The background of the slide features a faded, light-colored image of a clock tower, likely Independence Hall in Philadelphia, with bare tree branches in the foreground. The text is overlaid on this background.

Philadelphia's Overdose Response 2023

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Opioid Response Unit
Managing Director's Office

phila.gov/opioids

Opioid Response Unit

- **The Opioid Response Unit (ORU)** operates out of the Managing Directors Office to ensure City departments are operating under a unified response to the overdose crisis.
- Guided by twelve strategic initiatives, the ORU is focused on **preventing overdose, supporting treatment and harm reduction as it relates to chaotic substance use and helping impacted communities recover.**

The ORU oversees four strategy workgroups

1 Community Support

2 Public Safety

3 Prevention

4 Treatment



2023 Action Items

PREVENTION



- * **Develop and implement a data driven Citywide Strategic Harm Reduction Plan to**
 - **Target overdose prevention education** including increased risk due to Fentanyl in drug supply, impacts of Xylazine, polysubstance use, and stimulant overdose risk
 - **Increase awareness and utilization of Naloxone and Fentanyl test strips**
 - **Ensure culturally competent communication strategies**
 - **Offer supportive services to families** impacted by substance misuse
 - **Increase engagement and distribution of harm reduction supplies** to faith-based communities, businesses, supermarkets, and convenience stores

* **Expand Harm Reduction services citywide with a focus on targeted zip codes**

* **Sustain Alternative Response Unit (AR-2) and scope expansion of services and interventions that include an EMS component**

Develop targeted culturally competent curriculum and engagement materials informed by the Citywide Strategic Harm Reduction plan:

- Juvenile justice, child welfare involvement
- Black Maternal/Family engagement
- Faith-based communities
- LGBTQIA+
- Residents that have Limited English Proficiency (LEP)

TREATMENT



* **Launch mobile methadone program** and operate mobile methadone units

* **Expand access and increase MAT dosage in the Prisons** via DBHIDS contract for Behind the Walls

Expand 100 Day Challenge mobile wound care pilot to two mobile wound care vans with expanded geographic reach and after-hours operations

Scope physical health reimbursement and explore coordination with a federally qualified health care center (FQHC) for mobile wound care

* **Scope contingency management model to pilot in 2024** and explore national evidence-based practices specific to abating stimulant use

Scope process to ensure treatment system agility, adjust to changes in drug supply and increase in overdoses from polysubstance and non-opiates

**OD Stat
Recommendation*

PUBLIC SAFETY



Implement post-arrest, pre-arraignment physical health and behavioral health supports in addition to connections to services

for all individuals arrested and awaiting arraignment in East Division

Implement Drug Market Intervention in East Division to disrupt the open-air drug markets in coordination with local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies

Expand East Division Police Assisted Diversion (PAD) to larger site
more suitable for processing and service delivery for PAD arrest referrals

Ensure safety and security for Free Library and Parks and Recreation programming
e.g. Play Parks, Swim Philly, and Play Streets, movie nights, etc.

**OD Stat
Recommendation*

PUBLIC SAFETY



Increase data-sharing and public information for the Accelerated Misdemeanor (AMP) court diversion program

Support the Philadelphia School District Opioid Task Force's next steps and recommendations to address safety and quality of life concerns, and increase city services in and around schools impacted by the opioid epidemic

Coordinate with SEPTA to address safety, security, and quality of life concerns on transit lines and adjacent to transit hubs

Increase enforcement of quality-of-life concerns, focusing on criminal prosecution and civil fines for illegal dumping, and continued coordination of the Nuisance Business Task Force

**OD Stat
Recommendation*

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Launch citywide Opioid Settlement Community Prevention Fund
with focus on target zip codes with highest overdoses in 2021

Sustain Kensington Community Resilience Fund in 2023
and build the capacity of grantees via learning communities

Collaborate with community driven, trauma informed Kensington master planning efforts
with equity-focused investments in home repairs, public schools, parks, and safe corridors



Expand housing opportunities, in addition to the new 100-Day Challenge slots, to increase flow within the system including:

- Housing Smart Re-entry
- Progress Haven 2
- Housing First Pathways
- Rapid Rehousing: Street to Home
- Shallow Rent: Home \$200
- OUD/Serious Medical Need

Increase awareness of and simplify access to trauma resources
in targeted zip codes with highest fatal overdoses in 2021

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Implement culturally competent community engagement plan focused on 2021 target OD zip codes

informed by Prevention strategy group's 2023 Citywide Harm Reduction Plan.

*** Scope feasibility, identify an operational framework for a sobering center**

Sustain weekly Kensington-based Wellness Resource Fair in 2023

and scope feasibility for expansion to other impacted communities

Support Public Safety Strategy's Drug Market Intervention (DMI) with community support and city services at locations where law enforcement interventions occur

see Public Safety action item

Coordinate with PHDC to increase community outreach regarding programs and resources for residents

e.g. Basic Systems Home Repair, increase applications from targeted zip codes with an increase in fatal overdoses in 2021

