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Opioid crisis and State response

Senate Ways & Means

January 26, 2023

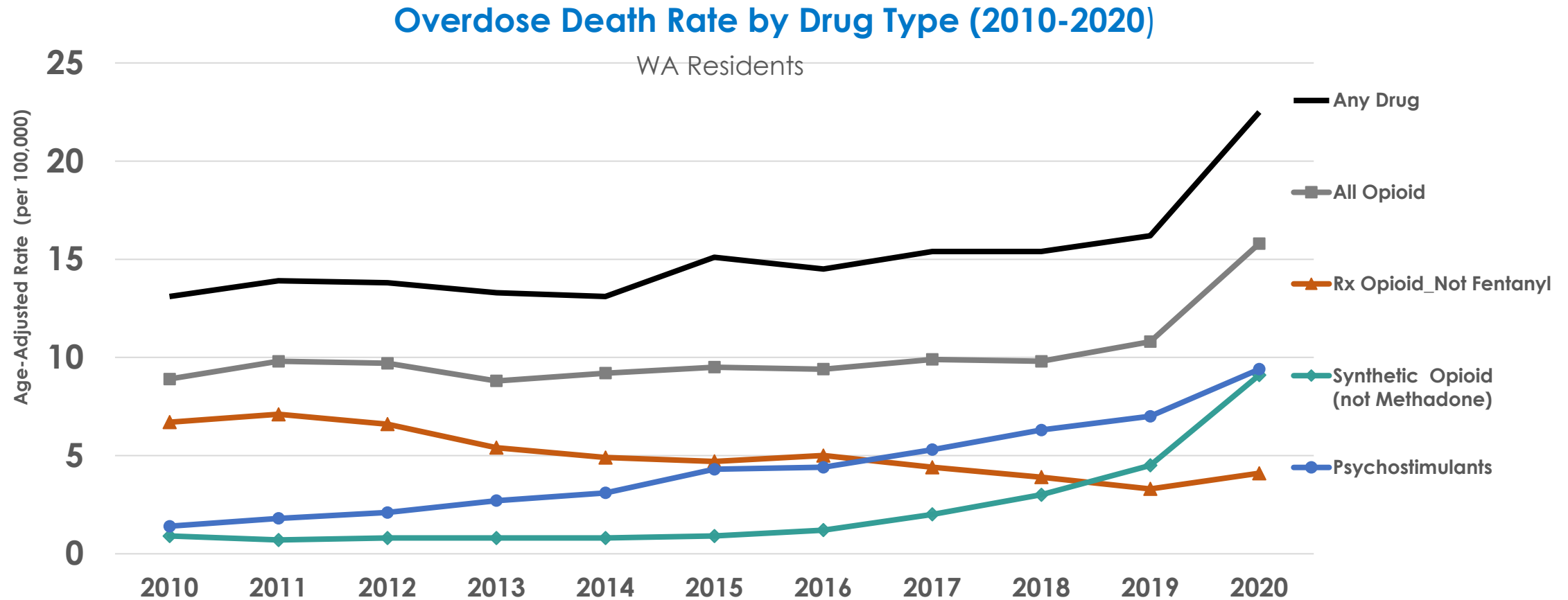


