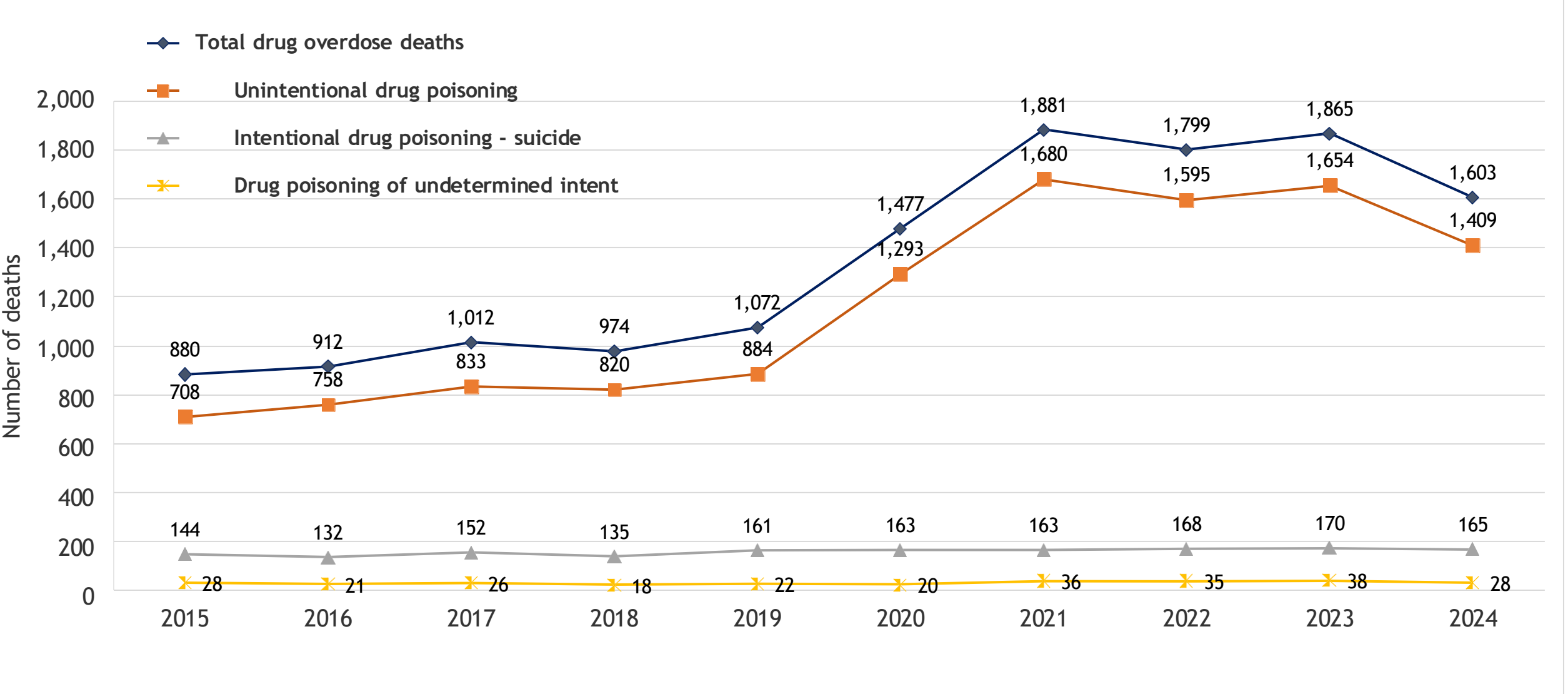


# Colorado Drug Overdose Data and Trends

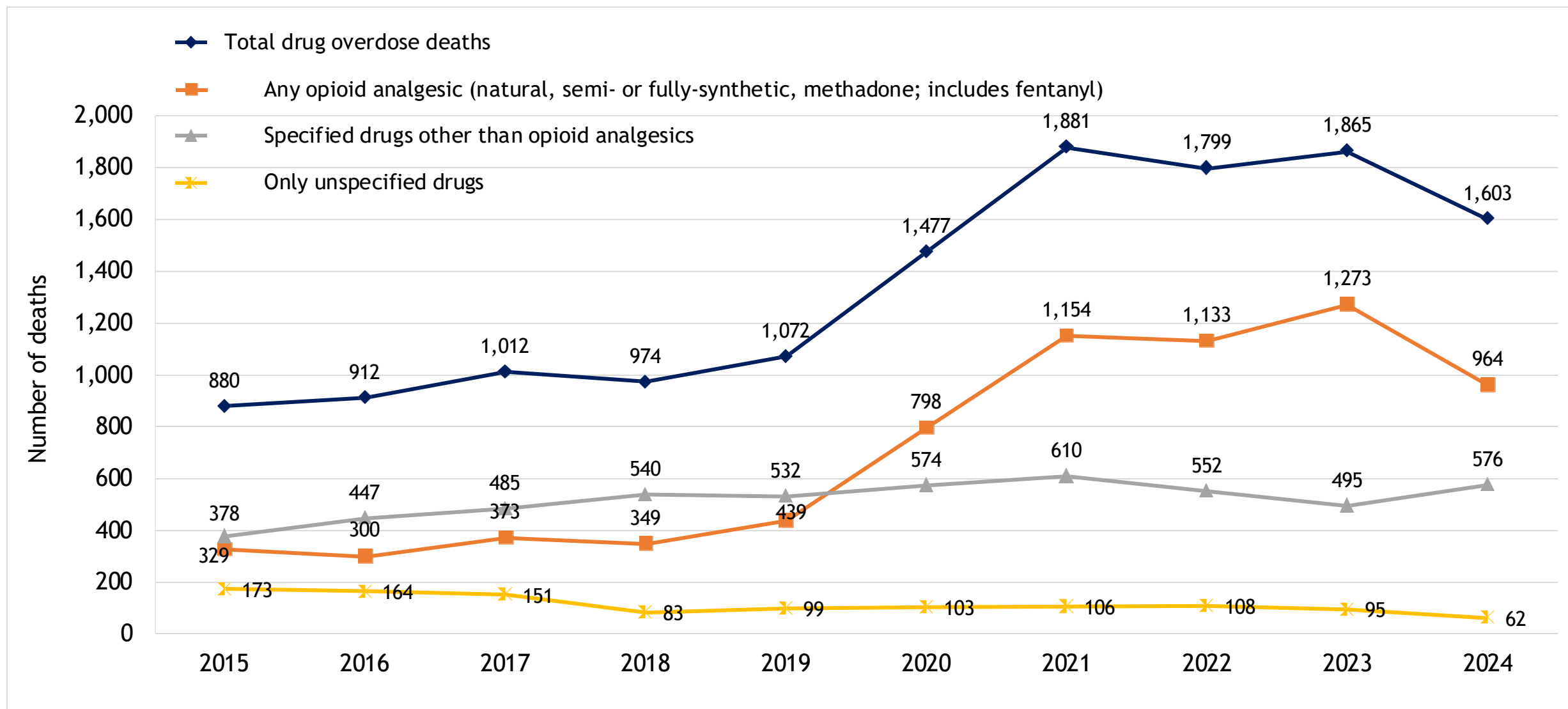
Colorado Consortium for Prescription Drug Abuse  
Prevention Annual Meeting  
November 5, 2025

Christine Demont, MPH - Data Analyst/Epidemiologist  
[christine.demont@state.co.us](mailto:christine.demont@state.co.us)  
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

