



Drug Trends

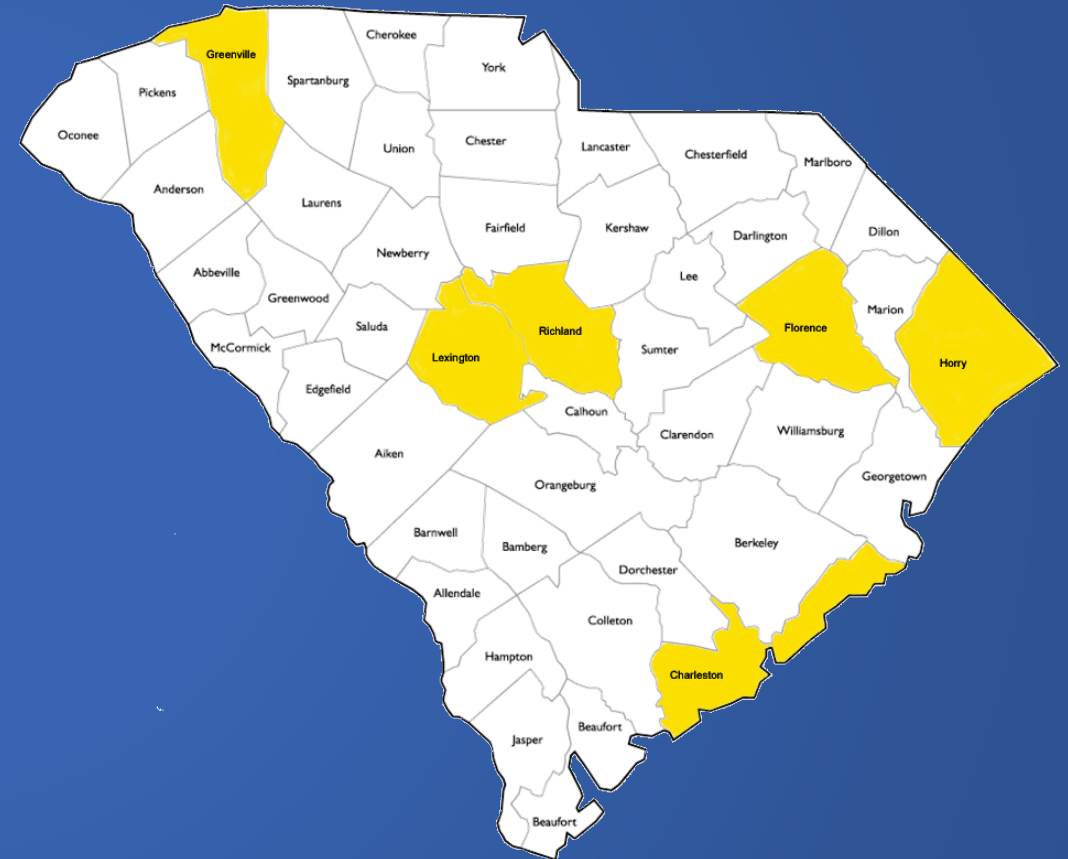
**ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA (ACHIDTA)**



Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA: Public Safety Perspective

SC HIDTA Counties:

