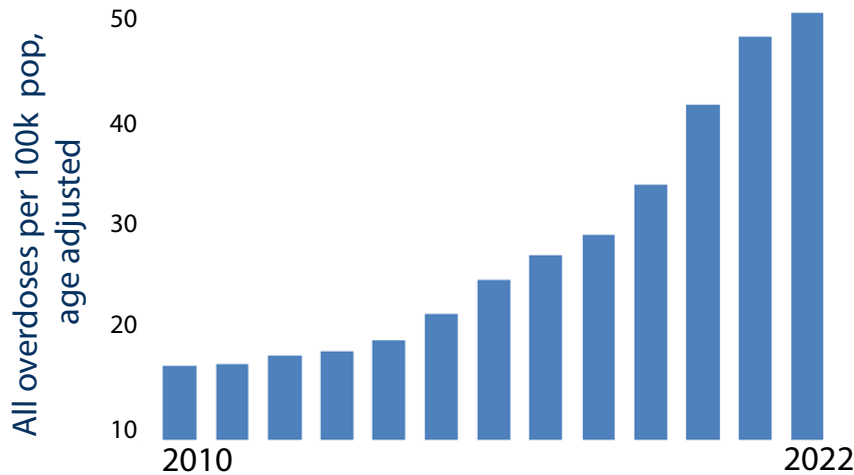


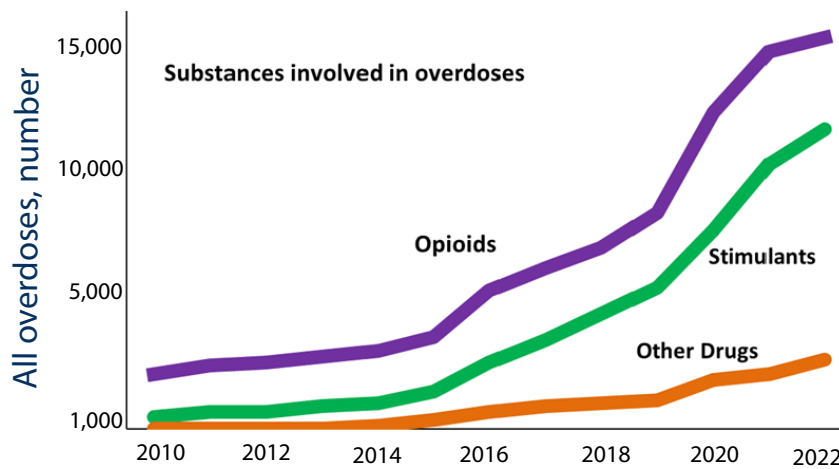
DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN BIG CITIES: 2010-2022

New data from the [Big Cities Health Inventory](#), an open-source platform providing health metrics for the 35 large U.S. cities that comprise the [Big Cities Health Coalition](#)



**IN BIG CITIES,
OVERDOSE DEATH
RATES ROSE BY 200%
FROM 2010 TO 2022**

Average rates were much higher than the U.S. but the overall trend in big cities mirrors trends seen across the U.S.



Starting around 2019, an illicit synthetic opioid, fentanyl, became the major driver of overdoses in big cities. Other synthetics proliferated and were often combined with fentanyl; such as the synthetic stimulant methamphetamine and other synthetic drugs used in veterinary medicine.

Between 2014 -- when large quantities of illicit synthetic opioids were added to street drug supplies -- and 2022, big cities experienced:



- A 2,800% increase in deaths involving fentanyl, a synthetic opioid 50 times more potent than morphine
- A 650% increase in deaths involving methamphetamine (meth), a highly addictive synthetic stimulant
- At least 2,100 deaths involving xylazine (tranq), a synthetic non-opioid veterinary sedative

For more data on drug overdose deaths in big cities, visit bigcitieshealthdata.org. Demographic trends in overdoses can be found in our [drug overdose data brief](#).