

THE EVOLVING OPIOID CRISIS ACROSS THE UNITED STATES

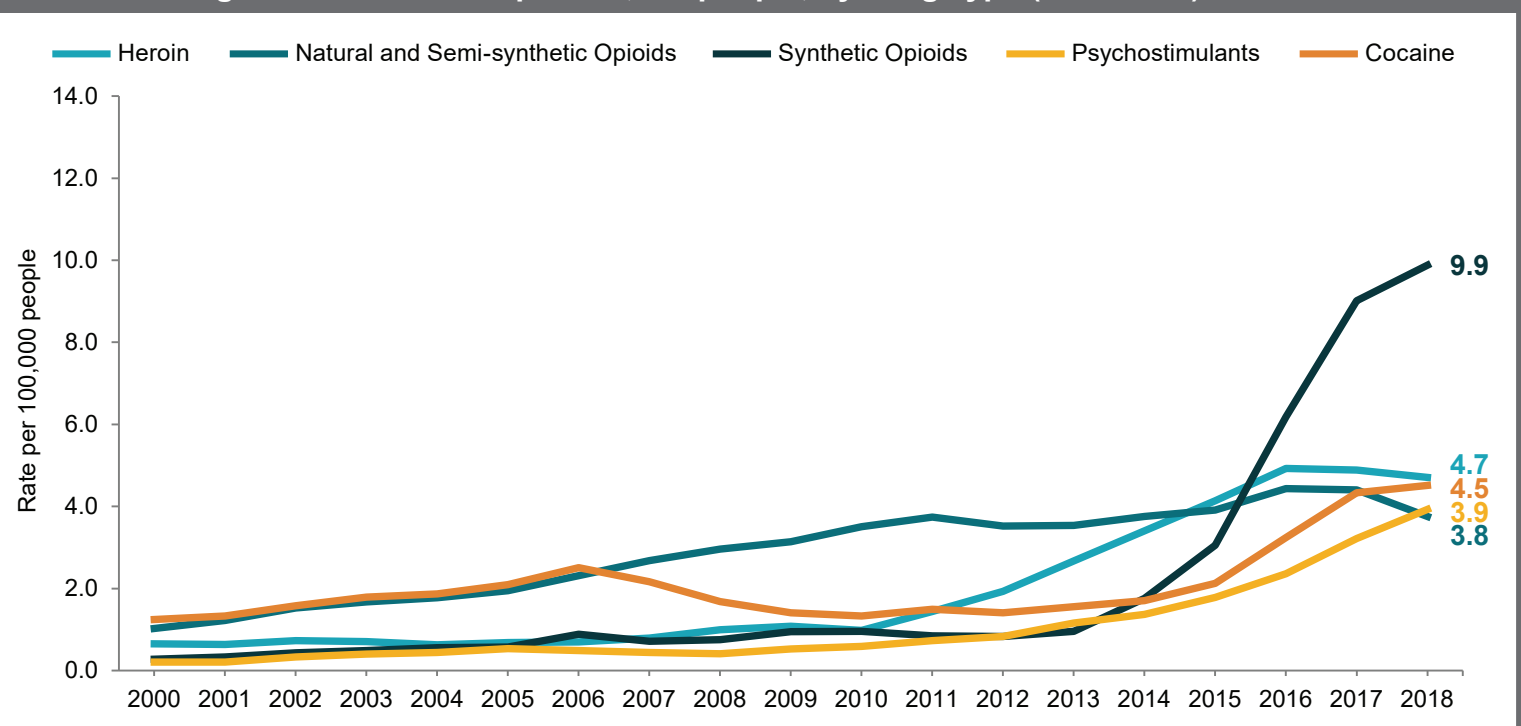
UNITED STATES

Over the past two decades, the United States has experienced a trend of increasing drug overdose deaths that has measurably affected nearly every state. Although death rates from drug overdoses declined slightly overall from 2017 to 2018, a more nuanced pattern is revealed when examining rates by individual drug types. For instance, U.S. death rates from prescription opioids and heroin declined significantly in 2018, while death rates increased from synthetic opioids, cocaine, and psychostimulants such as methamphetamine.

