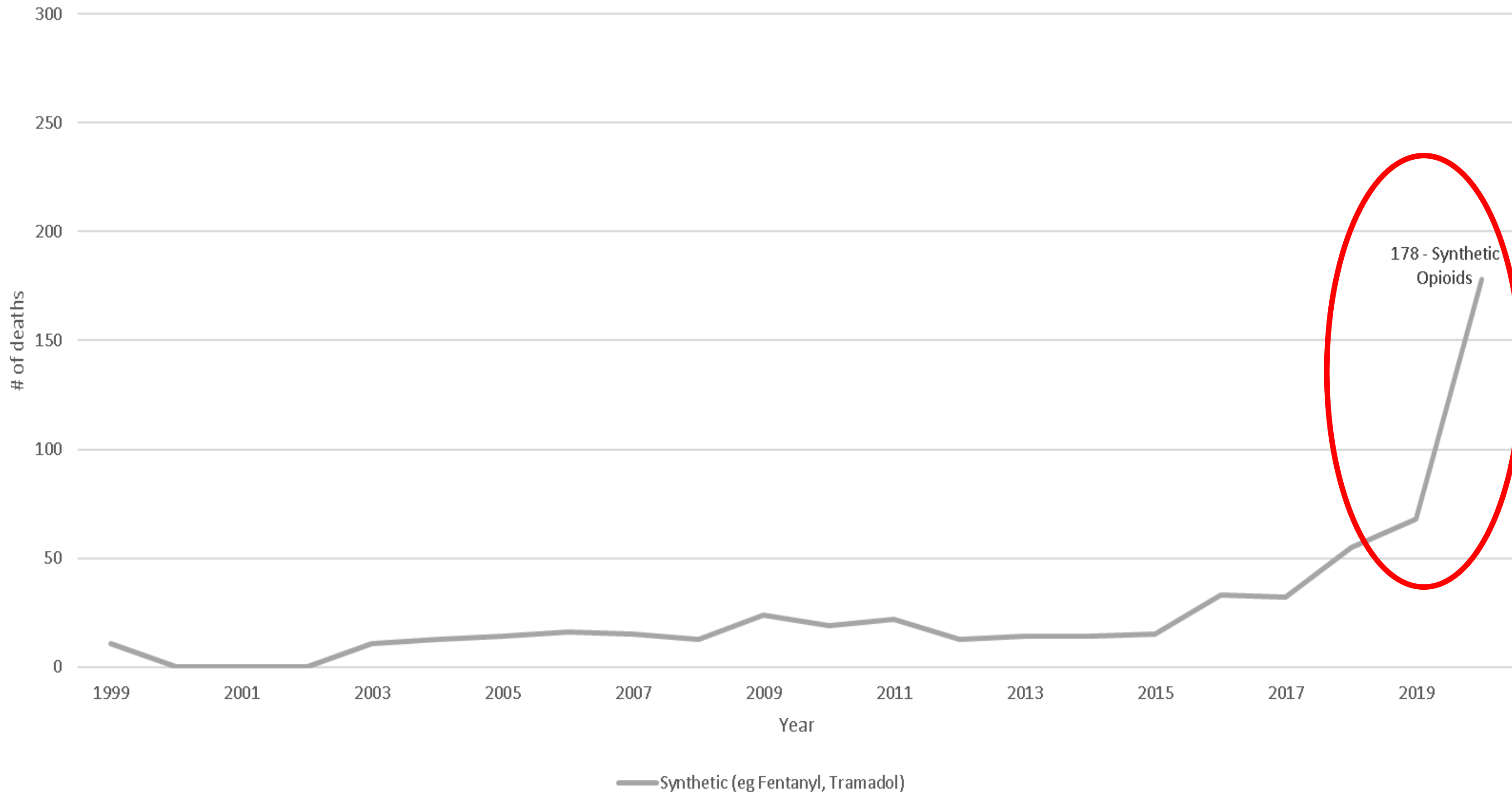
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