



**NIH  
HEAL  
INITIATIVE**

# HEAL Initiative: PI Meeting

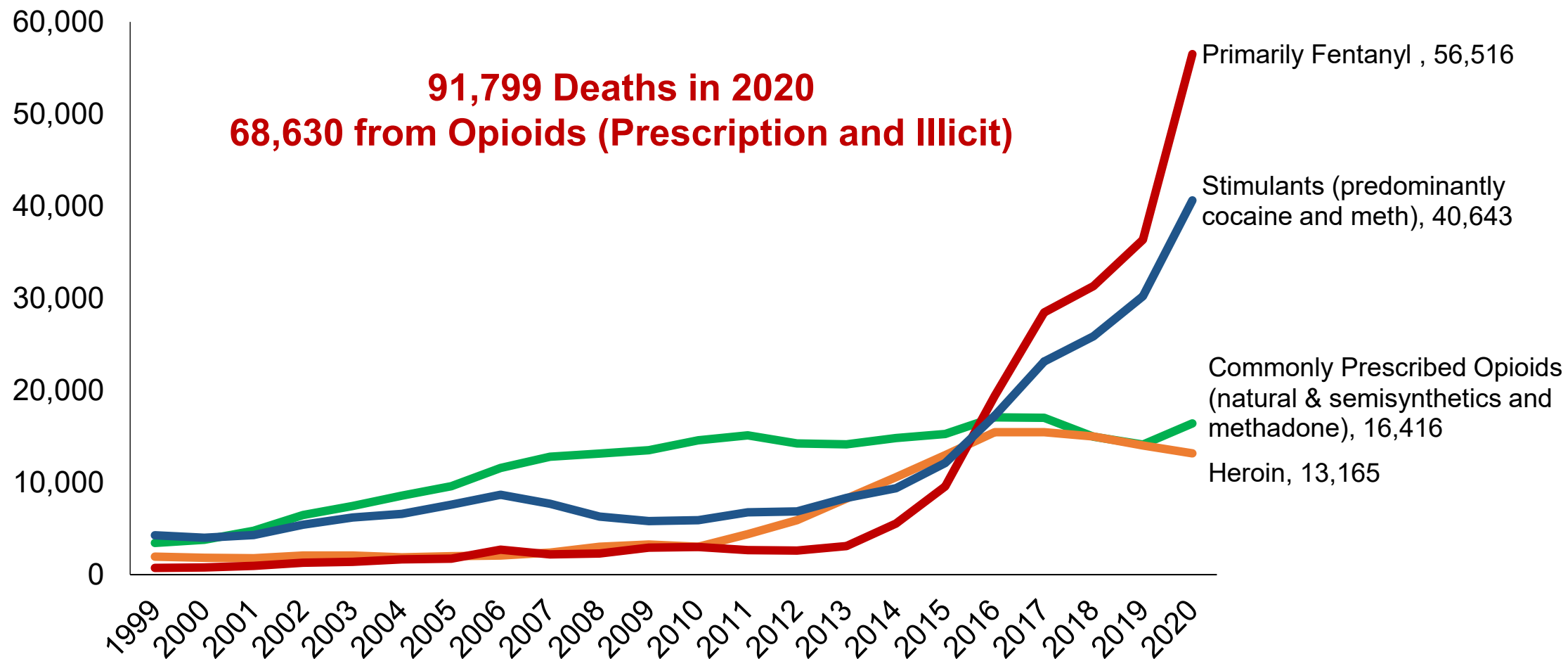
April 12, 2022

