

An Update on Arizona Overdose Trends

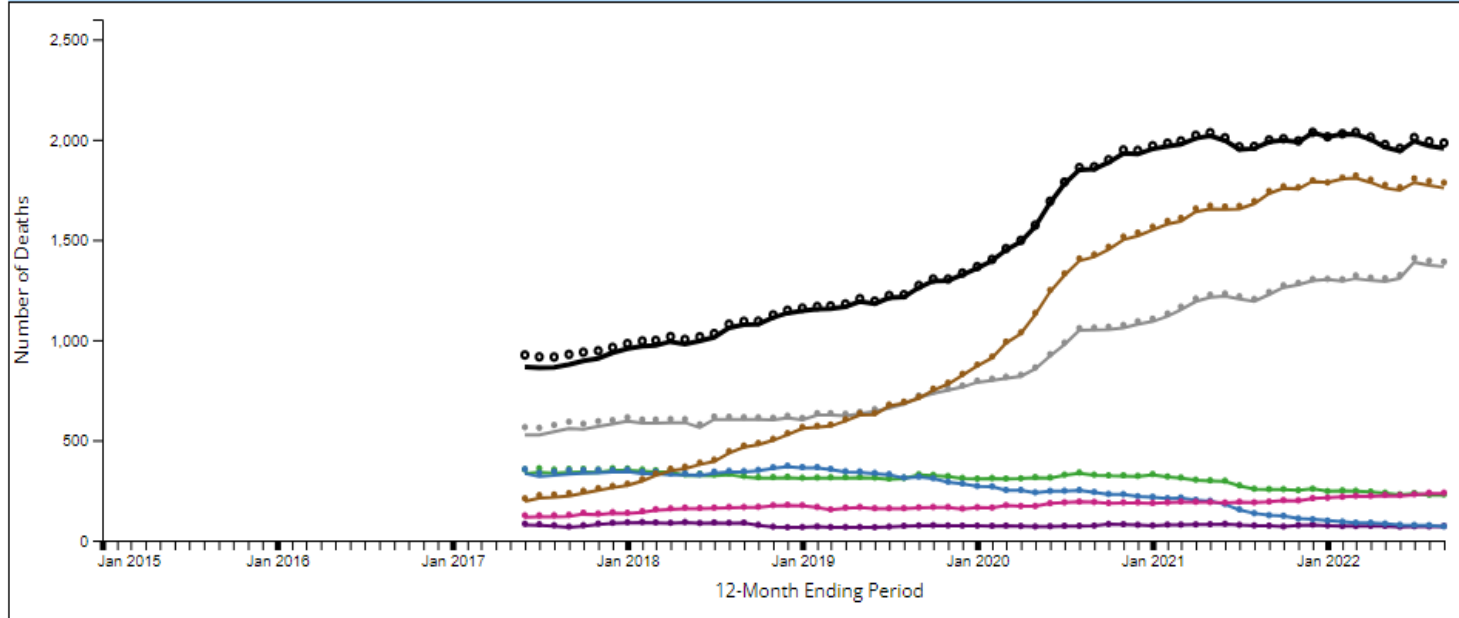
April 5, 2023

Sheila Sjolander, Deputy Director
Public Health Services



CDC 12 Month-ending Provisional Drug Overdoses

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: Arizona



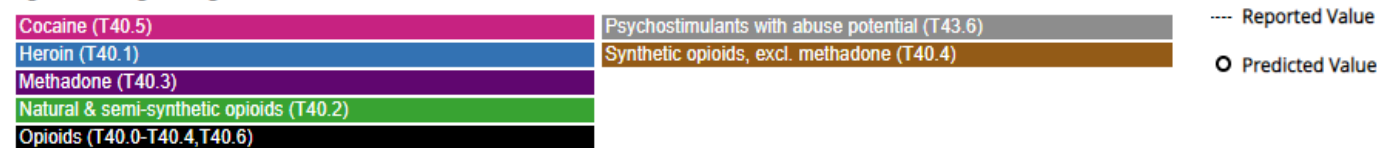
As of Oct 2022:

1,964 deaths involving opioids

1,375 deaths involving psychostimulants

In prior 12 months

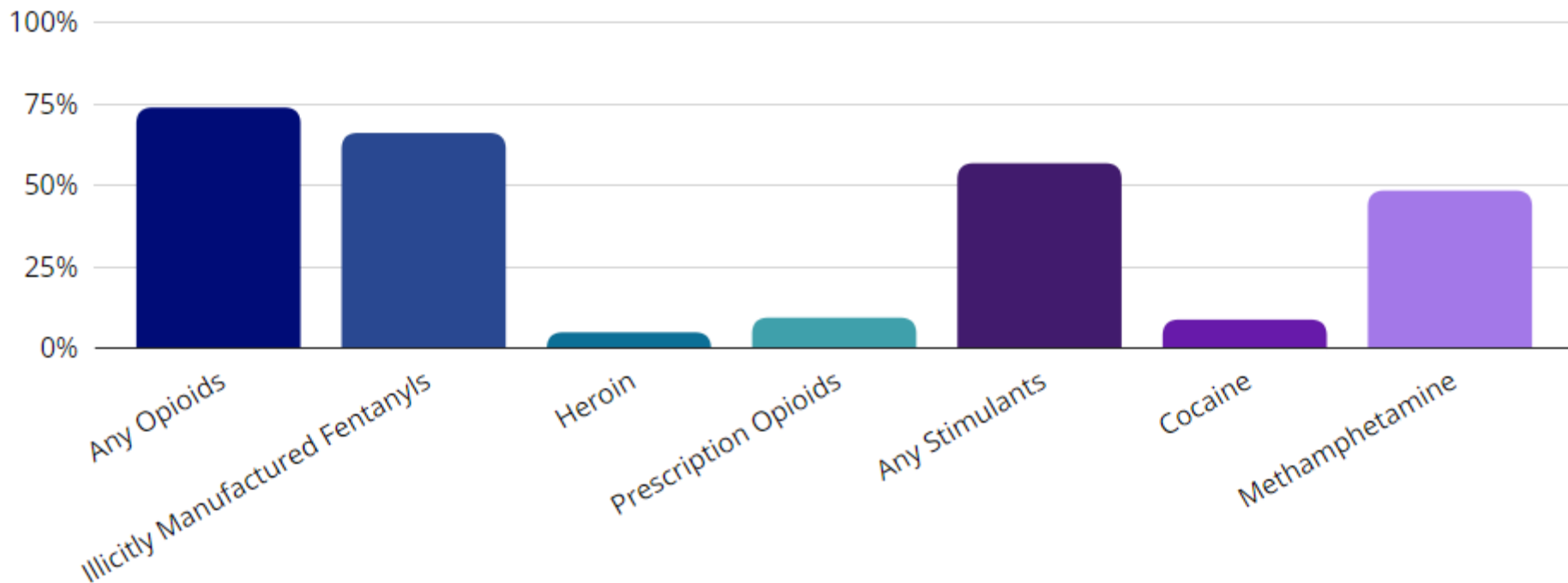
Legend for Drug or Drug Class



Total Number of Reported Overdose Deaths in Past 12 Months in Arizona

- Oct 2020: 2,615
- Oct 2021: 2,728
- Oct 2022: 2,726

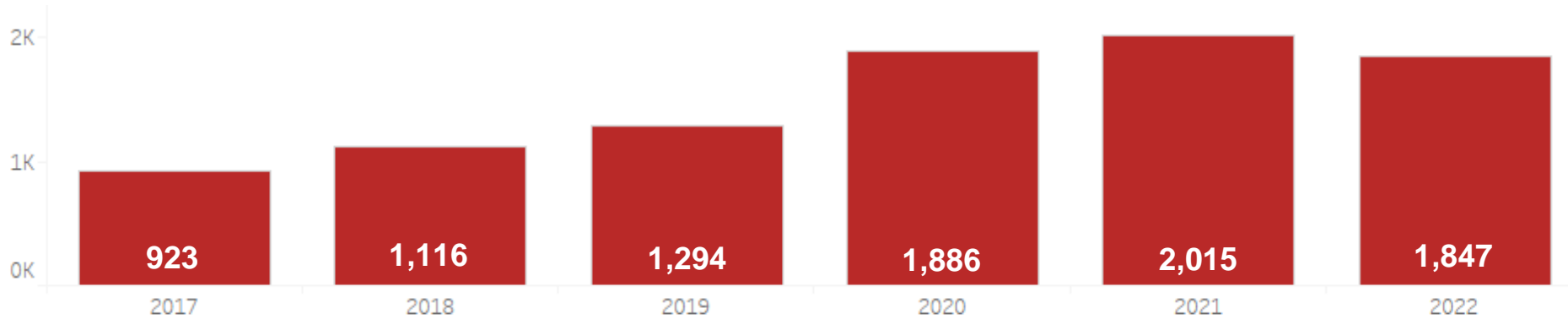
Of all drug overdose deaths in 2021, 74% involved at least one opioid and 57% involved at least one stimulant.



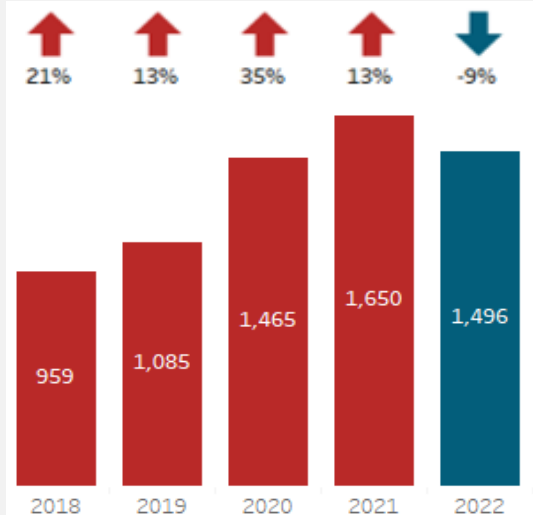
Approximately **5 Arizonans a day** died from opioids in 2022

