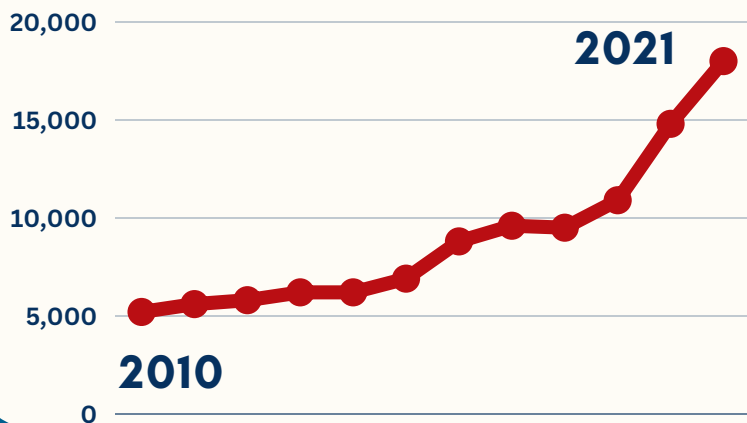


# DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS IN BIG CITIES: 2010-2021

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 DEATHS ROSE BY 235% FROM 2010 TO 2021**

Since 2010, over **100,000** people in large U.S. cities have died from a drug overdose.

## SYNTHETICS LIKE FENTANYL DROVE OPIOID DEATHS



In **2010**, synthetic opioids caused **1 in 10** opioid overdose deaths.

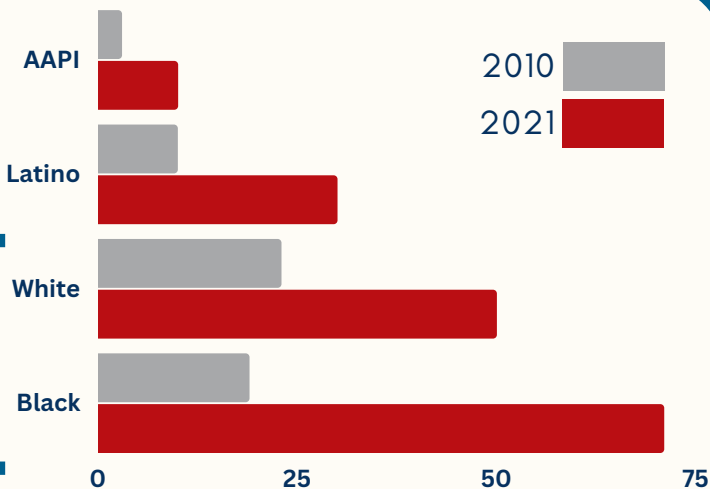


By **2021**, this increased to **9 in 10** due to an influx of fentanyl, a highly lethal synthetic opioid.

## IN BIG CITIES, DEATH RATES ROSE SHARPLY IN ALL RACIAL AND ETHNIC GROUPS

In **2010**, the overdose death rate was highest among white people.

By **2021**, Black people had the highest rate of overdose death. In this group of people, deaths were 4x higher than in 2010.



Overdose death rate from all drugs, per 100,000, age-adjusted

For more data on drug overdose deaths in big cities, visit [bigcitieshealthdata.org](https://bigcitieshealthdata.org). More context on these demographic trends can be found in our [drug overdose data brief](#).



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