The dynamics of the overdose crisis also vary widely across the states, with vast ranges in drug overdose rates and diverging trends of increasing and decreasing death rates. SHADAC has developed these state-level snapshots of data on overdose deaths as a resource for people to better understand the crisis in their states—a key step in developing and deploying effective policy solutions.

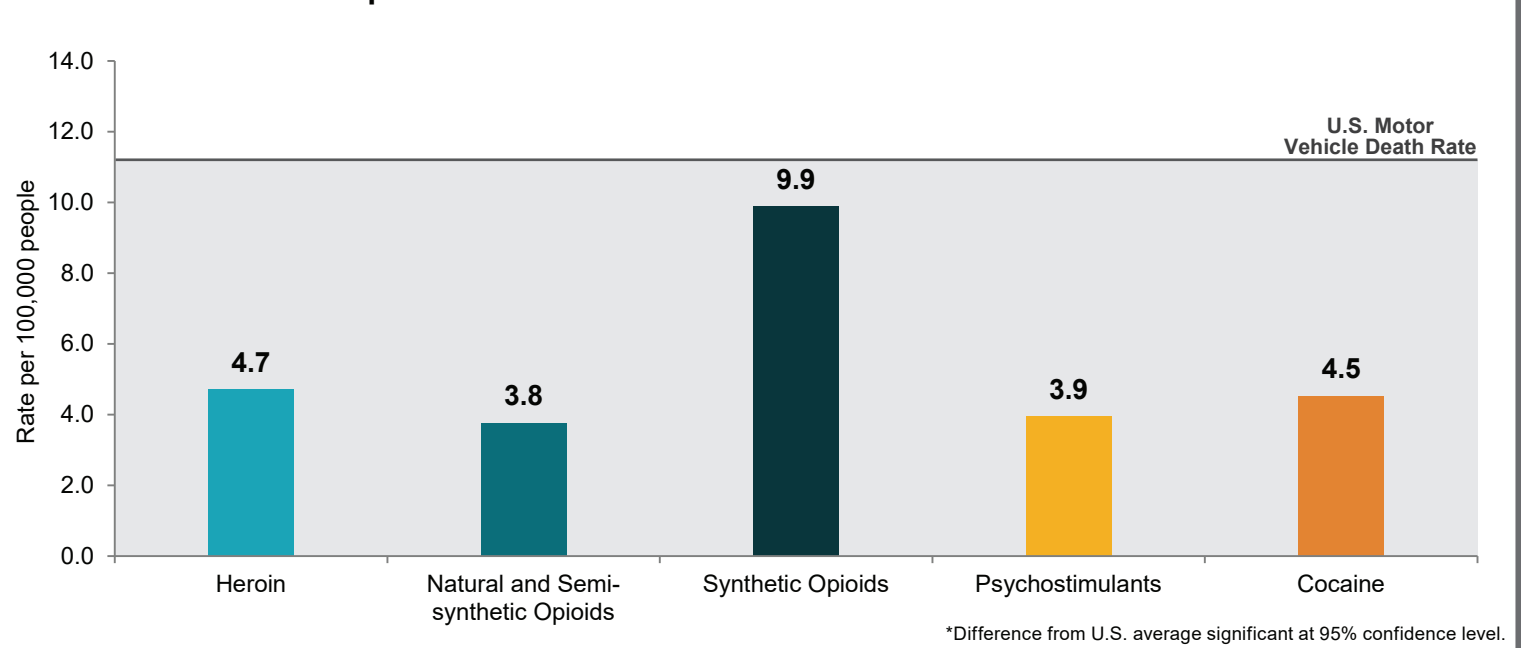
In 2018,
46,802
opioid-related
overdose deaths
occurred in
the US.¹

Trends in Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 people, by Drug Type (2000-2018)



Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 people in 2018, by Drug Type

