

# Data Trends

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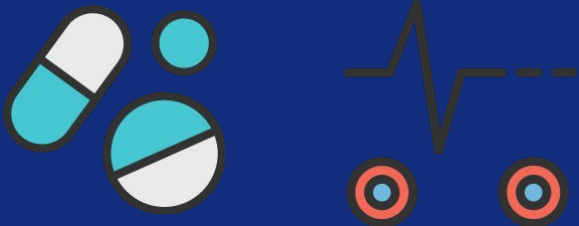
**Dr. Stephen Raso**, Deputy Chief Toxicologist at OCME

**Bailey Jones**, Chemist, DFS

**Ben Turley**, Epidemiologist, DC Health

# Live Long DC - Opioid Stakeholders Summit

10-26-22



# AVERAGE NUMBER OF MONTHLY FATAL OVERDOSES DUE TO OPIOID USE

**2017: 23**

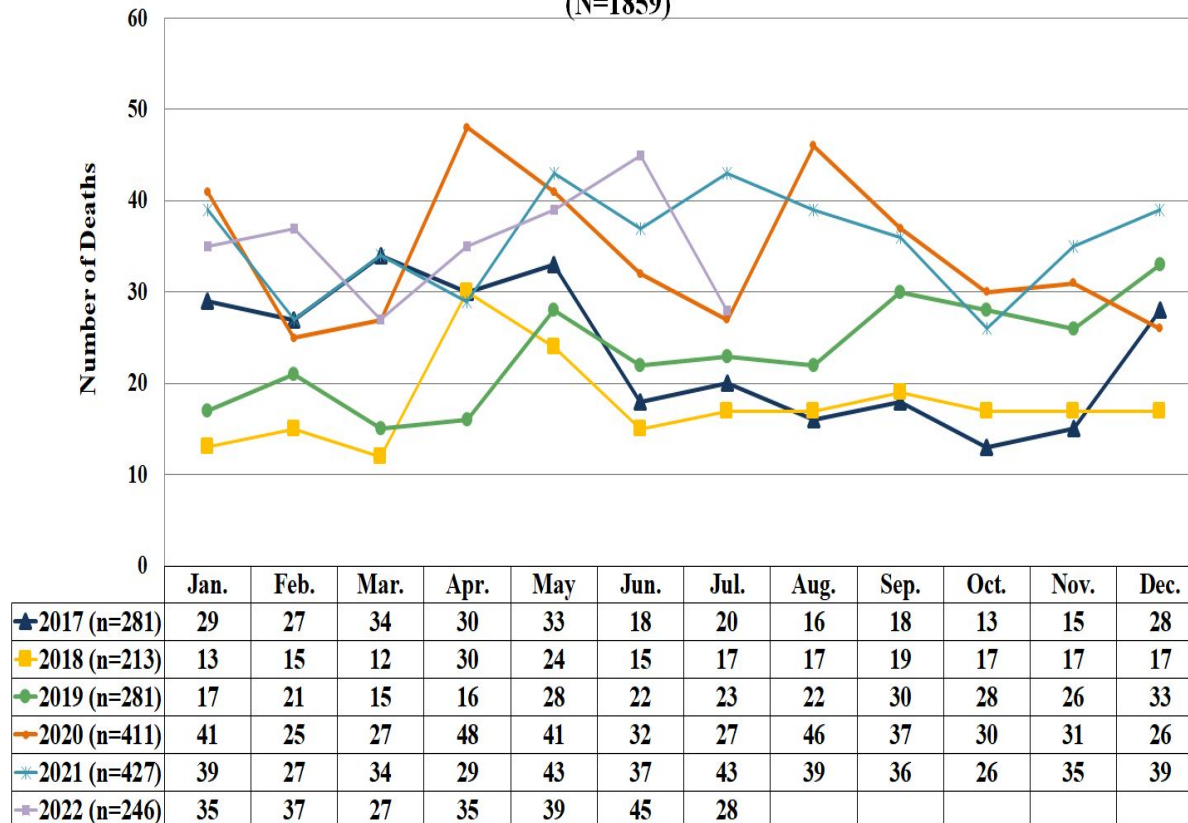
**2018: 18**

**2019: 23**

**2020: 34**

**2021: 36 2022: 35**

Fig. 1(b): Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Month and Year  
(N=1859)

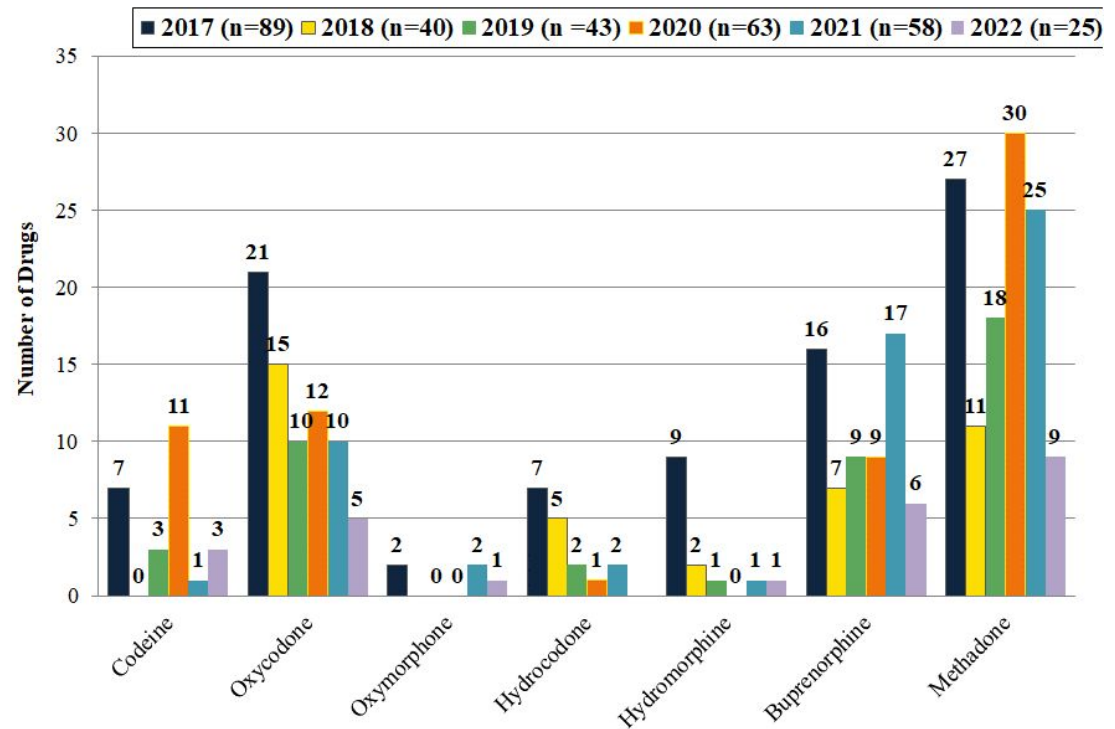


# TRENDS IN PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS IN FATAL OVERDOSES

The number of prescription opioids found in opioid related overdoses has varied over the years of data collection, however **methadone, buprenorphine and oxycodone** are currently the most prevalent prescription opioids identified.

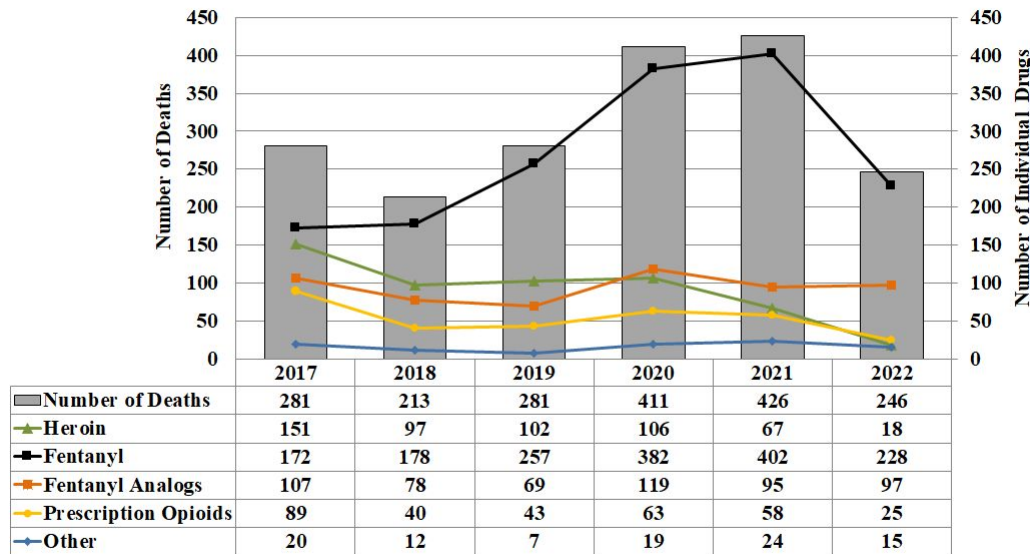


Fig. 4: Number of Prescription Opioids Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (n=318)



# TRENDS IN THE NUMBERS OF OPIOID DRUGS CONTRIBUTING TO FATAL OVERDOSES

Fig. 2: Total Number of Opioid Drugs Contributing to Drug Overdoses by Year (All Opioids)

