

The Opioid Epidemic: where are we now?

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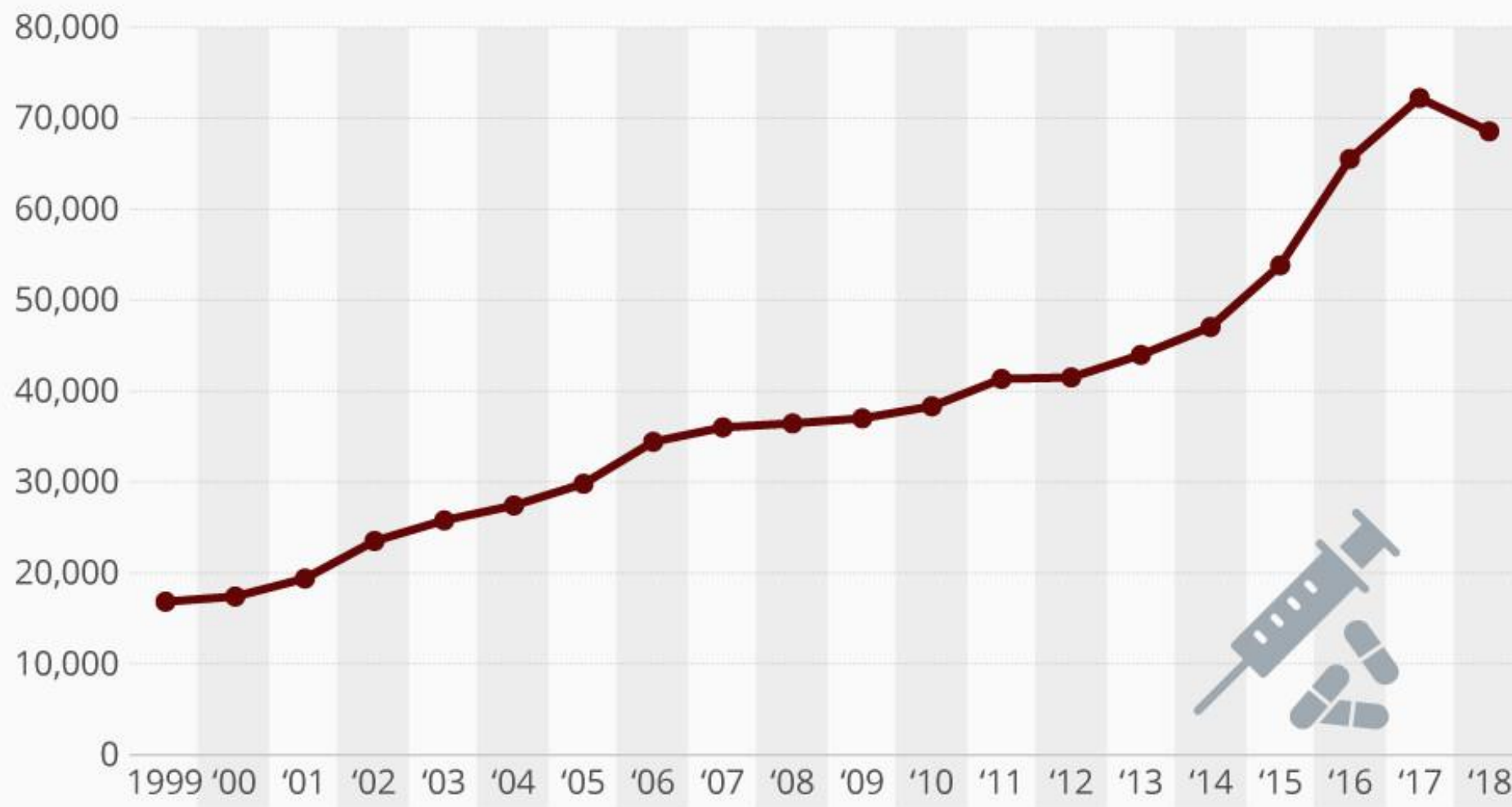
2018 numbers looked promising ...