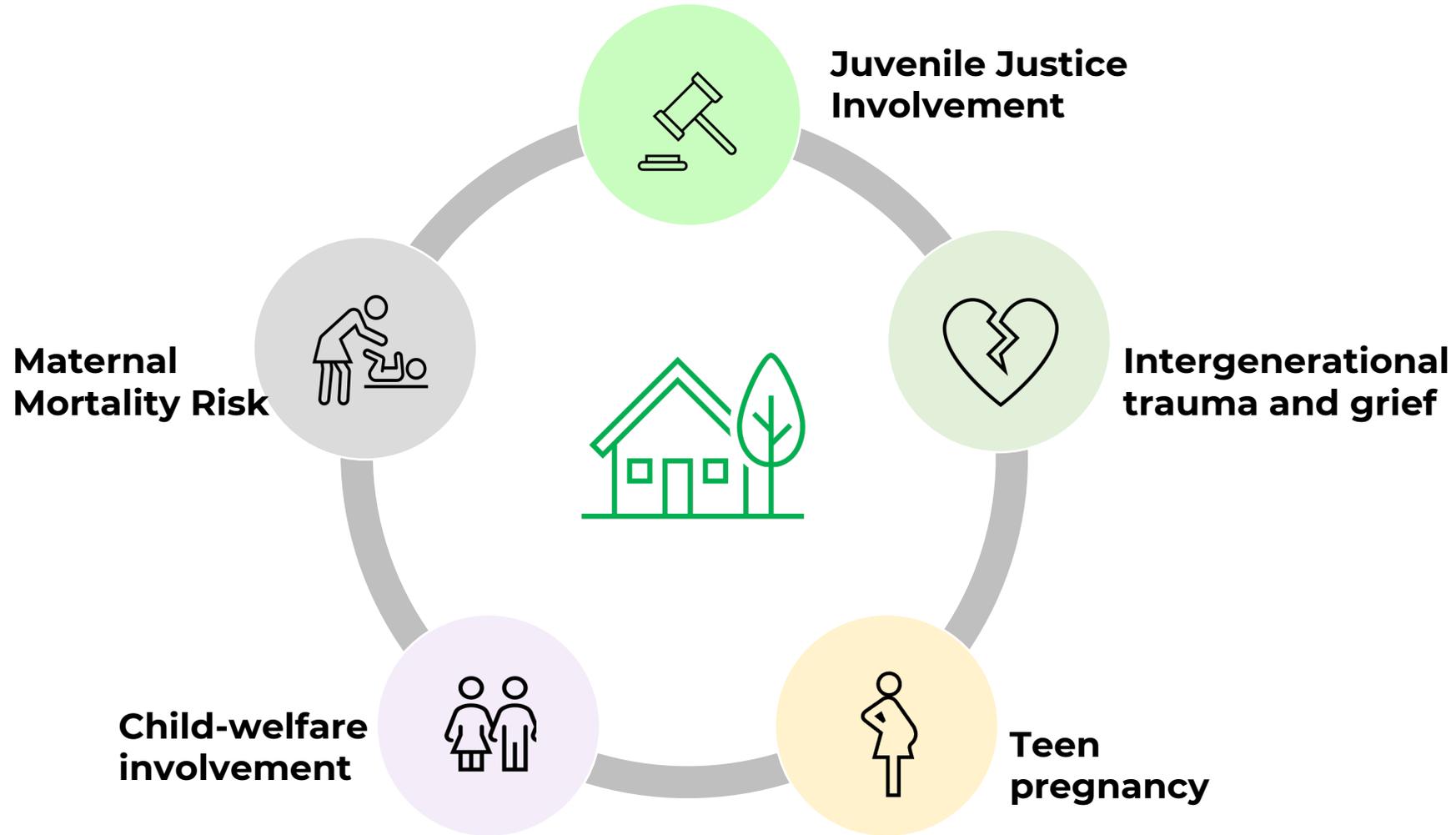


**OD Stat
Recommendation*

There is no thing as a
“single-issue struggle” because
we do not live single-issue lives.

– Audre Lorde

To understand the overdose crisis,
we must recognize the intersectional nature of "systems"