Presented by Nora D. Volkow, M.D., Director, NIDA



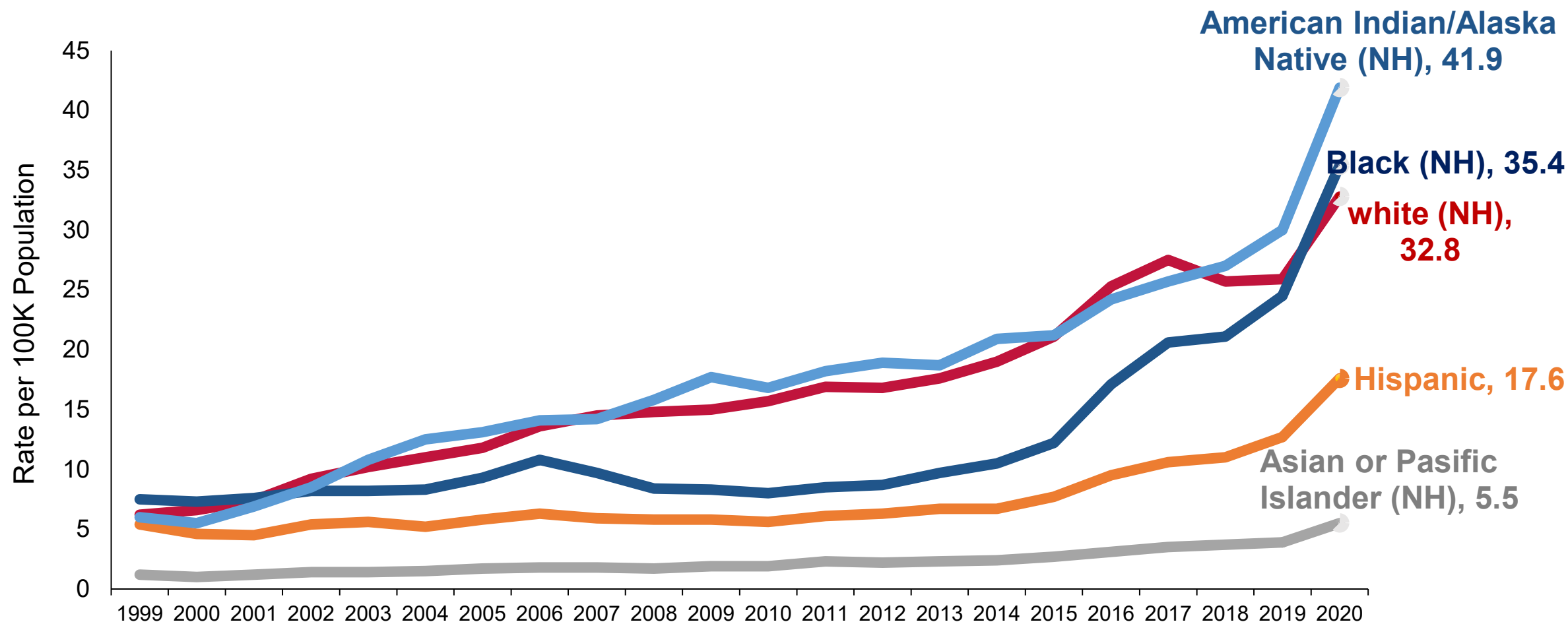
# Evolution of Drivers of Overdose Deaths, All Ages