- Ohio overdoses fell nearly 22%
 - Still 10 Ohioians a day
 - Fentanyl contributed to 72%
- Nationwide more than 68,000 deaths
 - Second worst year in American history

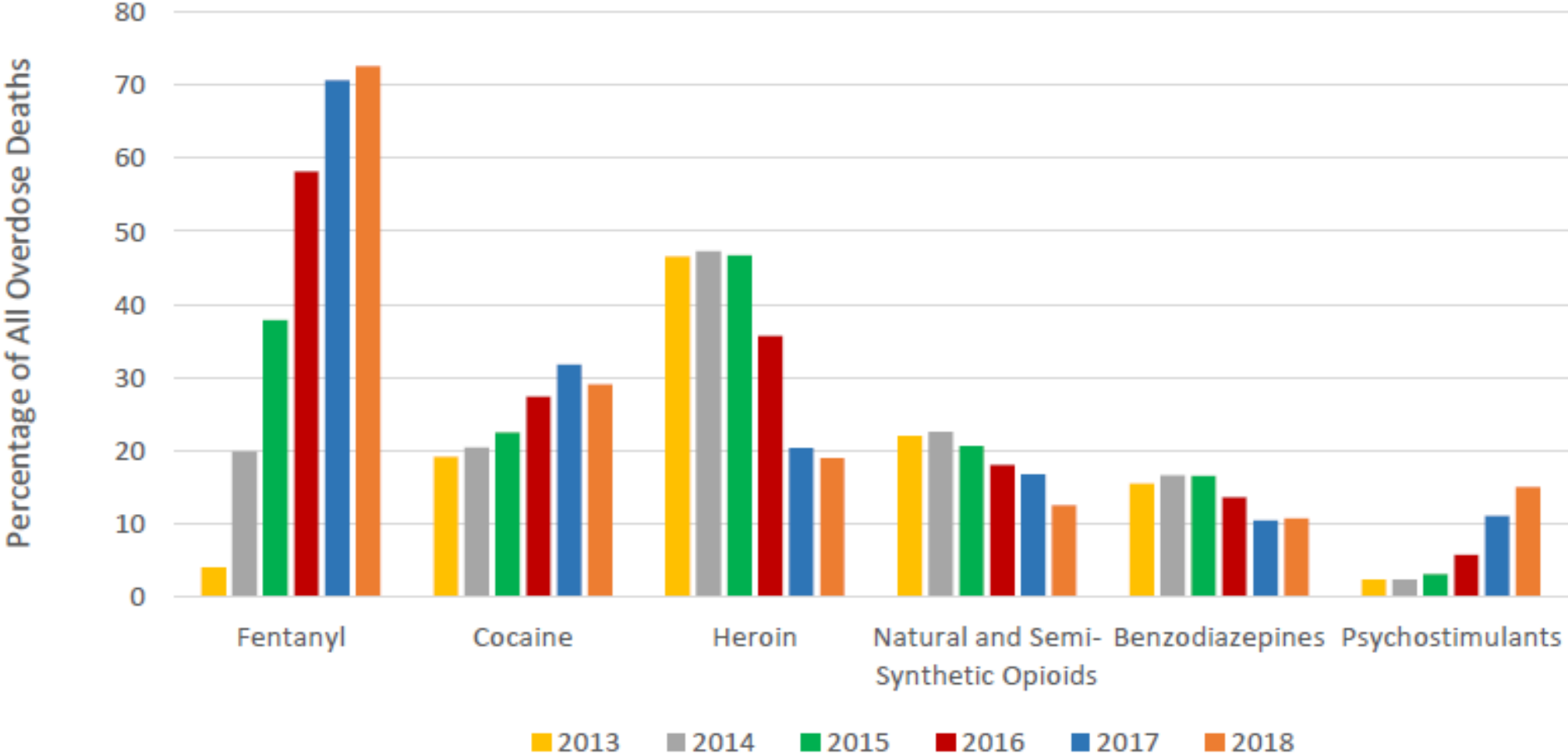
U.S. Drug Overdose Deaths Drop For First Time In 20 Years