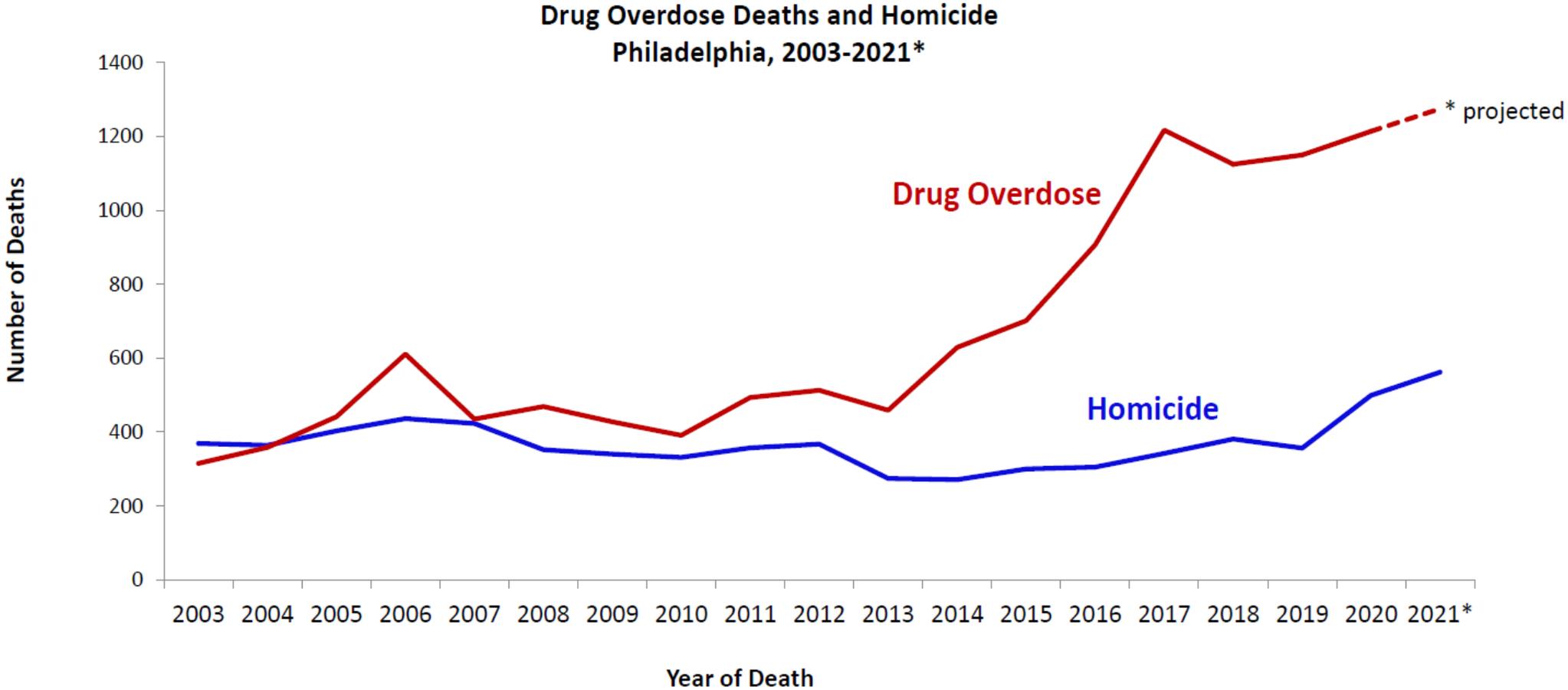




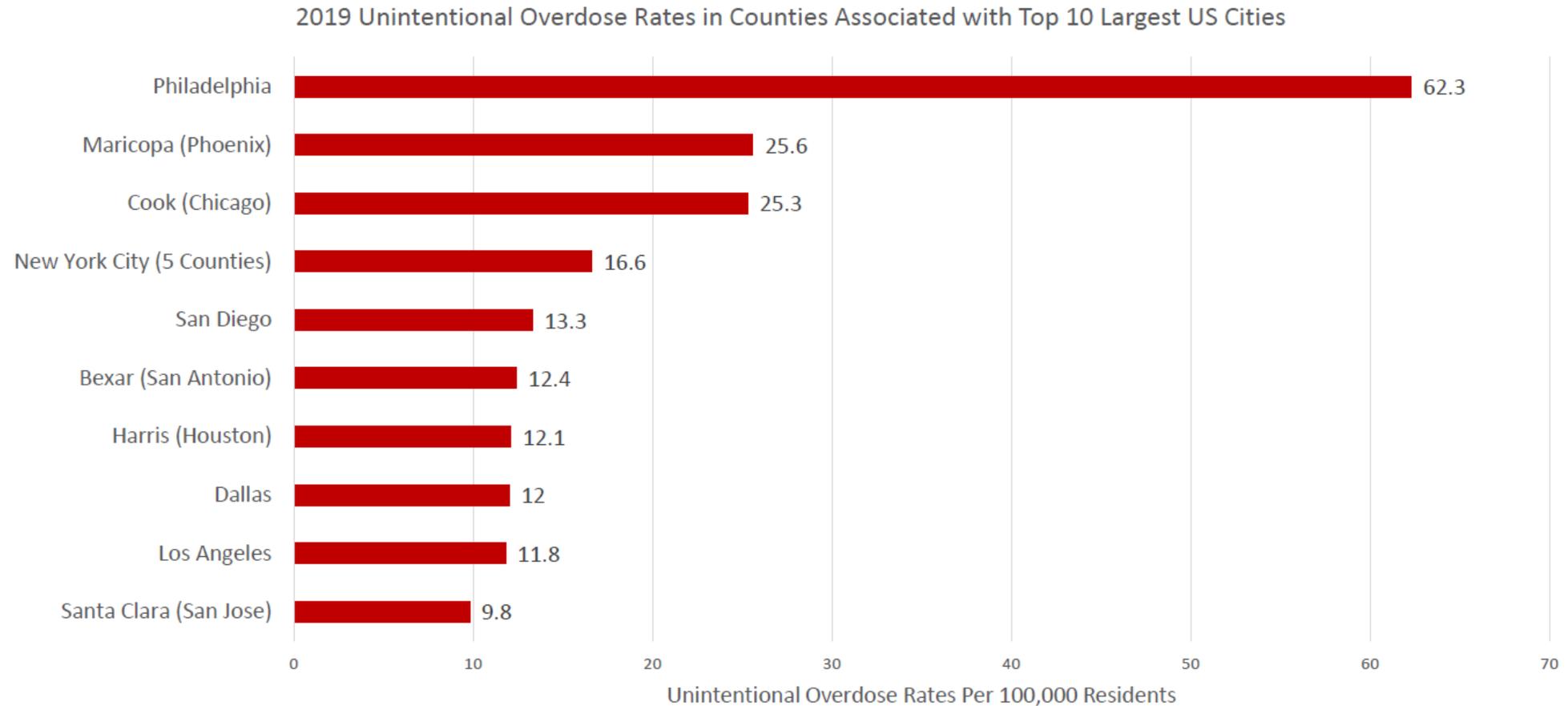
What is the Drug War? | Drug Policy Alliance

Overdose trends in Philadelphia