Washington State opioid crisis overview

Dr. Tao Kwan-Gett, MD, MPH

Department of Health

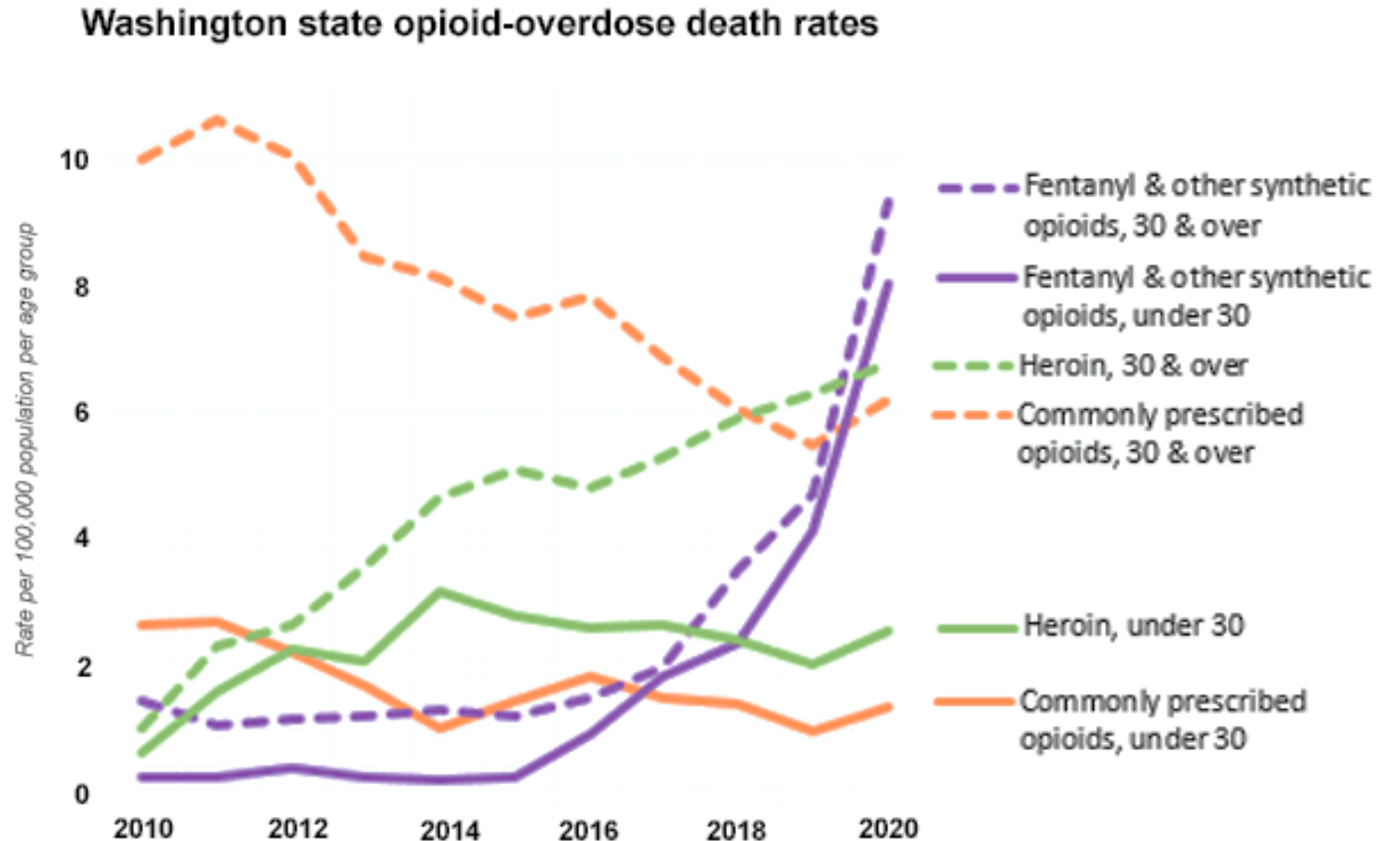
The opioid and overdose crisis is worse than it has ever been