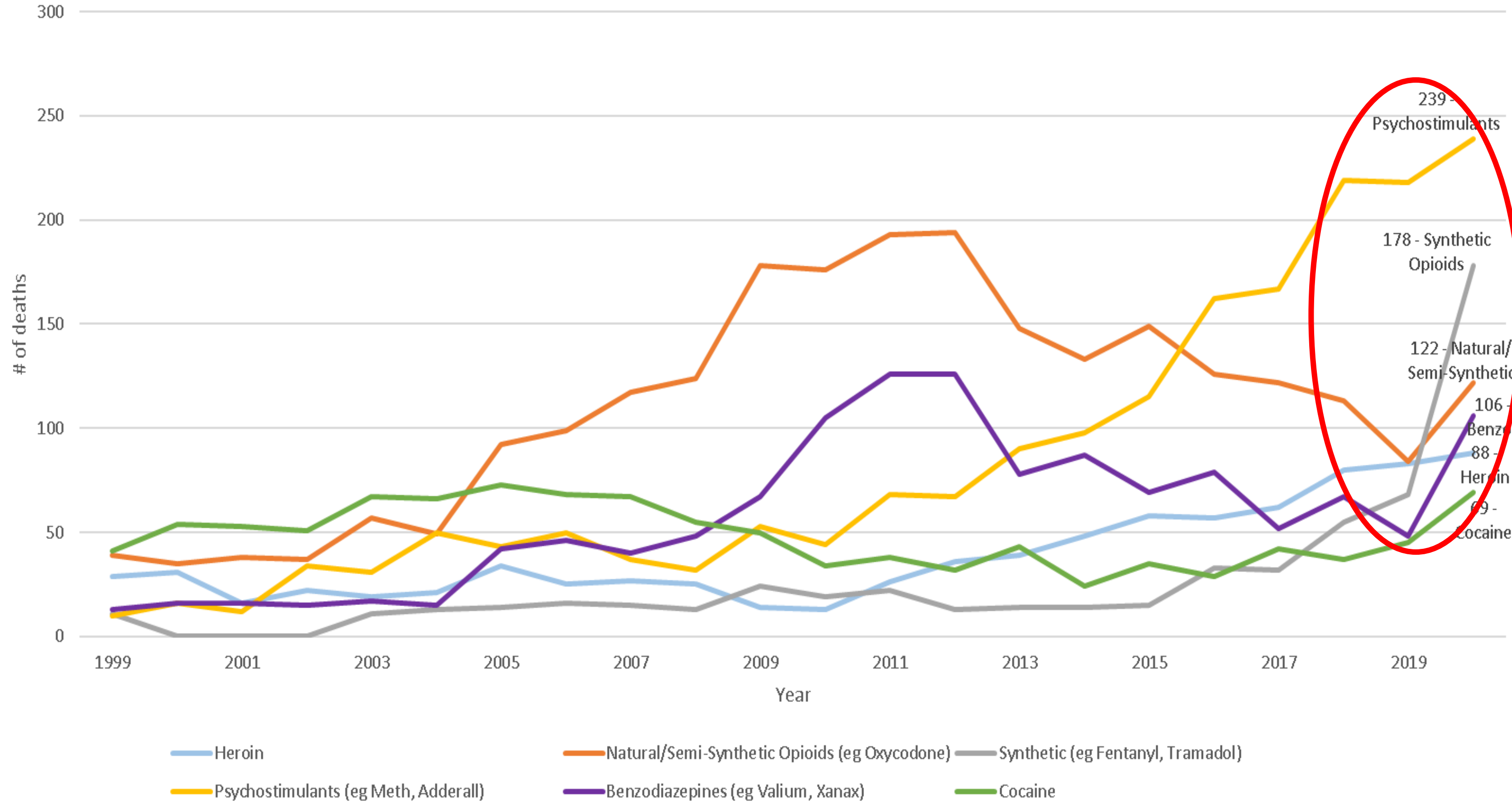
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# Fentanyl

