



Opioid Use in Mecklenburg County

Public Health Response

Connie Mele, MSN, RN
Assistant Health Director

Mecklenburg County
Health Department

By 2015, enough pain pills had been prescribed for every American to be medicated around the clock for three straight weeks

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

What are opioids?

Class of prescription and illegal substances that are powerful pain relievers

Commonly Used Examples

- OxyContin
- Vicodin
- Percocet
- Morphine
- Hydrocodone
- Fentanyl
- Heroin
- Methadone

In North Carolina, since 1999, unintentional poisoning deaths have increased nearly

300%



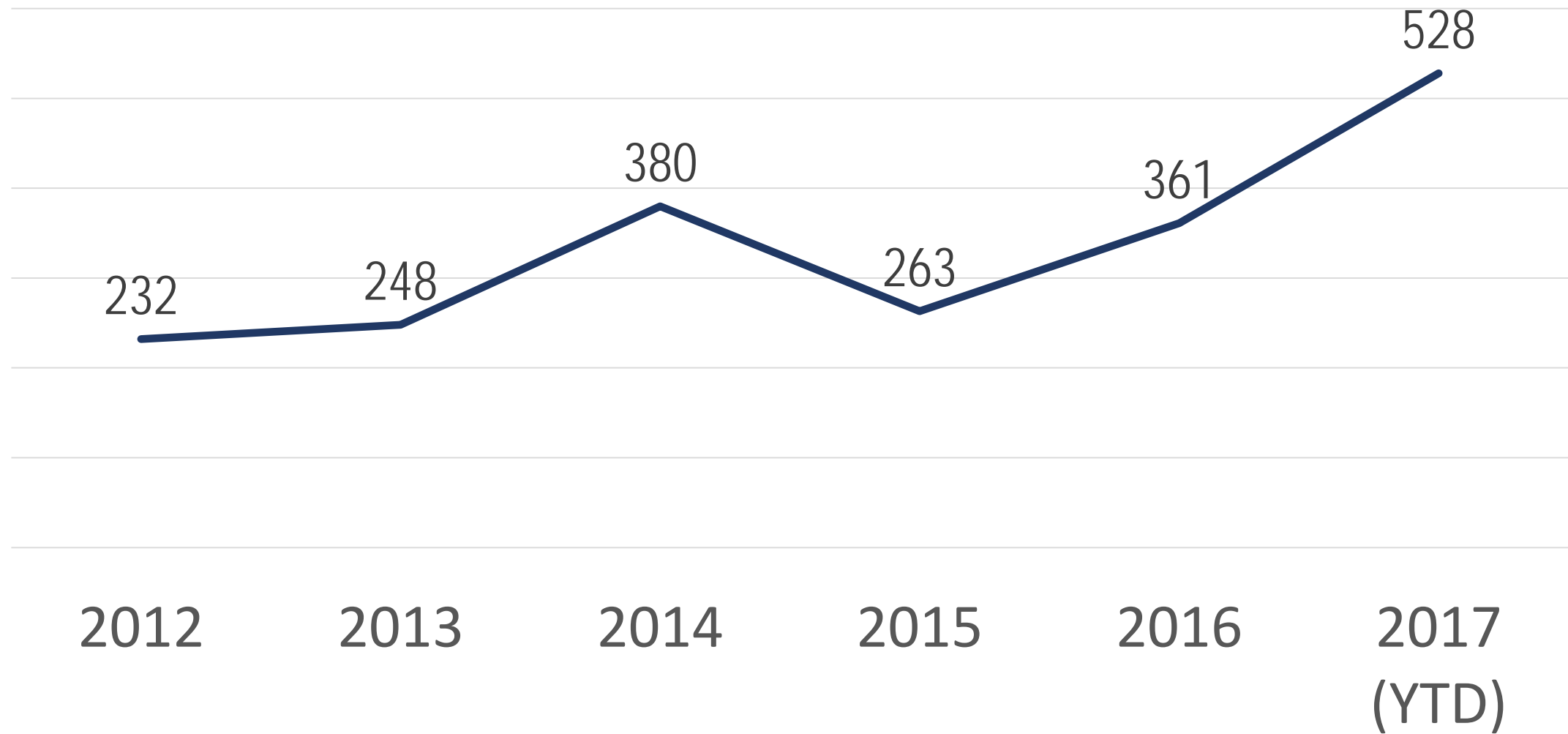
91% are caused by drugs and/or medication.