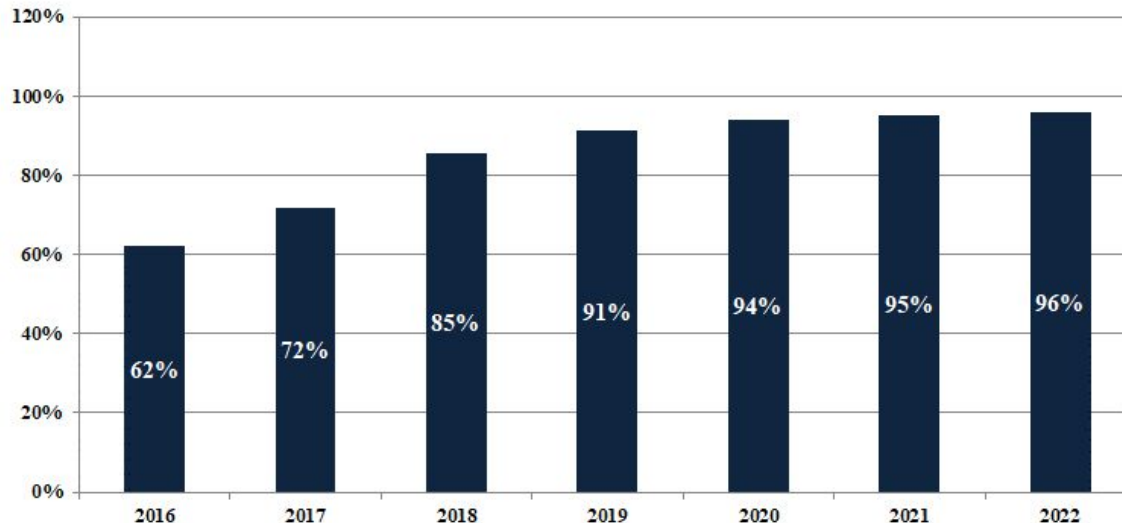


Overall, the most prevalent opioid drugs identified were **fentanyl** followed by heroin and **fentanyl analogs**.

	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>
Fentanyl	94%	94%	93%
Heroin	26%	16%	7%
FA's	29%	22%	39%

# FATAL OVERDOSES CONTAINING FENTANYL/FENTANYL ANALOGS

**Figure 3: Percent of Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl  
2016-2022**



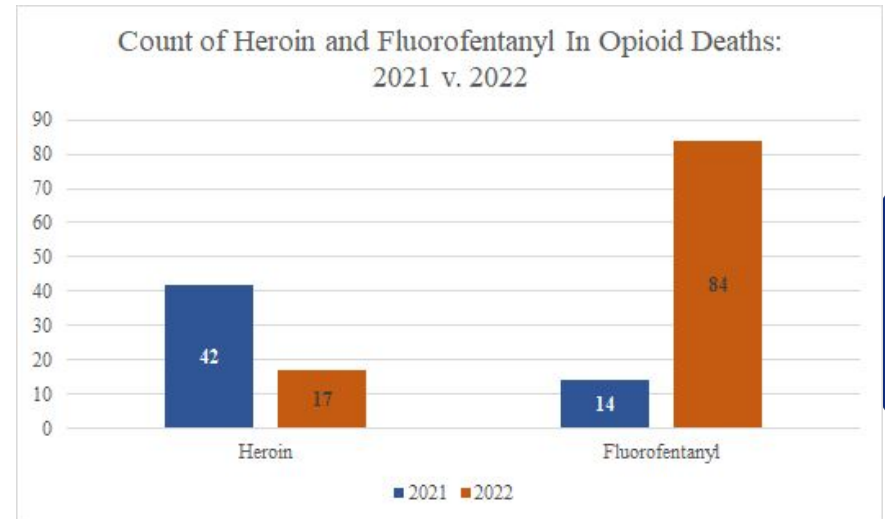
The percentage of cases containing fentanyl or a fentanyl analog:

**2015: 20% 2022: 96%**

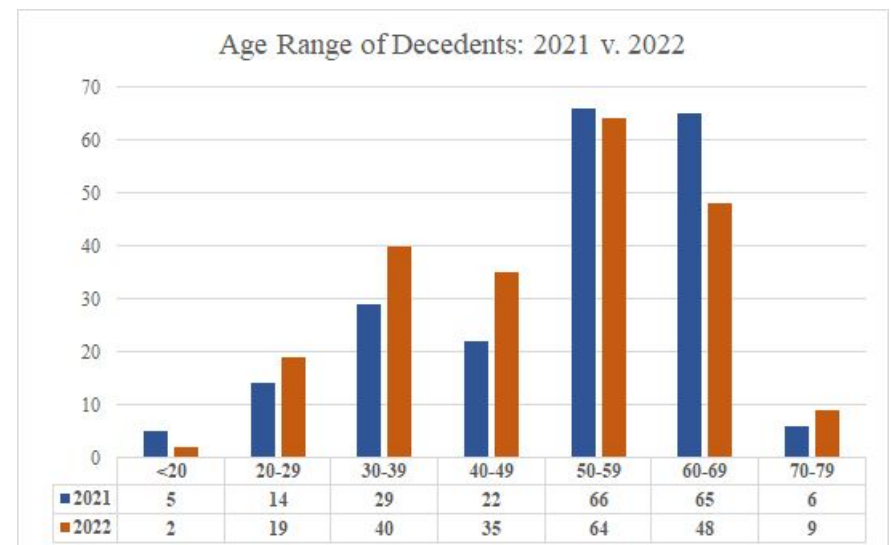
66 and 84 cases in 2021 and 2022 contained Fluorofentanyl in the cause of death, respectively

# Comparison of the first 6 months: 2021 v. 2022

When comparing drug trends during the first half of 2021 and 2022, the most notable differences involve Heroin and Fluorofentanyl. While the number of deaths involving heroin has significantly decreased from 2021 to 2022, **deaths involving fluorofentanyl has significantly increased.**



When comparing age range of decedents during the first half of 2021 and 2022, 2022 saw an **increase among 30–39 year-olds and 40-49 year-olds.** Alternatively, there was a **decrease among 60-69 year olds.**



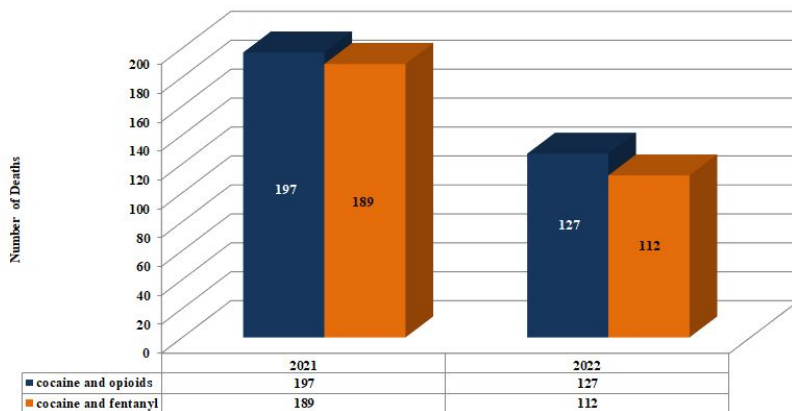
# Trends in Cocaine and Opioid Fatal Overdoses

## Since 2020:

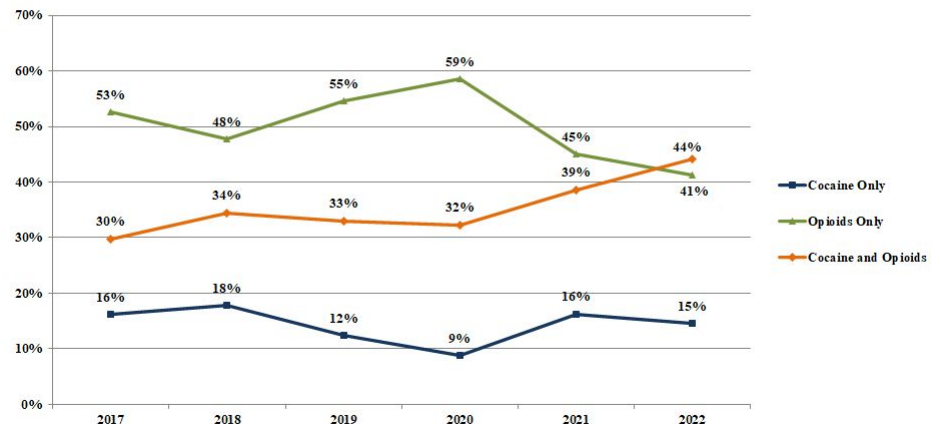
- **opioid-only** fatal overdose have steadily decreased
- **cocaine-only** fatal overdoses have slightly increased
- **cocaine and opioid** overdoses have increased, and had significantly affected **Black Males and Black Females**

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Black</b>						
Male	55	61	62	75	125	70
Female	32	17	31	50	55	35
<b>White</b>						
Male	5	6	4	10	10	12
Female	5	6	4	2	3	1
<b>Other</b>						
Male	2	1	4	8	4	9
Female	2	0	1	1	0	0

Breakdown of Opioid and Cocaine Involved Deaths (2021- July 2022)



Percent of Deaths due to Cocaine and Opioids (2017- July 2022)





# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)

- 82% of 2021 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.
- 73% of those cases were within the decedent's household.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)	
Residence	348
Decedents residence	251
Family members residence	7
Friend/acquaintance residence	39
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	16
Unspecified residence	13
Shelter/Halfway house	15
Vacant residence	6
Non-Residence*	71
Unknown	7
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2021)	
Residence	82%
Decedents residence	72%
Family members residence	2%
Friend/aquaintance residence	11%
Hospital/Nursing Home	0%
Hotel/Motel	5%
Unspecified residence	4%
Shelter/Halfway house	4%
Vacant residence	2%
Non-Residence*	17%
Unknown	2%
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