## What is fentanyl?

Fentanyl is a highly potent synthetic opioid in two forms:

- Pharmaceutical use
- Illicitly manufactured:
  - Mixed into drugs
  - Pressed into counterfeit pills

*Lethal dose for heroin  
and fentanyl*



## Emerging issue: Younger Adults

2020\* fentanyl overdoses – Median age:

- 49 years – Non-fentanyl
- 29 years – Fentanyl

\*Preliminary and subject to change



# Fentanyl

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*Lethal dose for heroin and fentanyl*



## Emerging issue: Drug contamination

Other drugs implicated in fentanyl overdoses (2020):

Drug Class	% of Deaths
Benzodiazepines	31%
Psychostimulants	25%
Natural/Semi-Synthetic Opioids	23%
Cocaine	20%
Heroin	2%

\*Preliminary and subject to change

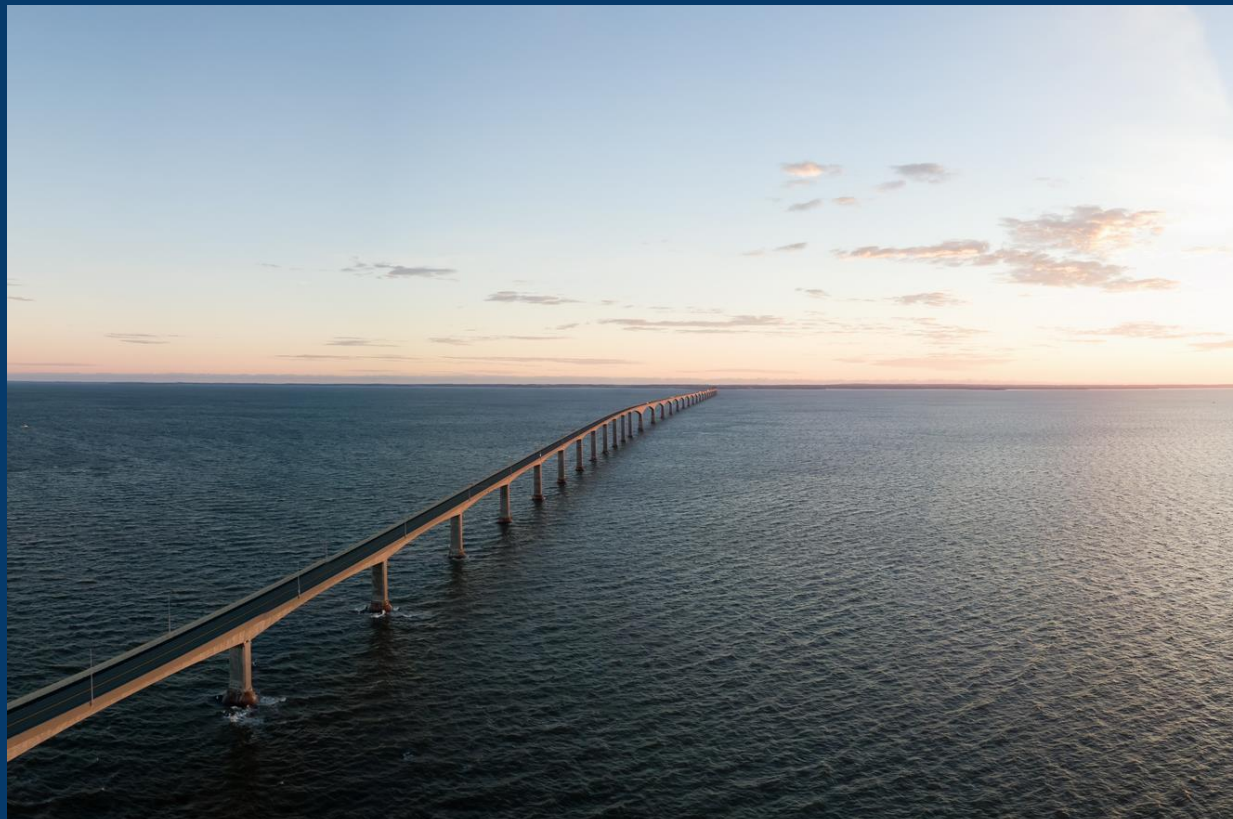
# Continued need for a public health approach