Source: WA DOH death certificates

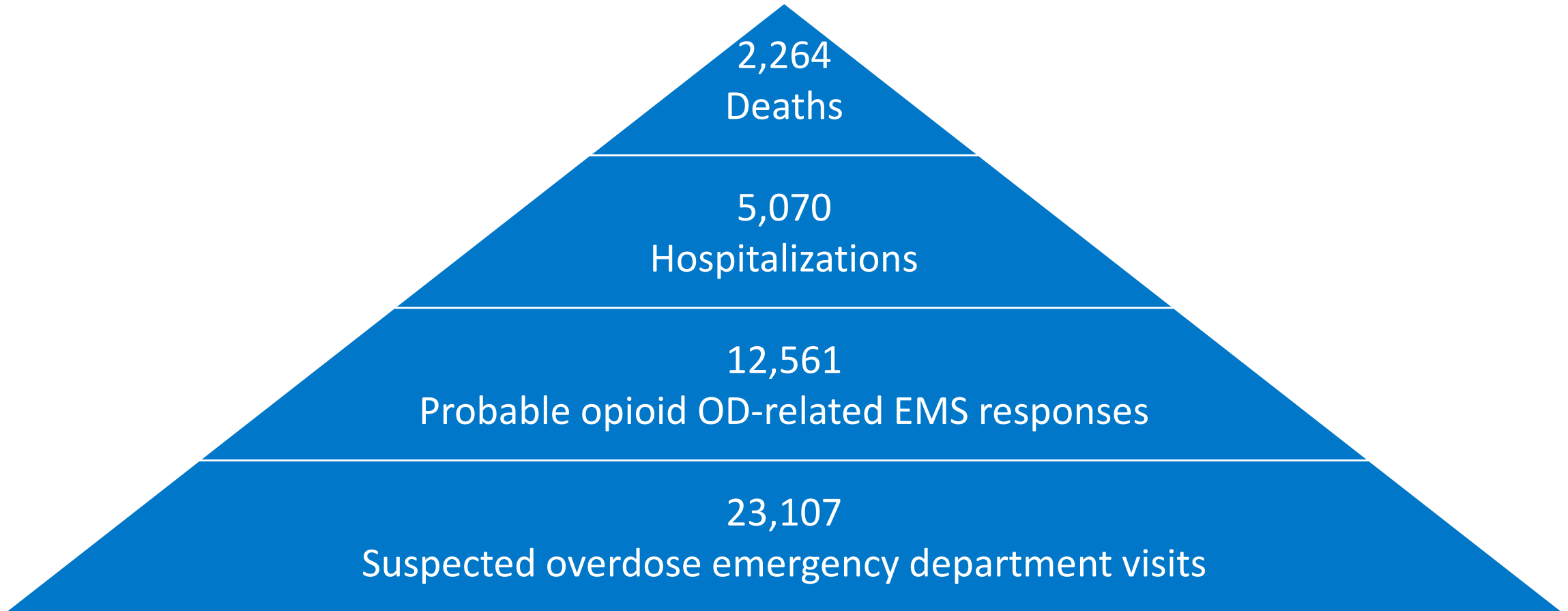
Fentanyl has been responsible for a growing number of deaths

[New ADAI Report: Dramatic Increases in Opioid Overdose Deaths Due to Fentanyl Among Young People in WA | Addictions, Drug & Alcohol Institute \(uw.edu\)](#)