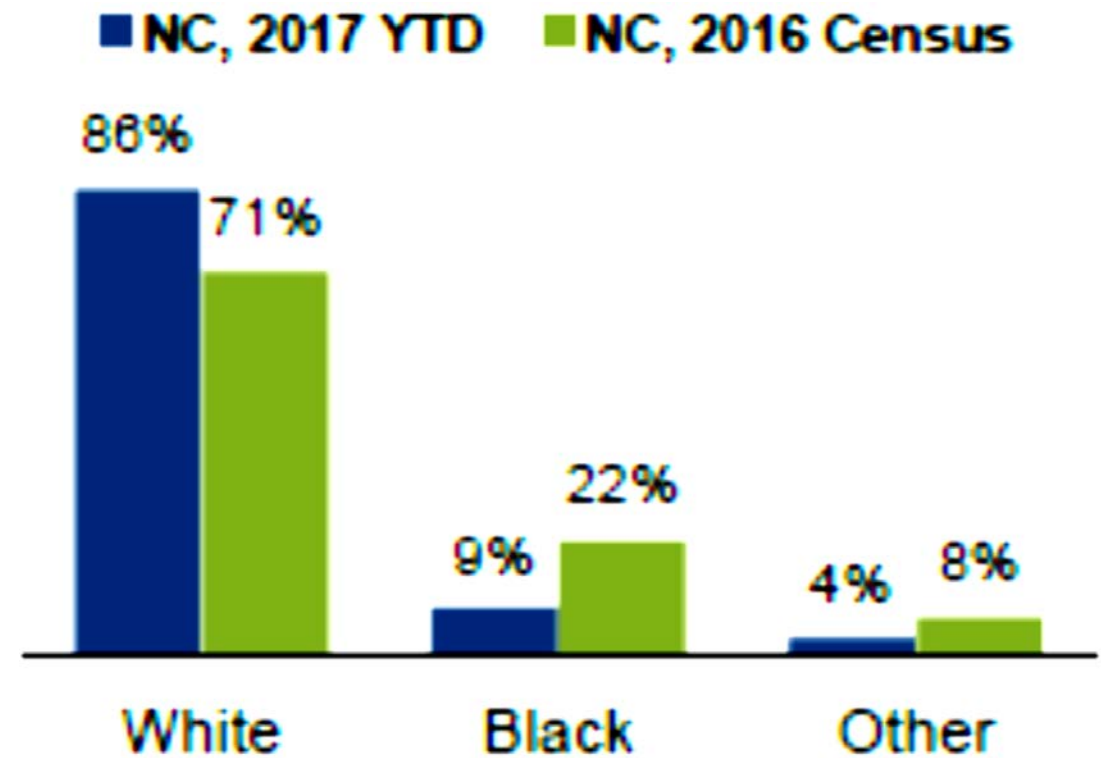
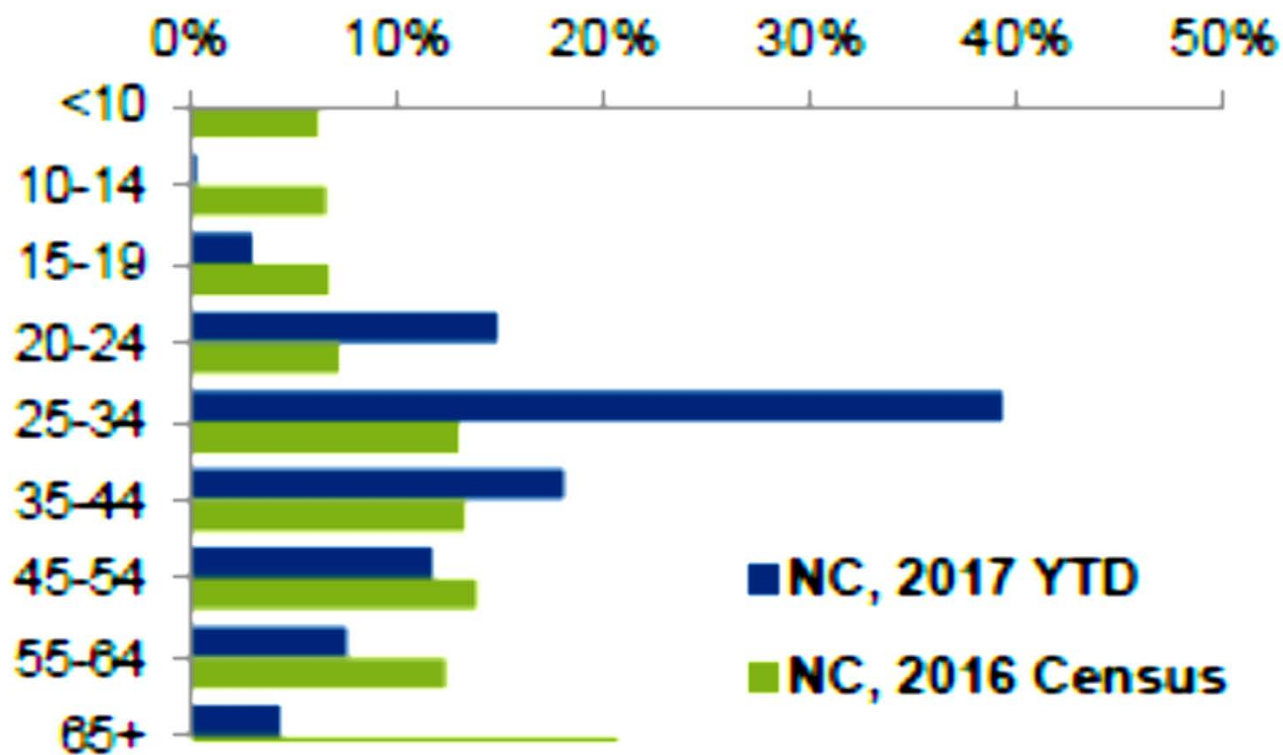
60% are attributable to opioids or cocaine.

Opioid Overdose ER Visits

Mecklenburg County 2012-2017 (YTD)