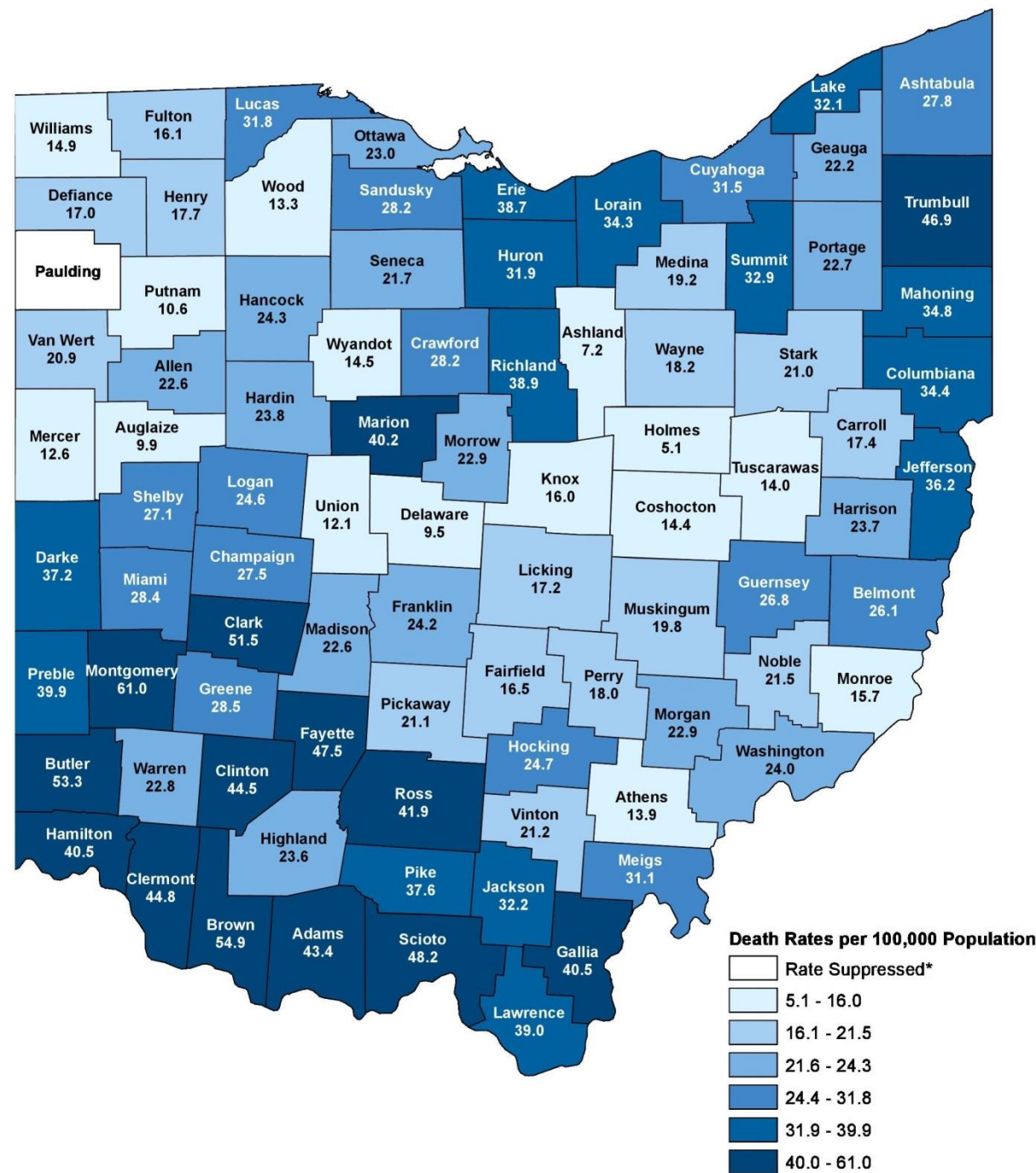
Number of drug overdose deaths in the U.S. from 1999 to 2018*



* Historical data from 1999 to 2014. 2015-2018 are provisional figures due to some deaths still being investigated.