# Trends in Location of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (2022)

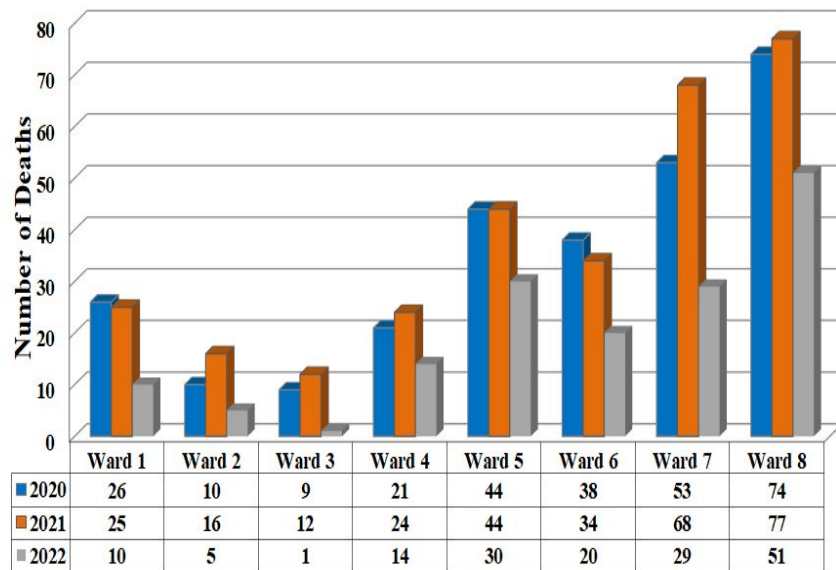
- 72% of 2022 fatal opioid overdoses took place within a residence.
- 68% of those cases were within the decedent's household.

Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan - July 2022)	
Residence	177
Decedents residence	120
Family members residence	2
Friend/acquaintance residence	36
Hospital/Nursing Home	1
Hotel/Motel	5
Unspecified residence	6
Shelter/Halfway house	3
Vacant residence	4
Non-Residence*	61
Unknown	8
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

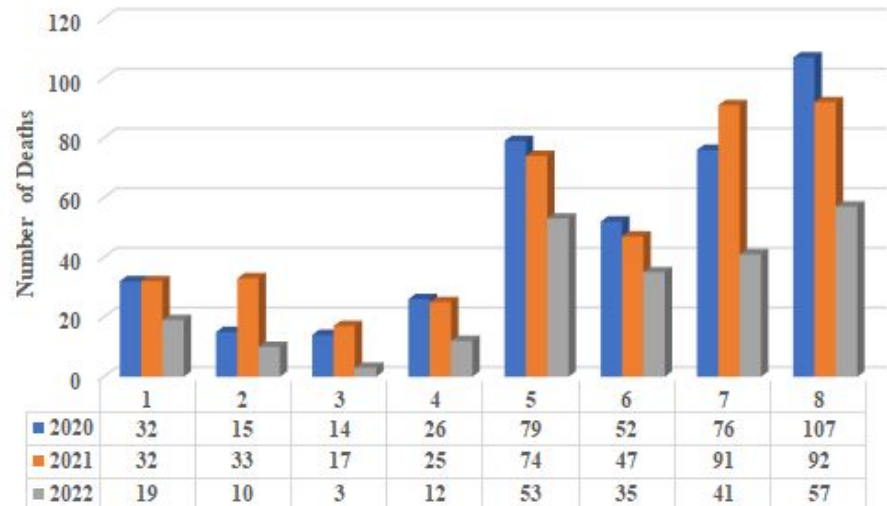
Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses (Jan -July 2022)	
Residence	72%
Decedents residence	68%
Family members residence	1%
Friend/acquaintance residence	20%
Hospital/Nursing Home	1%
Hotel/Motel	3%
Unspecified residence	3%
Shelter/Halfway house	2%
Vacant residence	2%
Non-Residence*	25%
Unknown	3%
* non-residence includes street, bus stop, outside, park, alley/rear of buildings, place of work, restaurant/shop, jail	

# Residential Ward v. Injury Ward: 2020-July 2022

**Fig. 9: Number of Drug Overdoses due to Opioid Use by Ward of Residence and Year**



**Location of Injury of Fatal Opioid Overdoses by Ward (2020 - July 2022)**

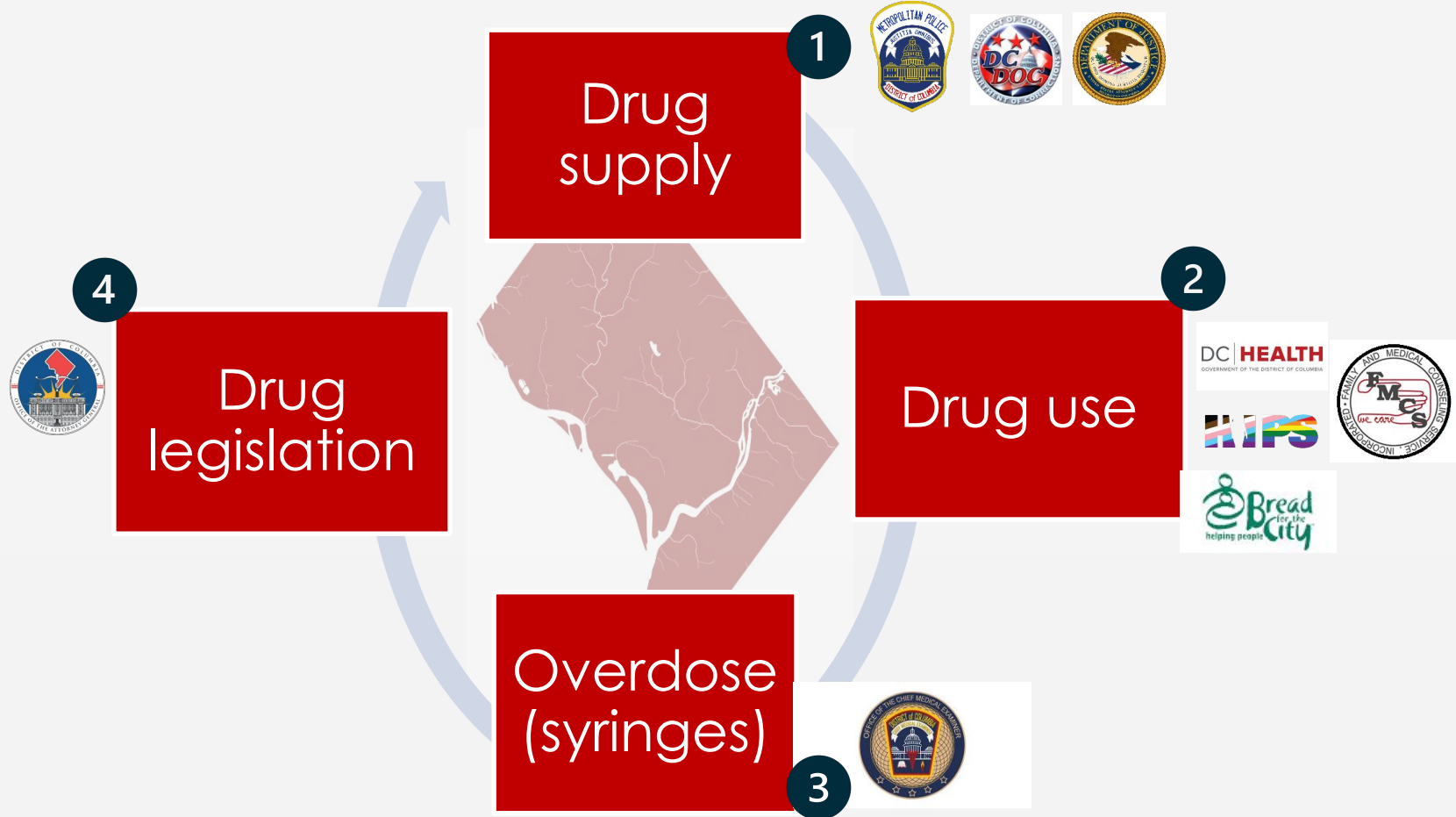


# D.C. DEPARTMENT OF FORENSIC SCIENCES

## OCTOBER 2022

# UPDATE ON ILLICIT DRUG SUPPLY IN THE DISTRICT

# DFS-PHL DRUG SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM





# COUNTERFEIT PILLS

**Top Row:** Genuine prescription tablets (images from [www.drugs.com](http://www.drugs.com)) **Bottom Row:** Counterfeit tablets (lab captured images)



- Counterfeit Pills

- Pills that present prescription medication
- Most counterfeit pills in our lab present as oxycodone, but actually contain Fentanyl

# RAINBOW FENTANYL

- Counterfeit Oxycodone pills (“M30s”)
  - Contained Fentanyl and fentanyl analogs instead
- Brightly colored
- Street names  
“Sweet Tarts”,  
“Skittles”



Top: Counterfeit “Rainbow Fentanyl”  
Bottom: Genuine Oxycodone M30



Source: Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)

# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE UPDATE





# SYRINGE SURVEILLANCE OVERVIEW

Past 12 months : **1821** syringes analyzed

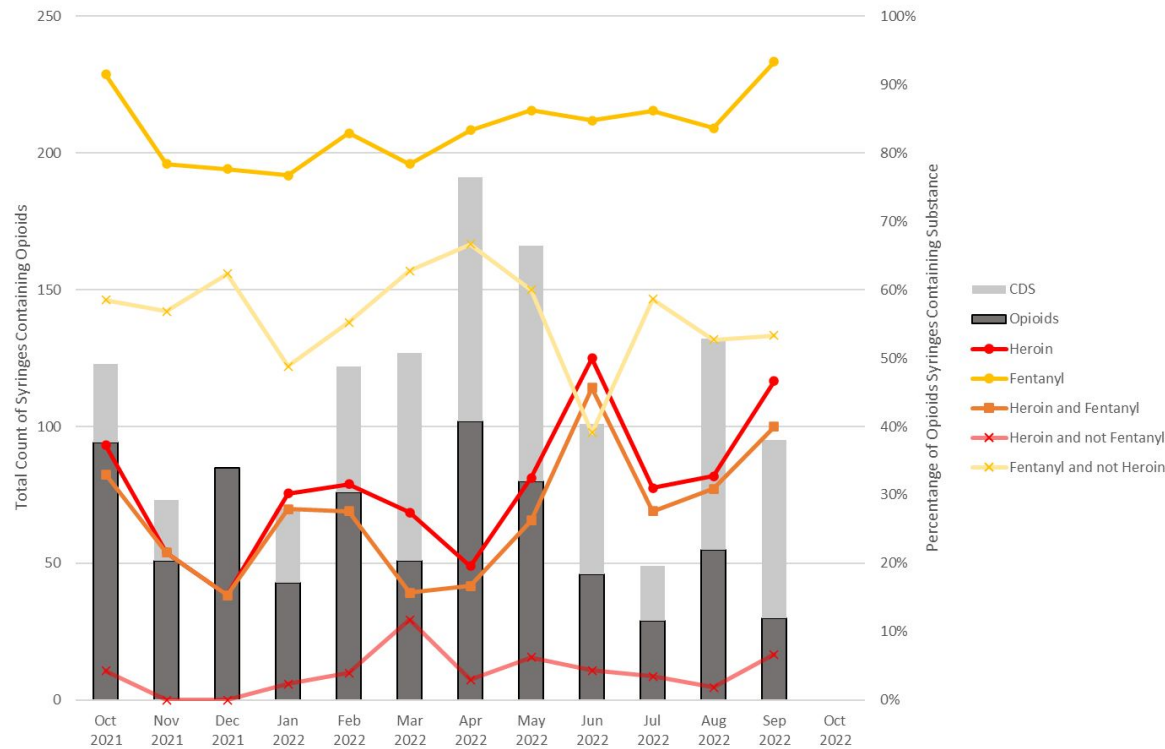
Since project start (9/2020) : **3649** syringes analyzed

CATEGORY	TOTAL SYRINGES	% of CDS Syringes
CONTROLLED DANGEROUS SUBSTANCE (CDS)	1330 (73%)	-
OPIOIDS	742	55.8%
FENTANYL and/or FENTANYL ANALOGS	620	46.6%
COCAINE	529	39.8%
AMPHETAMINE TYPE STIMULANTS (ATS)	534	40.1%
BENZODIAZEPINES	20	1.5%
HALLUCINOGENS	18	1.4%



# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - FENTANYL

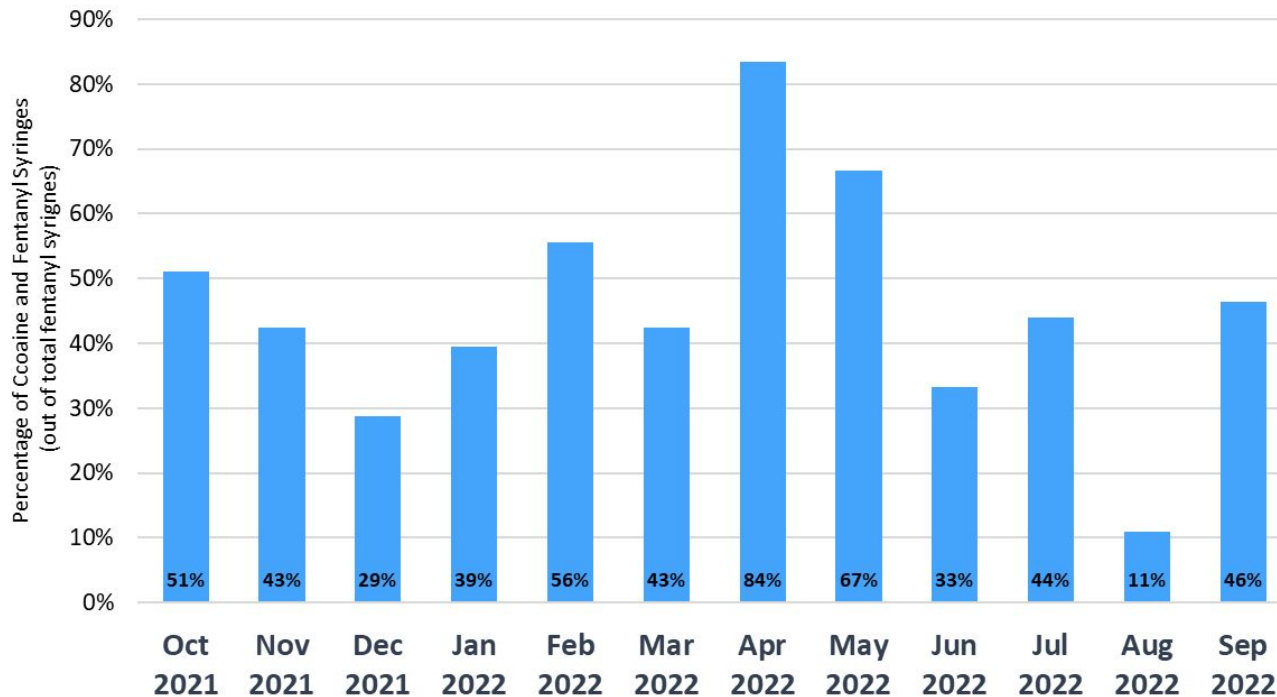
Total Count of Analyzed Syringes Containing Opioids  
and Percentages by Accompanying Substance  
October 2021 - October 2022



- Fentanyl is the number one detected substance in syringes  
*(and has been each month for two years)*
- Forecasted to maintain steadiness throughout the next year

# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - COCAINE

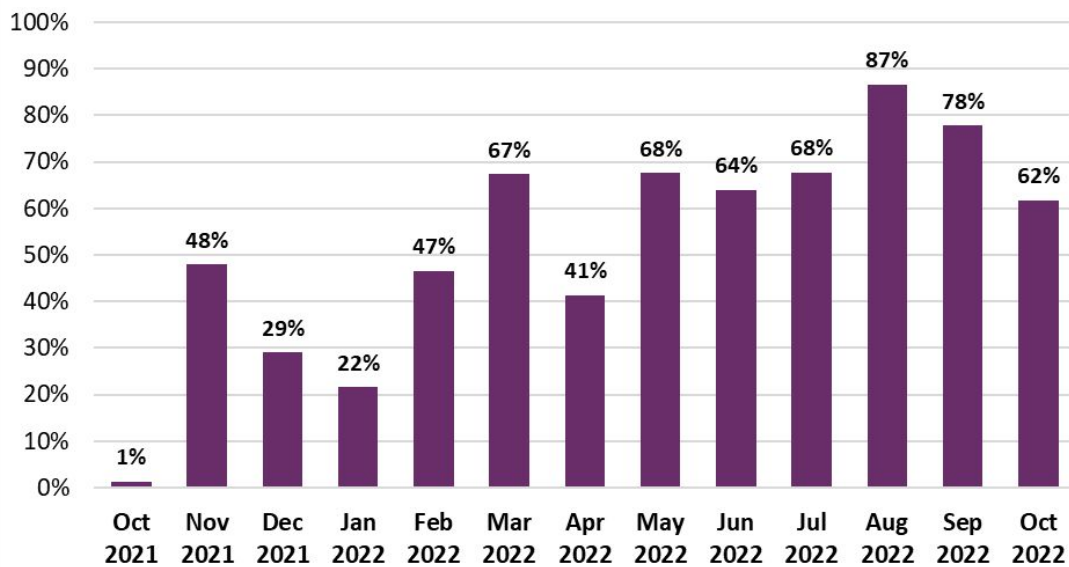
Percent of Cocaine and Fentanyl Syringes  
October 2021 to September 2022



- On average about **59%** of cocaine syringes also contain fentanyl
  - (from 10/2021 – 10/2022)
- Cocaine does NOT “counteract” an opioid overdose

# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE – METHAMPHETAMINE

Percentage of Syringes Containing Methamphetamine  
Out of Controlled Stimulant Syringes  
(October 2021 to October 2022)



- Methamphetamine is increasing as one of the top IV stimulant drugs
- **Dipentylone** observed in methamphetamine syringes
- **Dipentylone** may be sold as “MDMA,” “Molly,” or “ecstasy,” and can be prepared and distributed in a powder, capsule, or tablet form

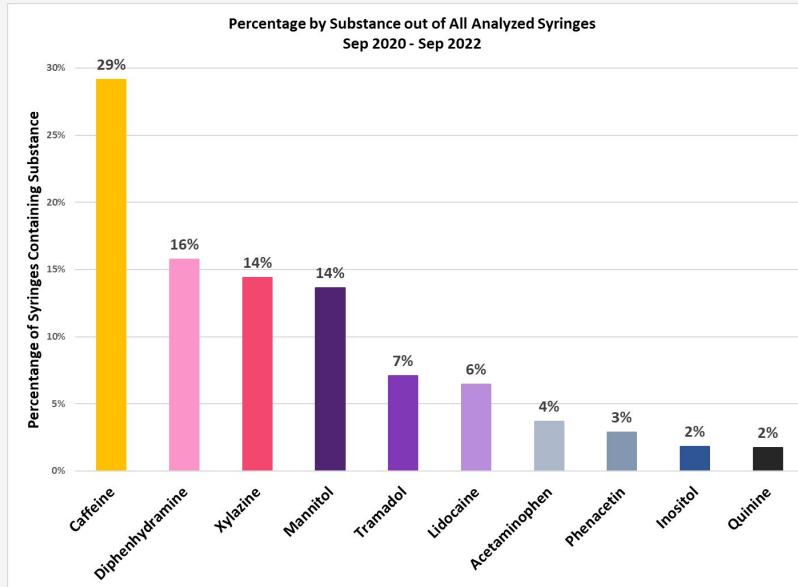
# XYLAZINE

- Non-narcotic veterinary sedative
  - NOT approved for human use
- Adulterant in illicit drug supply
  - Common among opioids and cocaine substances
- Potential to cause serious adverse health effects
  - Respiratory depression
  - Skin necrosis (at injection site)