Analgesics → Heroin → Fentanyl → Stimulants



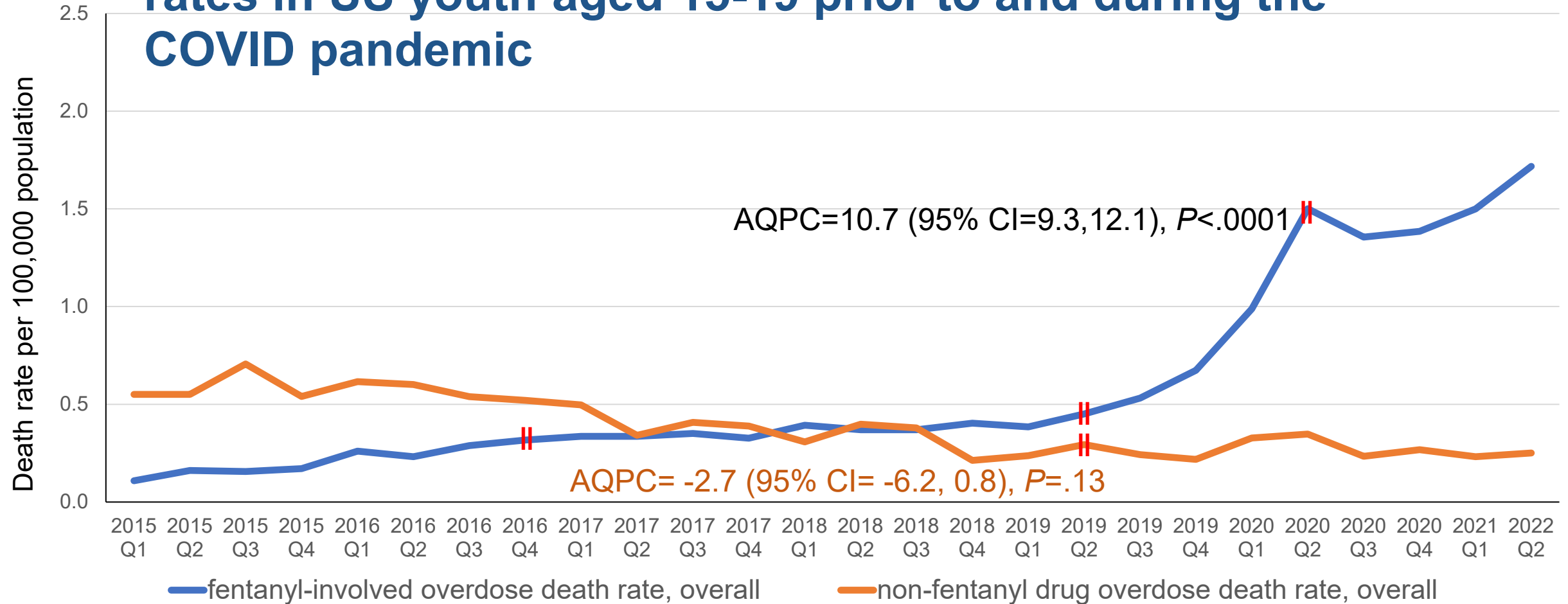
Source: The Multiple Cause of Death data are produced by the Division of Vital Statistics, National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), United States Department of Health and Human Services (US DHHS).

# Drug Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity



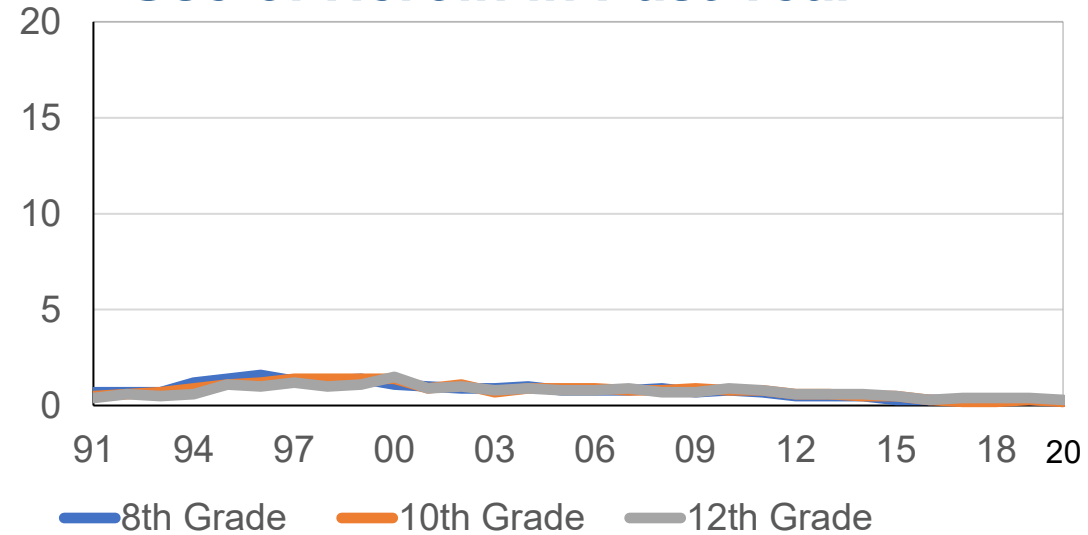
NCHS, National Vital Statistics System. Estimates for 2020 are based on final data.