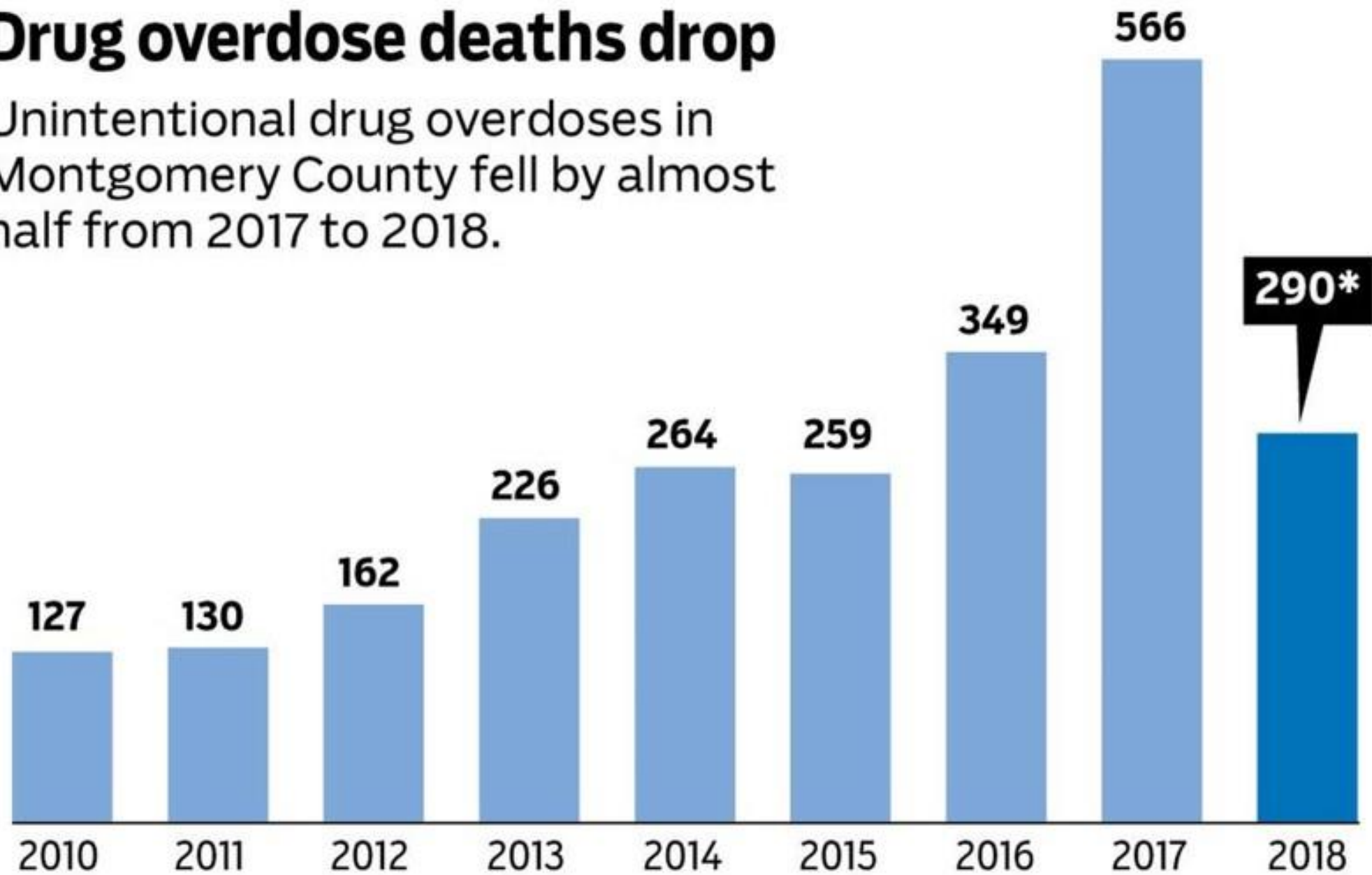
Figure 9. Percentage of Unintentional Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Select Drugs, Ohio, 2013-2018





Drug overdose deaths drop

Unintentional drug overdoses in Montgomery County fell by almost half from 2017 to 2018.