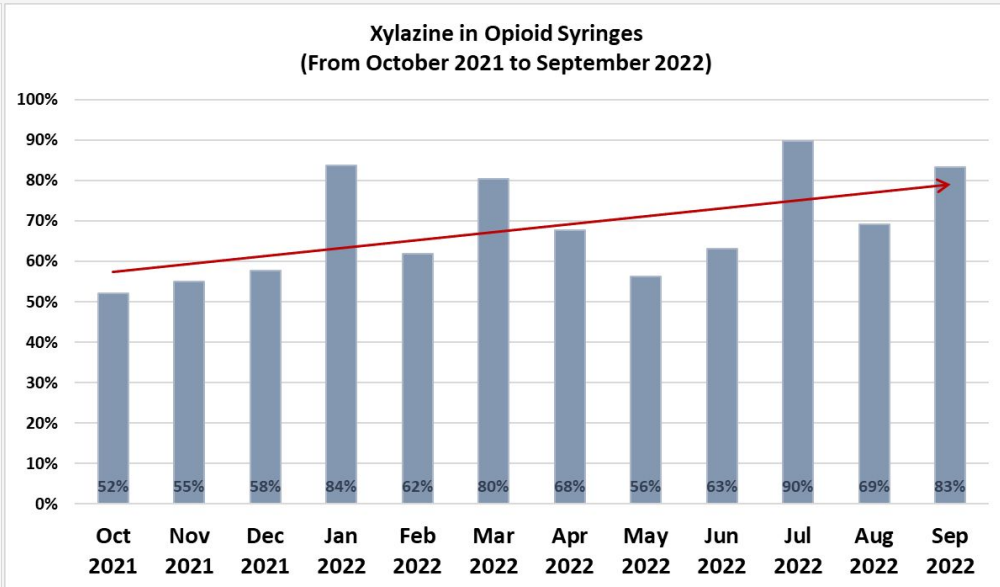


Xylazine found in the illicit drug supply is usually purchased online through the dark web, then used to cut (adulterate) existing drugs.

# SYRINGE EXCHANGE SURVEILLANCE - **XYLAZINE**



Xylazine is 3<sup>rd</sup> most common pharmacologically active adulterant in syringes overall.



Xylazine percentage in opioid-containing syringes has increased over this past year.

# THANK YOU!







# The Overdose Landscape in DC

## Geography and Demographics

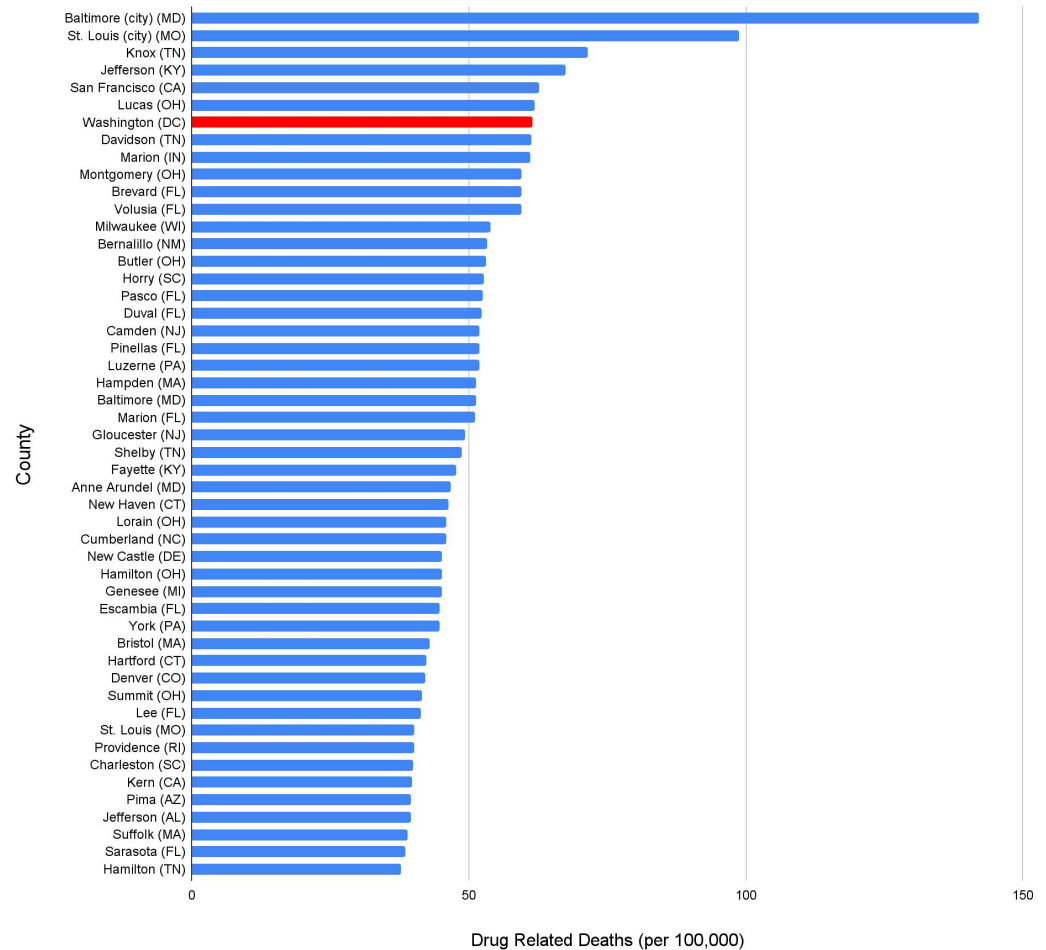
Ben Turley, MS  
Epidemiologist

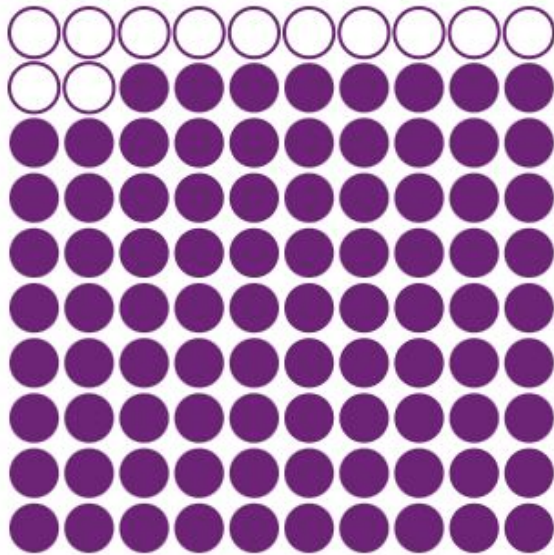




# DC is Top 10 for Counties of Similar Population Size

- DC is best compared to counties of similar size (300k - 1M)
- Source: CDC Vital Statistics Rapid Release — VSRR (2020)
- Uses data from 2020