Opioid deaths in Arizona by year, All Years

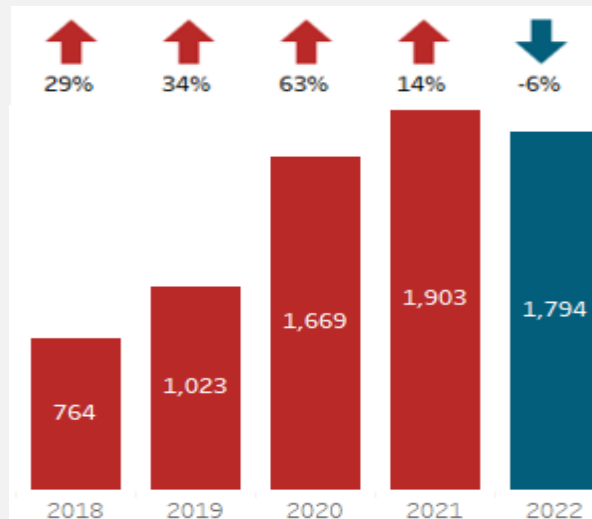
**Data may not be complete for the last 4 months*



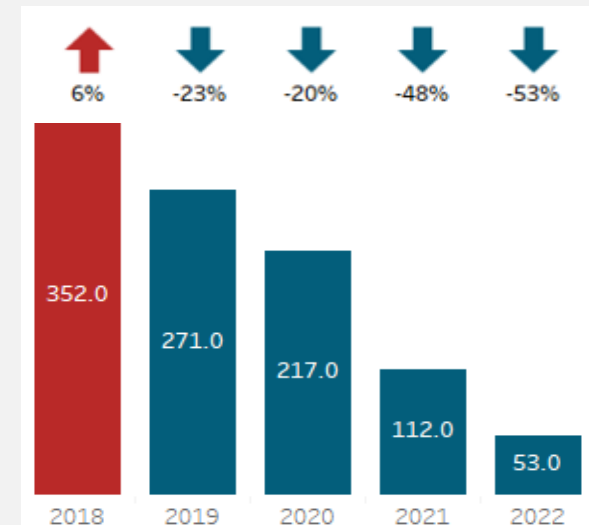
In 2022, 81% of opioid deaths involved multiple drugs;
Decreasing trend