Drug overdoses cause **more than twice** as many deaths as homicides in Philadelphia



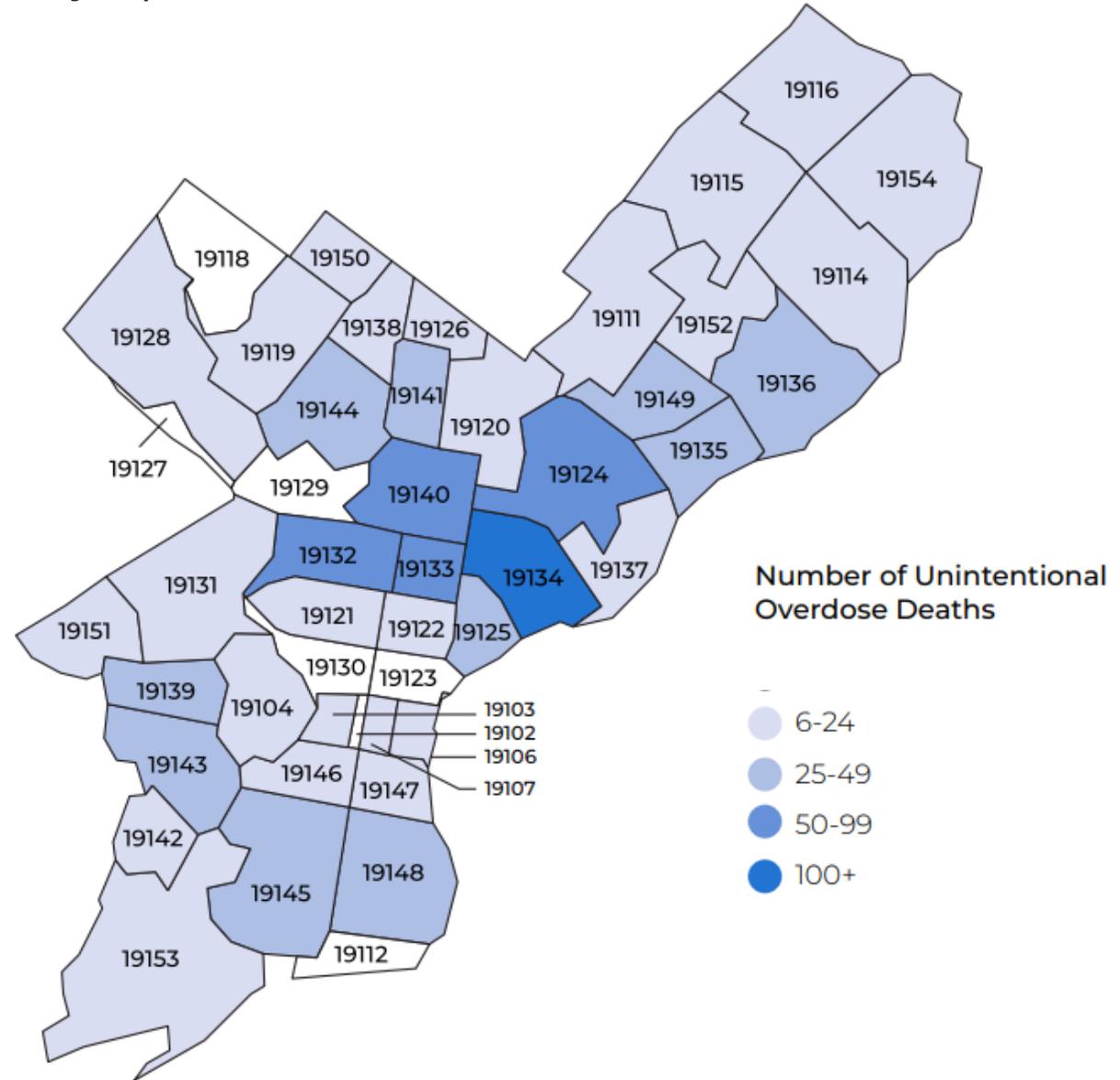
Philadelphia has the **highest** overdose death rate of the largest U.S. cities