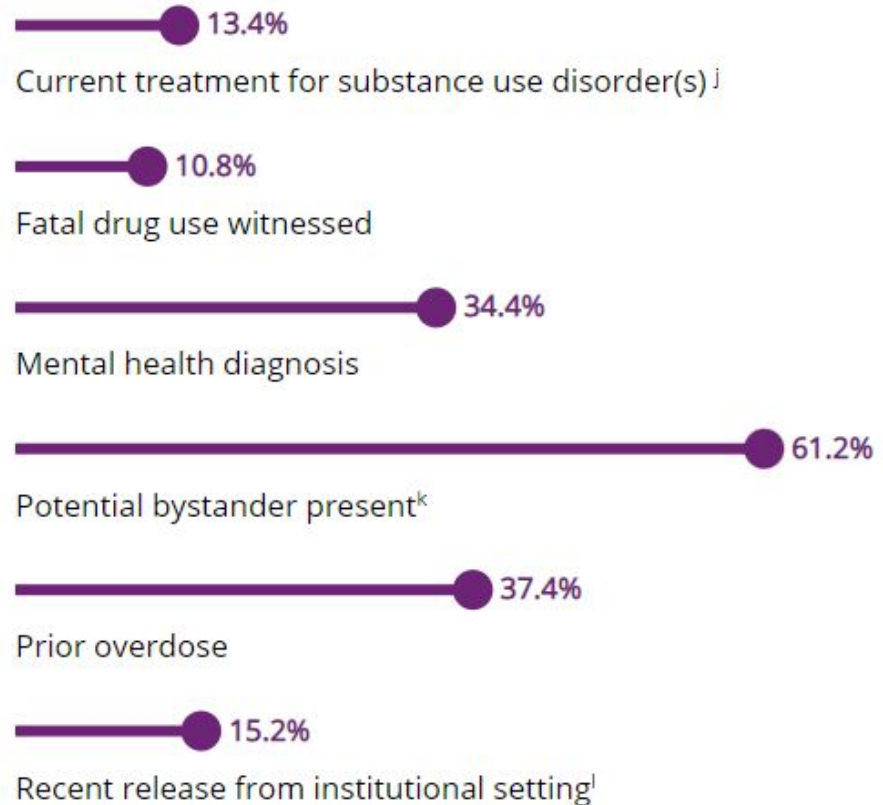




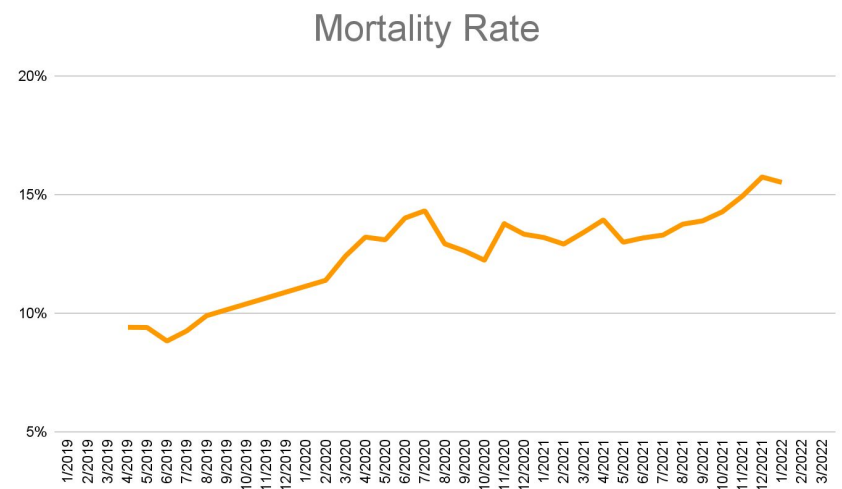
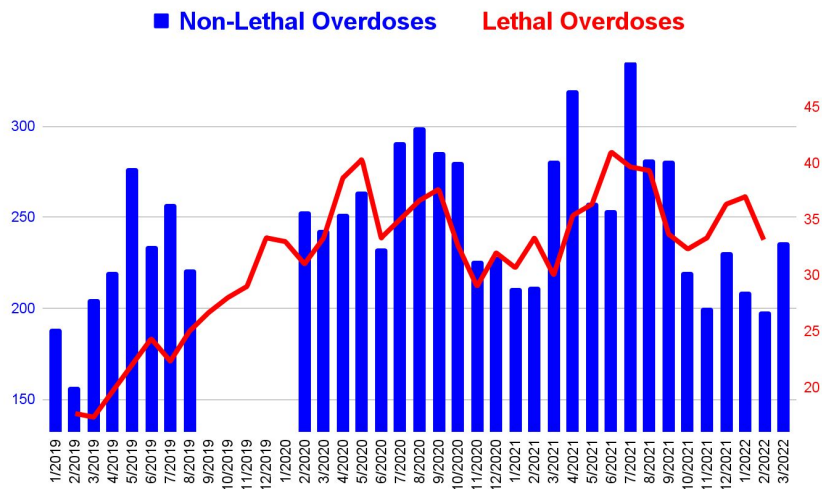
88.4%

of drug overdose deaths had at least one potential opportunity for intervention

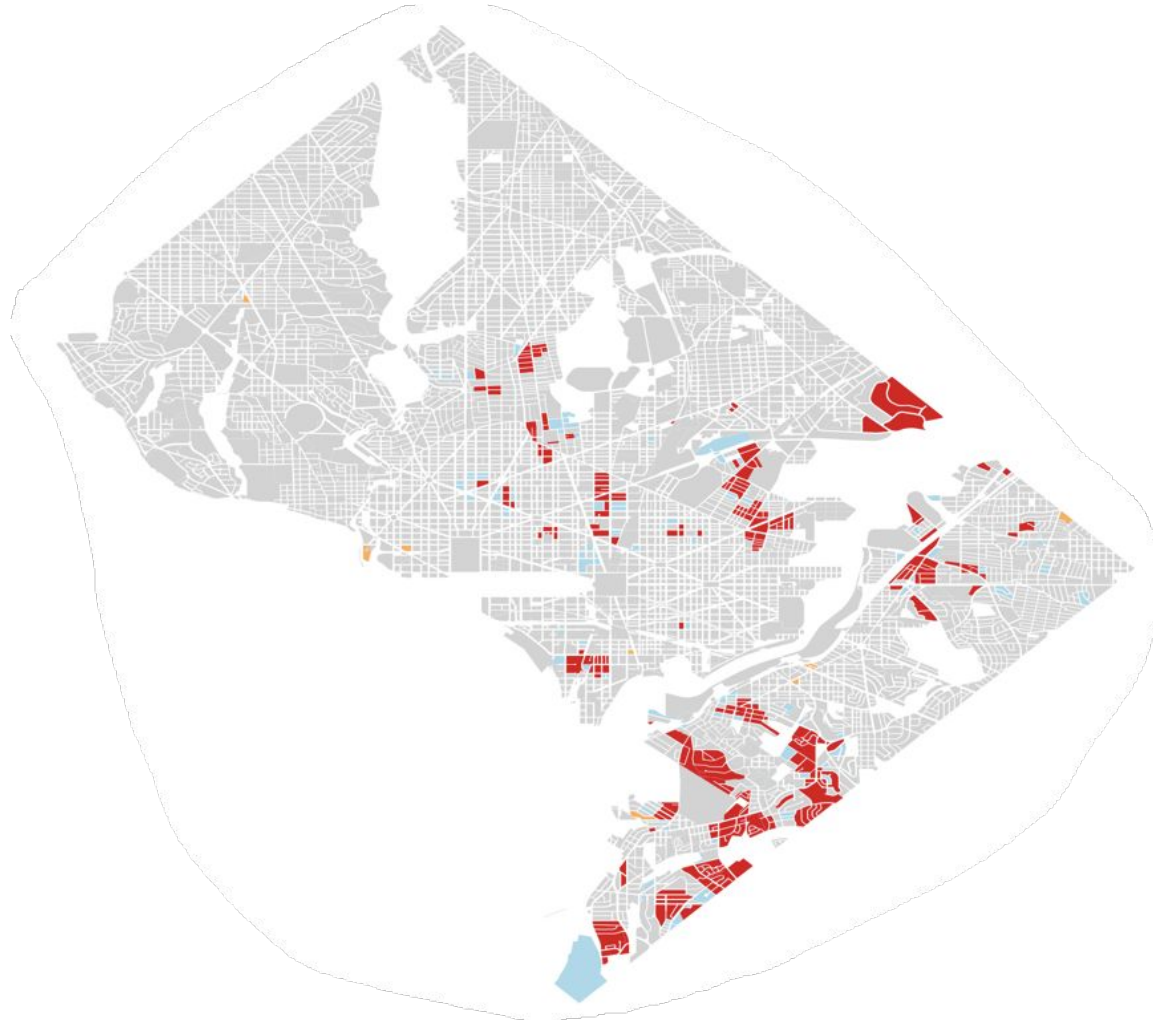
Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with an available medical examiner or coroner report



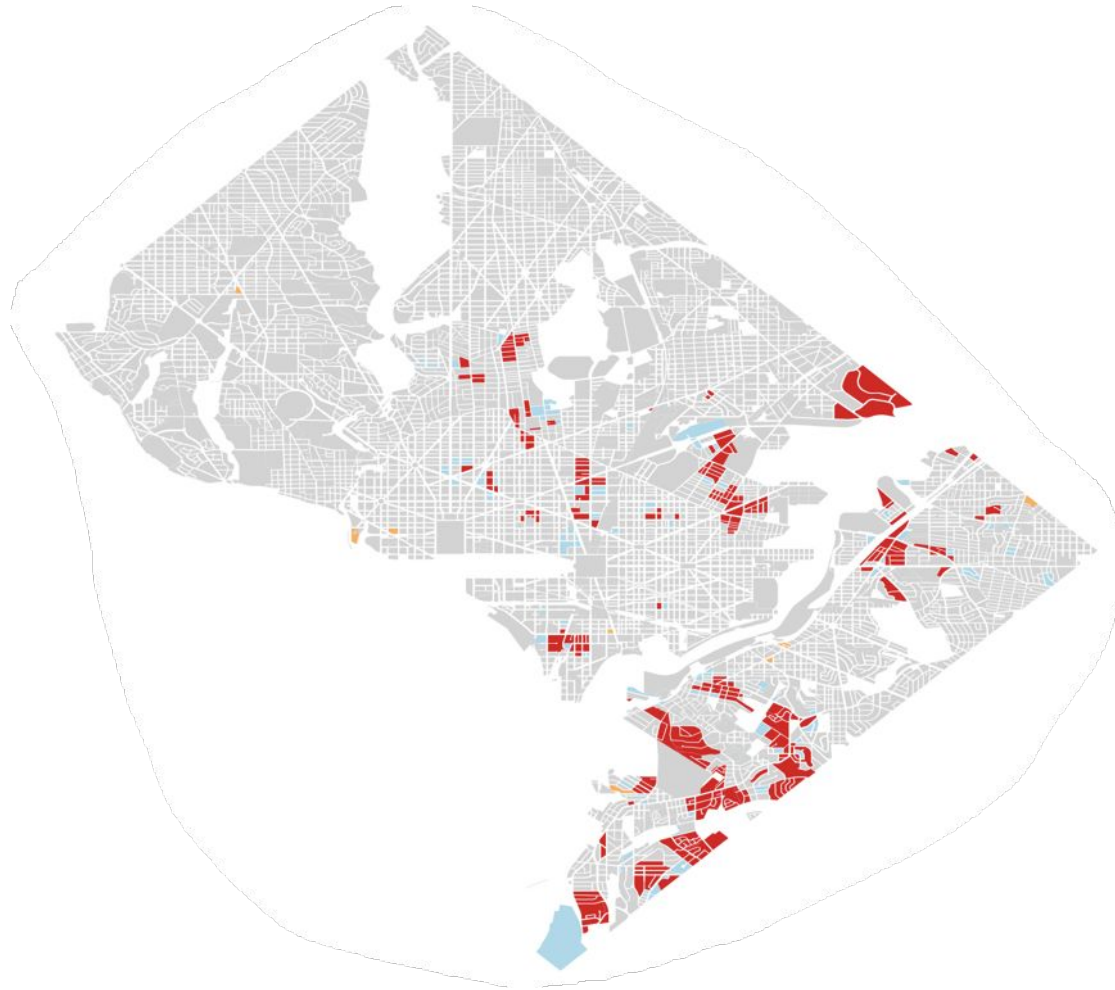
# Trends over time for fatal/non-fatal overdoses