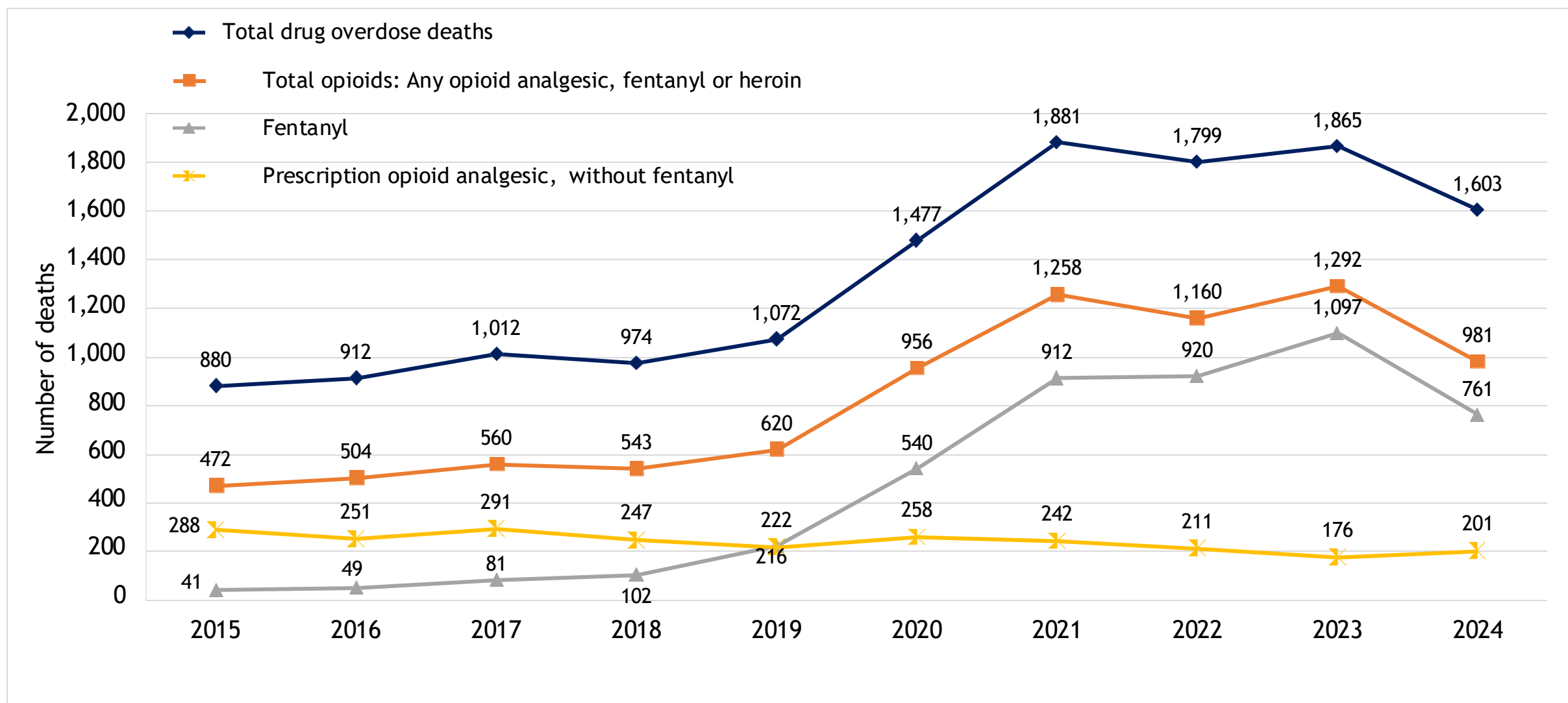
# Drug overdose deaths by intent (manner): Colorado residents, 2015-2024



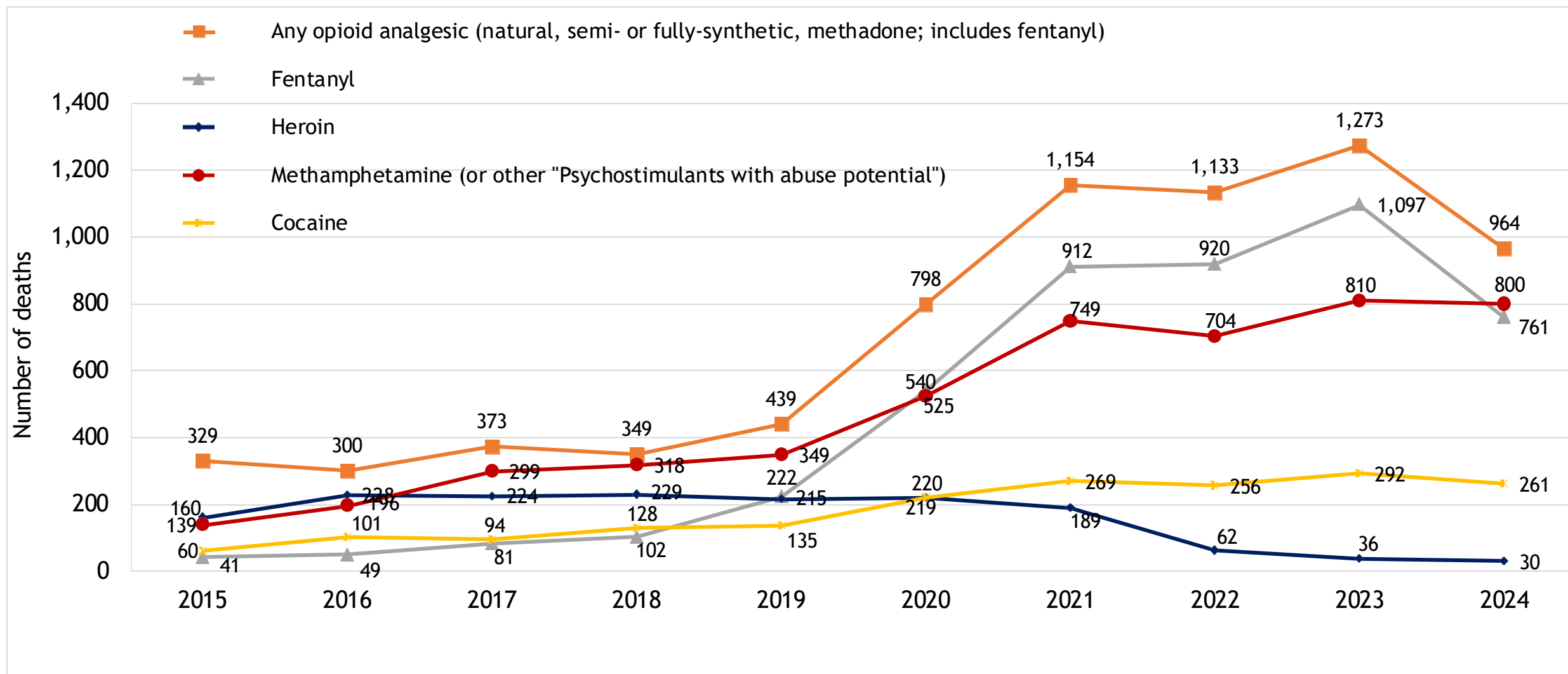
# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024



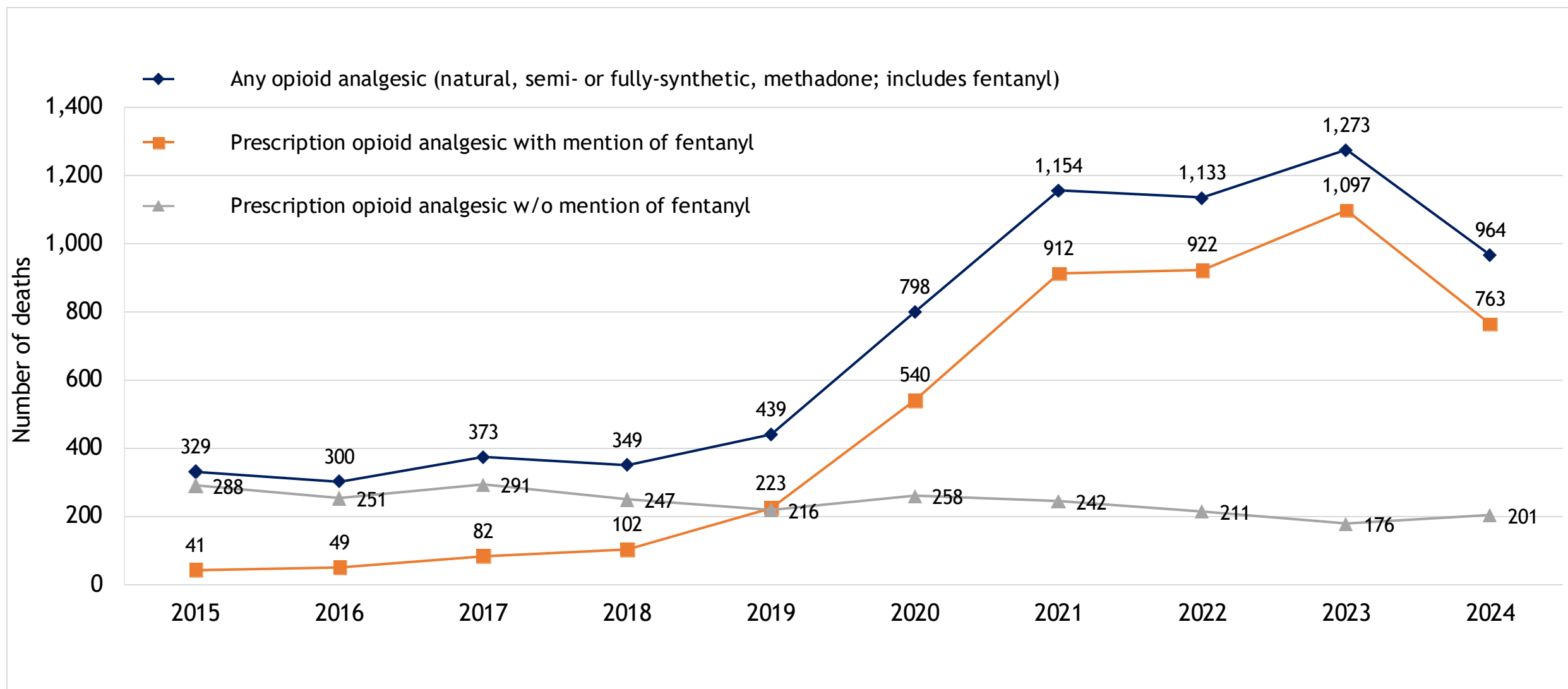
# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024