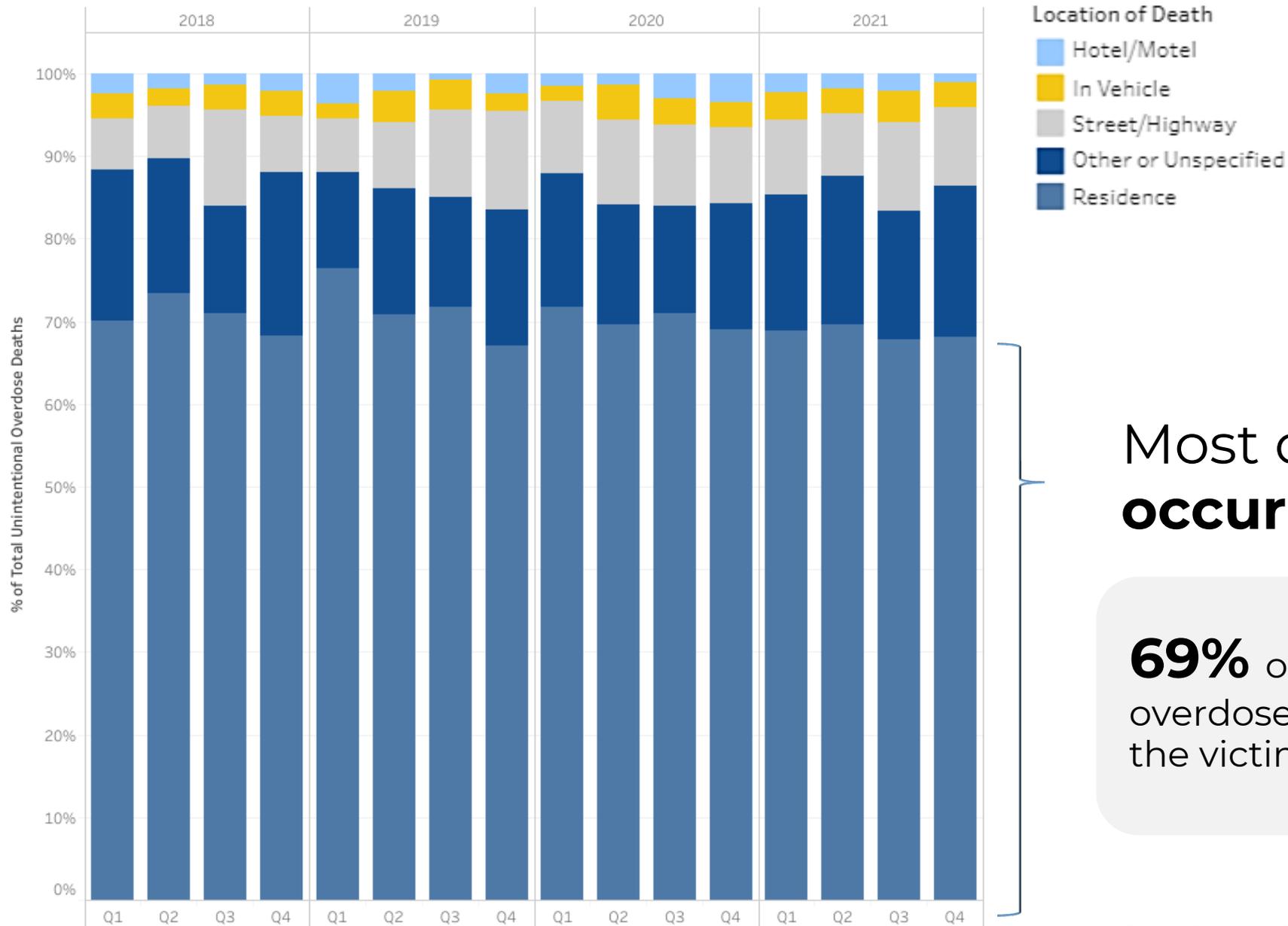
The overdose crisis is citywide

19134	Kensington
19140	Tioga
19124	Frankford
19133	Fairhill
19132	Allegheny West

Incidence of Unintentional Overdose Deaths by Zip Code, 2021



Unintentional Fatal Overdoses by Incident Location, 2016-2021



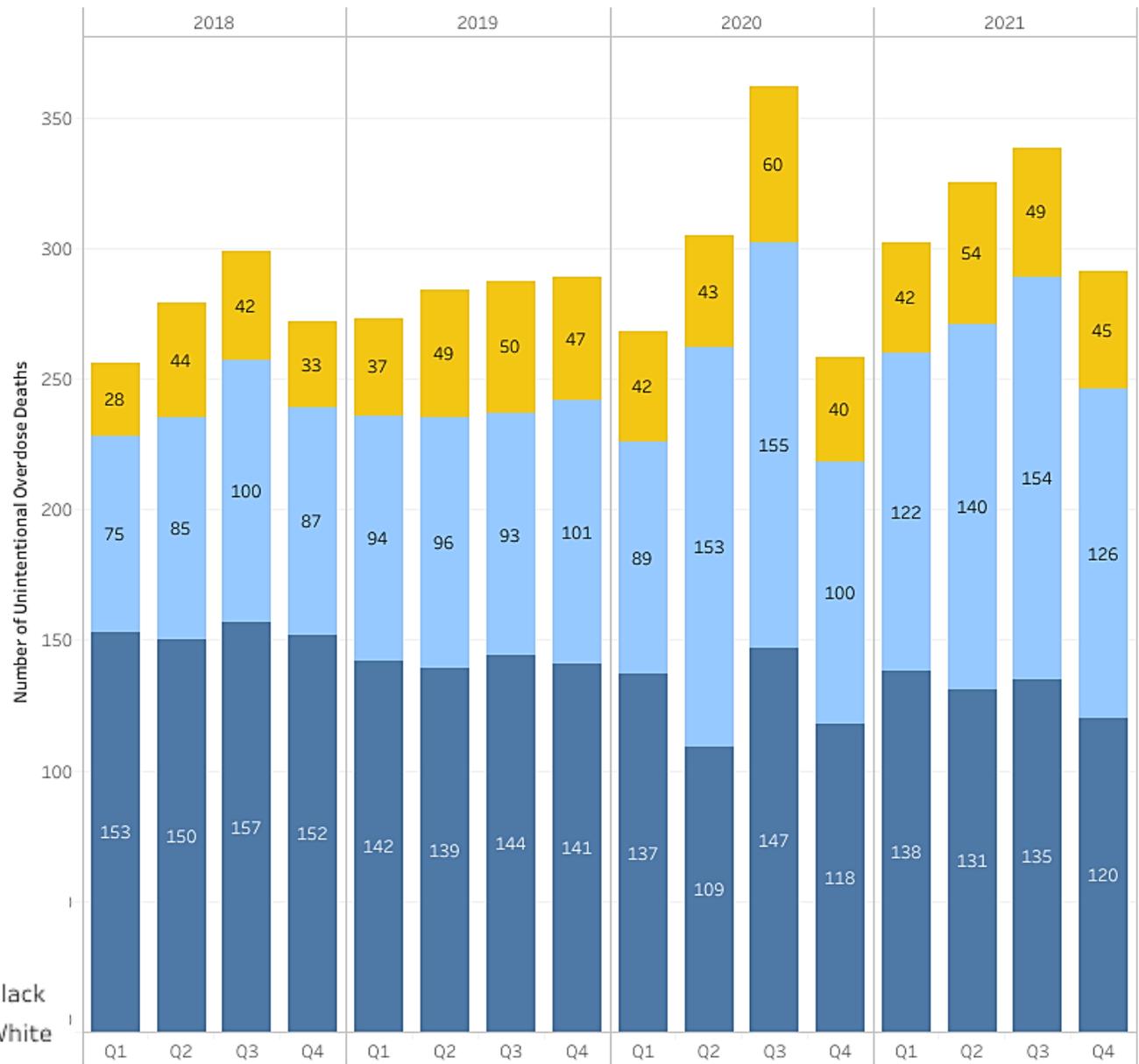
Most overdoses
occur at home

69% of unintentional overdose deaths occurred in the victim's residence in 2021.

Unintentional Overdose Deaths by Race and Ethnicity, 2018 - 2021

42% of overdoses occurred among **non-Hispanic Black Philadelphians** in 2021

For the first time, this was higher than the number of fatal overdoses among **non-Hispanic White Philadelphians**