- Richland / Lexington
- Horry / Florence
- Greenville
- Charleston

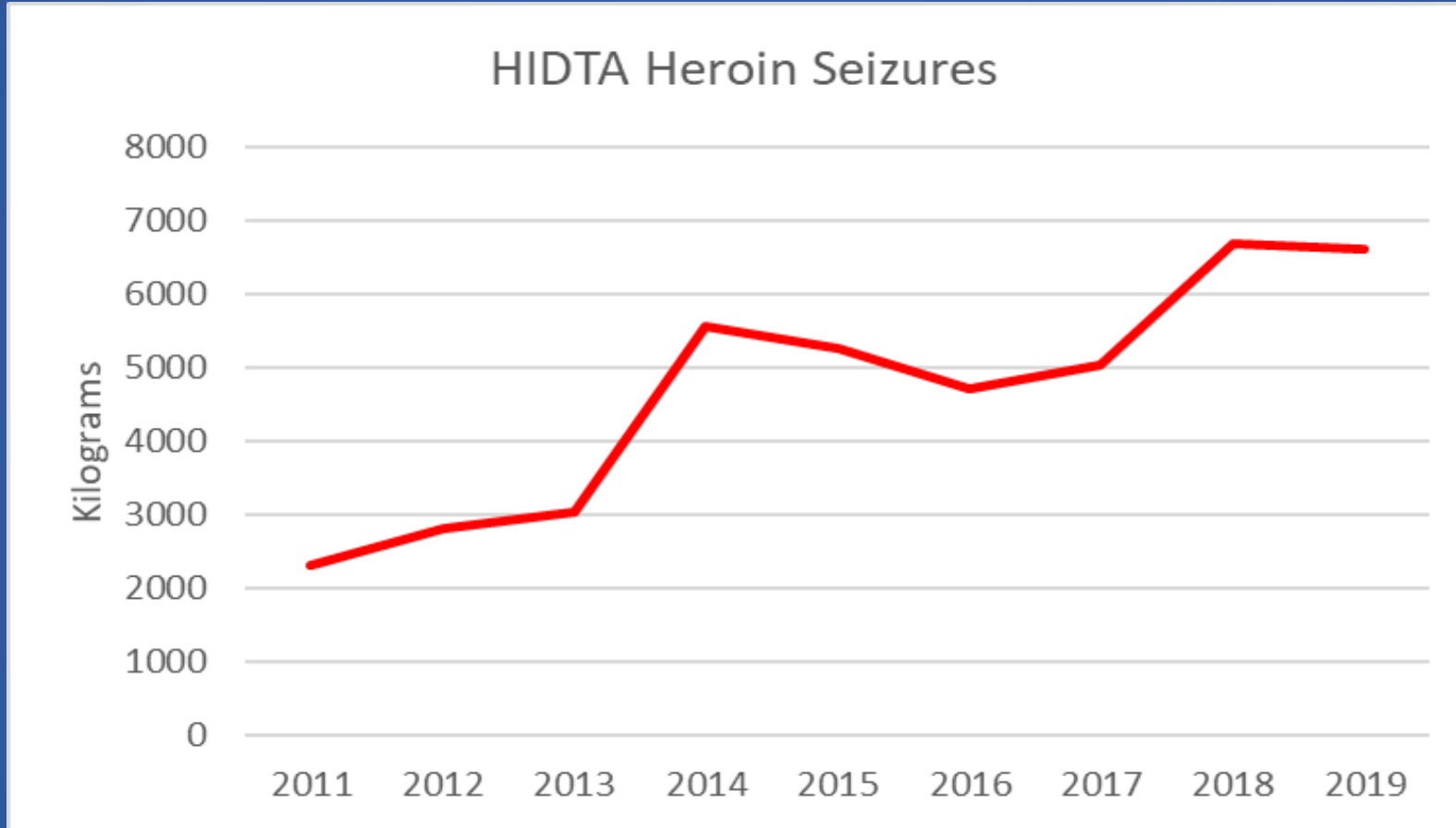


**ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA (ACHIDTA)**



National Emerging Threats Initiative