# Fentanyl-involved and non-fentanyl overdose death rates in US youth aged 15-19 prior to and during the COVID pandemic

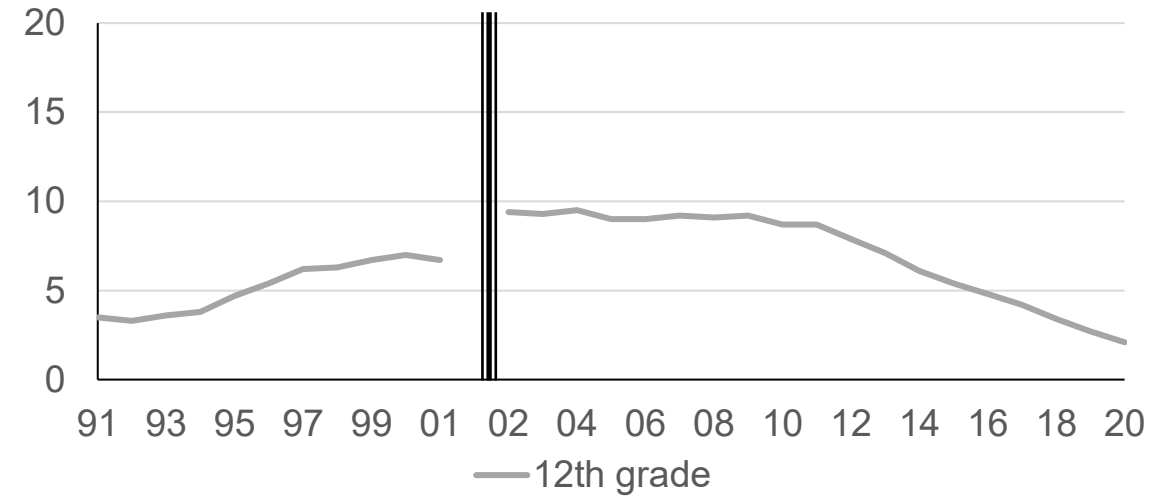


National Vital Statistics System multiple-cause-of-death 2015-2020 final and 2021 provisional data U.S. census monthly data. ||: Joinpoints indicate significant changes in nonlinear trends using Bayesian Information Criterion. AQPC=average quarter percentage change during 2015 Q1-2022 Q2. ICD-10 cause of death code: synthetic opioids other than methadone (T40.4, primarily fentanyl and analogs).

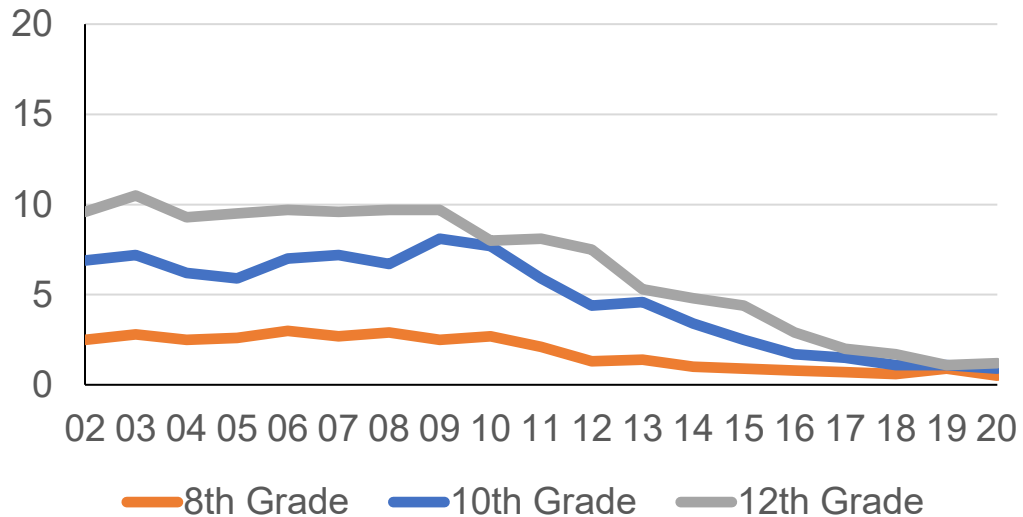
### Percent Students Reporting Use of Heroin in Past Year