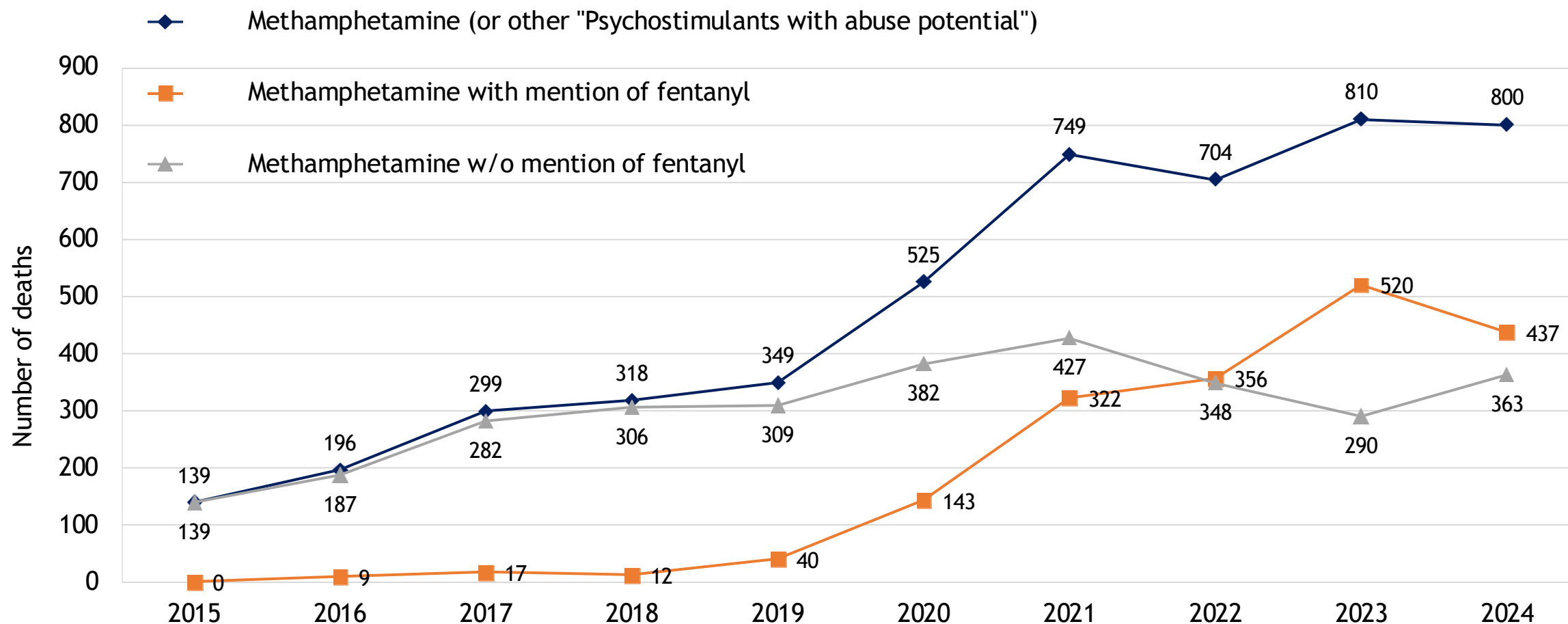
# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024



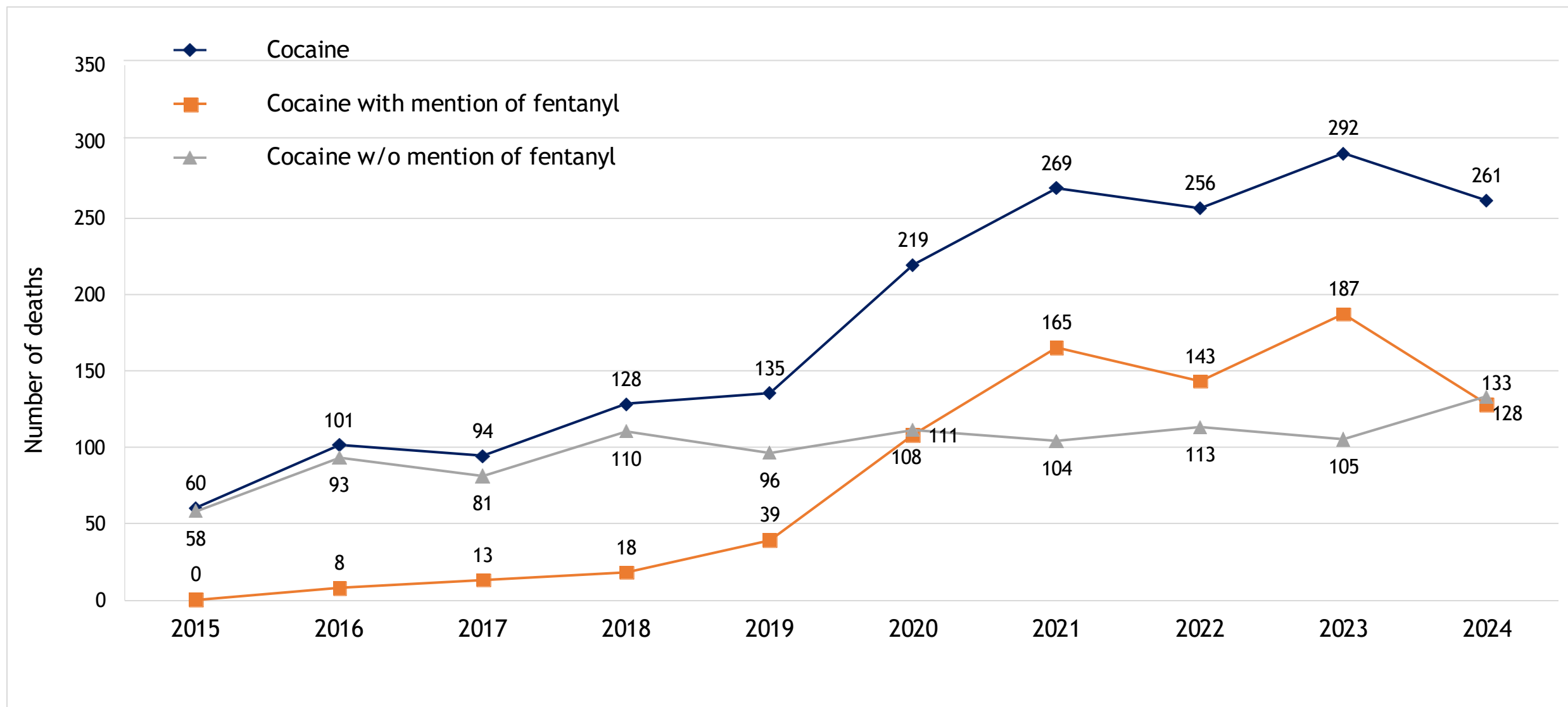
# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024



# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024

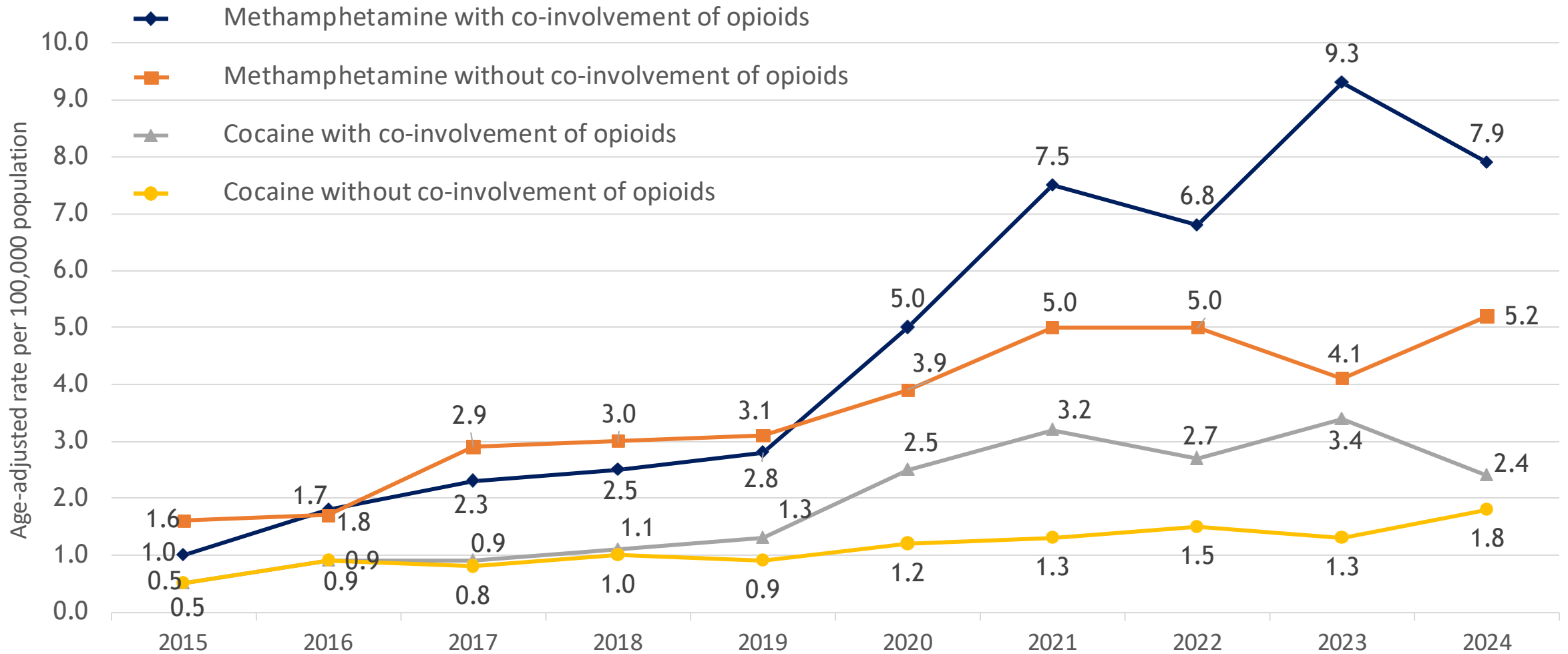


# Drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2015-2024





# Age-adjusted rates of drug overdose deaths involving stimulants and co-involvement of opioids: Colorado residents, 2015-2024



# State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

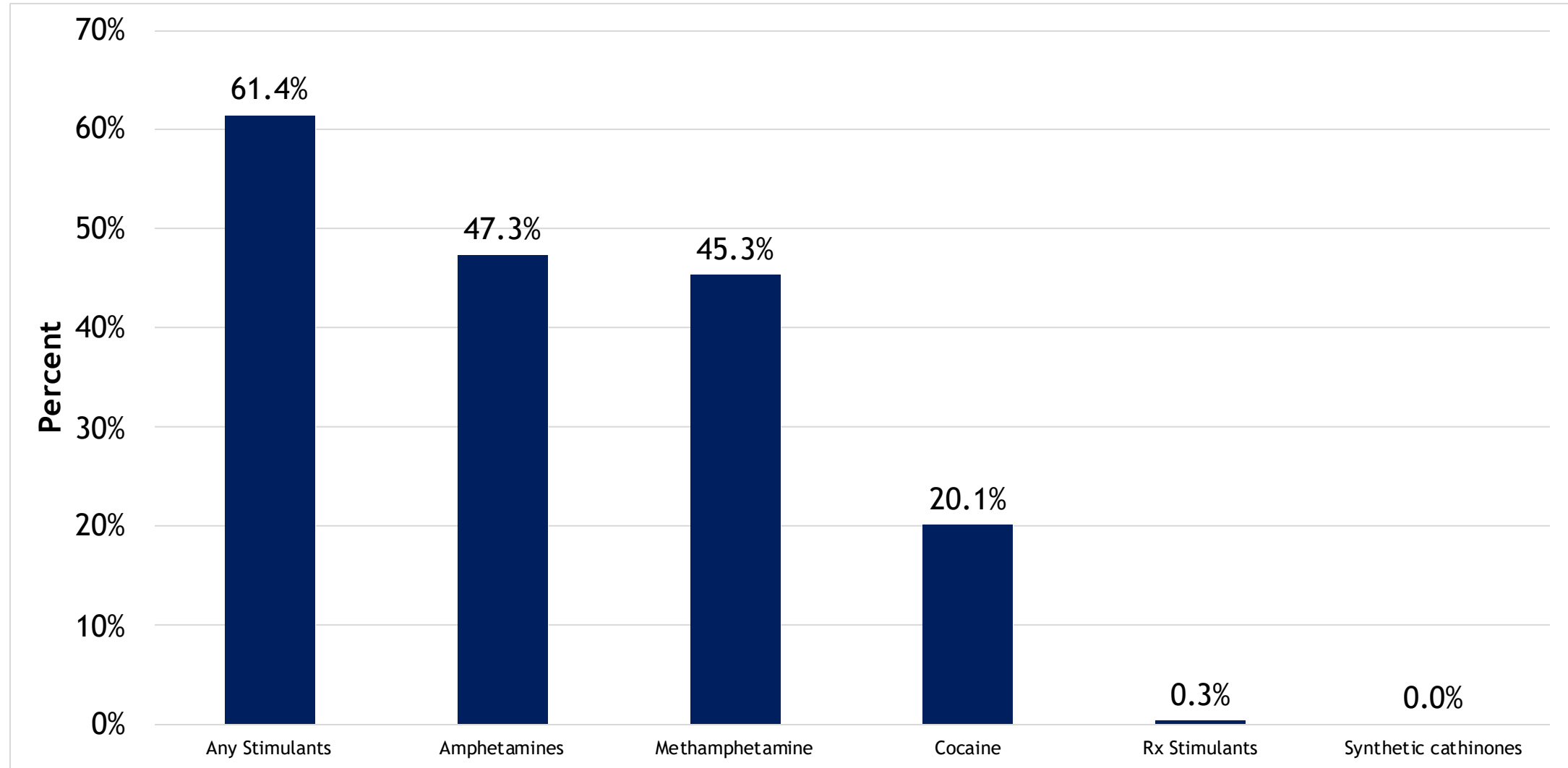
- Developed and funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) as part of the OD2A\* grant
- Administered in 49 states and District of Columbia (Colorado funding started in 2019)
- Data collected from death certificates, coroner/medical examiner reports, and postmortem toxicology reports
- Captures over 600 variables for overdoses of unintentional or undetermined intent
- Collect Who, When, Where, How in order to understand the WHY