In 2022, 97% of opioid deaths involved Rx/Synthetic drugs;
Decreasing trend

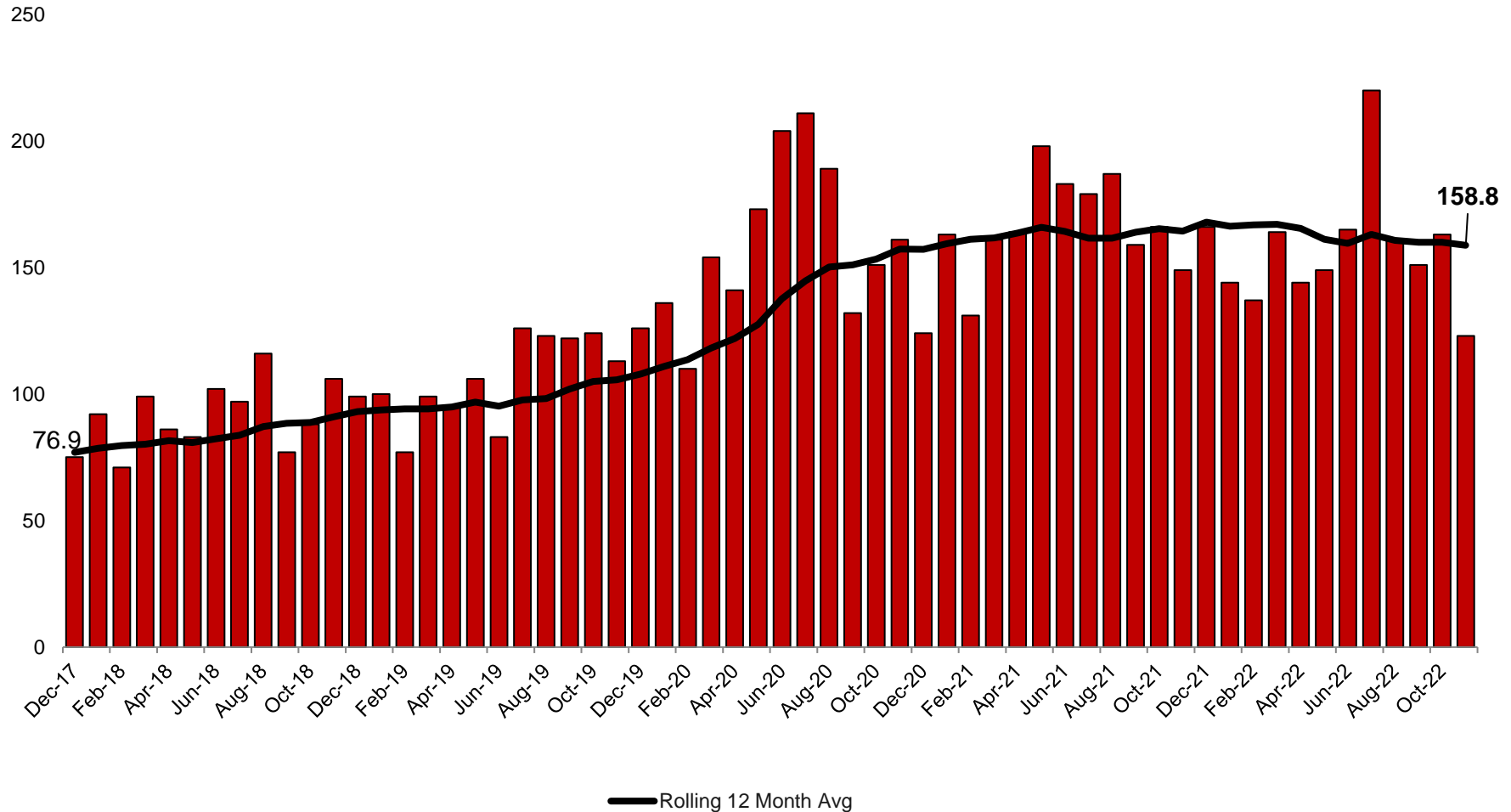


In 2022, 3% of opioid deaths involved Heroin;
Decreasing trend



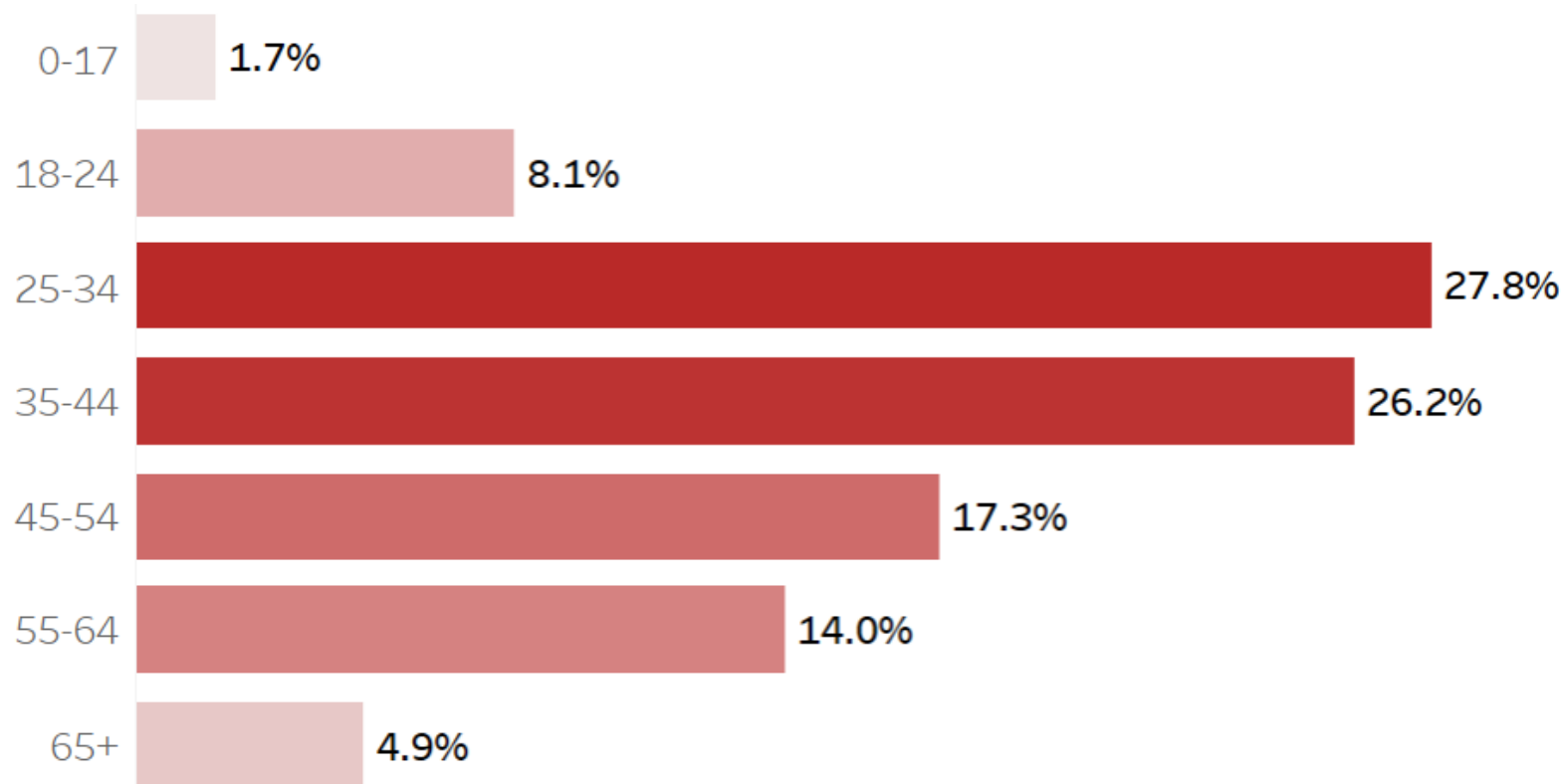
The total number of opioid overdose deaths may be **leveling off**

Confirmed Opioid Deaths, Dec. 2017 - Nov. 2022
(~4 month delay)



In 2022, two-thirds of opioid deaths were among people aged 25-54.

The highest rate of fatalities occurred among 35-44 year-olds (54.0 per 100,000 population).