*Preliminary

Source: Montgomery County Coroner's Office

STAFF

“If there was a terrorist that showed up in Montgomery County today and shot 50 people or 25 or 10 for that matter, this community would be in an uproar. There would be an army here trying to stop it. That’s exactly where we are with opioids. But who’s showing up to stop it?”

- Bruce Langos, Executive Director of the Criminal Intelligence Center, Dayton, Ohio

What changed in Dayton?

- **Community Overdose Action Team**

- 100 public and private organizations, businesses and individuals to develop a comprehensive response plan to reduce fatal overdoses

- **Increased Narcan availability**

- Carried by law enforcement and emergency responders
- Samaritan and Project Dawn gave free kits and trained more than 3,400 people in the community

- **Rapid Response Teams**

- Follow-up with overdose survivors as soon as possible and connected with treatment options

Here in Franklin County ...

- Deaths rose in 2018 by 10%
- This year, 30 deaths between Jan. 31 – Feb. 9
- Franklin County Coroner says “straining our capacity.”



Ripple effect – impact on families



- Estimated 8 million children live with at least one parent with substance use disorder.
- Costs the economy \$400 billion on health care, special education, child welfare, and criminal justice.
- Children grow up in a chaotic environment with little to no stability.

“I wanted my daughter. I shouldn’t have used with her. But I was too late.”



Federal response

- State Opioid Response Grants
 - Ohio received
 - \$55 million in 2018
 - \$29 million in 2019
- Funds are being used to expand access to addiction treatment, and host trainings for medical professionals regarding medication-assisted drug treatment.

Emergency Response Fund

- \$1 million fund to help state and local agencies burdened by the opioid epidemic.
- Offer intensive training and technical assistance to local children services agencies.
- Long term assistance – recruiting and retaining caseworkers.

Searching for accountability

- More than 35 state lawsuits against pharmaceutical companies.
- Purdue Pharma at the forefront
 - Agreed to pay Oklahoma \$270 million for misleading marketing practices and misrepresentation.
 - Several states have all filed suit against the Sackler family.



Promotion of Oxycontin

Between 1996 – 2001 Purdue Pharma:

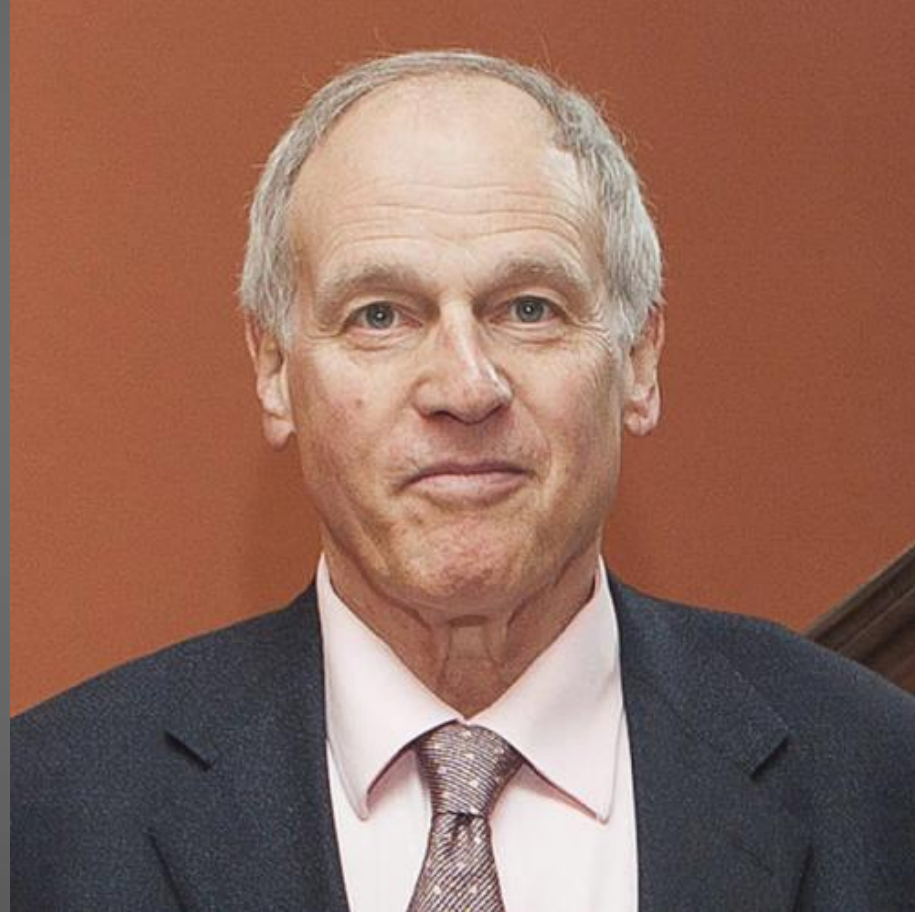
- Conducted over 40 all-expense paid national pain-management conferences
- Targeted marketing to high volume prescribers
- Lucrative bonus system for sales reps
- Patient starter coupon systems (free 30 day supply)
- Promotional swag