A National HIDTA Program



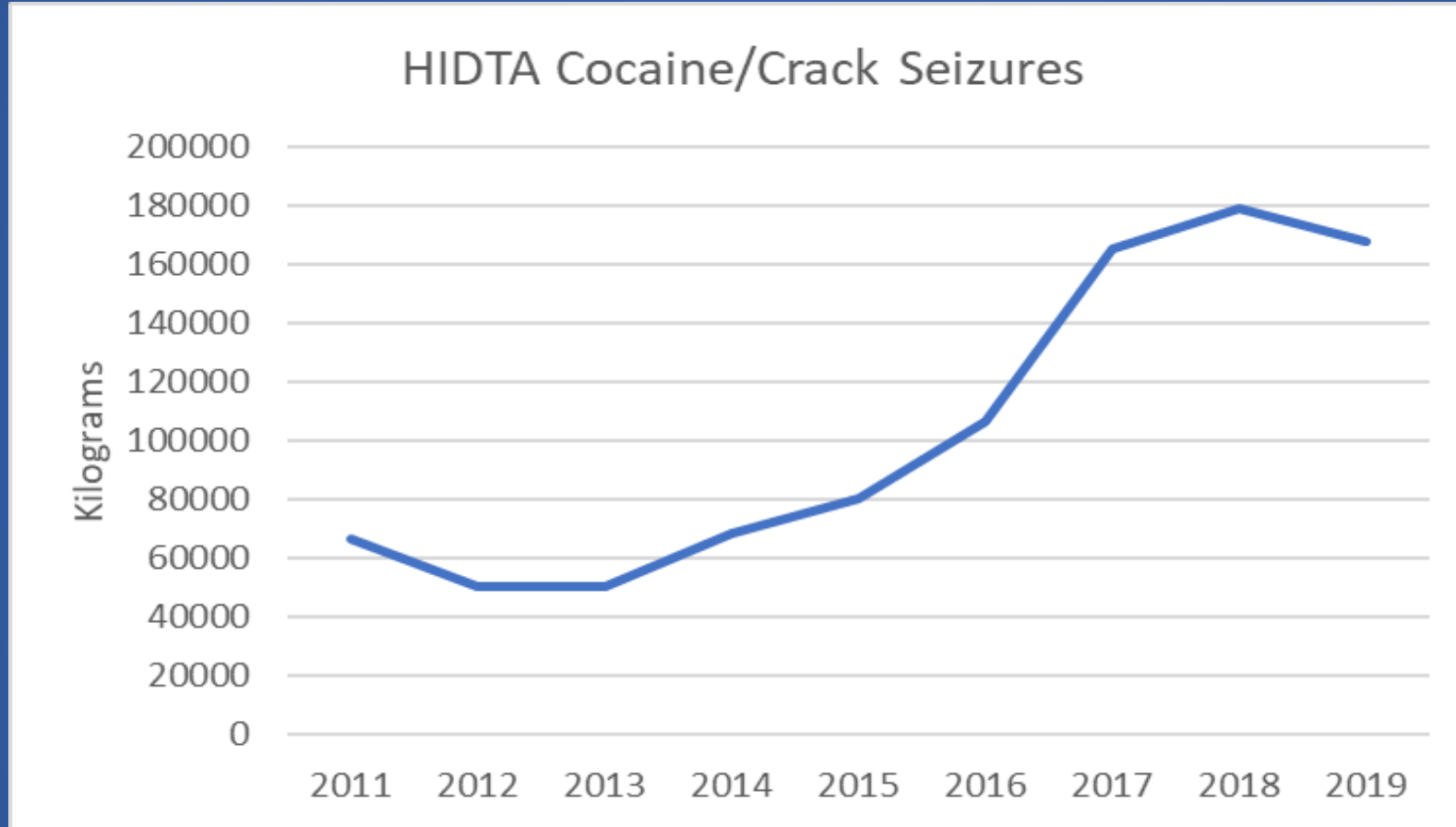
The above graph reflects the change in heroin seizures, in terms of amount seized (in kilograms) within all HIDTA counties from 2011 to 2019.

ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



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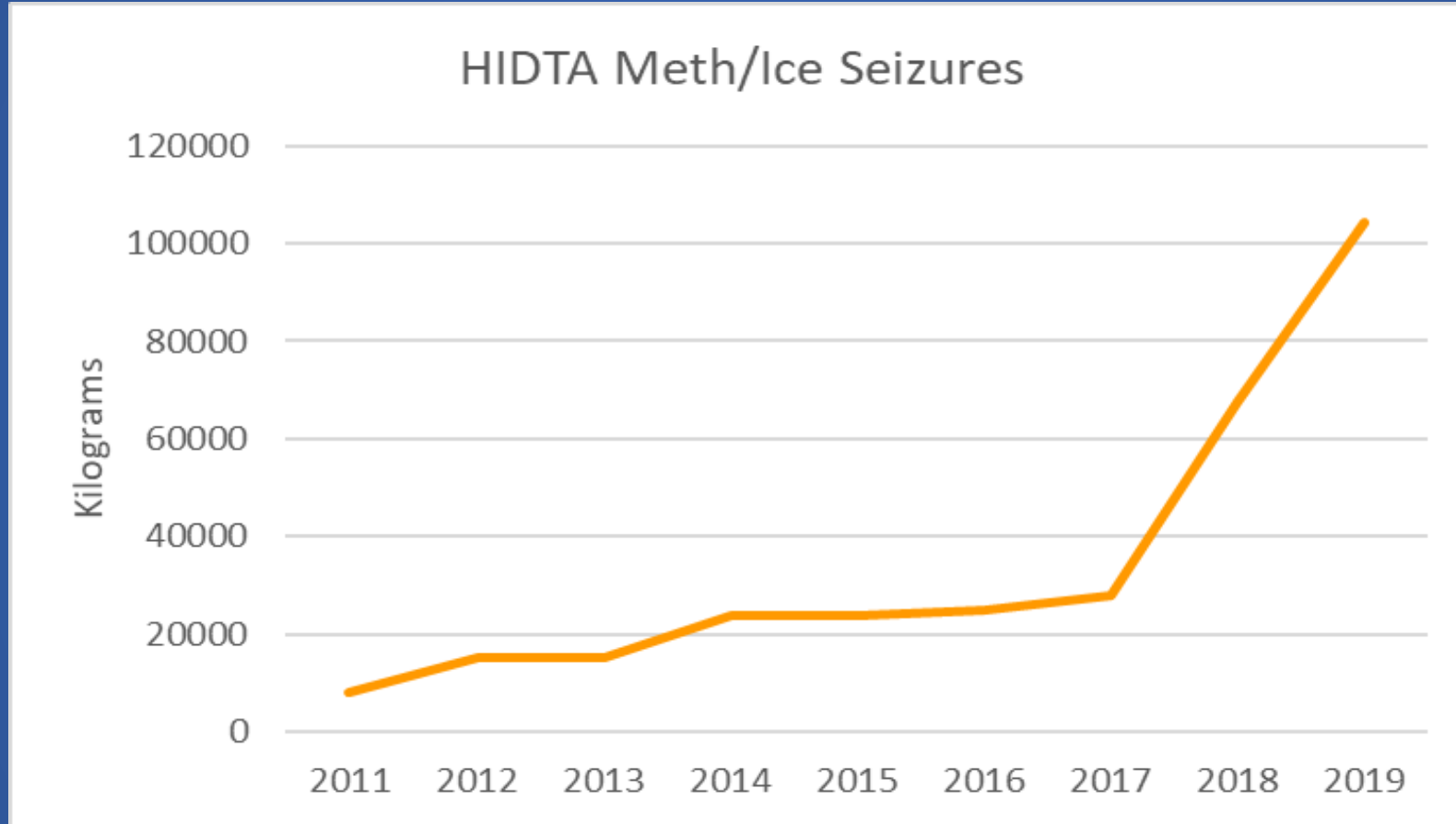
The above graph reflects the change in cocaine/crack seizures, in terms of amount seized (in kilograms) within all HIDTA counties from 2011 to 2019.

ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



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The graph above highlights HIDTAs methamphetamine/ice seizures across all HIDTA from 2011-19.

ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



SC Quarterly Drug Submissions 2018 - 2021

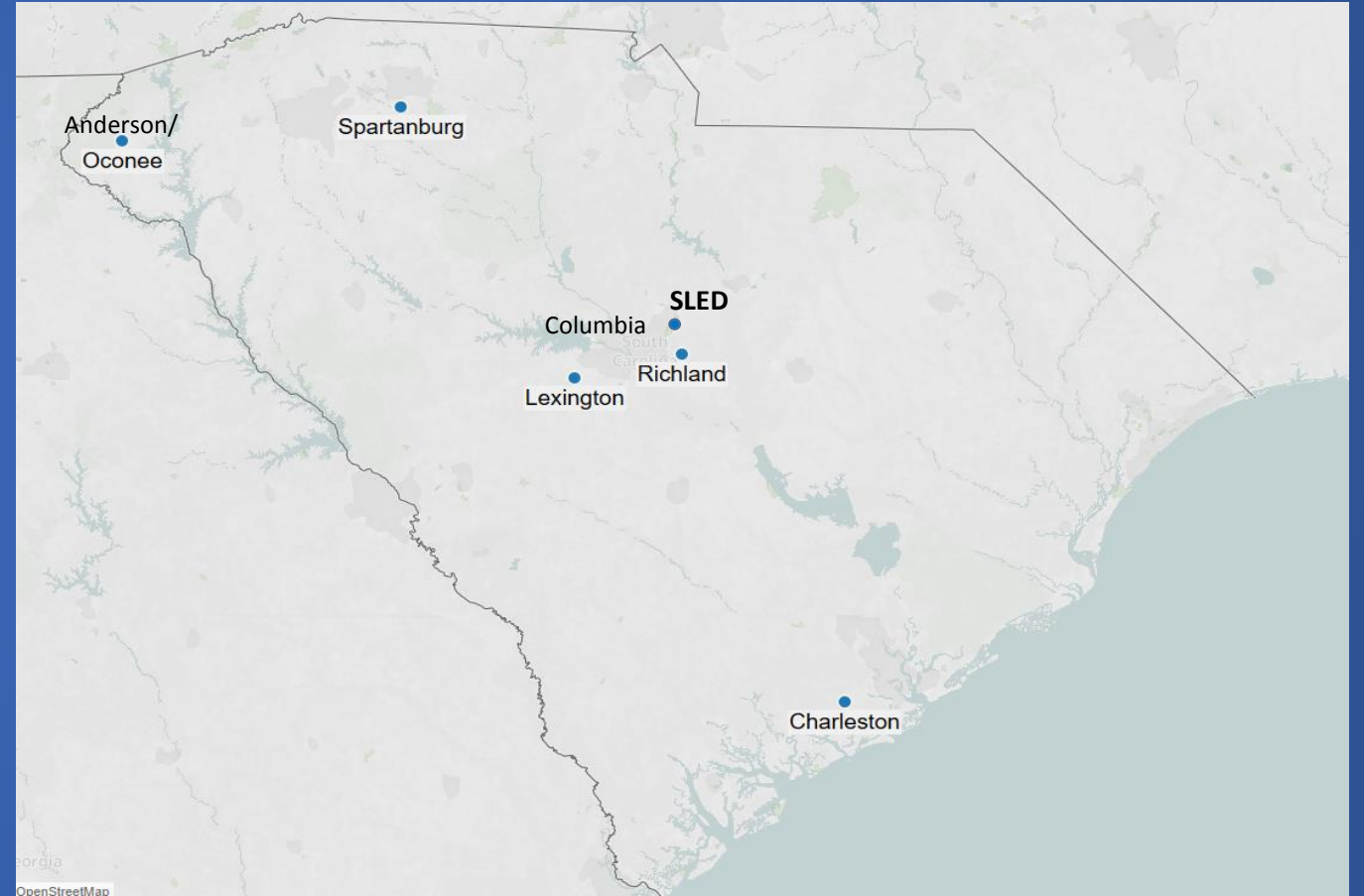
**ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA (ACHIDTA)**



South Carolina has 15 Labs

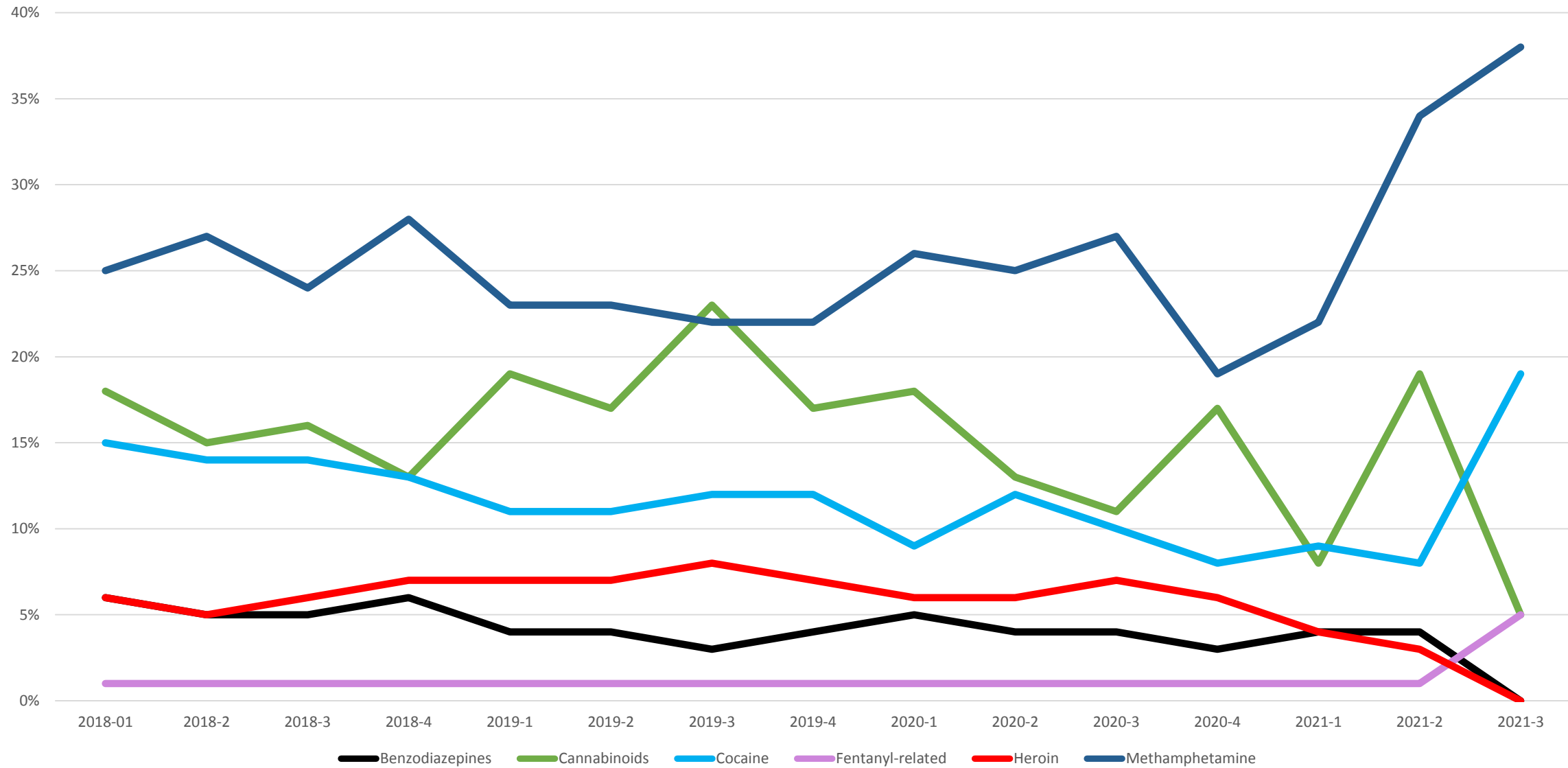
South Carolina Quarterly
Drug Submissions
2018-2021