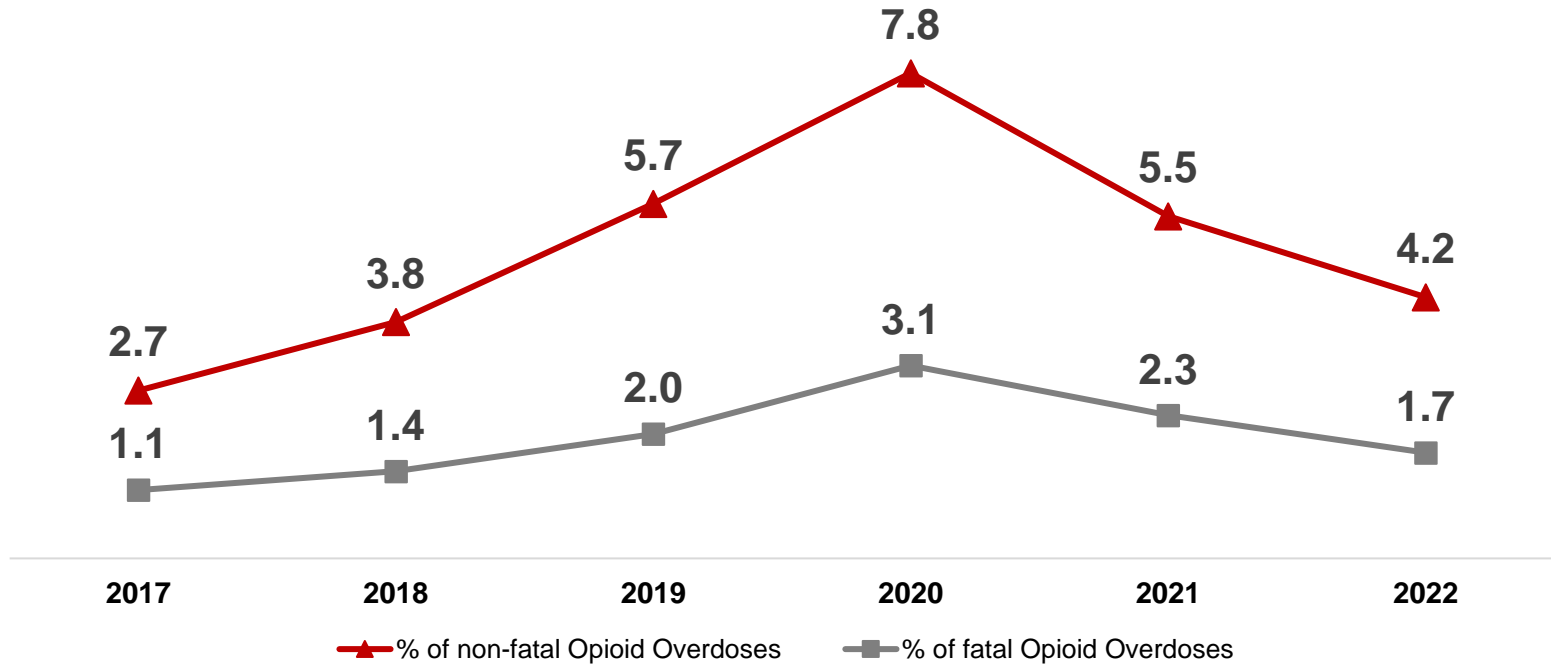


Among children ages 0-17 in 2022 there were...

138 Non-fatal Opioid Overdoses

32 Fatal Opioid Overdoses

Fatal and Non-Fatal Opioid Overdoses among children (0-17 Years),
2017-2022



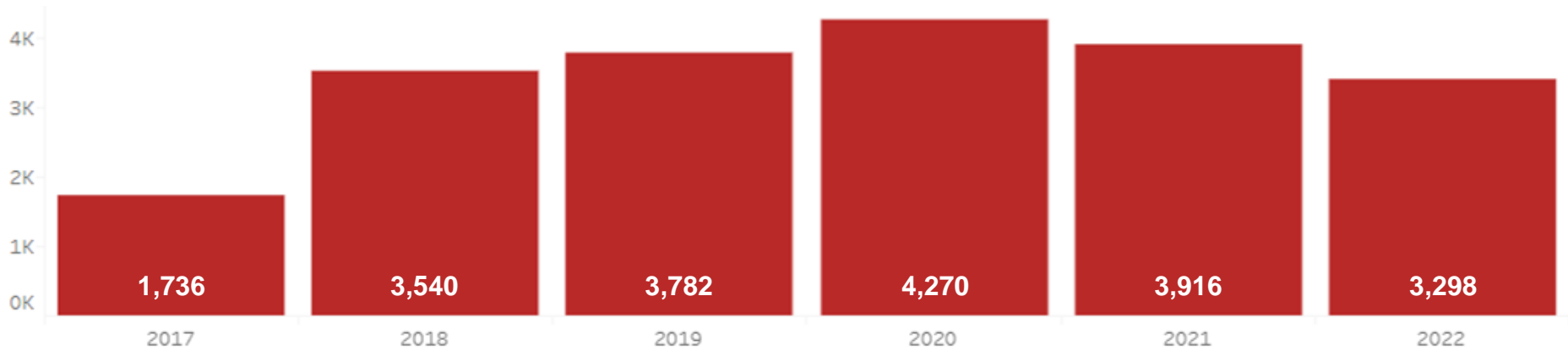
Data Sources:

Non-Fatal Overdoses (Arizona - Medical Electronic Disease Surveillance Intelligence System (MEDSIS))

Fatal Overdoses (Arizona Vital Statistics, Death Certificates)