\*OD2A: Overdose Data to Action grant

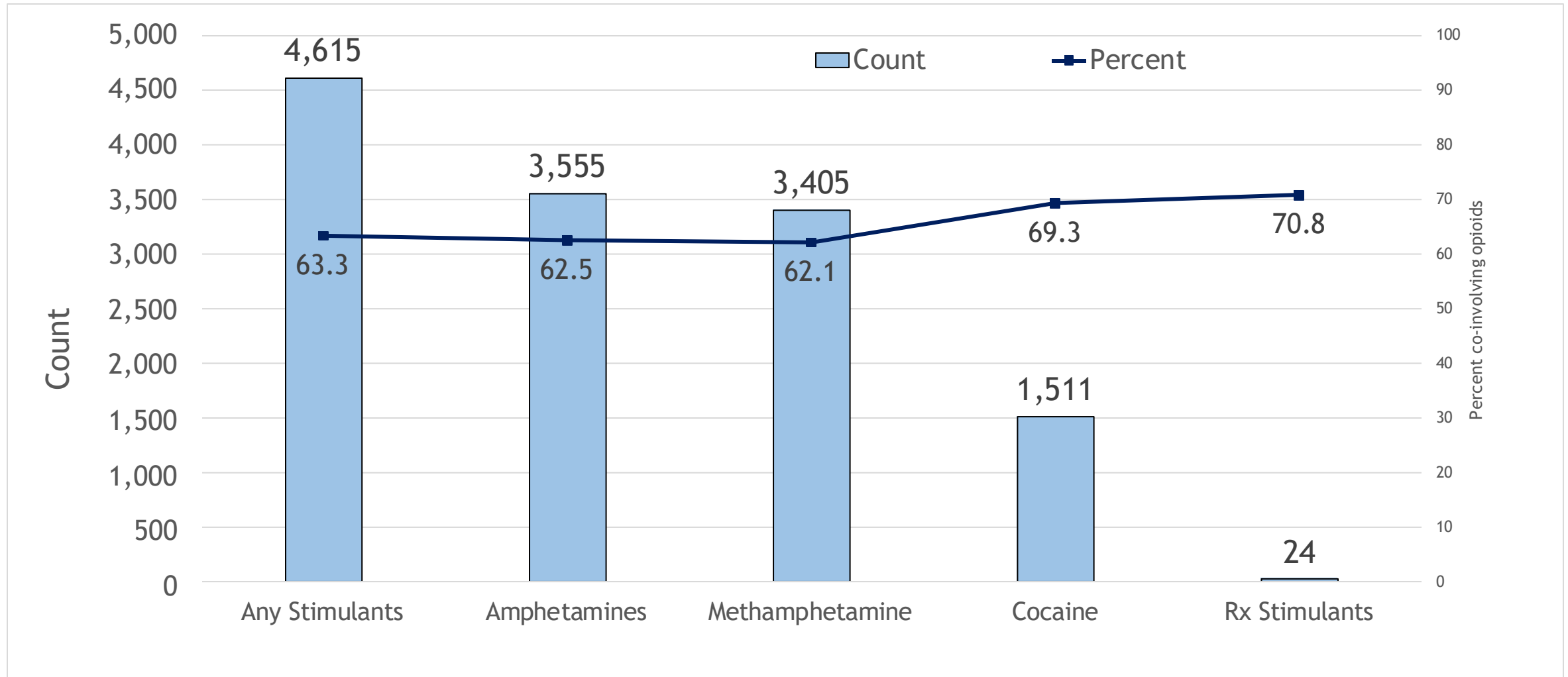


**COLORADO**  
Department of Public  
Health & Environment

# Percent of unintentional/undetermined drug overdose deaths by category of specific drug involvement: Colorado residents, 2020-2024



# Percent of unintentional/undetermined stimulant overdose deaths with opioid involvement: Colorado residents, 2020-2024



# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) among persons experiencing homelessness, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2023

Year	Overdose deaths among persons experiencing homelessness (N)	Percent of total (%)
2019 (July-December only)	37	7.3%
2020	99	7.4%
2021	164	9.6%
2022	196	11.8%
2023	272	15.7%



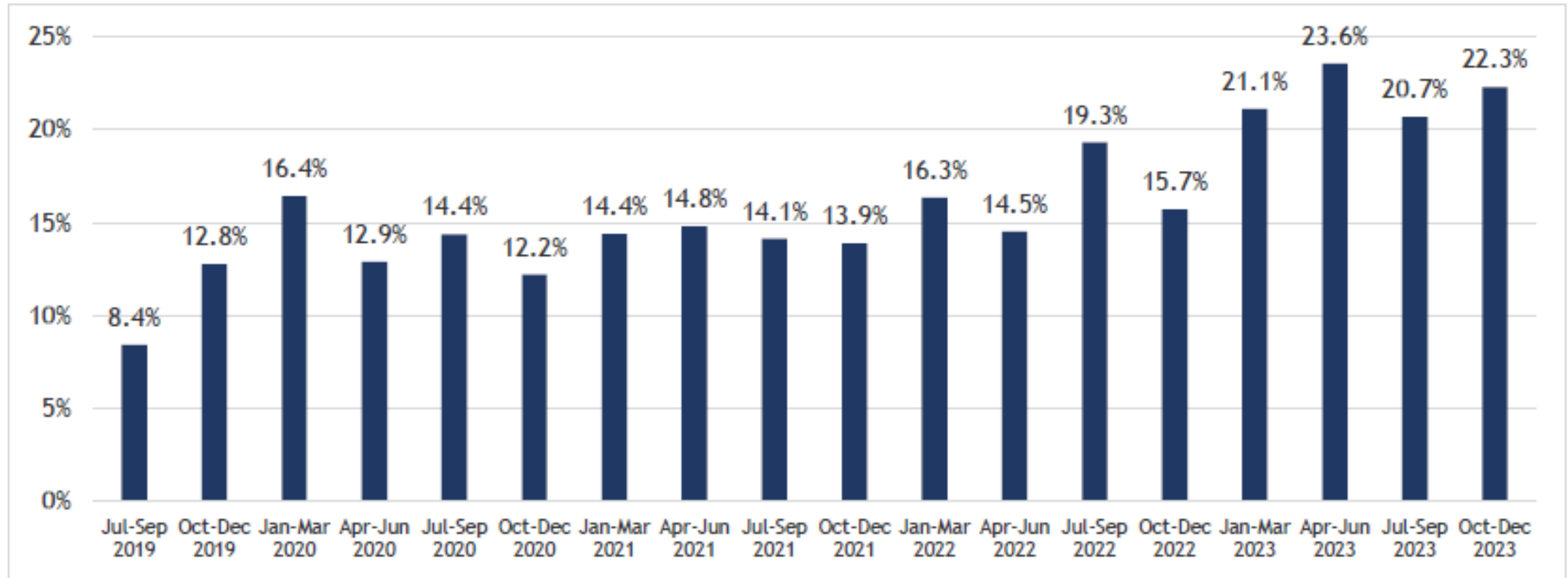
Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) by scene evidence and route of administration, Colorado occurrences, July 2019-December 2023

Scene evidence of drug use and Route of Administration	Overdose deaths (N)	Percent of deaths with scene evidence of drug use (%)
Any evidence of drug use	4,790	69.0%
Evidence of illicit drugs	2,448	51.1%
Evidence of prescription drugs	1,858	38.8%
Evidence of rapid overdose	712	14.9%
Evidence of smoking	2,036	42.5%
Evidence of ingestion	1,685	35.2%
Evidence of injection	960	20.0%
Evidence of snorting/sniffing	899	18.8%
Evidence of transdermal	32	0.7%
Evidence of suppository	5	0.1%
Evidence of sublingual	5	0.1%

Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) with naloxone administered by quarter, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2023



Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System, Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) by circumstances, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2023

Circumstances	Overdose deaths (N)	Percent of overdoses with known circumstance (%)
Deaths with 1+ known circumstance	5,895	84.9%
Substance misuse problem (other than alcohol)	5,181	87.9%
Problem with alcohol	1,928	32.7%
Current mental health condition	2,004	34.0%
Diagnosis of depression	1,126	19.1%
Diagnosis of anxiety	934	15.8%
Diagnosis of bipolar disorder	483	8.2%
Diagnosis of schizophrenia	237	4.0%
Diagnosis of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD)	105	1.8%
Other mental health diagnosis	431	7.3%
Ever treated for mental health or substance misuse problem	1,190	20.2%
Current mental health or substance use treatment	731	12.4%
Current depressed mood	346	5.9%
Intimate partner problem	228	3.9%
Family relationship problem	179	3.0%
Death preceded by argument	175	3.0%
Financial problem	54	0.9%
Job problem	54	0.9%
History of abuse as a child	52	0.9%
Victim of violence in the past 30 days	23	0.4%
Perpetrator of violence in the past 30 days	12	0.2%
Death preceded by physical fight	10	0.2%
Precipitated by another crime	6	0.1%