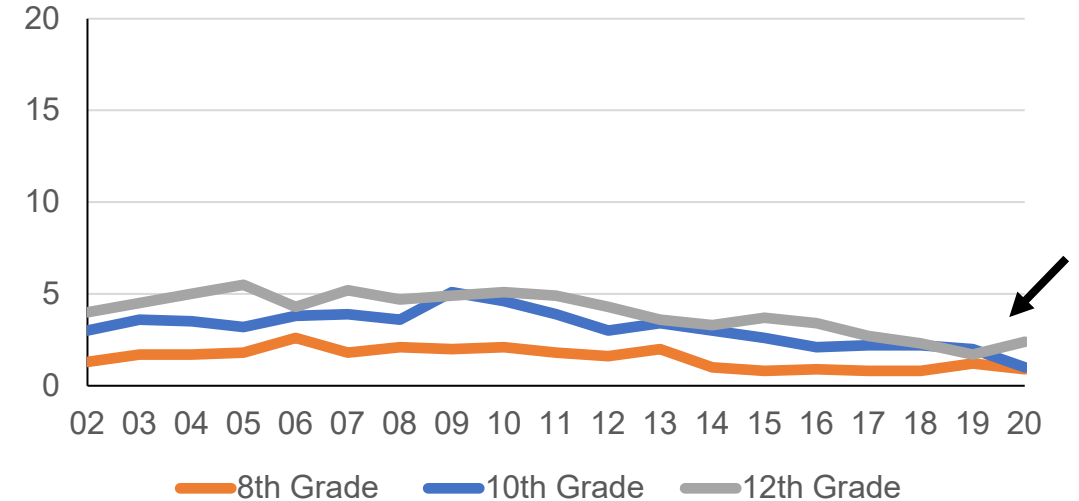
### Percent of 12<sup>th</sup> Graders Reporting Use of Narcotics Other than Heroin