Data source: Washington State Department of Health, Center for Health Statistics

Impact of opioid and overdose crisis is more than deaths



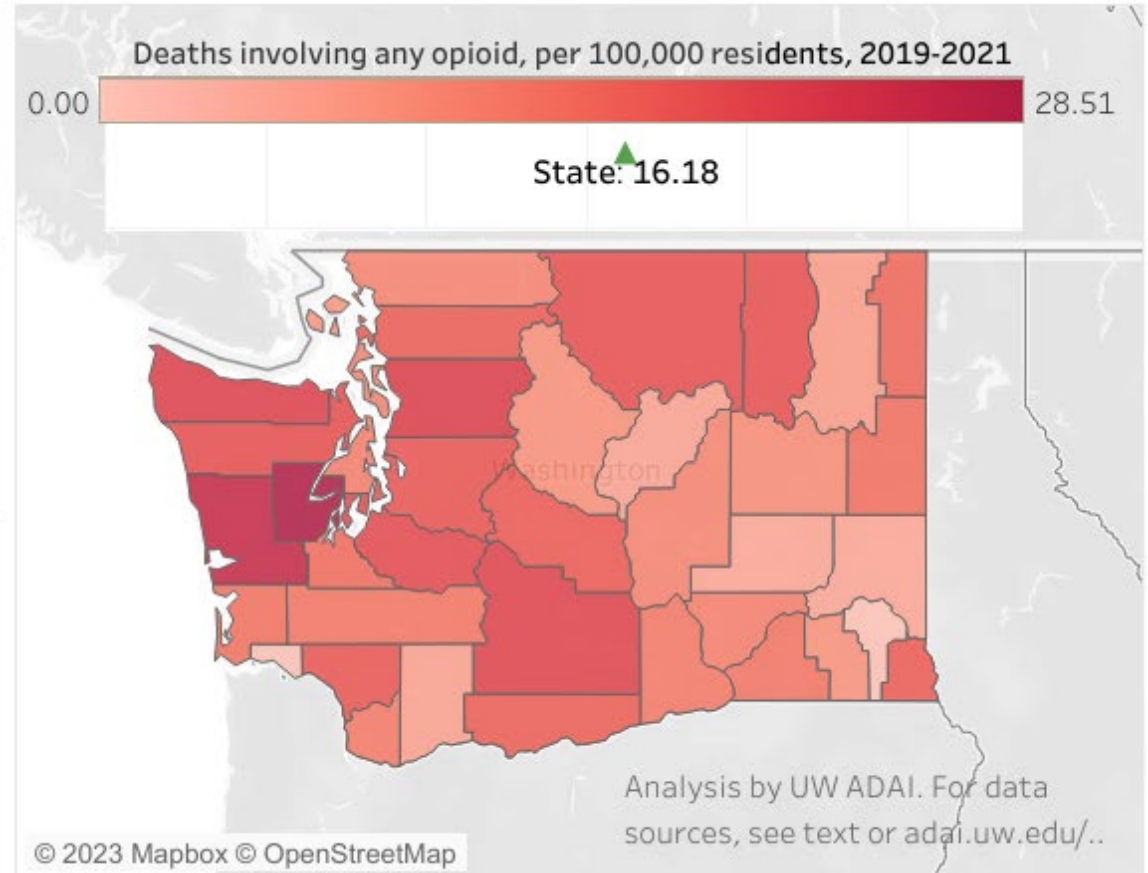
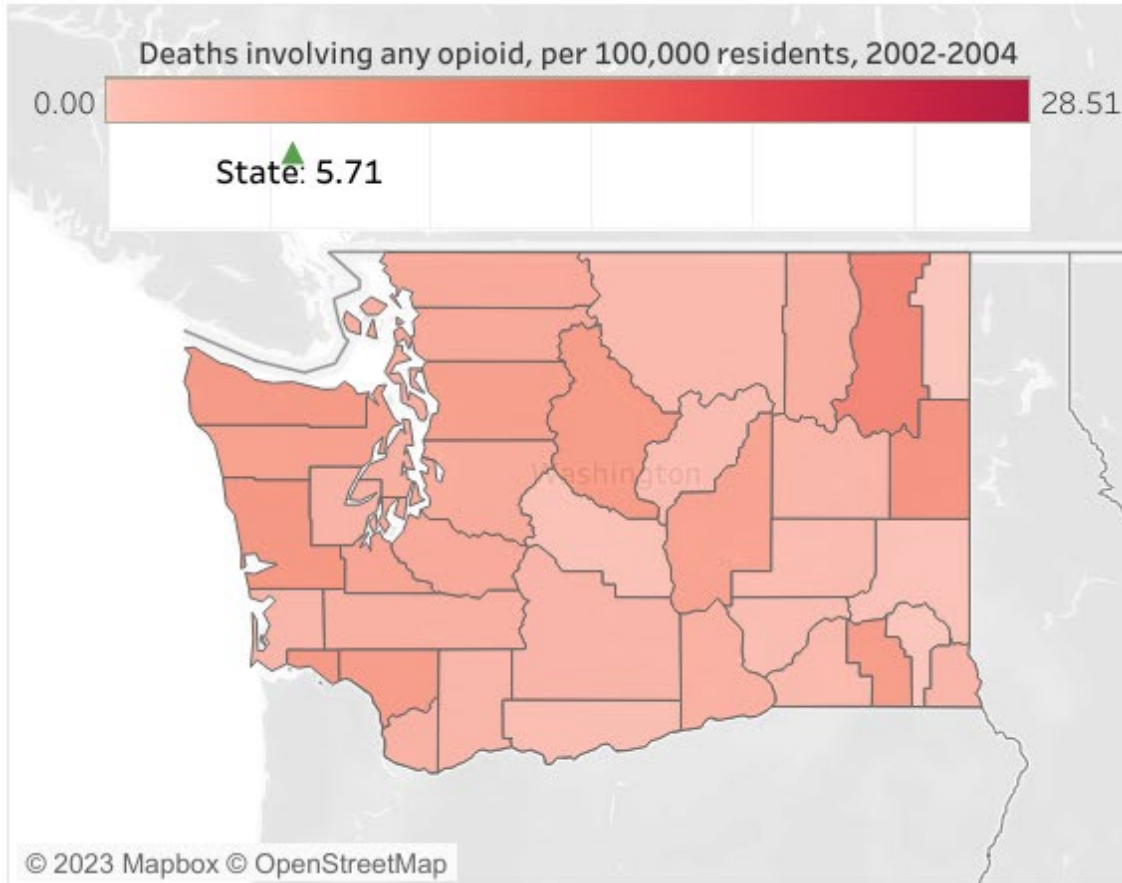