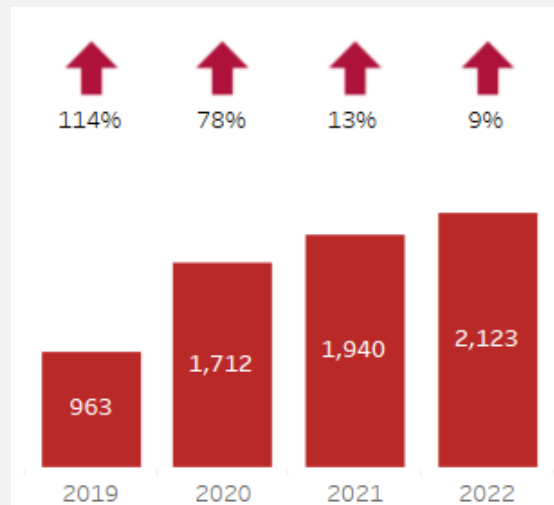
Approximately **9** Arizonans a day had a non-fatal opioid overdose in 2022

Verified non-fatal opioid overdose events in Arizona by Year, All Years

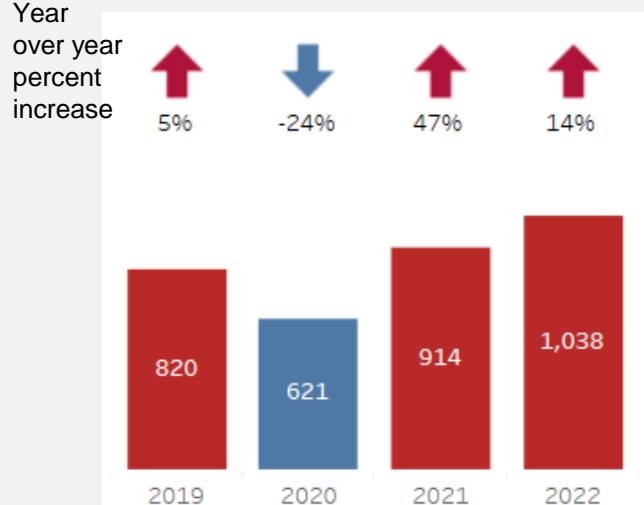


ADHS Opioid Dashboard: <https://www.azdhs.gov/opioid/index.php#dashboards-nonfatal-overdoses>

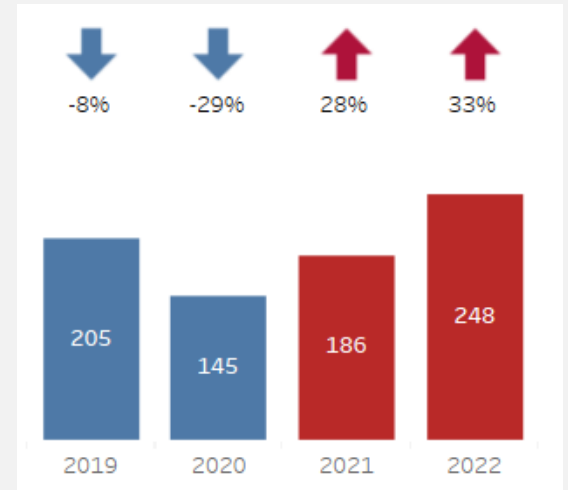
In 2022, 64% of non-fatal opioid events have involved fentanyl;
level trend



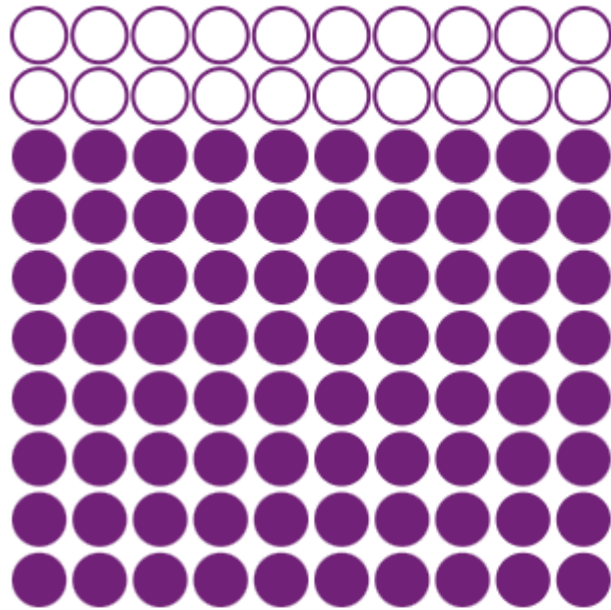
In 2022, 32% of non-fatal opioid events have involved Meth/Amphetamine;
increasing trend