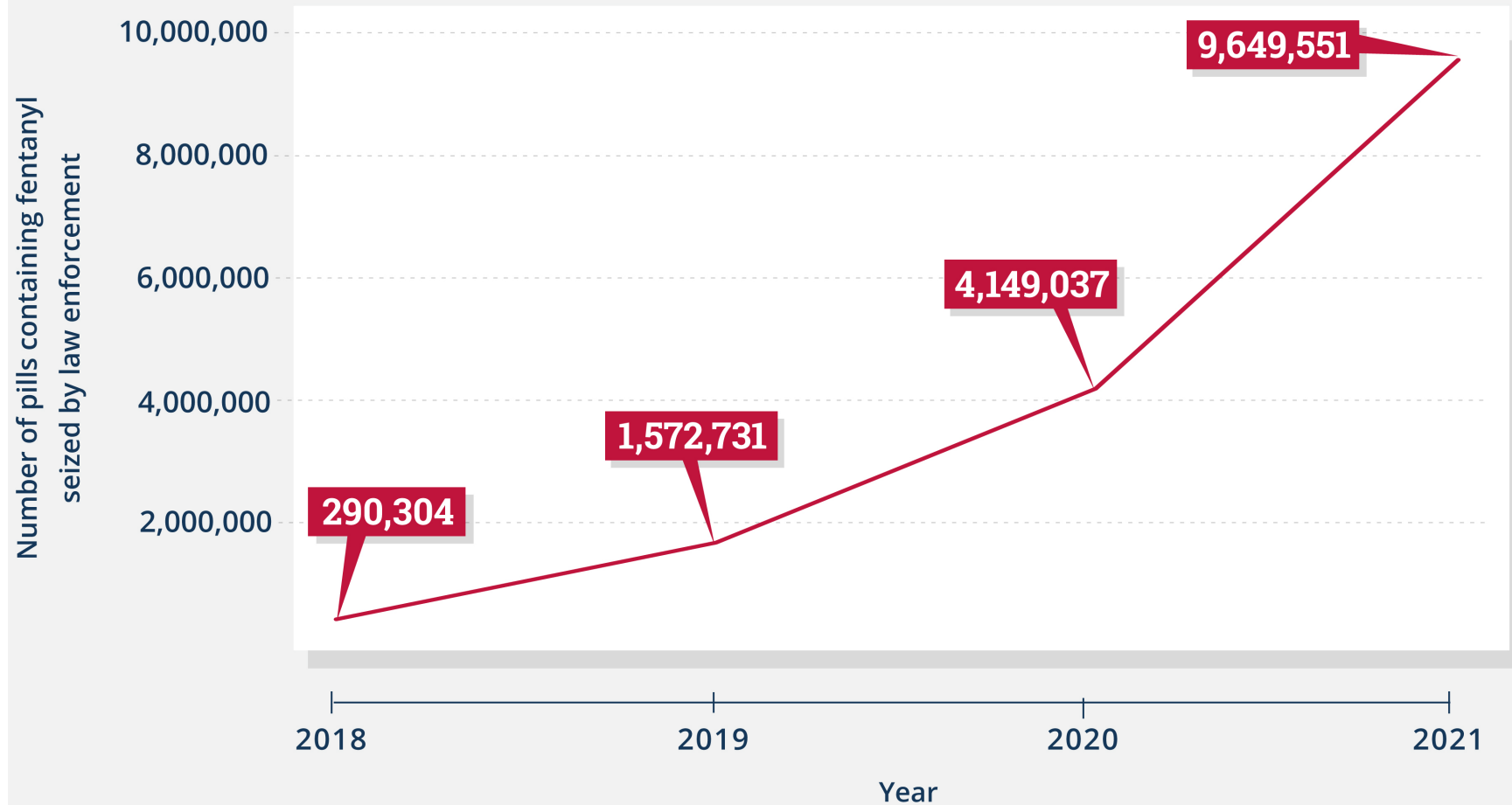
### Percent of Students Reporting Non-medical Use of Vicodin in Past Year



### Percent of Students Reporting Non-medical Use of OxyContin in Past Year



## Number of Pills Containing Fentanyl Seized by Law Enforcement in the United States, 2018 – 2021



Estimates based on data reported by the Office of National Drug Control Policy's High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program

**Reference:** JJ Palamar, et al. *Drug and Alcohol Dependence*. DOI: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2022.109398 (2022)

# Addressing Overdose Deaths in 2022

- Providing effective treatment to pain patients including the appropriate use of opioids when needed is necessary but not sufficient
- Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders is necessary but not sufficient
- Treatment of Substance Use Disorders in addition to OUD is now necessary to prevent overdose deaths
- Prevention of drug use including but not limited just to opioids (cocaine, methamphetamine, illicit prescription drug use) is necessary to prevent overdoses
- Highlighting the need to monitor the emergence of new drugs and drug mixtures (xylazine) in a timely manner and the need to develop antidotes from overdoses that involve drug combinations that might not respond to naloxone.

# Discussion