Credit: United States Drug Enforcement Administration

Fentanyl often comes in counterfeit prescription medications

The crisis impacts both rural and urban communities

Opioid death rates 2002-2004 compared to 2019-2021

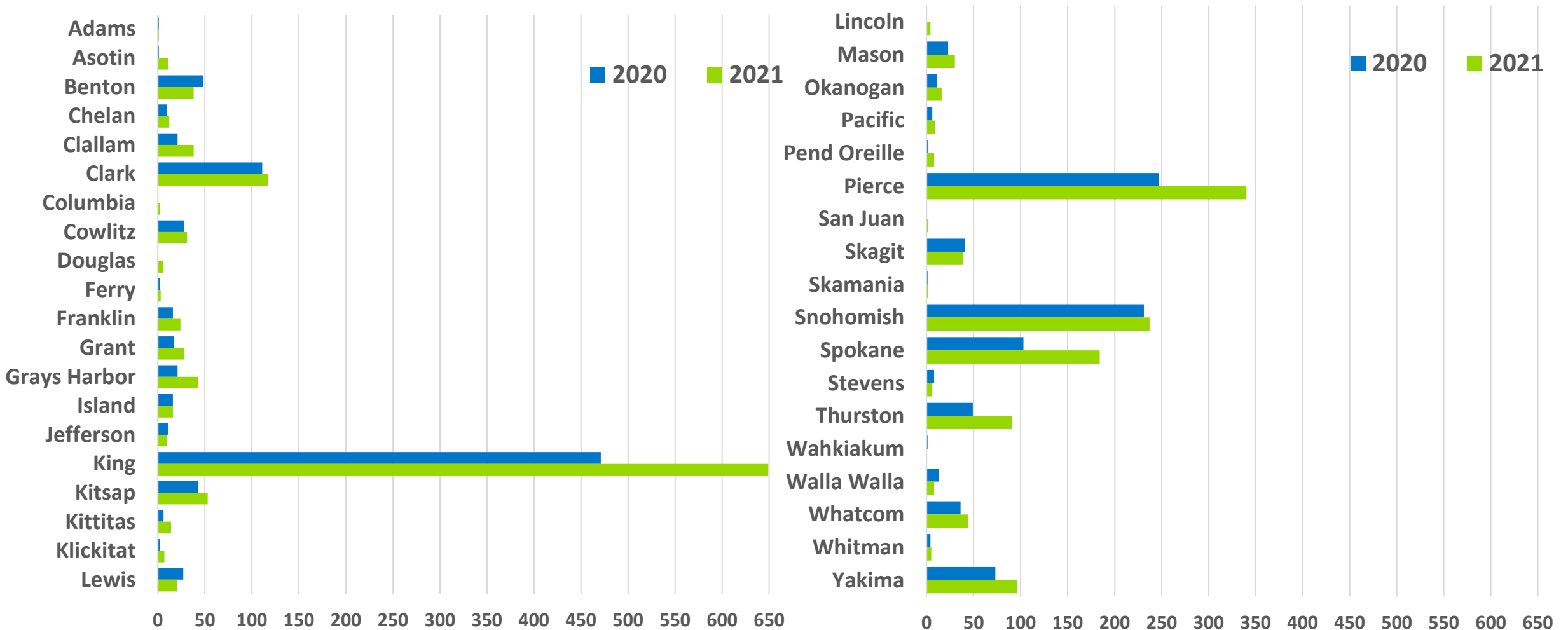


Washington state opioid trends: Deaths

Source: WA DOH death certificates

Increases in drug overdose deaths are not equal across WA

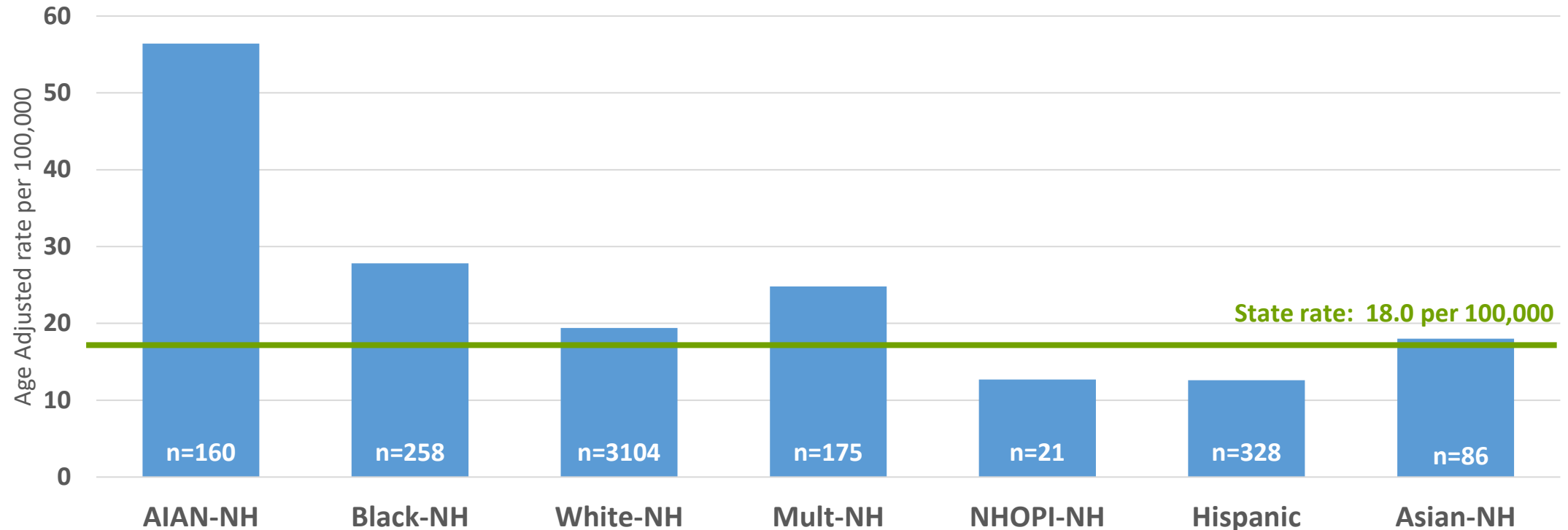
Overdose death counts by county 2020 and 2021



Source: WA DOH death certificates

Drug overdose deaths disproportionately affect American Indian and Alaskan Native communities

WA residents (2018-2020)