In 2022, 8% of non-fatal opioid deaths have involved Cocaine;
Increasing trend

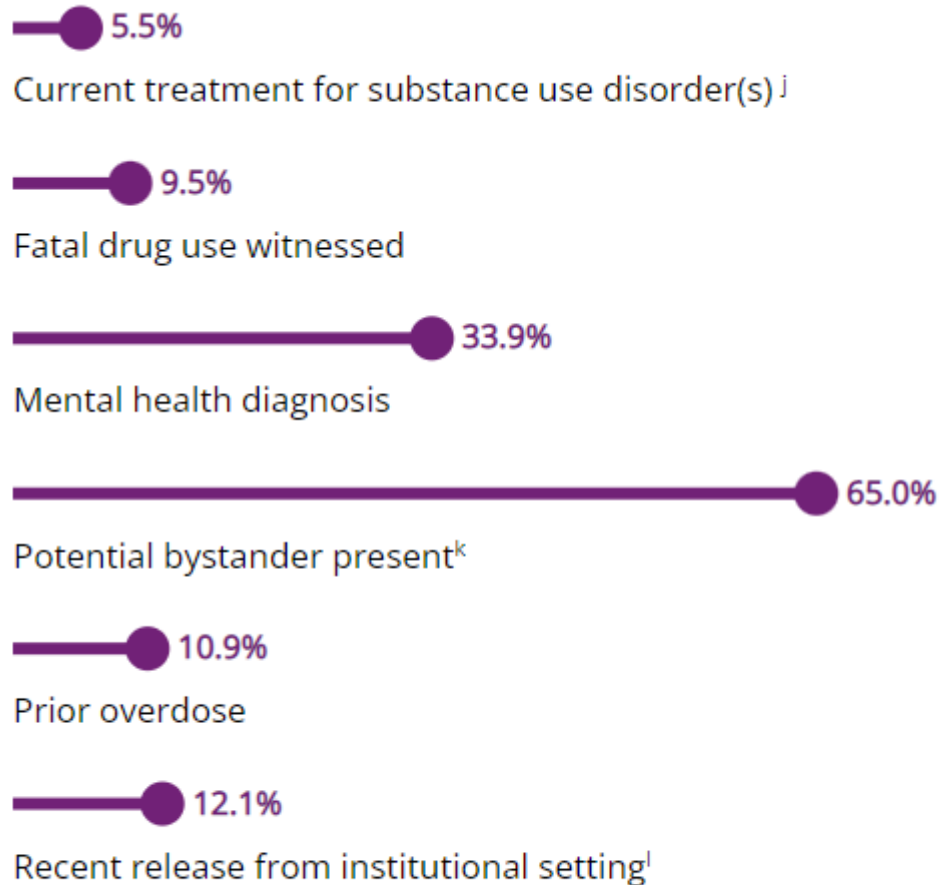


Potential opportunities for intervention (all unintentional drug overdoses in Arizona) include linkages to care or life-saving actions



80.9%

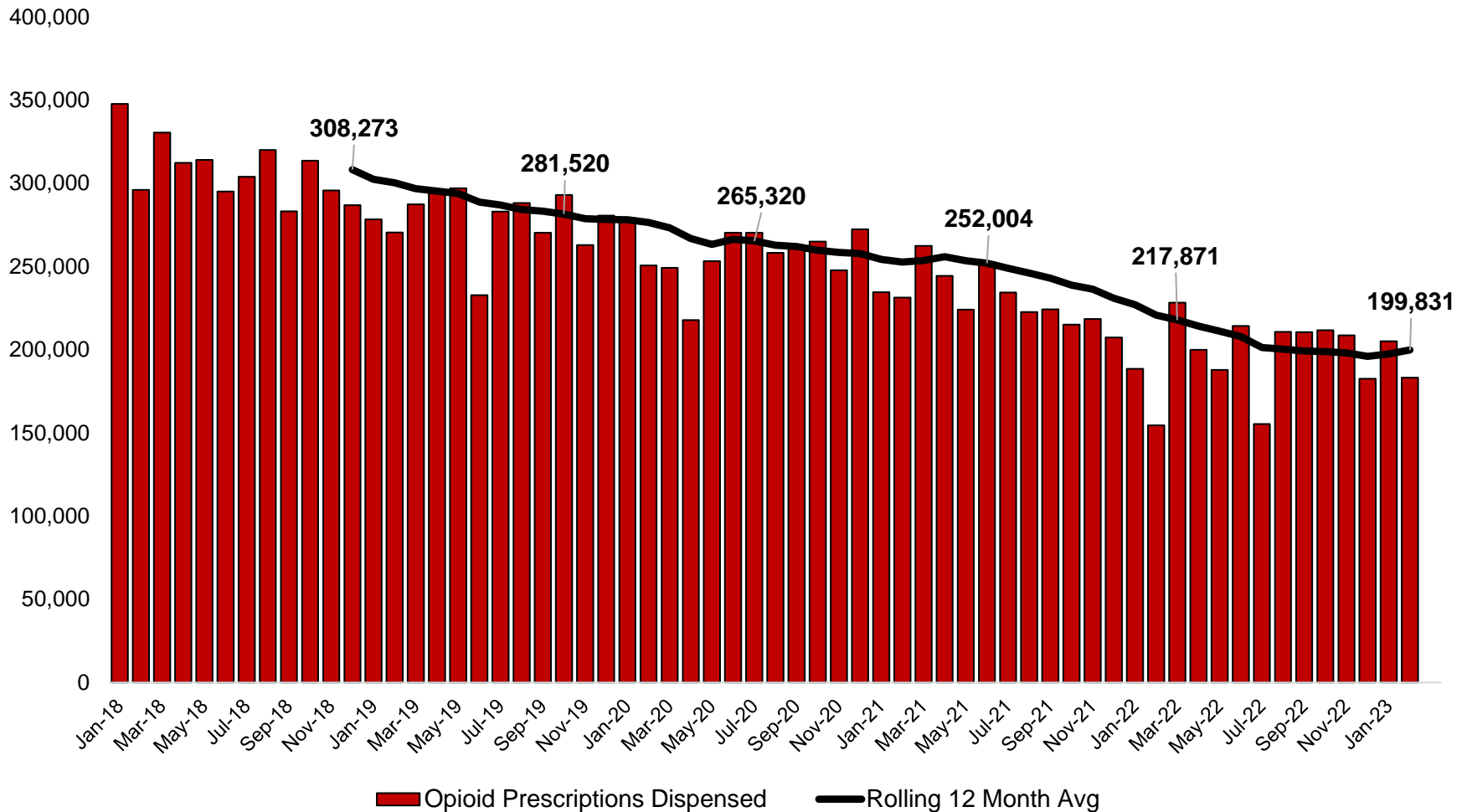
of drug overdose deaths had at least one potential opportunity for intervention