North Carolina ED Overdose Visits

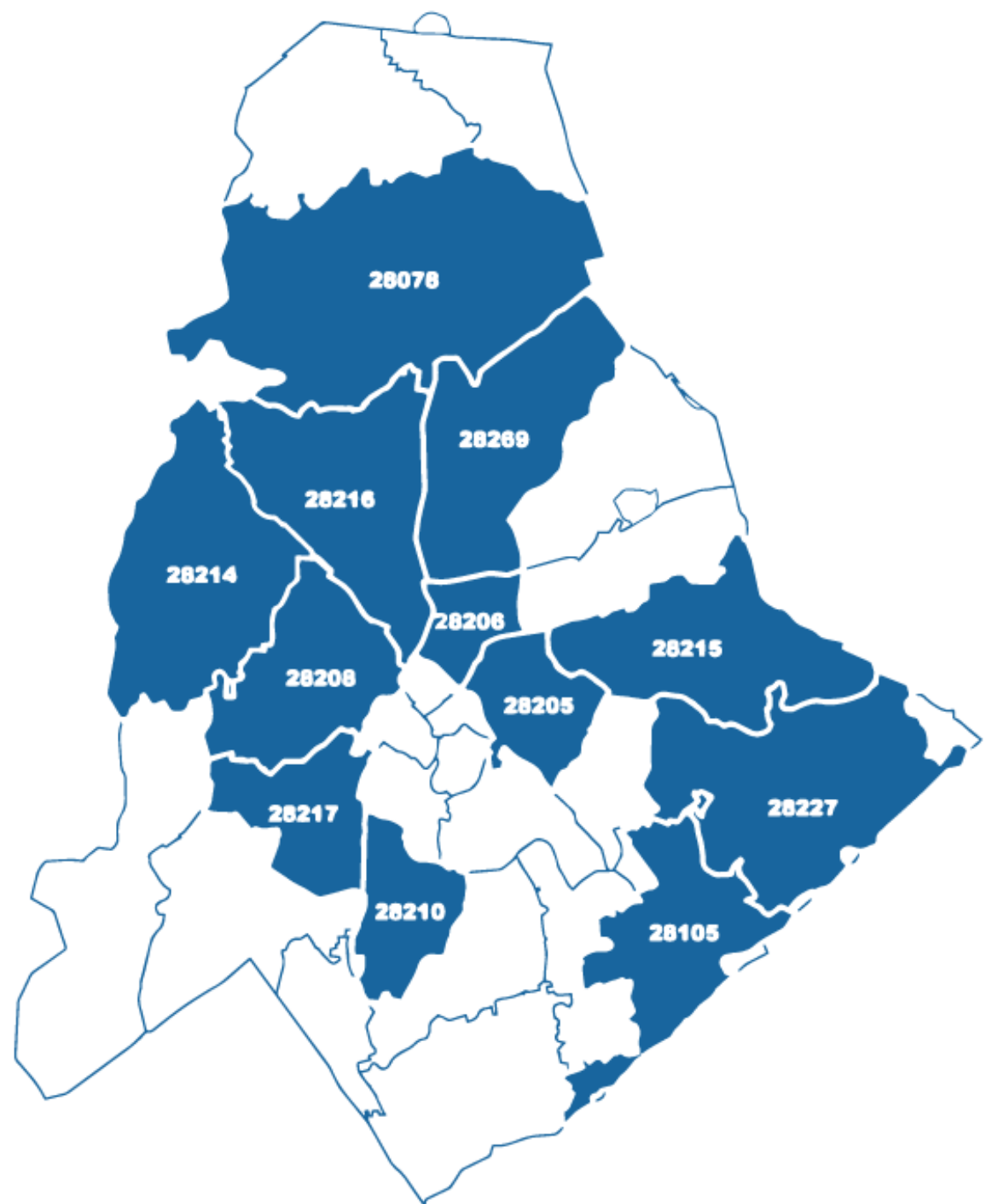


31% of student violations in 2nd academic quarter of 2016/17 school year involved controlled substances.(CMS, 2016)

2.2% of high school students reported having used heroin one or more times during their life.

(Mecklenburg County Youth Risk Behavioral Survey, 2013)