United States with Comparison to Motor Vehicle Death Rate



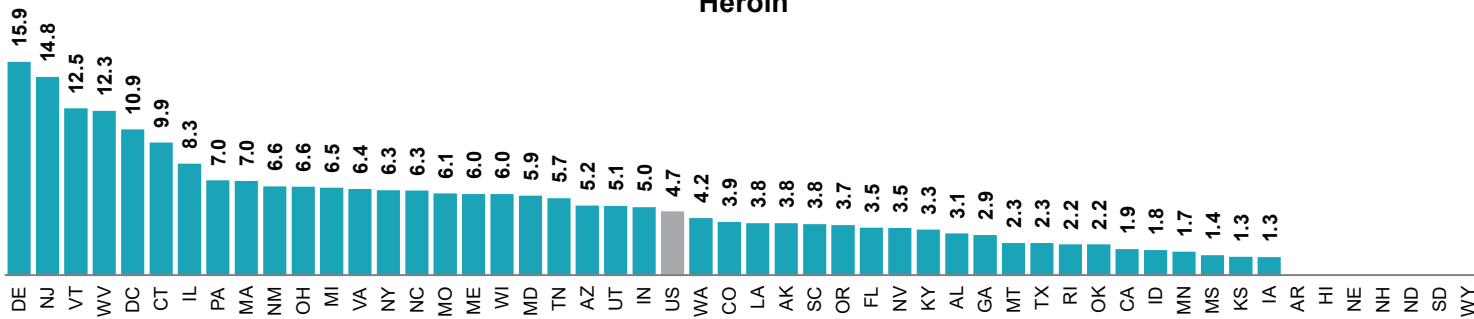
1. Includes overdose deaths involving any opioid, including natural and semi-synthetic opioids, synthetic opioids, heroin, as well as other opioids not broken out separately, such as opium, methadone, and other/unspecified opioids.



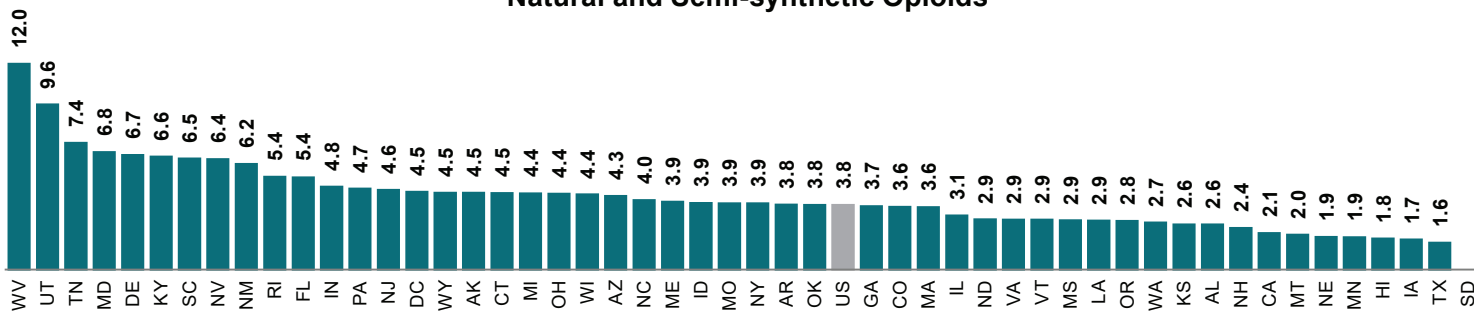
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Exploring State Variation: Drug Overdose Deaths per 100,000 people in 2018