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

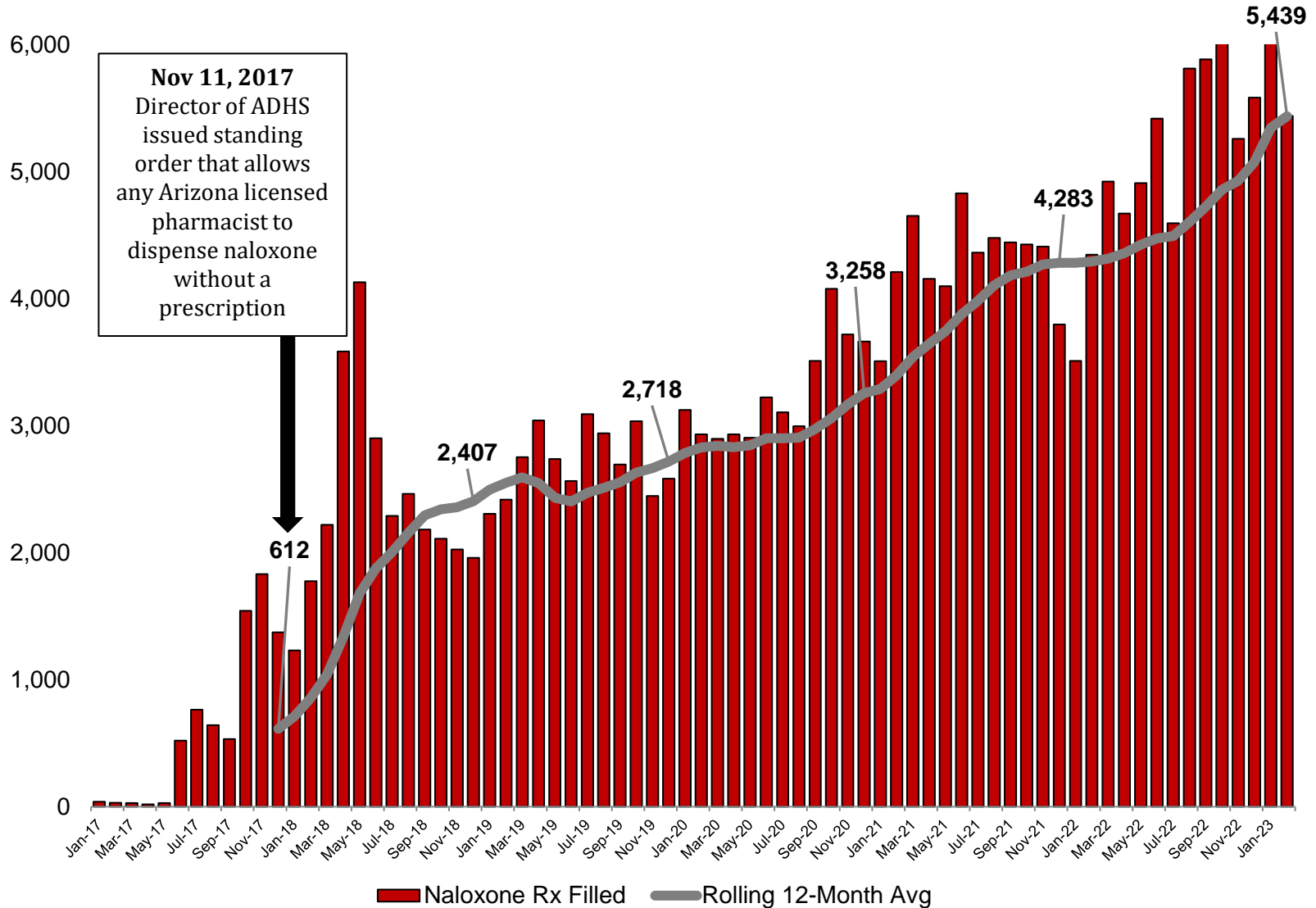
The number of opioid prescriptions dispensed in Arizona has **decreased** from 2018 to 2023.

Opioid Prescriptions Dispensed, Jan 2018 - Feb 2023



Data Source: Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP).
Notes: Rolling average calculated as average number of events in previous 12 months.

The number of naloxone dispensed by pharmacies in Arizona has **increased significantly** since 2017.



Data Source: Controlled Substance Prescription Monitoring Program (CSPMP).
Notes: Rolling average calculated as average number of events in previous 12 months.

For More Information

azdhs.gov/opioid
azopioid@azdhs.gov

Sheila Sjolander, MSW
Deputy Director
sheila.sjolander@azdhs.gov