Top 12 Zip Codes Reporting ER Visits Due to Opioid Overdose



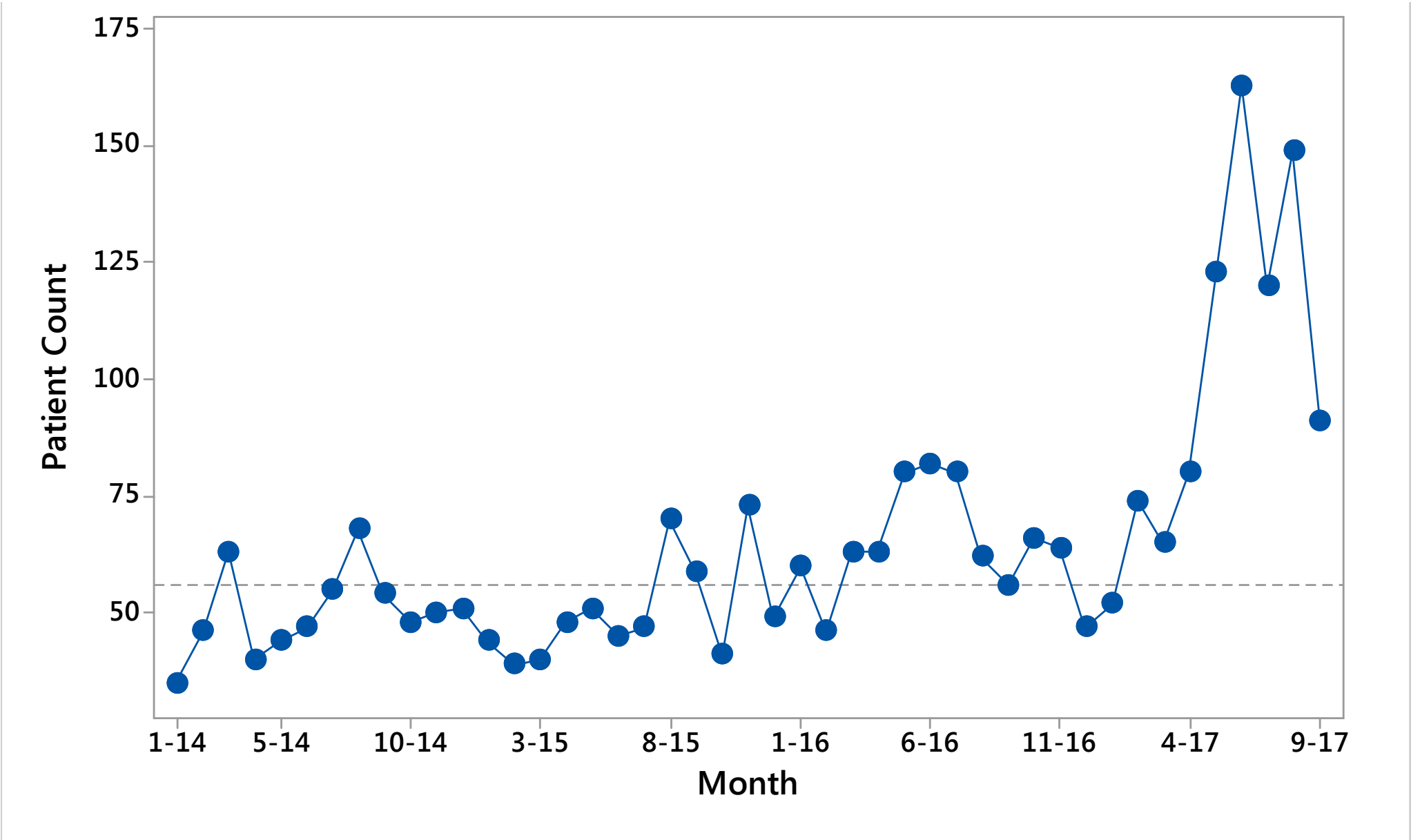


MEDIC Response

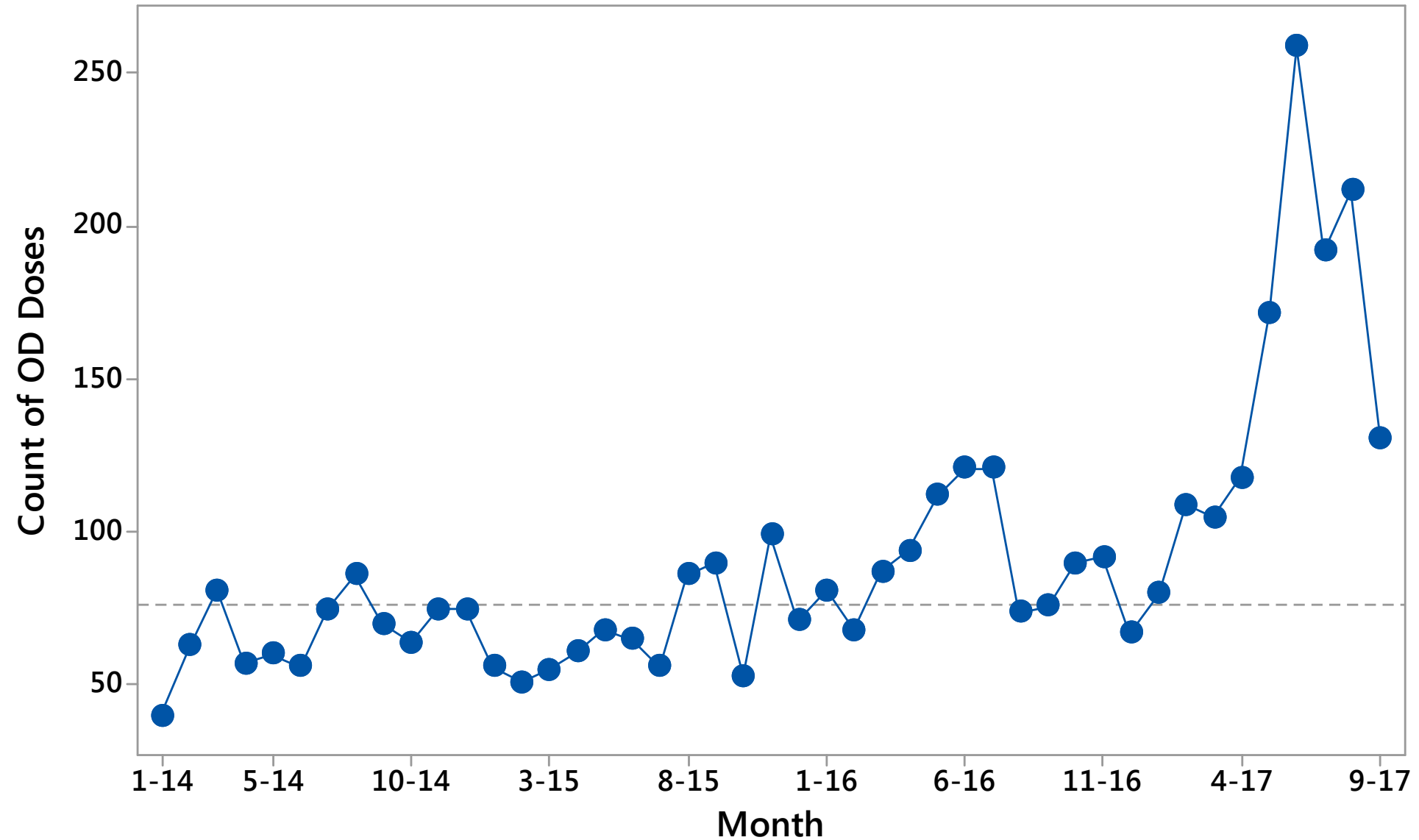
Joe Penner
Executive Director
MEDIC



Count of OD Patients Receiving Narcan by Month



Count of Narcan Doses for OD Patients by Month





Opioid Related Deaths Are On The Rise

Thomas D. Owens, M.D.

Forensic Pathologist

Chief Medical Examiner/ Department Director

Mecklenburg County Office of the Medical Examiner

“NEW” opioids

NPS- novel psychoactive substances

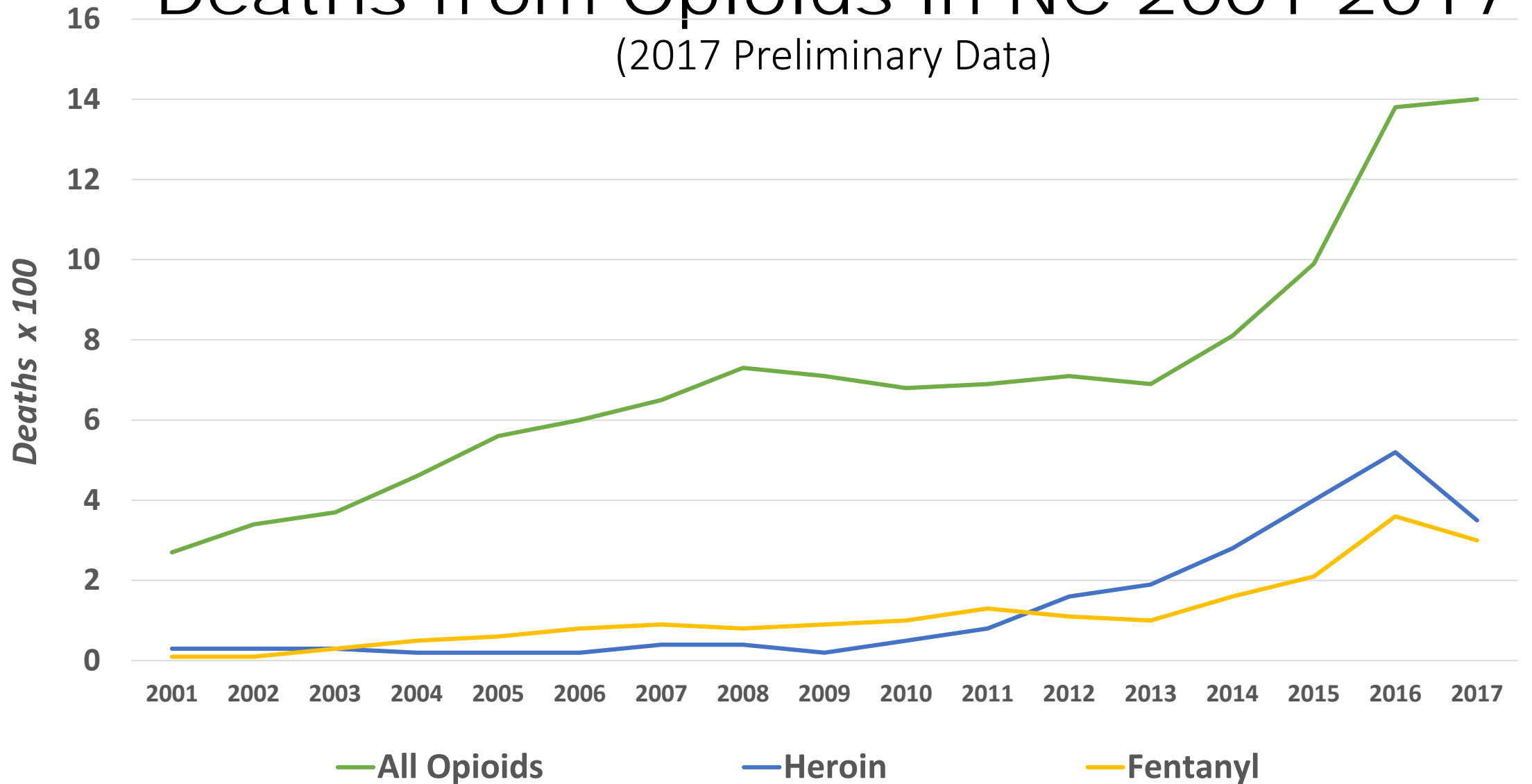
- Modified (analogues) to bypass US drug laws
- Many produced in illicit labs