NH: Non-Hispanic

AIAN: American Indian/Alaskan Native

NHOPI: Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander

Multi: Multi-racial

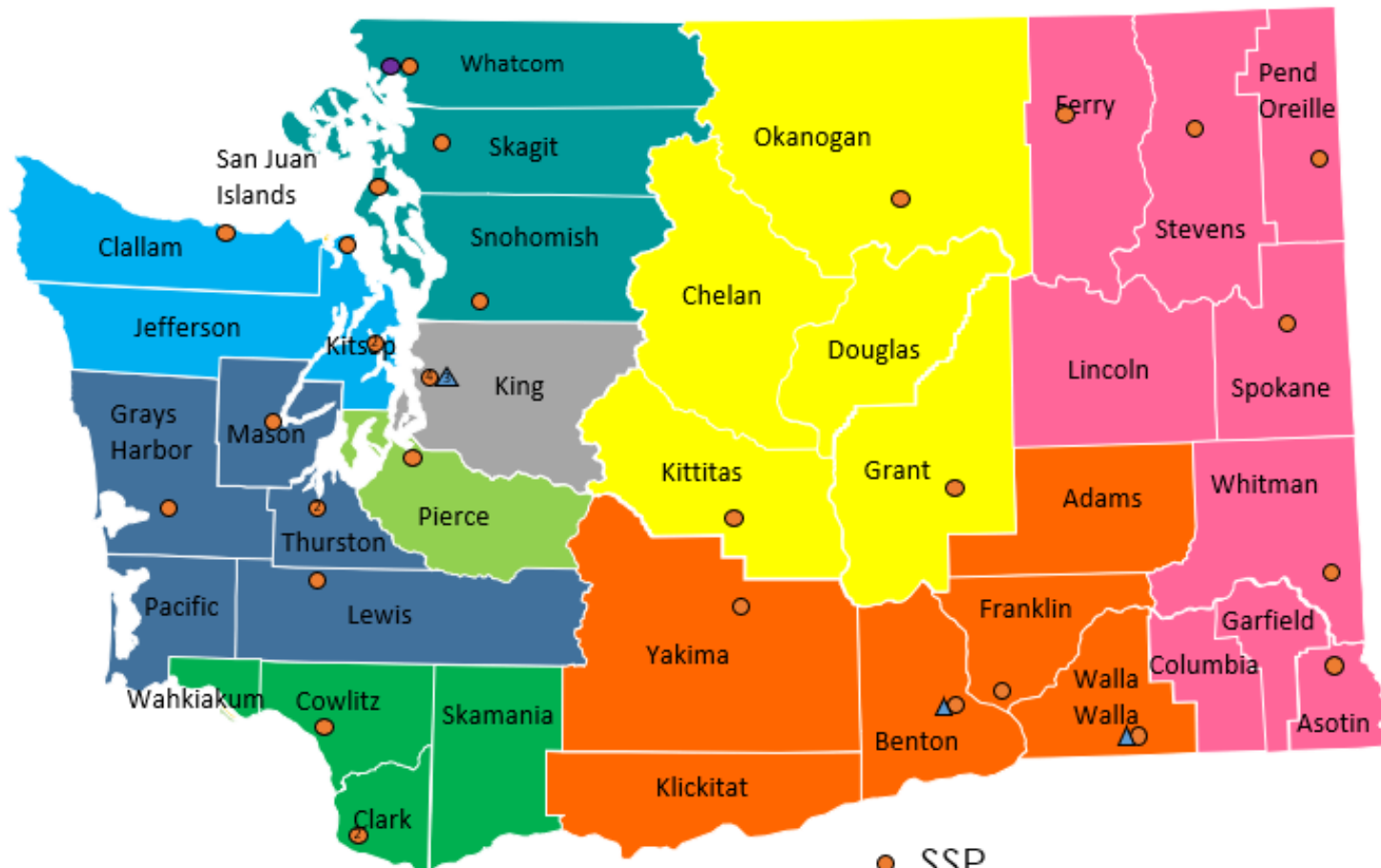
Demand for services has rapidly outgrown capacity and we need to urgently build upon what we have

- ▶ A community-based system of care with greater capacity than the existing specialty addiction treatment system
- ▶ Low barrier access to opioid treatment programs and recovery support
- ▶ Health hubs across the state with integrated harm reduction services to engage people who use drugs to prevent death and infectious diseases

Syringe Service Programs (SSPs)

- ▶ Community-based public health programs that provide critical services in nonjudgmental environments to people who use substances.





- SSP
- Tribal SSP
- ▲ Low-barrier buprenorphine program partnered with SSP



The opioid and overdose crisis is an emergency that demands that we do things differently

- ▶ **Expand** the prevention and treatment workforce, particularly with people from the communities hardest hit by the crisis
- ▶ **Increase** prevention in children, including increased access to behavioral health care for children, teens, and adults
- ▶ **Decrease** stigma – approach the opioid and overdose crisis as the manifestations of a disease that needs better treatment and prevention

State Opioid Response Plan and Opioid Response investments

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Overview

- ▶ Has served as the state's collaborative framework for addressing opioid and Substance use disorder related issues for many years.
- ▶ Workgroups are organized around 5 goals—
 1. **Prevent** opioid misuse
 2. **Detect** and treat opioid use disorders
 3. **Ensure** health and wellness of people who use drugs (PWUD)
 4. **Use data** to inform process
 5. **Support** people in Recovery
- ▶ Population workgroups: AI/AN, criminal justice, pregnant and parenting
- ▶ Support workgroups – Communications, Data

HCA investing across the continuum (cont.)

▶ Prevention:

- ▶ Starts With One campaign,
- ▶ Tribal Opioid Solutions,
- ▶ Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative.