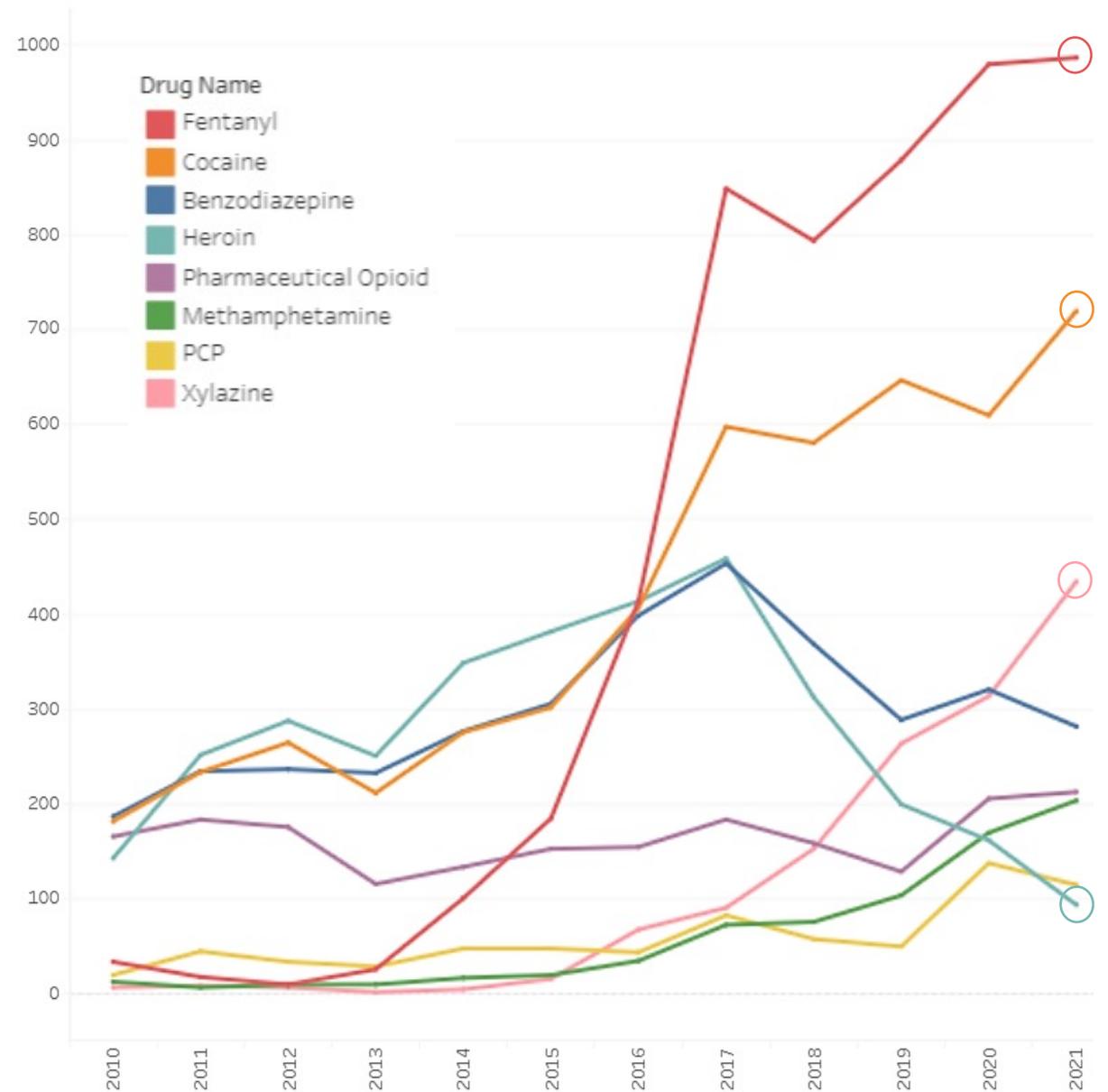


Data Source: Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office

The changing drug supply is driving overdose deaths

1. Fentanyl
2. Cocaine
3. Xylazine

Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths by Specific Drugs Involved, 2010-2021



Data Source: Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office

What are opioids?

OPIOIDS

A BREAKDOWN OF THE INVISIBLE
OVERDOSE CRISIS IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY

OPIOIDS: A Breakdown of the Invisible Overdose Crisis in the Black Community |
DBHIDS

Opioids are drugs used to control pain



Poppy opium

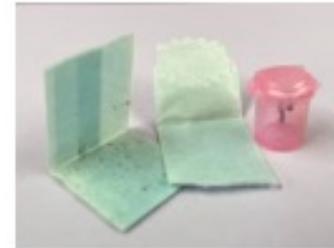


Substances derived from
or similar to opium



Prescription pain relievers

Oxycotin, Morphine,
Percocet, Vicodin



Street drugs

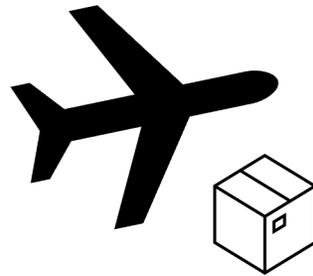
heroin, fentanyl



Methadone
Suboxone (Bupe)

What is **fentanyl**?

Fentanyl
is a synthetic opioid
50-100x
stronger
than morphine



Since 2013, illicitly
manufactured
fentanyl has been
shipped from
overseas to U.S.



No drug use is 100% safe.
Use with someone else around and always have naloxone

Fentanyl is also found
contaminating other
street drugs, often
unknown to the user