Includes:

- SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS- mimic effects of morphine, oxycodone, heroin, other prescription opiate pain pills; -fentanyl, multiple fentanyl analogues, novel drugs like U-4770 (China)

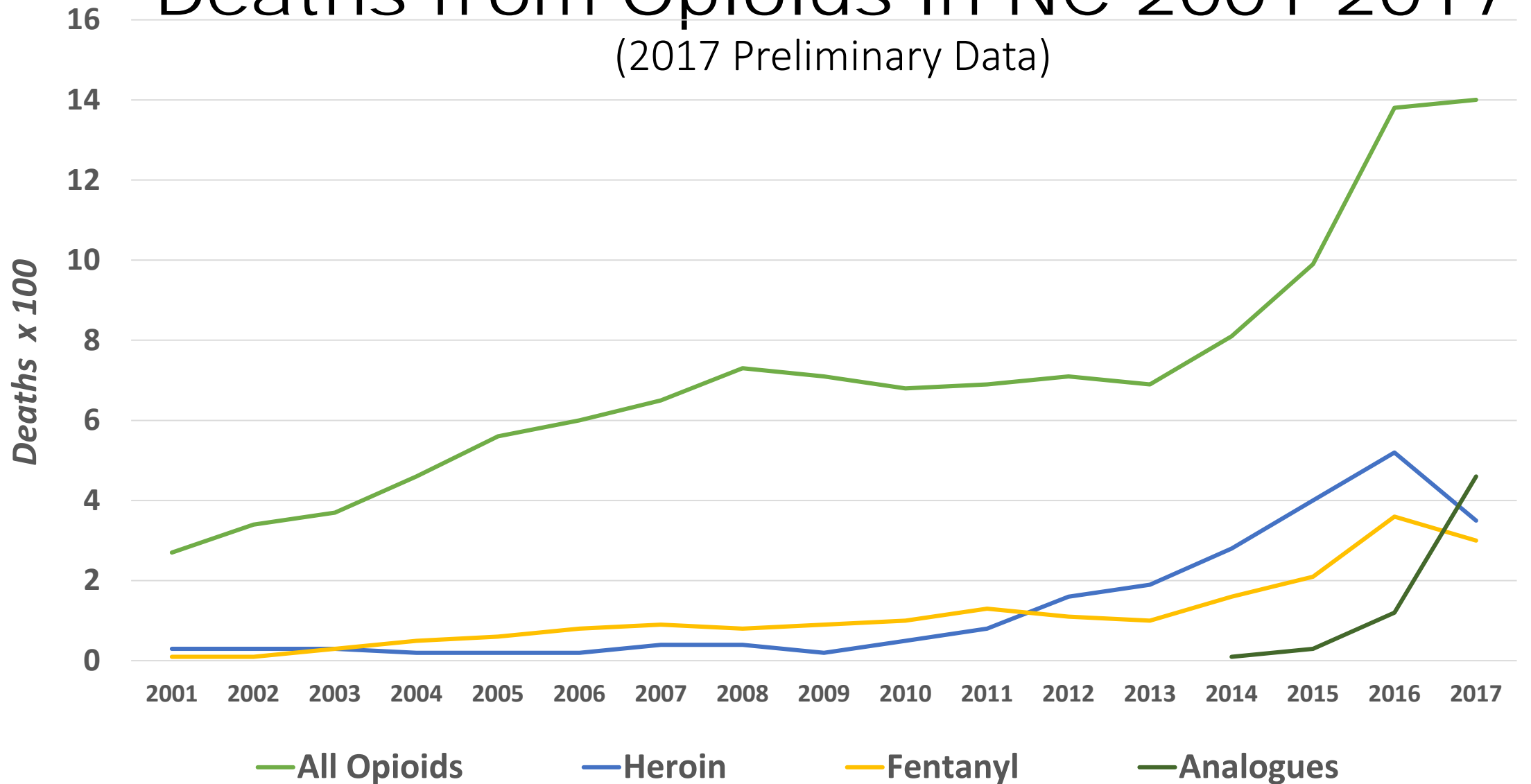
Deaths from Opioids in NC 2001-2017

(2017 Preliminary Data)