7 out of 15 labs



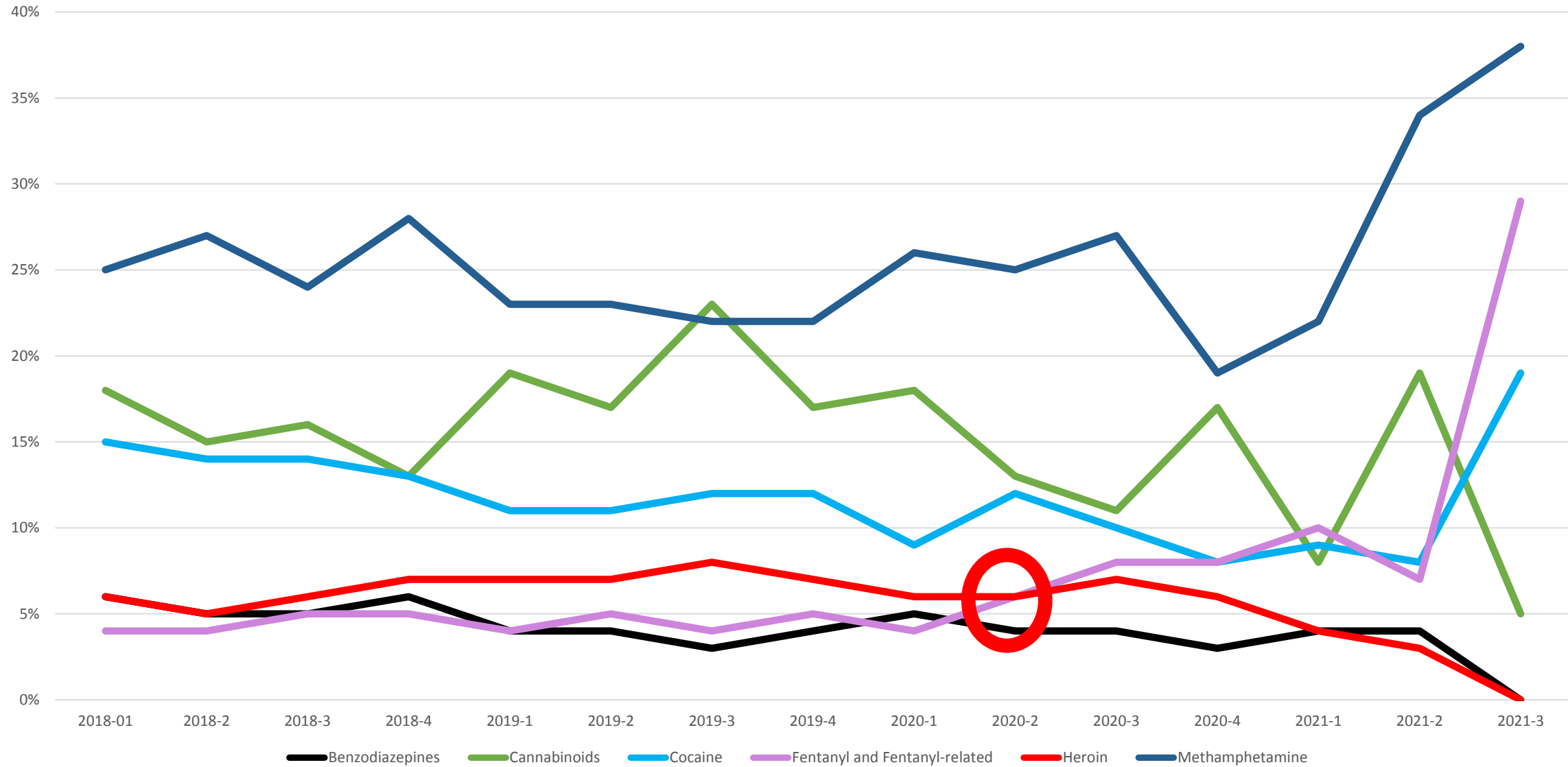
**ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG
TRAFFICKING AREA (ACHIDTA)**