- Increased need for polysubstance use focus in community response
- Recognition of substance use as a chronic health condition that is:
  - Multifaceted
  - Preventable
  - Treatable
  - *NOT a moral failure or criminal behavior*



# Opportunities for Public Health Impact

## Seven Recommendations



1. Improve data collection
2. Safer prescribing
3. Stigma reduction
4. Harm reduction
5. Treatment expansion
6. Criminal justice reform
7. Regulatory changes

# 1. Improve Data Collection

Linkage to care and/or drug use behavior among participants

Drug supply testing

Nonfatal overdose surveillance through EMS and hospital data

Implementation of public health vending online sign up system

Partnership with public safety to improve data sharing

January	13
February	10
March	15
April	19
May	12
June	19
July	18
August	15
September	12
October	12
November	12

# 1. Improve Data Collection

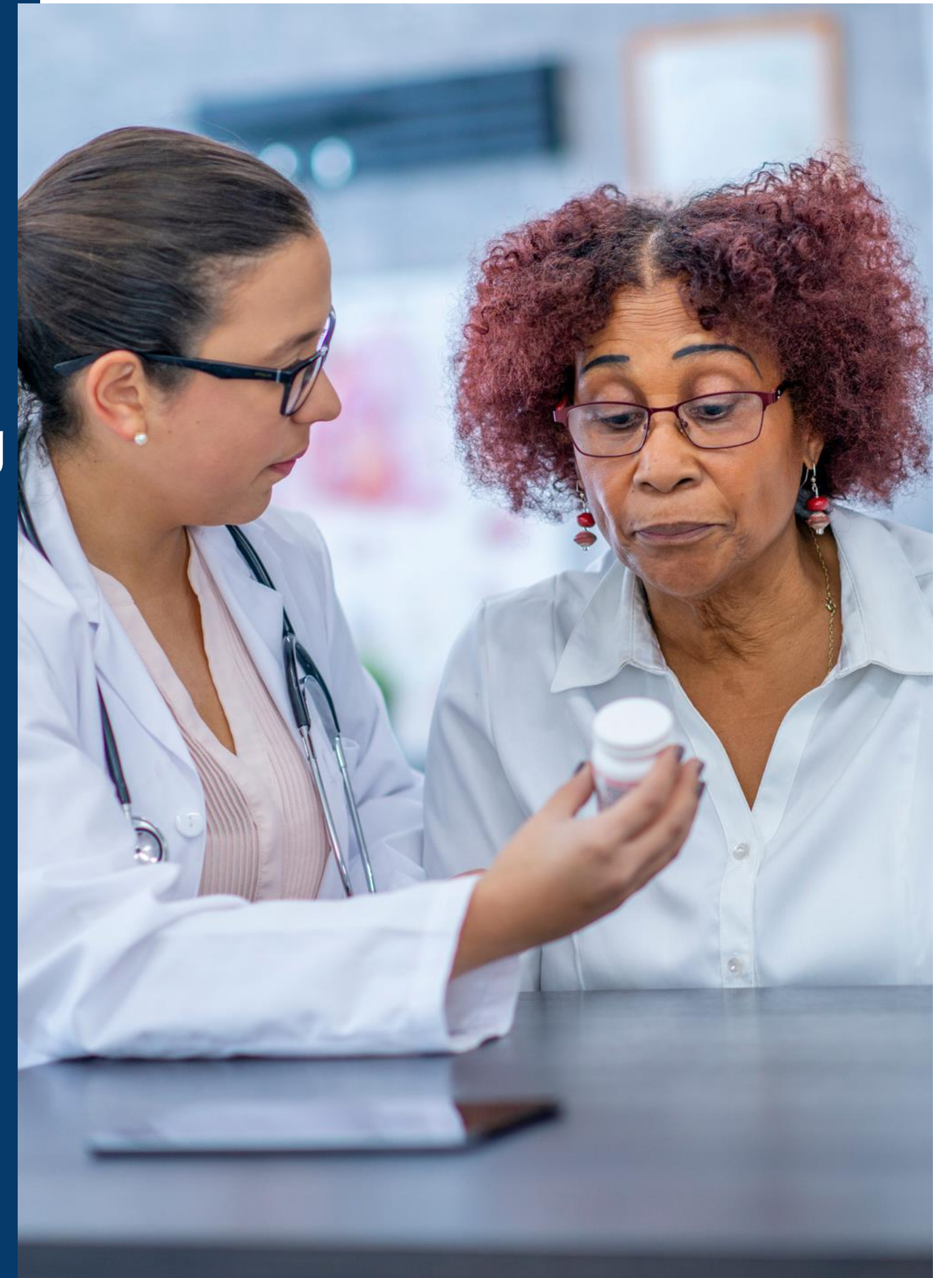


**Recommendation:**  
Support funding for linking data systems and more real-time overdose reporting

## 2. Safer Prescribing

**SNHD promotes statewide efforts to expand the Nevada Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (NV-PMP) :**

- NV-PMP is housed at the Board of Pharmacy
- Integration into:
  - any Electronic Health Records
  - OpenBeds



## 2. Safer Prescribing

### **Recommendations:**

1. Promote education for prescribers on the prescription drug monitoring program's role in ending opioid epidemic
2. Discuss importance of Medicaid and other insurance systems paying for longer treatment

# 3. Stigma Reduction



SNHD delivers comprehensive community trainings on drug-related stigma

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PACT Coalition coordinates a campaign for first responders on naloxone distribution

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SNHD offers technical assistance to jurisdictions looking to implement vending program

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# 3. Stigma Reduction

- 
- Recommendations:**
1. Promote stigma trainings
  2. Use first person language
  3. Remove barriers to care for people who use drugs

# 4. Harm Reduction

SNHD partners with our local syringe services program to expand services for people who use drugs



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SNHD's Office of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma System provides naloxone to first responders in Southern Nevada