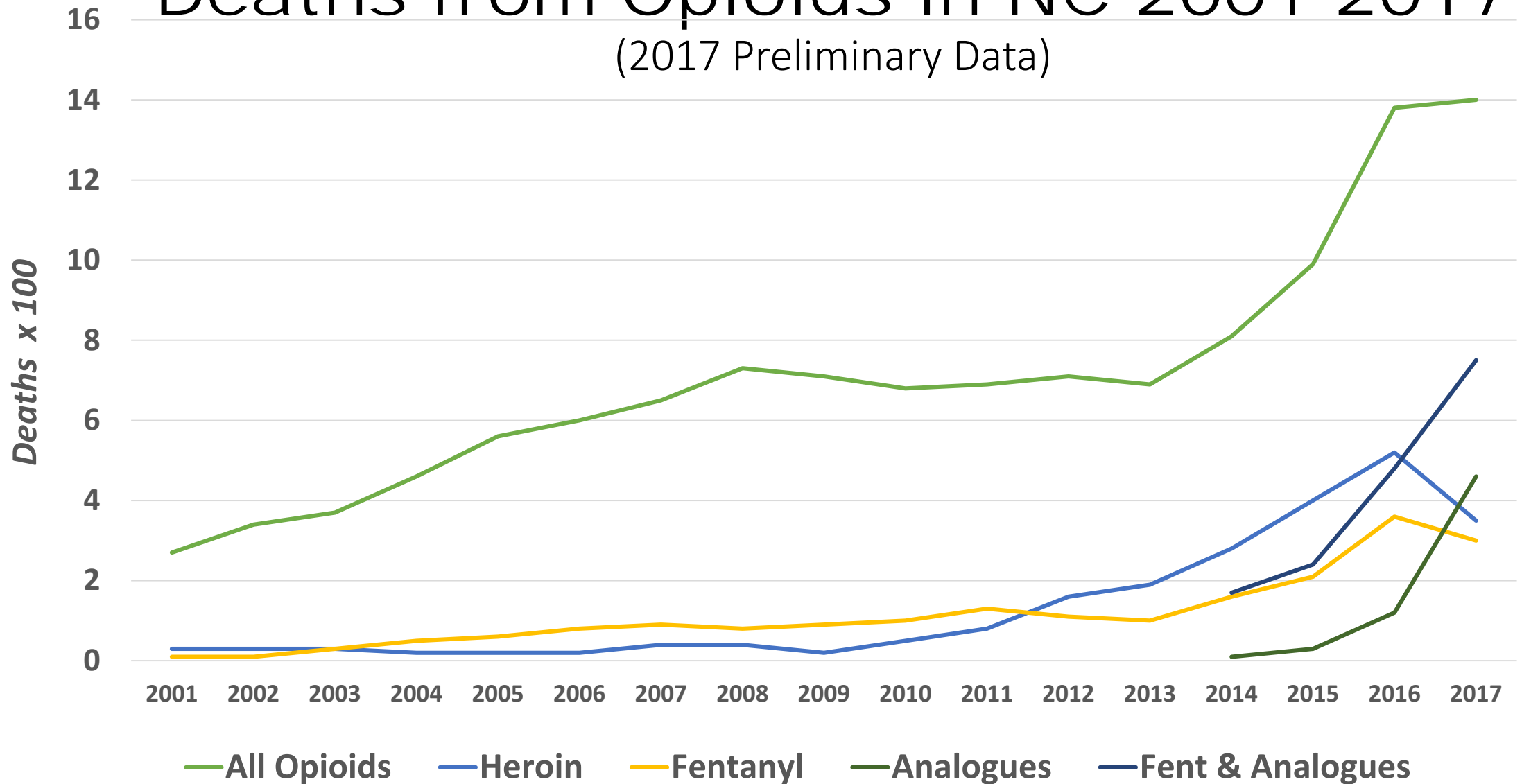
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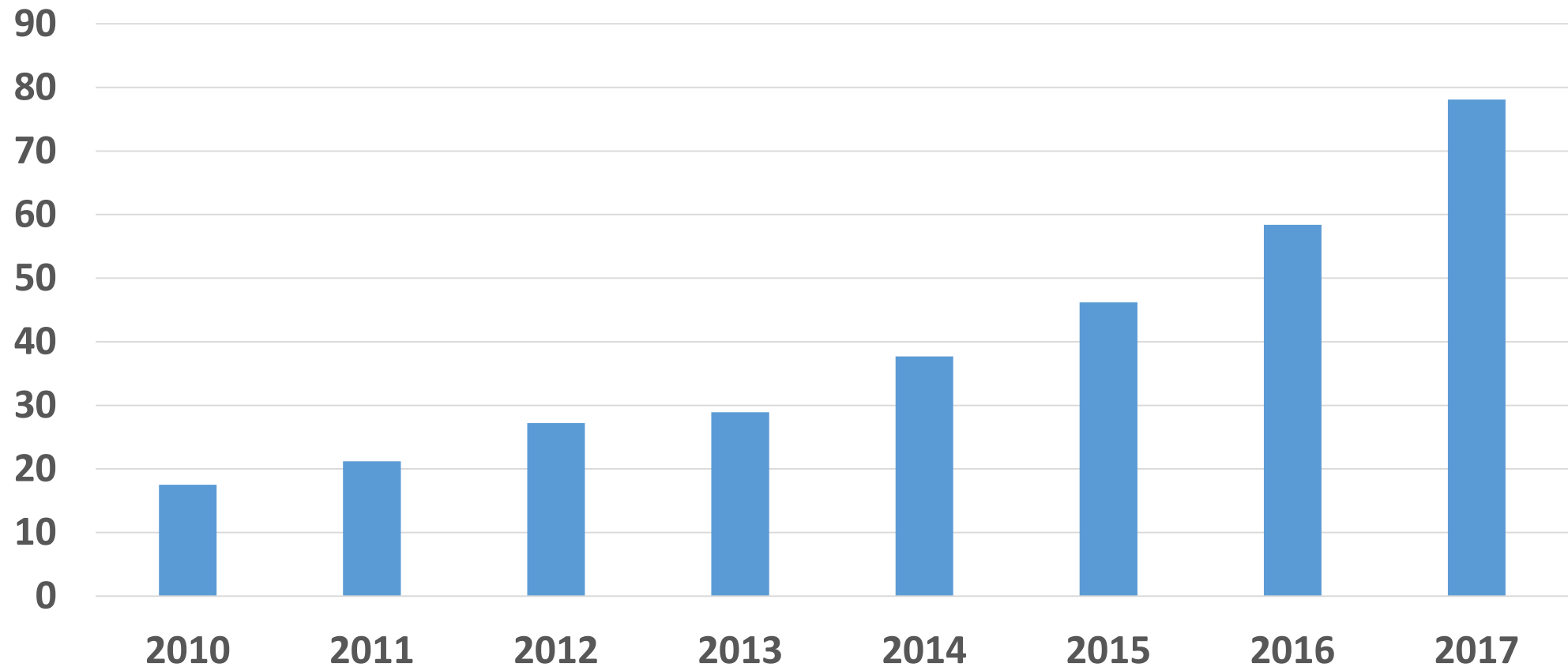


Deaths from Opioids in NC 2001-2017

(2017 Preliminary Data)