▶ Outreach and Engagement:

- ▶ Recovery Navigator Program
- ▶ Other homeless outreach and engagement programs

▶ Treatment:

- ▶ Medications for Opioid Use Disorder
- ▶ Opioid Treatment Networks / Hub and Spoke
- ▶ Opioid Treatment Programs,
- ▶ jail-based treatment,
- ▶ Withdrawal management, outpatient, residential.

HCA investments (cont.)

▶ Recovery Support Services:

- ▶ Housing
- ▶ Employment
- ▶ Peers

▶ Harm Reduction:

- ▶ Saving lives by expanding access and availability of naloxone at the point of care and across the state through Department of Health programming.
- ▶ Comprehensive drug checking services

Recommendation process

- ▶ State Opioid & Overdose Response Plan identified as a collaborative framework by which recommendations would be made
 - ▶ Workgroups submitted 3 proposals each, sponsors reviewed and approved recommendations
 - ▶ Process included 2 tribal roundtables and a Formal Consultation
 - ▶ Allowable uses limited to those in the settlement agreement approved strategies and uses

Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
Opioid Settlement Tribal Funds – approximately 20% of funds are being sent directly to Tribes	\$12,362,000
Workforce SUDP Scholarships – supports establish a substance use disorder (SUD) professional/peer scholarship program in BIPOC communities	\$1,076,000
Housing Supports - Supports expansion of Housing First supports that include master leasing, and access to housing first services	\$2,692,000
Emergency Department Bridge Program – Clinical consultation for SUD, and linkage to recovery support services and services following acute SUD events.	\$3,014,000

Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
Fentanyl Public Education - development of the health promotion and education campaign, with a focus on synthetic drug supplies (including fentanyl) and harm reduction messaging	\$3,768,000
Prevention Capacity Expansion - grants to new communities, schools and Tribes for prevention services for youth, young adults and families	\$2,692,000
Prescription Opioid Education - Funding is provided to educate providers and prevent inappropriate opioid prescribing.	\$1,077,000
Legal Training and Support - fentanyl technical assistance and training for law enforcement organizations, courts, and corrections settings	1,076,000
MOUD in Jails Technical Support - technical support for medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) to assist Jails with complex regulatory processes	\$538,000

Governors budget – opioid settlements

Line Item	Amount
SUD Maternity Support - Funding is provided to create a program that would allow for extended post-delivery hospital care for persons with SUD at the time of delivery.	\$3,756,000
Opioid Tx Program Expansion - expand opioid treatment program facilities with opportunities available to any applicant, with priority given to rural, frontier, and Tribal locations	\$3,738,000
Community Based Partnership for Success Grants - provides services that address the state's top substance use disorder (SUD) prevention priorities	\$3,955,000

Governors budget – opioid settlements

Data and Evaluation - This funding will create an overdose public health dashboard that includes the metrics in the State Opioid and Overdose Response Plan	\$1,346,000
Syringe Service Programs Stabilization Support – Supports SSPs with operational costs such as rent, insurance, supplies, etc.	\$3,768,000
Drug User Health Hubs - Funding is provided to support the establishment of health engagement hubs to provide health care and social services for people who use drugs.	\$6,730,000
Maternal Health – Improvements in perinatal, dyadic SUD care for parent and child	\$2,692,000

Department of Health

Investments in addressing the epidemic

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DOH investments in addressing the epidemic

▶ Surveillance and tracking the crisis with data

- ▶ Piloting an opioid dashboard (leveraging COVID capacity building)
- ▶ RHINO system – tracking and communicating opioid clusters in real time
- ▶ Emergency Department, EMS and Death reporting data
- ▶ Prescription Monitoring Program

▶ Outreach and Engagement:

- ▶ Overdose Education & Naloxone Distribution Program
- ▶ Syringe Services Programs
- ▶ Overdose to Action Grant: making data driven investments in communities

DOH investments (cont.)

▶ Maternal Infant Health and Birth Equity

- ▶ Providing optimal clinical and wrap around support to pregnant and postpartum individuals experiencing substance use disorder. Facilitating infant/parent bonding through trauma informed treatment and care.

▶ Education and Awareness

- ▶ State Fentanyl Awareness Campaign
- ▶ Latinx community specific awareness campaigns

Contact us

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