# 4. Harm Reduction

A pair of hands, palms up, holding a bouquet of small white flowers. The background is a soft, light beige color.

## Recommendations:

1. Support state funding for syringe services programs
2. Encourage wide distribution of naloxone
3. Explore overdose prevention sites in Southern NV

# 5. Treatment Expansion

## NV State Opioid Response

- Integrated Opioid Treatment and Recovery Centers
- Recovery Friendly Workplaces
- MAT Waivered Provider Training



## Statewide ODTA Efforts

- OpenBeds
- Nevada Health Connection



# 5. Treatment Expansion

- 
- Recommendations:**
1. Encourage all prescribers to become certified to prescribe buprenorphine
  2. Support long-term recovery options for Nevada Medicaid
  3. Support “treatment on demand” based models

# 6. Criminal Justice Reform

SNHD's Linkage to Action (L2A) team works in CCDC and overdose "hot spots" to connect people vulnerable to overdose to needed services



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LVMPD's Law enforcement Interventions for Mental health and Addiction (LIMA) diverts low-level, non-violent offenders to mental health treatment and substance use services within the community

## 6. Criminal Justice Reform

### Recommendations:

1. Support diversion efforts across all justice systems
2. Support changes in street-level policing to encourage officers to divert
3. Long-term funding for L2A programs that promote access to treatment/ harm reduction in justice-involved populations



# 7. Regulatory Changes

## The future!

### **Recommendation:**

Support any opportunity to review & revise laws in favor of treating substance use disorder like any other behavioral health disorder such as:

- deregulation of medication assisted treatment at the federal level
- greater access to medications for addiction treatment



# COVID-19 Impacts

- Service delivery
- Staff response
- The drug supply x fentanyl
- Isolation & financial hardship



# Summary

- Opioid overdose is a public health issue
- Multiple strategies are needed to address the evolving crisis in our community
- Key recommendations assist with broader initiatives to fight overdose and keep people safe
- Increase in fentanyl in the community warrants additional investments in overdose prevention

# People recover. There is hope.



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*thank you*  
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