Percentage of Opioid Deaths from Heroin, Fentanyl, and Fentanyl Analogues in NC



2015 and 2016 Opioid Death Totals in NC

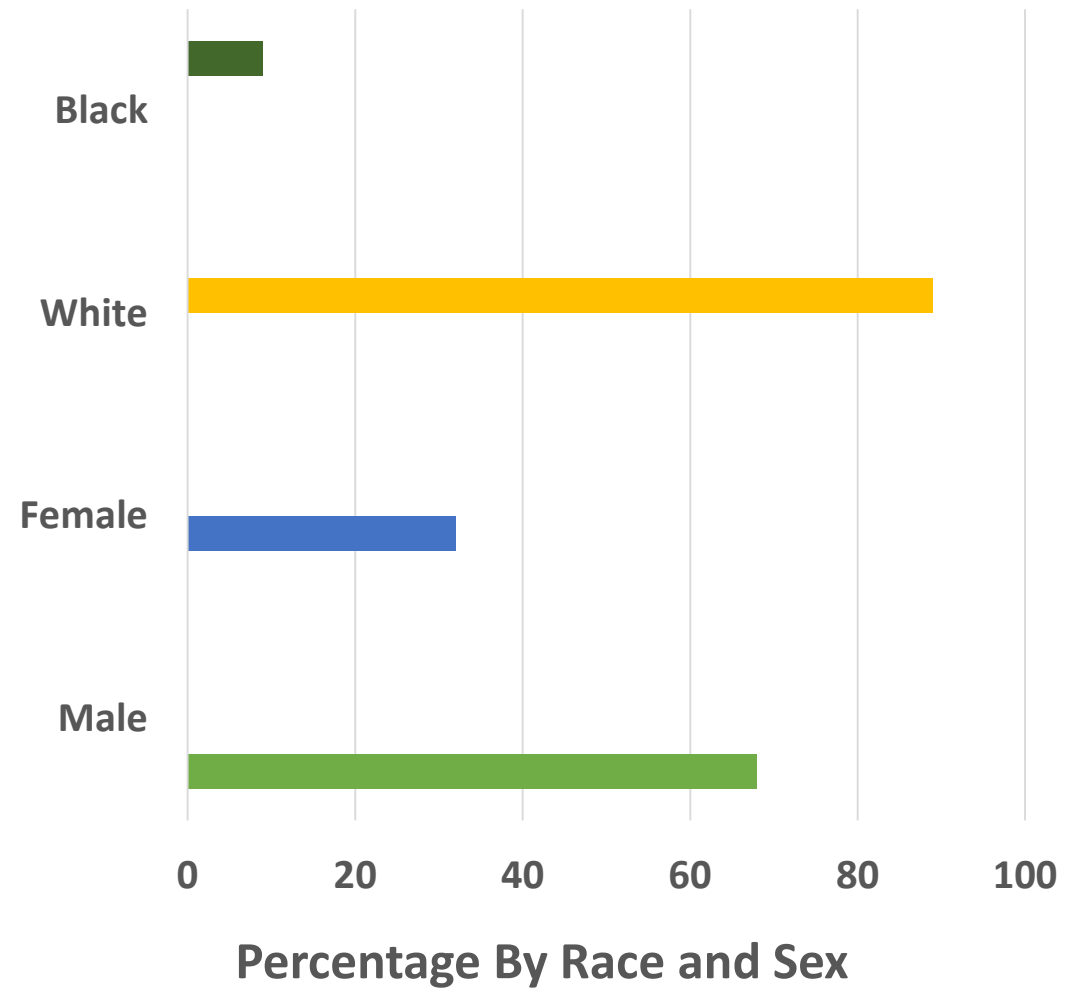
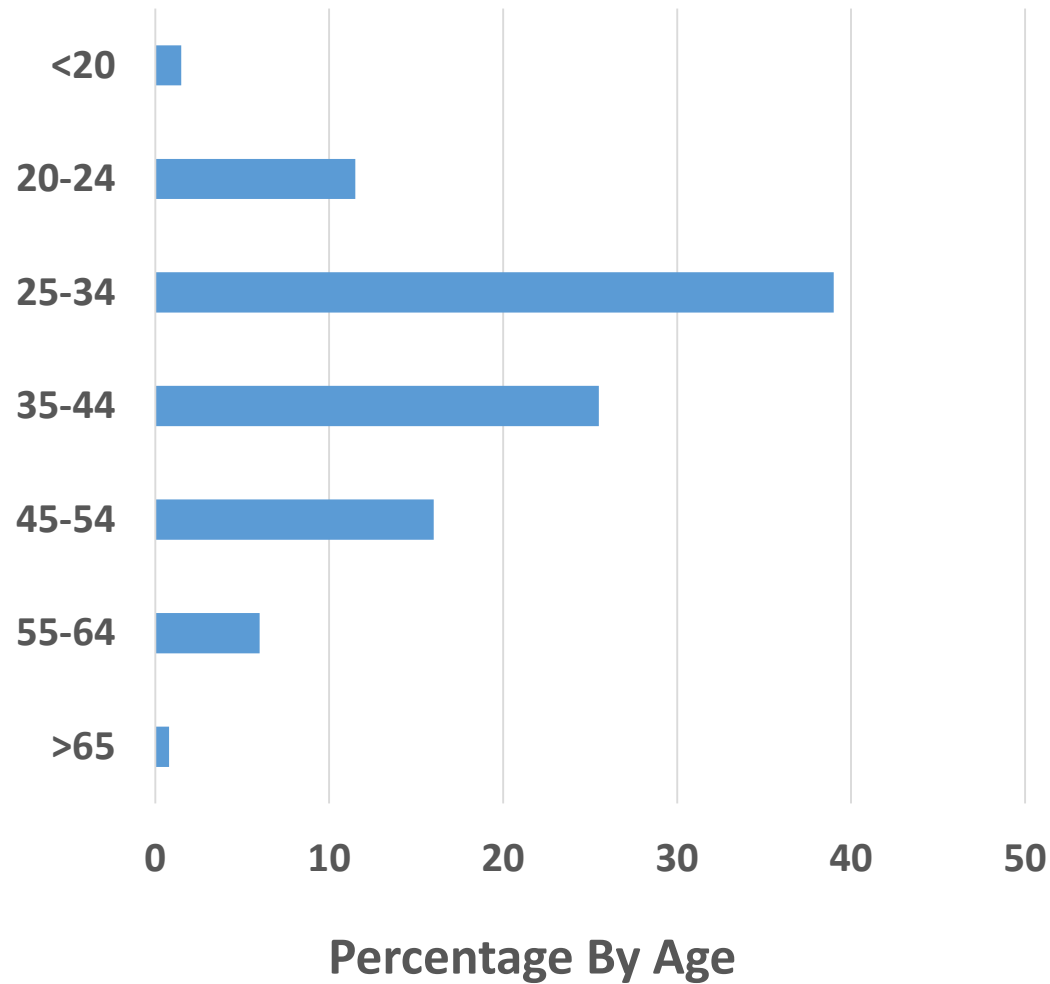
County	Total Deaths	
	2015	2016
Wake	62	82
Mecklenburg	61	112
Forsyth	53	40
Guilford	47	85