Drug Submission % 2018 – 2021 3rd Qtr



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)

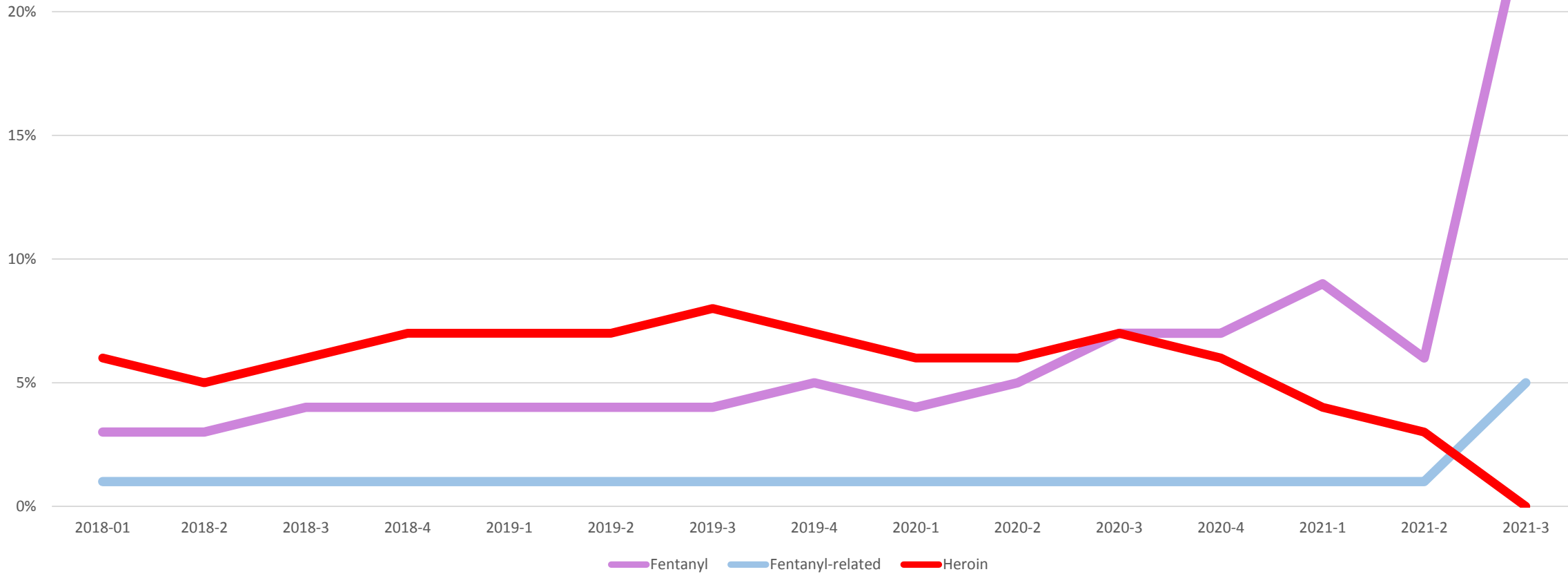
Drug Submission % 2018 – 2021 3rd Qtr



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



Chart Title



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



Fentanyl Purity on U.S. Highways

Greater than 50%, often greater than 90%

Distributed from China or other source

Less than 10% at this purity

Bulk packages through Southwest Border, includes diluent sugars like lactose and mannitol