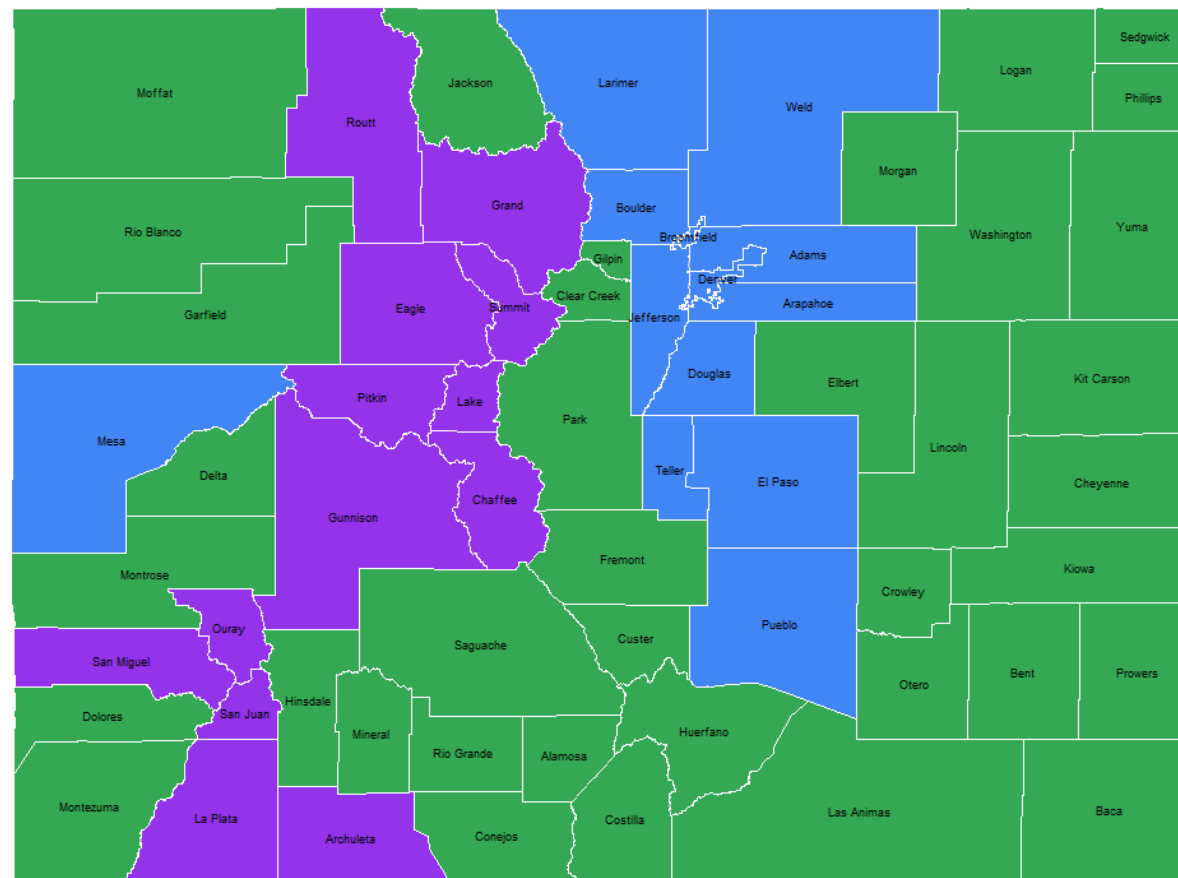




# Drug Overdose Deaths by Urban, Rural, and Rural Resort designation

## Colorado DOLA County Designations

Classifications as of October 2025

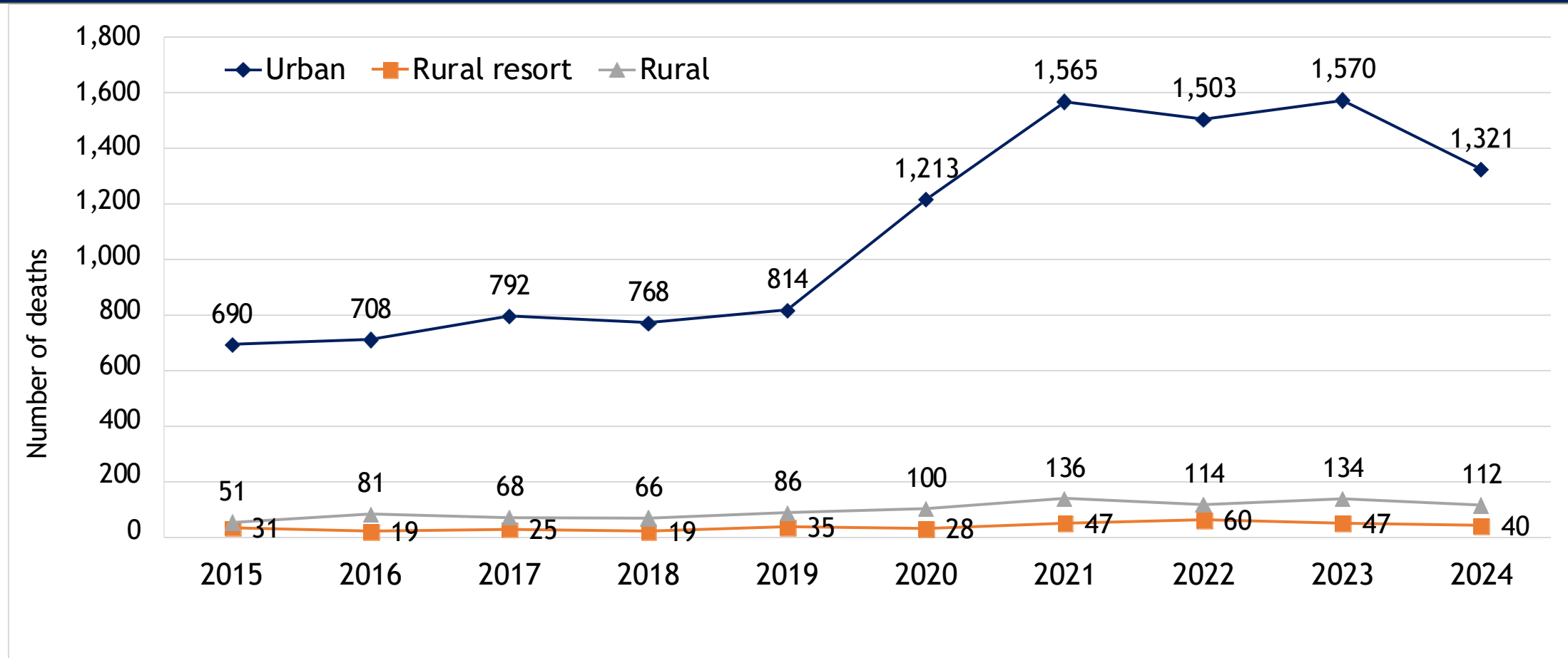


Designation ■ Rural ■ Rural Resort ■ Urban

Source: DOLA Designations

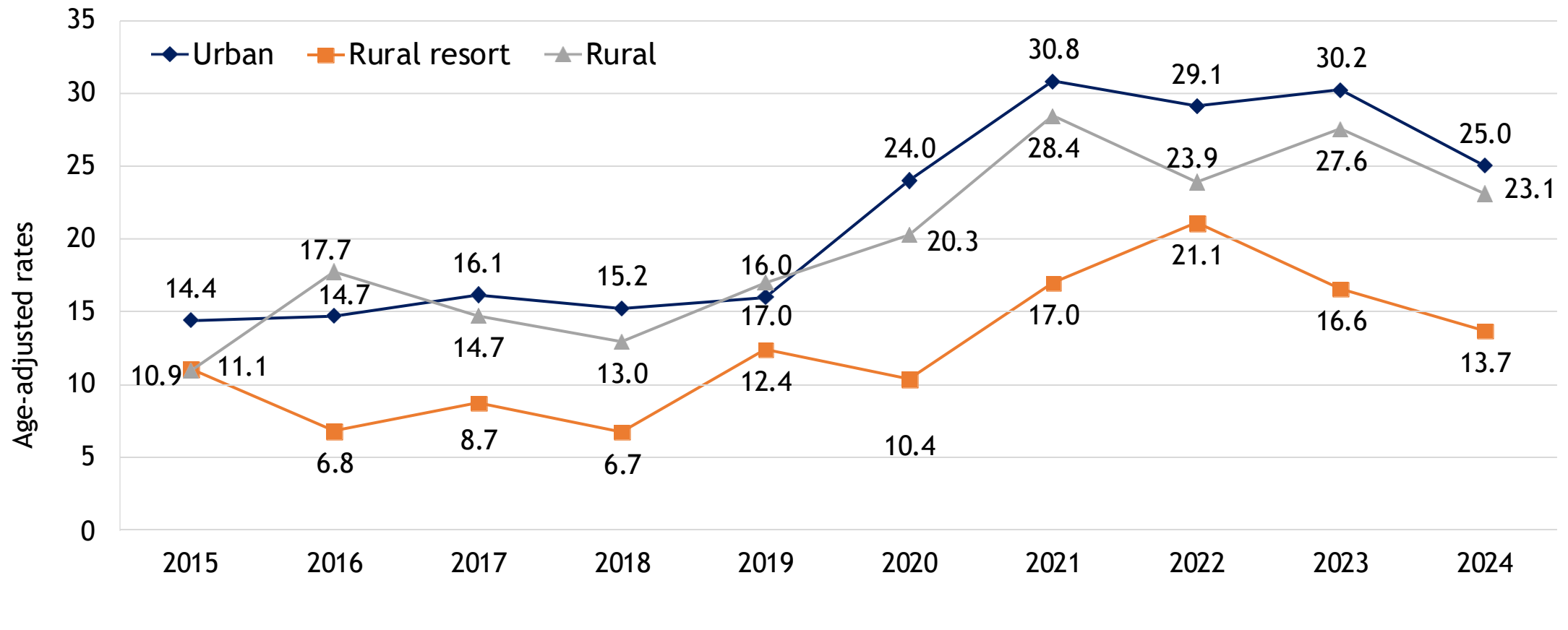
\*Note: Larimer County is Urban, but the Town of Estes Park within it is a Rural Resort Municipality.

# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) by urban/rural/rural-resort geography, Colorado occurrences, 2015-2024



[Colorado Community Classifications of Counties as Urban, Rural, or Rural Resort by CO Department of Local Affairs.](#)

# Drug overdose death rates (unintentional and undetermined) by urban/rural/rural-resort geography, Colorado occurrences, 2015-2024

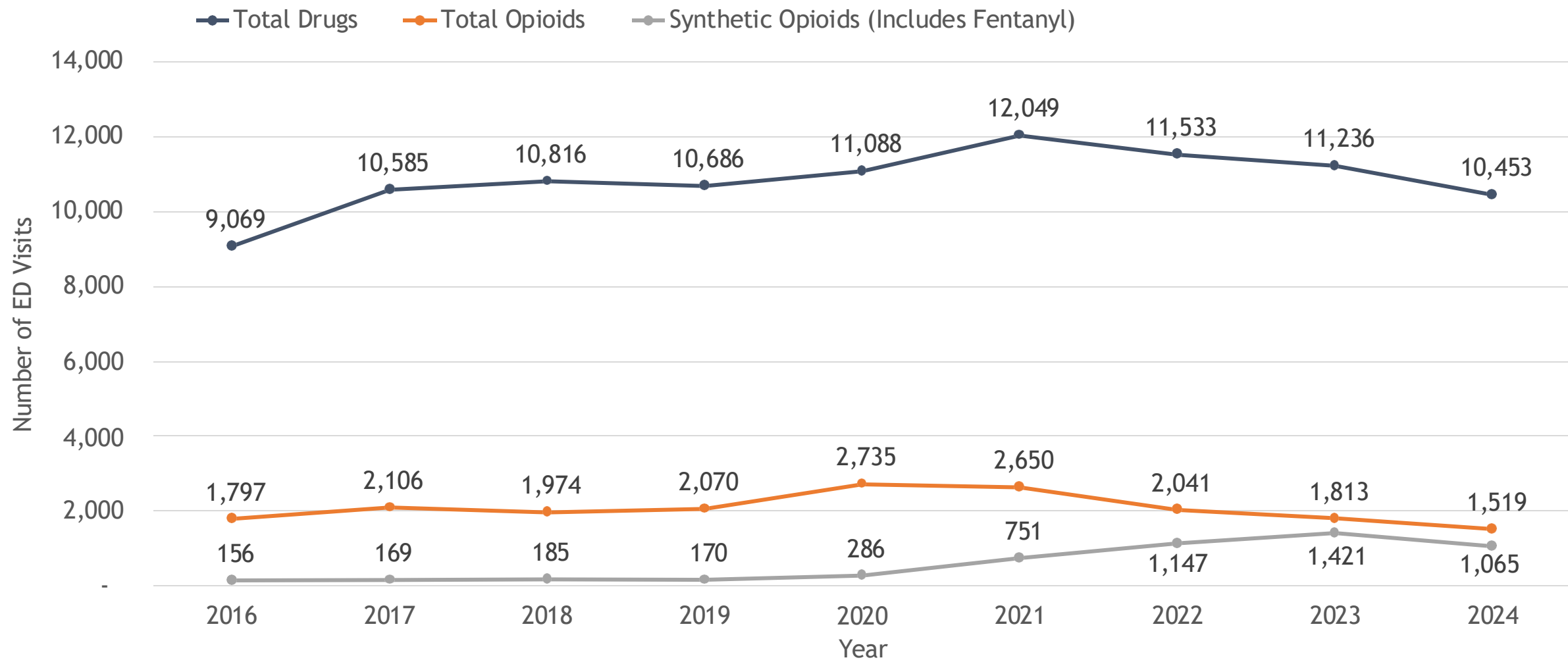


[Colorado Community Classifications of Counties as Urban, Rural, or Rural Resort by CO Department of Local Affairs.](#)