Urban County

County	Total Deaths	
	2015	2016
Randolph	30	7
Wilkes	24	5
Caldwell	23	6
Stokes	13	2

Rural County

Demographics of Deaths (2016)



Addressing the Increased Demand on Medical Examiner's Office

Modifications to Operations in the ME Office

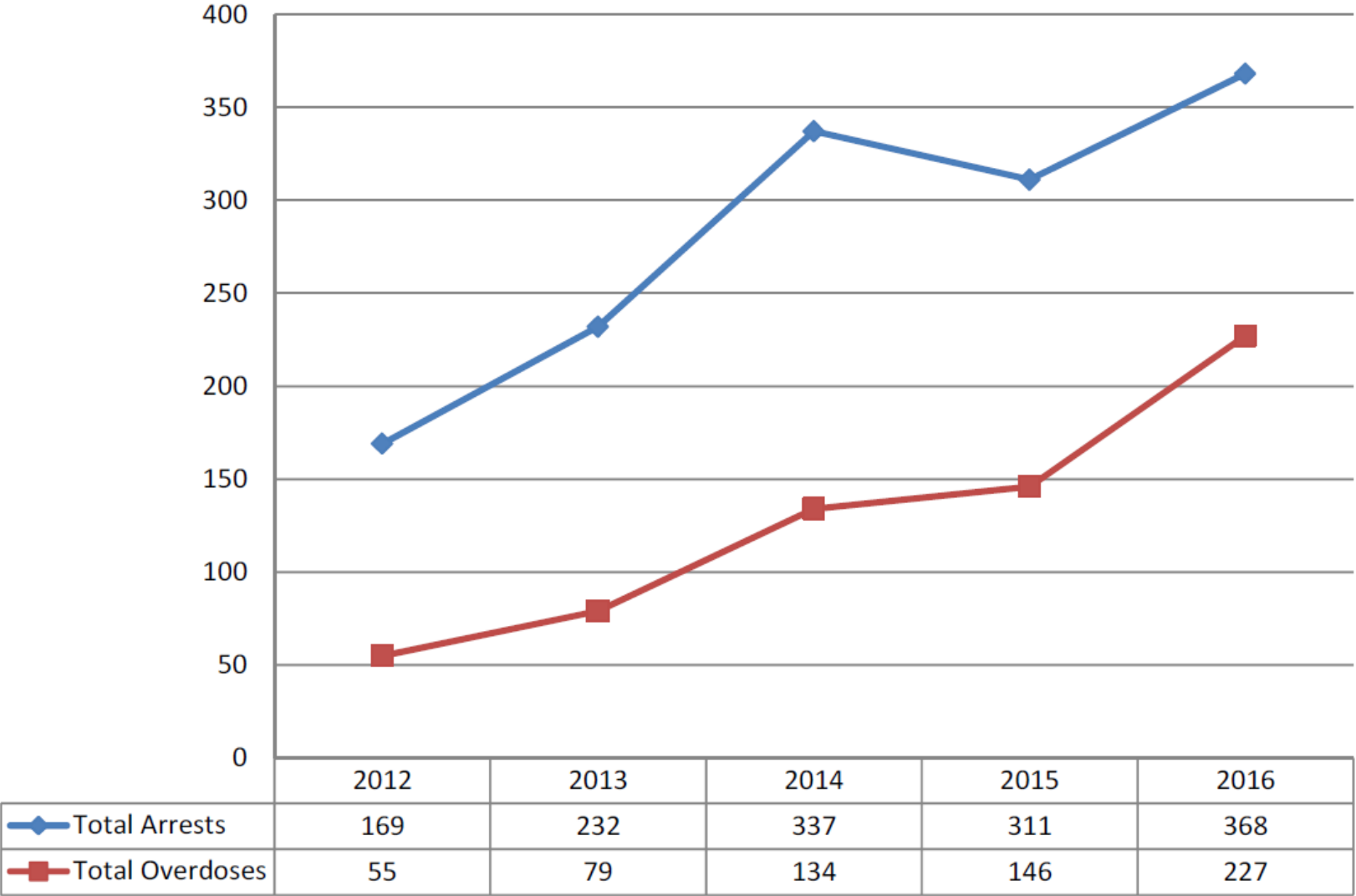
- Coordinate with State OCME office for more real-time data collection
- Increased storage space in coolers
- Make other counties we serve identify storage space within those counties as required by State Statutes (County Morgue)
- Delay NAME certification for the office
- Directed exam/partial autopsy



Criminal Justice Response

Sonya L. Harper
Department Director
Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services Department

CMPD Heroin Related Arrests and Overdoses 2012-2016



CMPD Data



55%

increase in heroin related
overdose incidents
2015 to 2016

White males age 20-49 made up 58% of
heroin overdose victims

White female heroin overdose victims,
age 20-39, increased from 28 to 60

The number of African American heroin
overdose victims increased from 15 to 20

Mecklenburg Opioid Systemic Response Plan

- Criminal Justice Services
- Public Health
- UNC - Charlotte
- US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA)
- \$368,798 over 36 months

Project Deliverables

- Create an opioid track within the jail's substance use program and Drug Treatment Court
- Utilize Peer Support services within the jail's opioid track and within the community
- Initiate MAT prior to the release from jail
- Provide opioid specific training to service providers working with justice involved opioid users



Opportunities To Address The Problem

North Carolina STOP Act

- Requires prescribers and pharmacies to check the prescription database before prescribing opioids
- Institutes a five-day limit on initial prescriptions for acute pain
- Increases access to naloxone
- Allows local governments to support needle exchange programs

Restrict Supply

Advocate for ALL prescribers to be required to enroll and utilize North Carolina's Controlled Substance Reporting System.

Physician awareness about alternative pain treatments.

Improve number of secure prescription drug drop boxes for safe collection and disposal of unused medications.

Educate

Destigmatize

Protective Factors Education for Students

Advocacy for individualized, comprehensive treatment that is available, affordable and on demand

Importance of Social Determinants of Health in maintaining recovery

Substance Use Disorder Task Force

Opioid Summit – February & March 2017

Work groups formed on top issues



Questions?