Sales boomed from \$49 million in 1996 to \$3 billion in 2002

Misrepresentation of the Risks

- Promotional literature represented risk of addiction was “small”
- Sales representatives trained to say the risk of addiction was less than 1%
- Available research indicated risk of addiction for non-cancer-related pain was between 3% - 16%

The Sackler Family



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One Ohio Agreement

- Proposed settlement:
 - 11% - attorney fees
 - Remainder divided:
 - 30% - local governments
 - 55% - new foundation
 - 15% - AG's office
- New foundation would spend settlement money on addressing the opioid epidemic locally and statewide
- March 6, 2020 to react to proposal

Pharmacies are pointing the fingers at the docs ...

- In early January, 2020 six major drugstore chains – CVS, Rite Aid, Walgreens – filed a lawsuit arguing that physicians and healthcare providers who wrote the prescriptions should be liable for their contributing role, not the pharmacists.
- “We the pharmacies just fill the prescriptions .. The pharmacist is not supposed to be second guessing the medical necessity of the doctor’s prescription.” Atty. For Discount Drug Mart



BWC action to reduce opioid dependence

- In 2016, BWC approved new opioid prescribing rule aimed at preventing opioid dependence.
- June 1, 2019, no longer pays for Oxycontin or its generic oxycodone for claims on or after that date.
- Injured workers using Oxy had until December 31, 2019 to discontinue or switch to another less addictive product.



BWC Safe Opioid Disposal

- Nov. 1, 2019, retail pharmacies automatically issue drug disposal products to any injured worker who received an opioid prescription in the prior 12 months.
- Goal is to keep the opioids from falling into the hands of children or others who are not the intended recipient.
- BWC estimates 175 injured workers will be eligible each month for a disposal device.

Could marijuana be the answer?