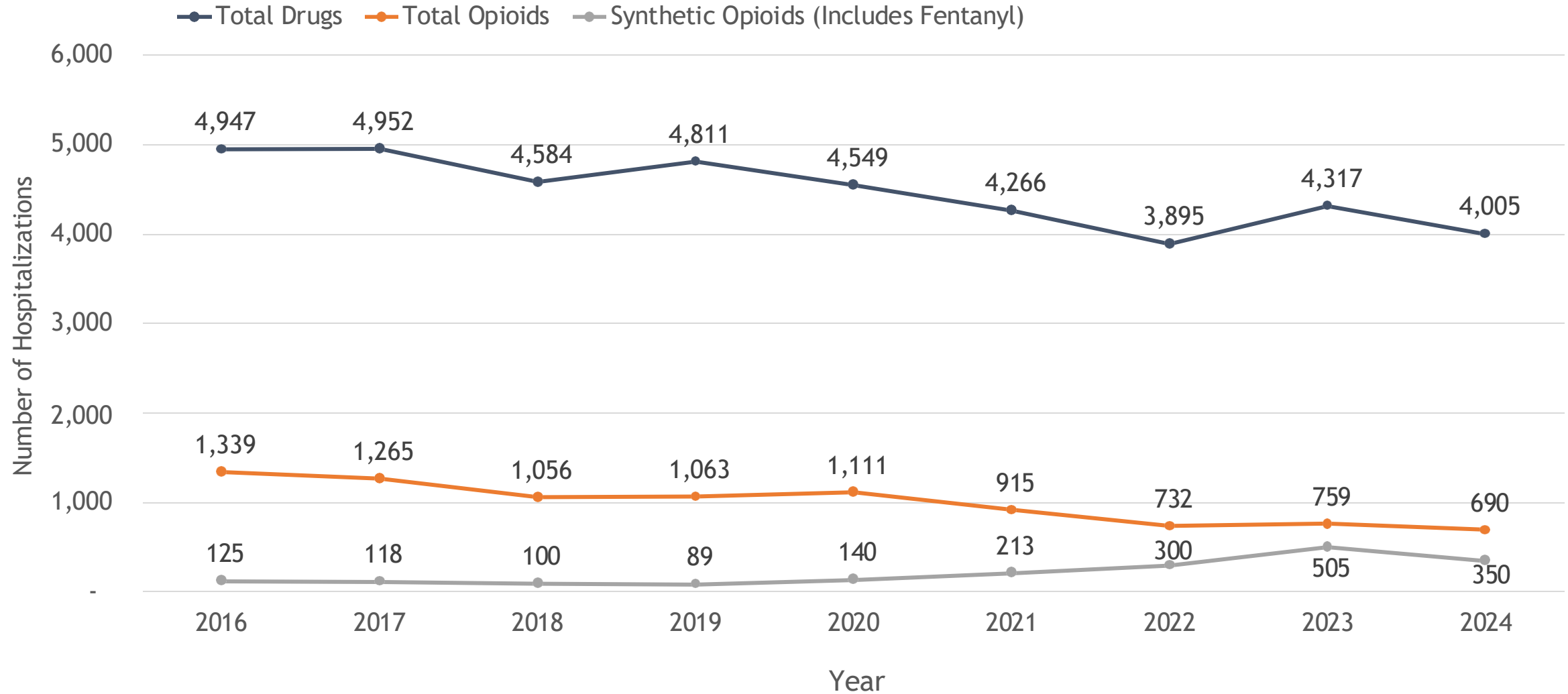
# Drug overdose deaths (unintentional and undetermined) by urban/rural/rural-resort geography, Colorado occurrences, July 2019 - December 2023

Substance as Cause of Death and other circumstances	Urban (percent)	Rural Resort (percent)	Rural (percent)
Opioid as Cause of Death (COD)	77.2%	75.5%	66.4%
Combined fentanyl, metabolites, and analogues as COD	59.1%	50.5%	43.9%
Methamphetamine as COD	42.1%	28.7%	50.0%
Combined cocaine/cocaine metabolites as COD	20.6%	16.7%	11.9%
Heroin/heroin metabolite/Morphine as COD	12.3%	13.0%	18.9%
Evidence of smoking	44.3%	21.1%	30.0%
Evidence of snorting/sniffing	19.6%	15.8%	10.7%
Evidence of injection	19.7%	24.2%	19.7%
Naloxone Administered	17.4%	9.1%	10.0%

# Nonfatal Overdose Emergency Department Visits at Acute Care Hospitals in Colorado, 2016 - 2024



# Nonfatal Overdose Hospitalizations at Acute Care Hospitals in Colorado, 2016 - 2024



# Emerging substances present in drug overdose deaths, Colorado residents, 2021-2025 (year-to-date)

Drug type	2021 (count)	2022 (count)	2023 (count)	2024 (count)	2025* (count)
Xylazine	0	4	8	17	0
Nitazene	<3	7	4	4	0
Carfentanil	0	0	<3	5	6
Bromazolam	14	14	50	48	8
Medetomidine	0	0	<3	<3	<3
Ketamine	8	16	16	17	17
Lidocaine	0	<3	0	0	<3

Deaths with one or two counts must be suppressed.

\*2025 data are still preliminary and subject to change.

Please note that these deaths may have had other substances present.

# Accessing Colorado drug overdose data

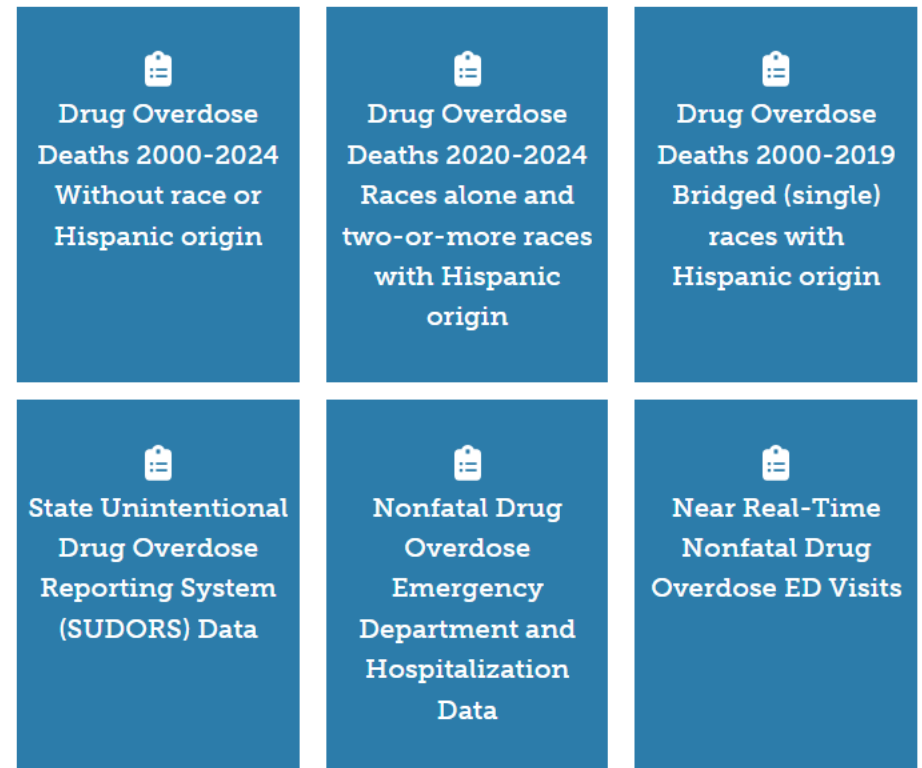
## Colorado Health Data and Statistics



[CDPHE COHID Link](#)

## Colorado drug overdose statistics

CHED - Center for Health and Environmental Data	
COHID - Colorado Health Information Dataset	
Survey Research and Data	>
Registries and Vital Statistics	▼
Vital statistics - births, deaths, fetal deaths, abortions, marriages, divorces	>
Birth defects	>
Newborn hearing screening	>
Cancer - cancer incidence, survival and mortality	>
Violent deaths - suicide, homicide, firearm-related deaths	>
Medical aid-in-dying	
State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)	▼
Colorado drug overdose statistics	
Explore Data	
CHED Publications	
Contact Us	







## SUDORS Dashboard: Fatal Drug Overdose Data

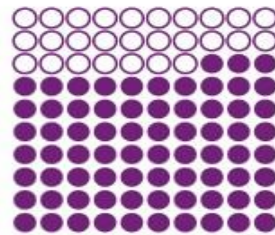
Data updated February 28, 2024

What were the circumstances<sup>20</sup> surrounding overdose deaths in 2023, *Colorado*?<sup>†</sup>

Colorado

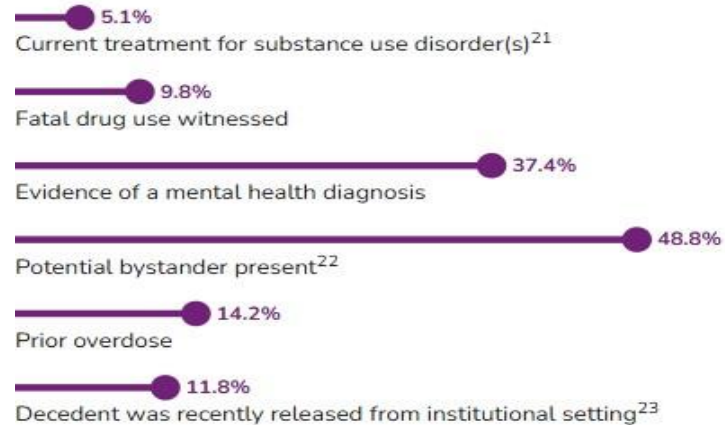
2023

View data for: Potential opportunities for intervention to prevent overdose



73.3%

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



<sup>†</sup> Circumstance percentages are only among decedents with sufficient information on circumstances surrounding the overdose death.

Thank you

Questions & Discussion

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Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment  
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