*Fentanyl has been found
in these substances:*



Since 2013, fentanyl has been increasingly found in drug supply

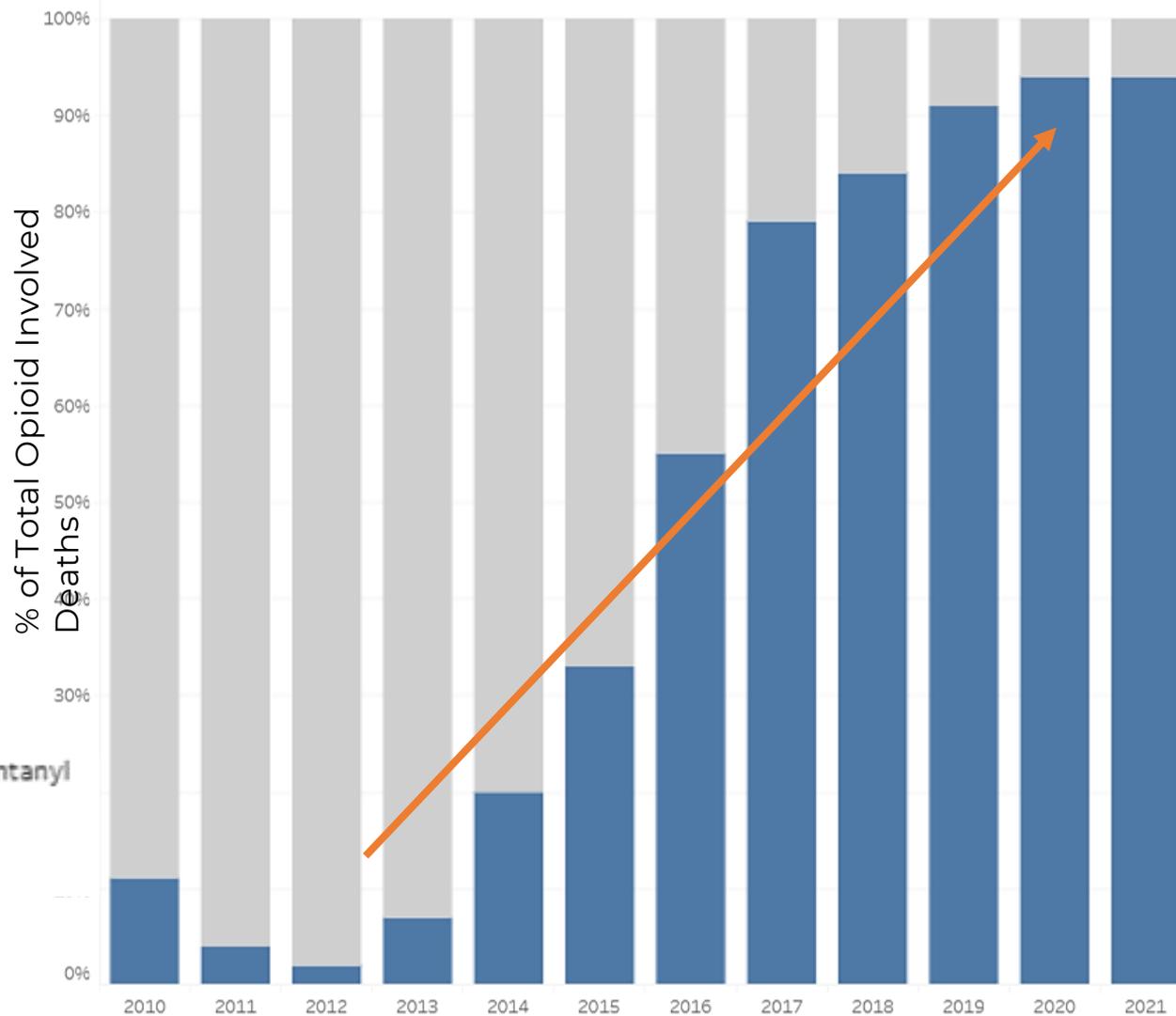
94%

of all overdose deaths
had fentanyl present
in 2021

77%

of drug overdoses
involving pharmaceutical
opioid had fentanyl
in 2021

Percentage of unintentional opioid-related overdose deaths with Fentanyl or a Fentanyl Analog Present (2010-2021)



What are stimulants? class of drugs

- Includes **cocaine, amphetamines (speed), meth, caffeine** and **nicotine**
- Speeds up messages traveling between the brain and the body, making a person feel more alert
- **Stimulants might be mixed with a depressant** such as opioids, benzodiazepines or alcohol

What is xylazine? also known as “tranq” or “tranq dope”

- **An animal tranquilizer not approved for human use**
- Has been found cut with fentanyl and cocaine to give a longer-lasting high
- Causes severe skin wounds that can lead to loss of limb if left untreated
- Does not respond to naloxone (Narcan) or other forms of traditional opioid reversal because it is not an opioid

What is substance use?

Substance use refers to any use of drugs

- This includes legal drugs and illegal drugs
- It may include mild, moderate, or severe substance use disorder as well as recreational drug use.

Why do people use substances?