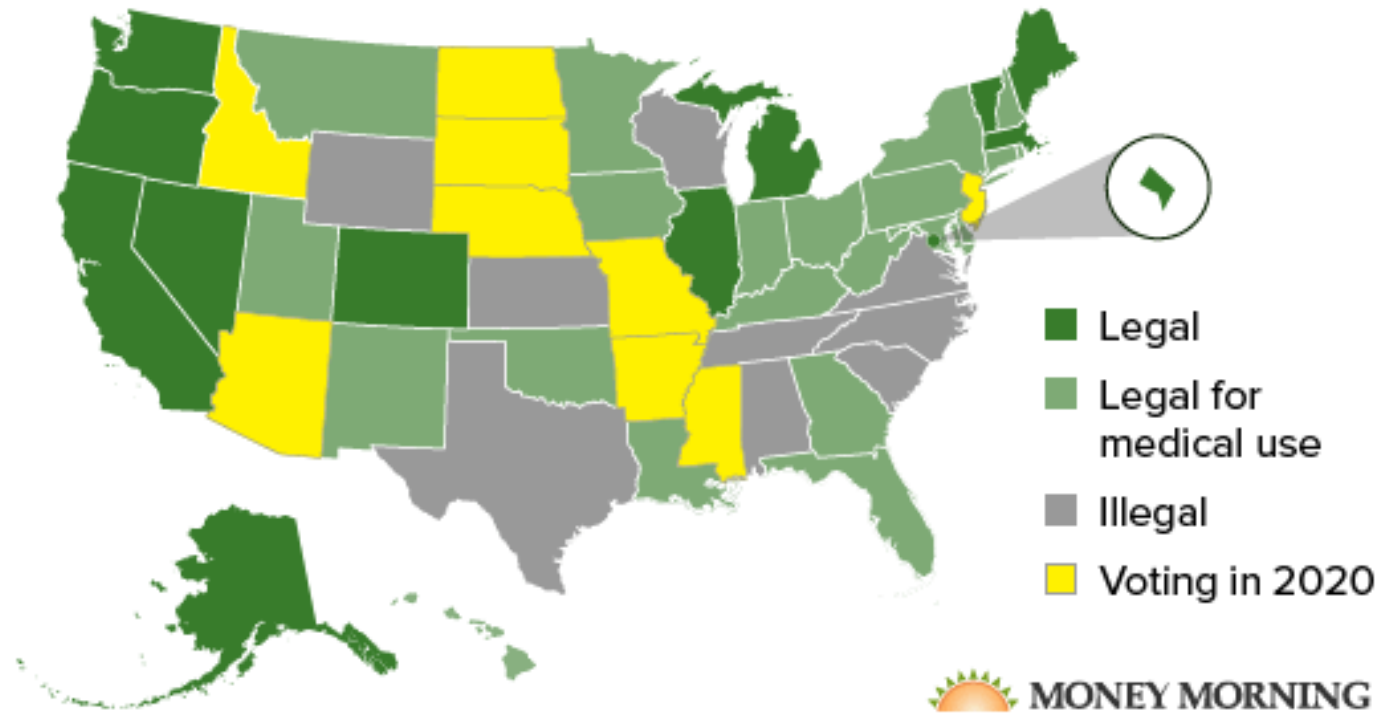


Seemed promising ...

- 2014 study in JAMA Internal Medicine
 - 1999 – 2000 found 24.8% lower annual opioid death rates in states with legalized medical marijuana.
- 2019 study
 - 2010 – 2017, added 32 states found the reverse.
 - States with legalized medical marijuana had opioid overdoses increase by 22.7%.

States Voting on Marijuana in 2020

Nine states could have some form of legal marijuana on the ballot this year.



Ohio's Medical Marijuana Control Program



Must be a qualified user – must have:

- A qualifying condition
- A recommendation for medical marijuana
- A medical marijuana card

5 reminders for employers

No. 1:

Only “qualified” individuals can possess and use medical marijuana.

Reminder No. 2



Employers must decide how they want to treat applicants' and employees' medical marijuana use.

Reminder No. 3

Update your employment policies, including job descriptions.

Reminder No. 4

Train your managers and supervisors to identify signs of impairment.



Marijuana Reminder No. 5

Be aware of lurking disability accommodations and other employment issues

What about CBD oil?



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Low in THC
Less than 0.3%

Makeup

Higher in THC, 10-20%, can be as
High as Near 30%

No, hemp will NOT get
you high

Psychoactive?

Yes, will make you high

Higher Levels of CBD

CBD Levels

Contains CBD, but much less
compared to hemp
(still contains THC)

Much easier to grow,
adapts to many climates

**Growing &
Cultivating**

Requires much more
attention, often indoors

1000's of potential uses, including....
CBD Oil, Other Health Uses, Textiles,
Ropes, Construction Materials, etc...

**Industrial
Uses**

Medical Uses

CBD is legal



- Historically a Schedule 1 drug.
 - 2018 – Federal Farm Bill
- July 2019, Gov. DeWine signed a bill creating a hemp licensing program.

CBD Guidelines

- Hemp grown in Ohio must contain less than .3% THC
- Ohio must keep track of all Ohio hemp farms
- All farmers must obtain a license from the state Dept. of Agriculture

Ever evolving ...

Marijuana laws are complicated, sometimes contradictory, and constantly changing.

Questions?



Thank you!

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