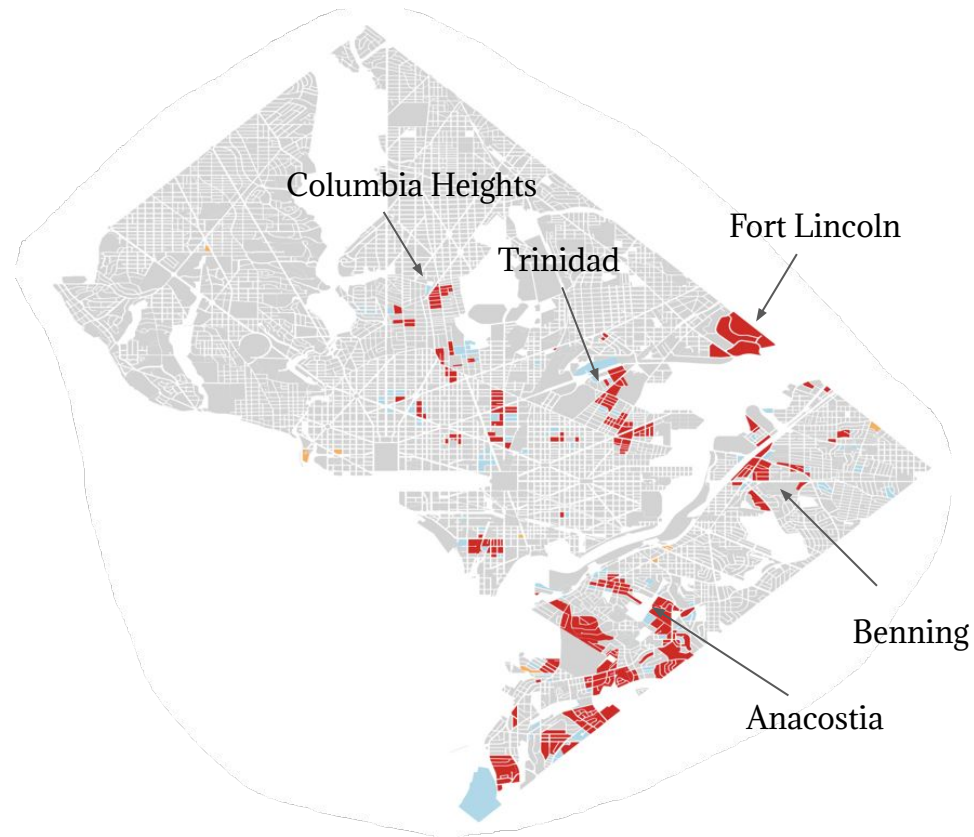
# Hottest areas for non-fatal overdose clusters in DC



# Hottest areas for non-fatal overdose clusters in DC

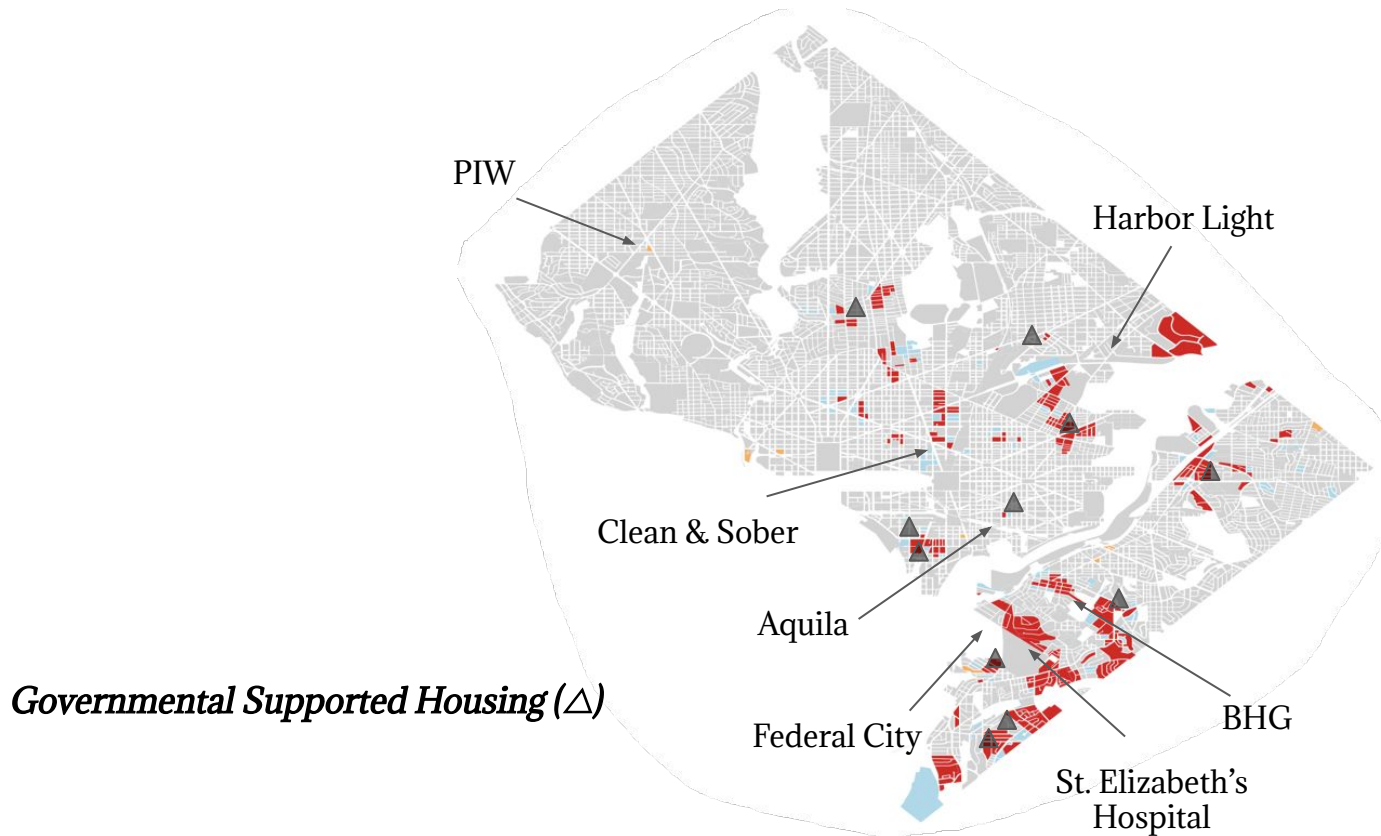


# Hottest areas for non-fatal overdose clusters in DC





# Hottest areas for non-fatal overdose clusters in DC



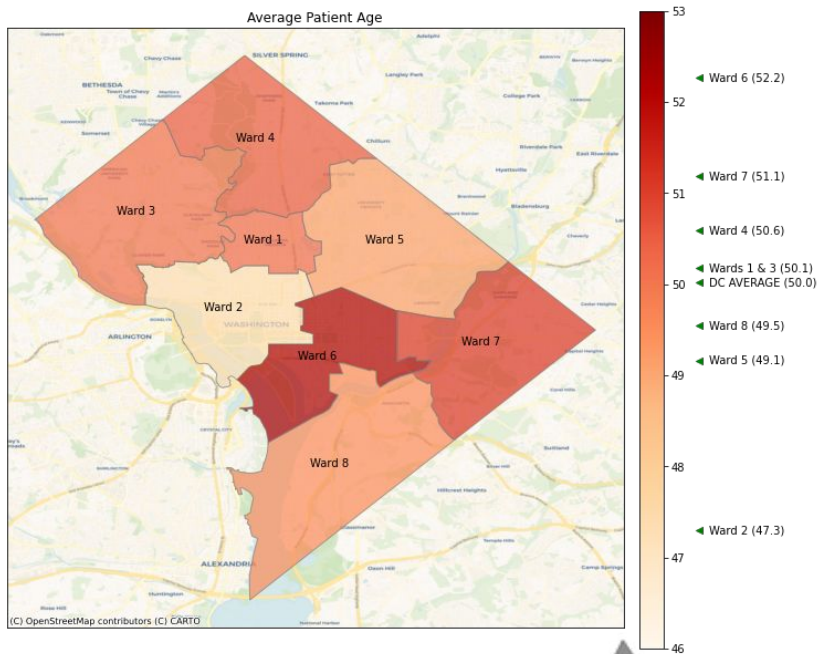
Neighborhood	Number of Restaurants
TRINIDAD	12
CHINATOWN	11
SAINT ELIZABETHS	10
LOGAN CIRCLE/SHAW	9
SW/WATERFRONT	8
TWINING	7
U ST/PLEASANT	6
COLUMBIA HEIGHTS	6
UNION STATION	6
NAYLOR/HILLCREST	5

- 169 overdoses – BLADENSBURG RD NE AND K ST NE
- 155 overdoses – R ST NW AND 11TH ST NW
- 145 overdoses – 2ND ST NW AND I ST NW
- 122 overdoses – MONROE ST NW AND 11TH ST NW
- 118 overdoses – SYCAMORE DR SE AND OAK DR SE
- 115 overdoses – 22ND ST SE AND U PL SE