To feel good



To feel better



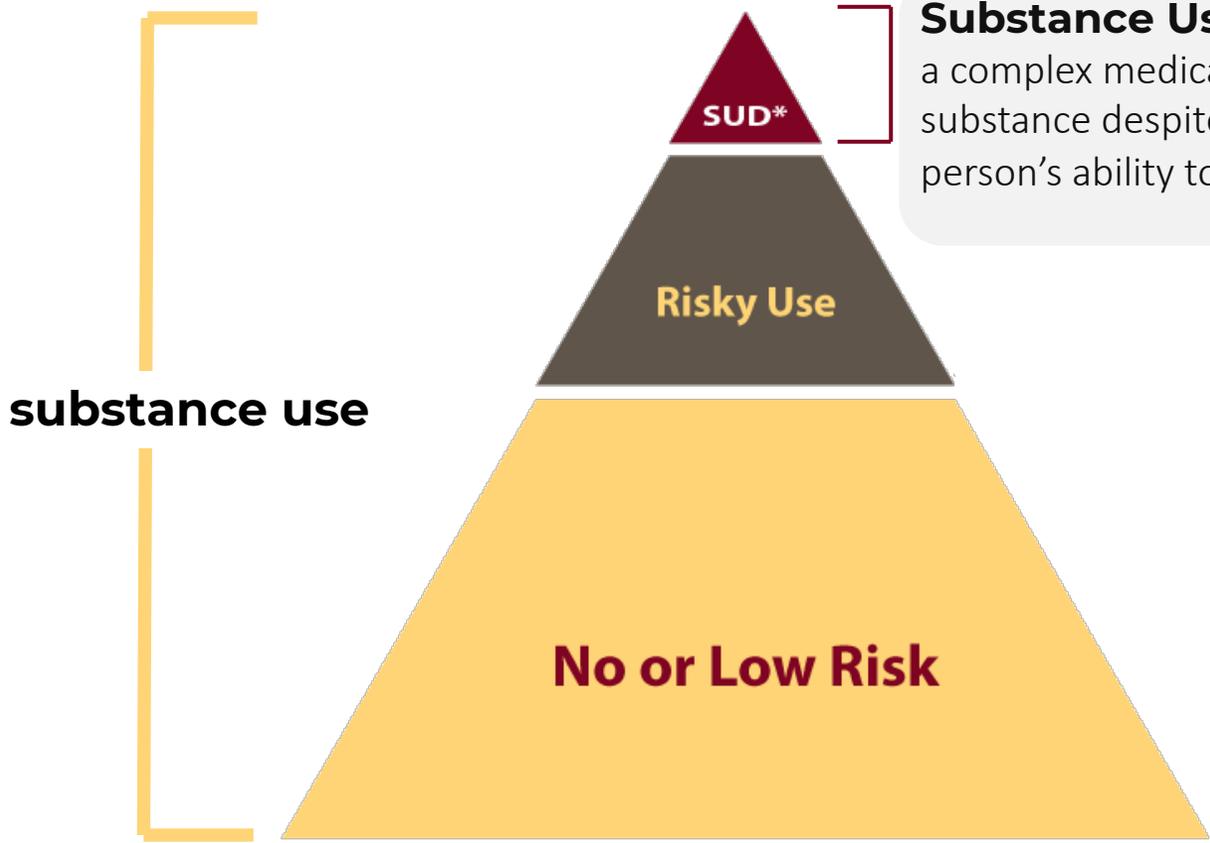
To do better



Curiosity and social pressure



Medical purposes



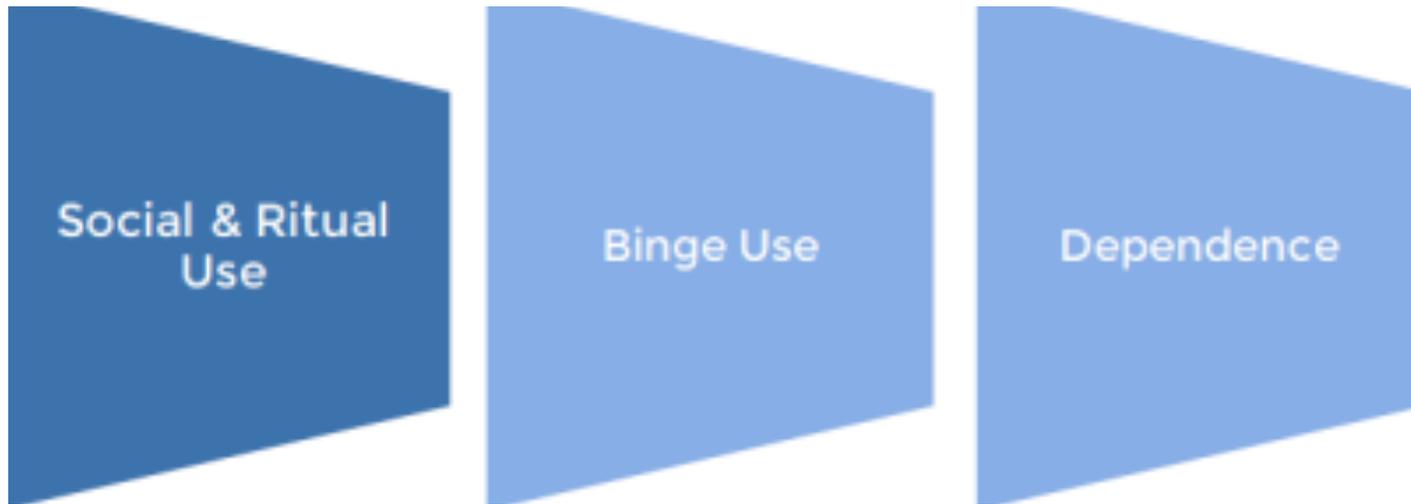
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)

a complex medical condition in which there is intense, uncontrolled use of a substance despite harmful consequences to the point where use impairs a person's ability to function in day-to-day life.

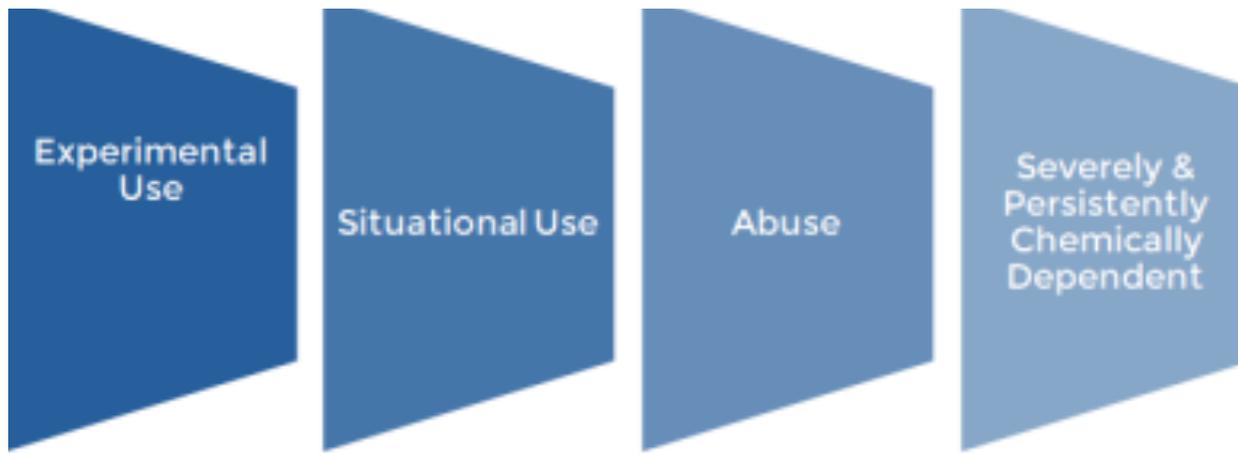
addiction, not a clinical term, describes a person's inability to control the impulse to use drugs even when there are negative consequences.

*People who use
Person with SUD*

*Substance Use Disorders



Drug use happens on a continuum



All types of use involve risk



Risk factors related to substance misuse



Developmental



Environmental



Social



Genetic



Co-occurring disorders

What **treatment** is available for Opioid Use Disorder?

In Pennsylvania, the gold standard for treating OUD is **Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)***

*Formerly known as Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT): Use of an FDA-approved medication and a behavioral health intervention

Medications for OUD



Buprenorphine / suboxone

- Daily medication as a film or tablet
- Curbs opioid cravings



Methadone

- Daily medication as pill or liquid
- Curbs opioid cravings & manages withdrawal



Vivitrol

- Monthly injection
- Binds & blocks opioid receptors to reduce cravings
- Daily pill form(Naltrexone)

How to spot an opioid overdose:

Call 911 immediately if a person exhibits ANY of the following symptoms:

- **Extreme sleepiness**, nodding, or can't stand up
- Slow, irregular or **stopped breathing**
- Not snoring regularly, not catching breath during sleep
- **Gurgling**
- **Pale, grayish or ash-like complexion.**
- **Lips and nails turning blue or purple**

What to do if someone may be experiencing an overdose:

- If you suspect someone is having an overdose, **call 911 immediately and stay until EMS arrives.**
- You can use **naloxone** to reverse an opioid overdose.

Learn how by signing up for a free training by the health department:



Resources & Services

If you or anyone you know is interested in services, please call one of the numbers below:

- **Access Treatment:**
 - Call **Community Behavioral Health's Member Services** at 888-545-2600.

- **Order free naloxone:**
 - You can access free naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdose, by visiting **nextdistro.org**

- **Homeless Outreach Hotline**
 - 215-232-1984

Resources & Services

If you or anyone you know is interested in services, please call one of the numbers below:

- **Philadelphia Crisis Line (Suicide and Behavioral Health Crisis)**
 - 988
- **Mental Health & Substance Use Services**
 - 888-545-2600 or visit CBHPhilly.org
- **Network of Neighbors (Trauma Support)**
 - 267-233-4837
- **Information, Intervention, Recovery Support Line:**
 - 1(800)-221-6333

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