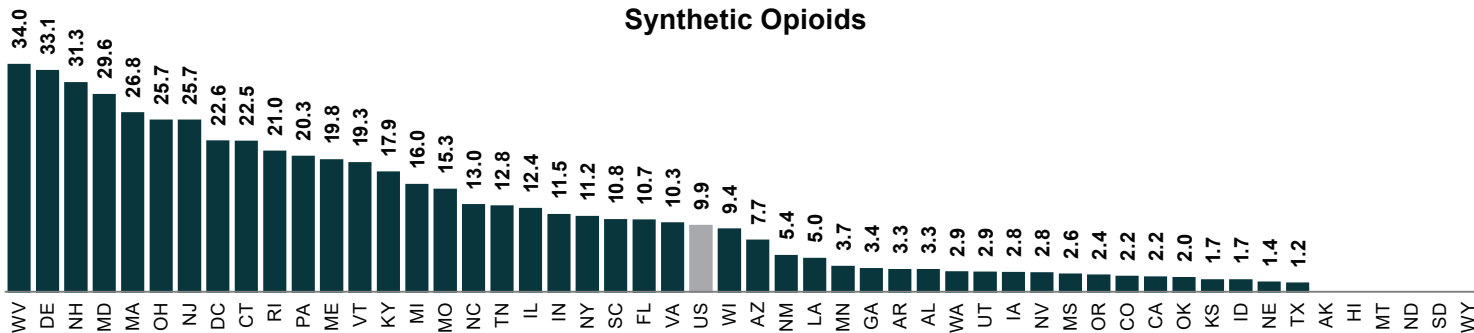
Heroin



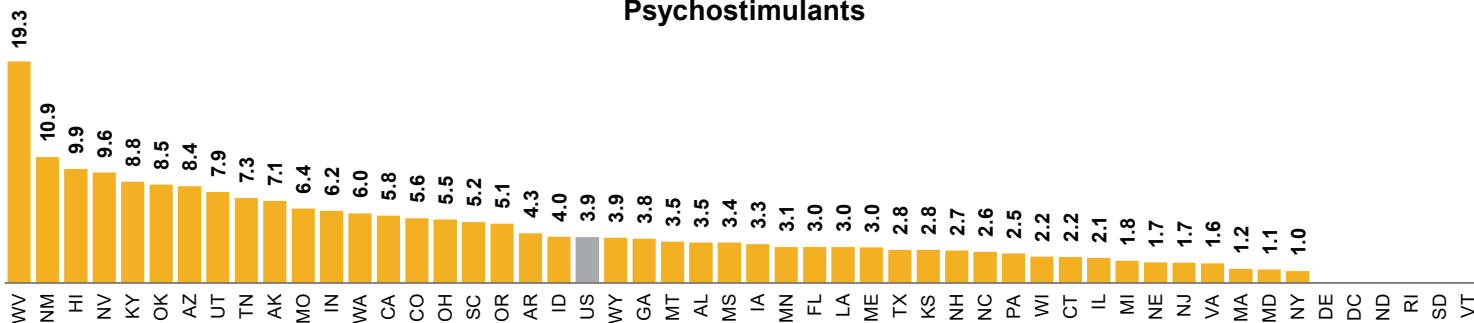
Natural and Semi-synthetic Opioids



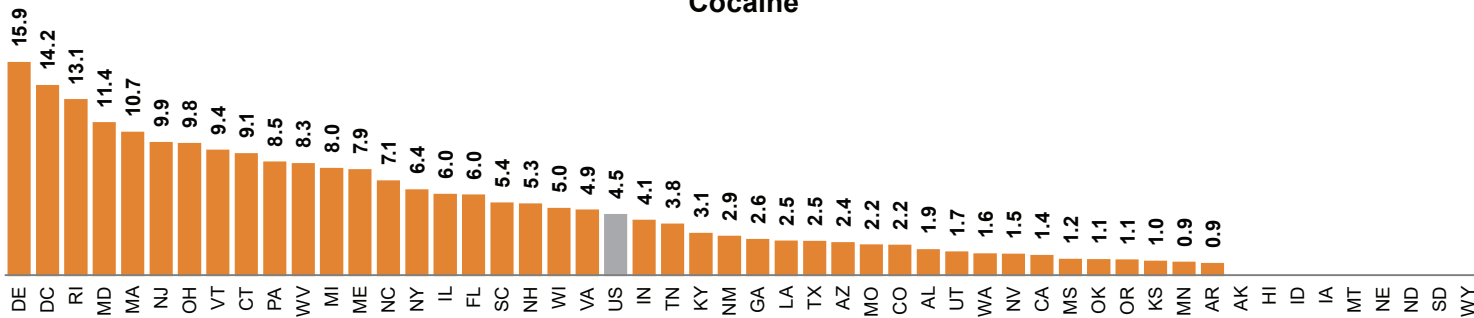
Synthetic Opioids



Psychostimulants



Cocaine



Definitions: Age-adjusted rates of deaths caused by drug poisoning (i.e., overdose), including those caused by natural and semi-synthetic opioids, synthetic opioids (non-methadone), the illegal opioid heroin, psychostimulants (including methamphetamine), and cocaine. For further definitions and source notes, visit SHADAC's State Health Compare.