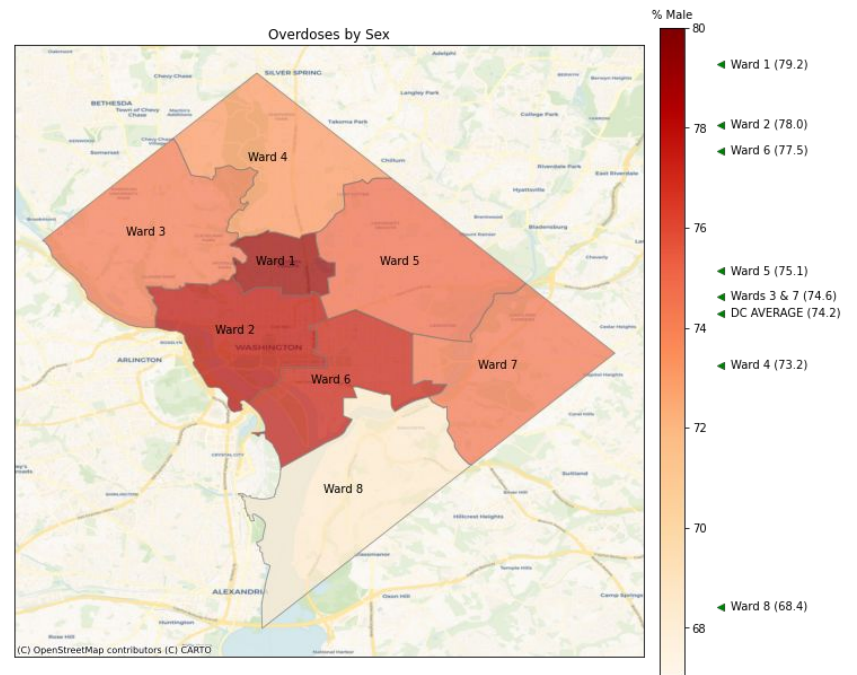


# People overdosing are not uniform

## Patient Age

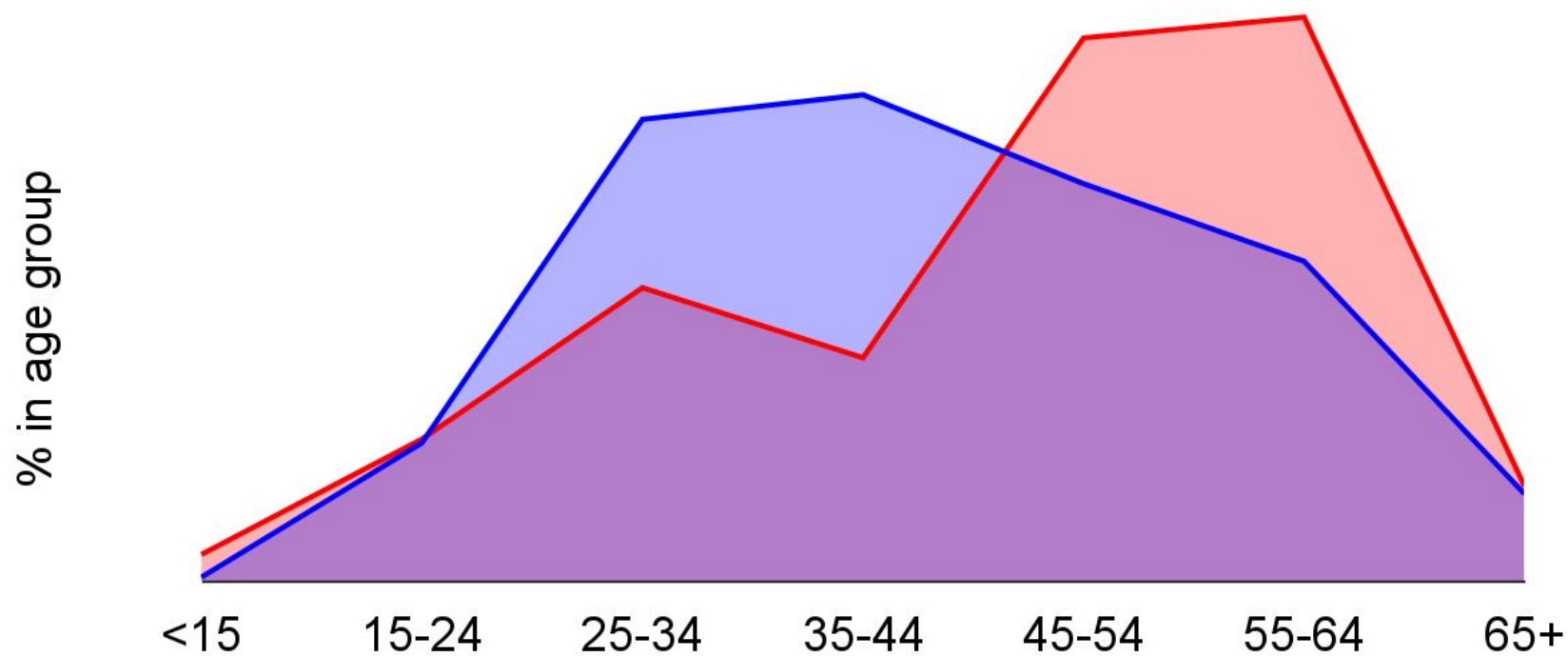


## Patient Sex



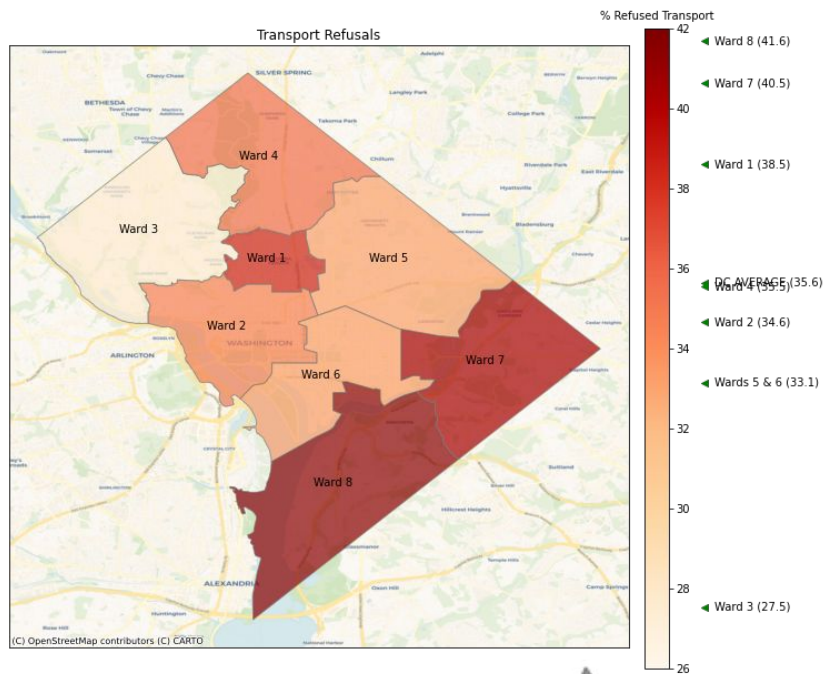
# Age at time of overdose

■ DC ■ National Average

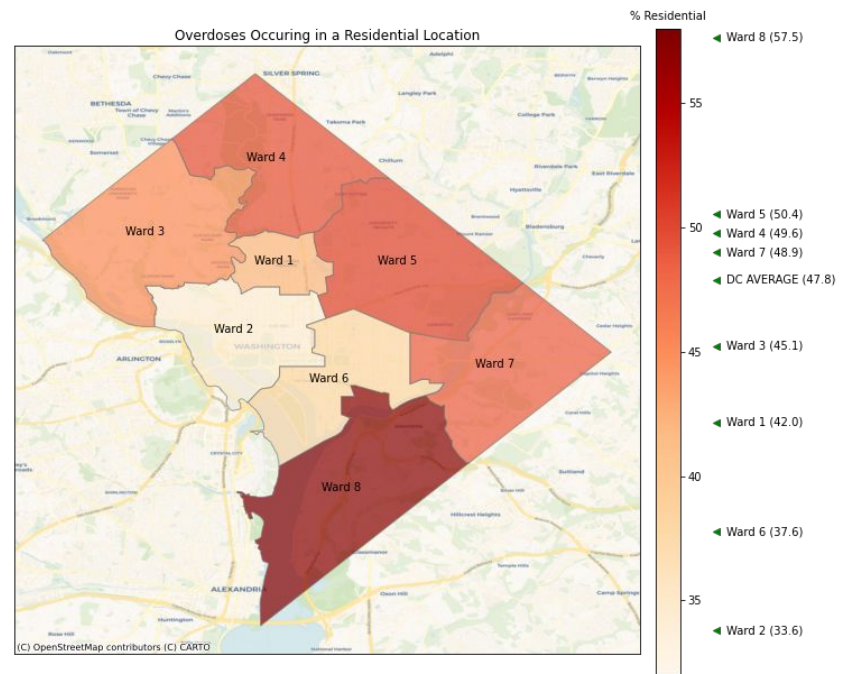


# The overdose situation varies across DC as well

People who refused FEMS transport



People who overdosed in a residence



# Where do we go from here?

- This information is available as a Ward Reference Guide PDF (pending going out to the LLDC listserv)
- Spikes and cluster reporting is still being developed and improved
- Next steps include improving follow ups after overdose and making sure people who refused transport still get the support they need



# Questions

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