Less than 1%

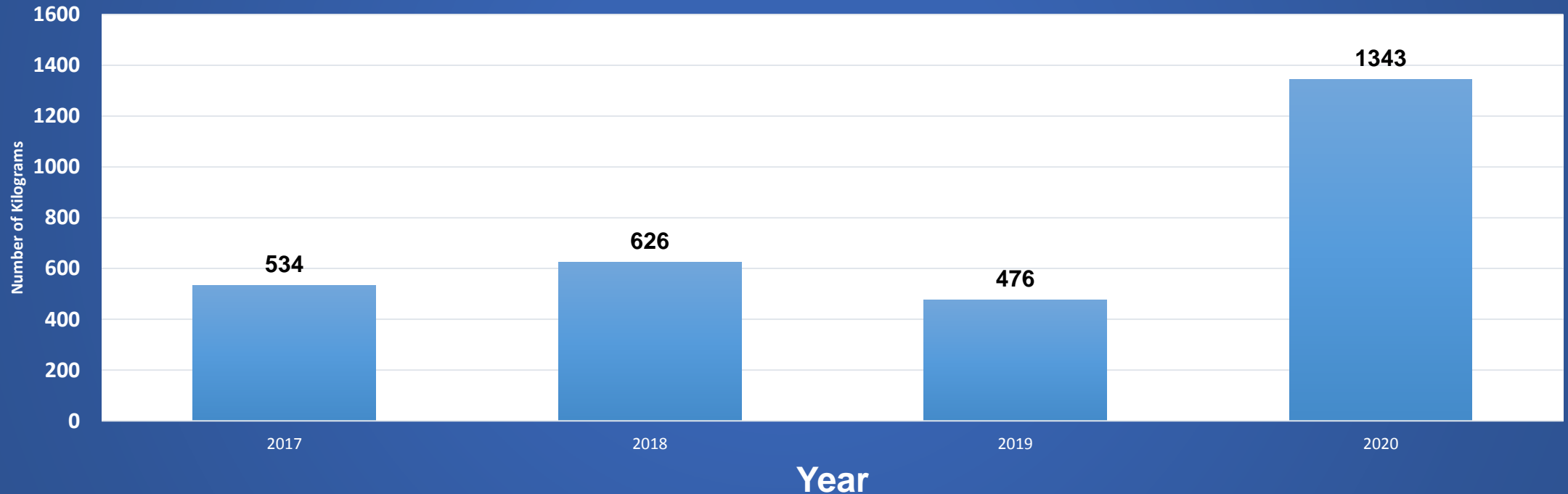
Pills/tablets, which seem to be increasingly common on the Southwest Border

Source: US CBP Report, DHE HSIN, Corridor Call Notes June 20, 2019

ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)

Fentanyl Traffic Stop Seizures in Kilograms

EPIC NSS Traffic Stop Seizures - Fentanyl Volume (Kilograms)



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA: Public Safety Perspective

Fentanyl Seizures

| | 2018 | | 2019 | | 2020 | |
|------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|-----------------|-------------|
| Amount | 13.81 kg | 739 DU | 22.5 kg | 5326 DU | 36.29 kg | 3415 DU |
| Value | \$897,338 | \$99,765 | \$1,462,591 | \$719,010 | \$1,088,634 | \$51,225 |
| Price/Unit | \$65,000 | \$135 | \$65,000 | \$135 | \$30,000 | \$15 |

SC 2020 HIDTA Stats

14.0 kg 1103 DU

DU = Dosage Unit

Law enforcement sources state most of the fentanyl is coming into their areas via dark web purchases from China by courier or shipping directly from Mexico

SLED Drug Analysis Laboratory saw 11 different fentanyl analogues in 2021



Fentanyl

Wipeout

Gel Capsules Containing Fentanyl, Cocaine & Xylazine Combo Tied to Aggressive Behavior A drug mixture containing fentanyl, cocaine and xylazine was tied to multiple fatal overdoses and to aggressive behavior in non-fatal overdose victims in Maryland.

Users in Carroll County were reported stating that the mixture “literally wipes people out.”

The FCHD reported that users appeared to believe they were purchasing “heroin caps.”

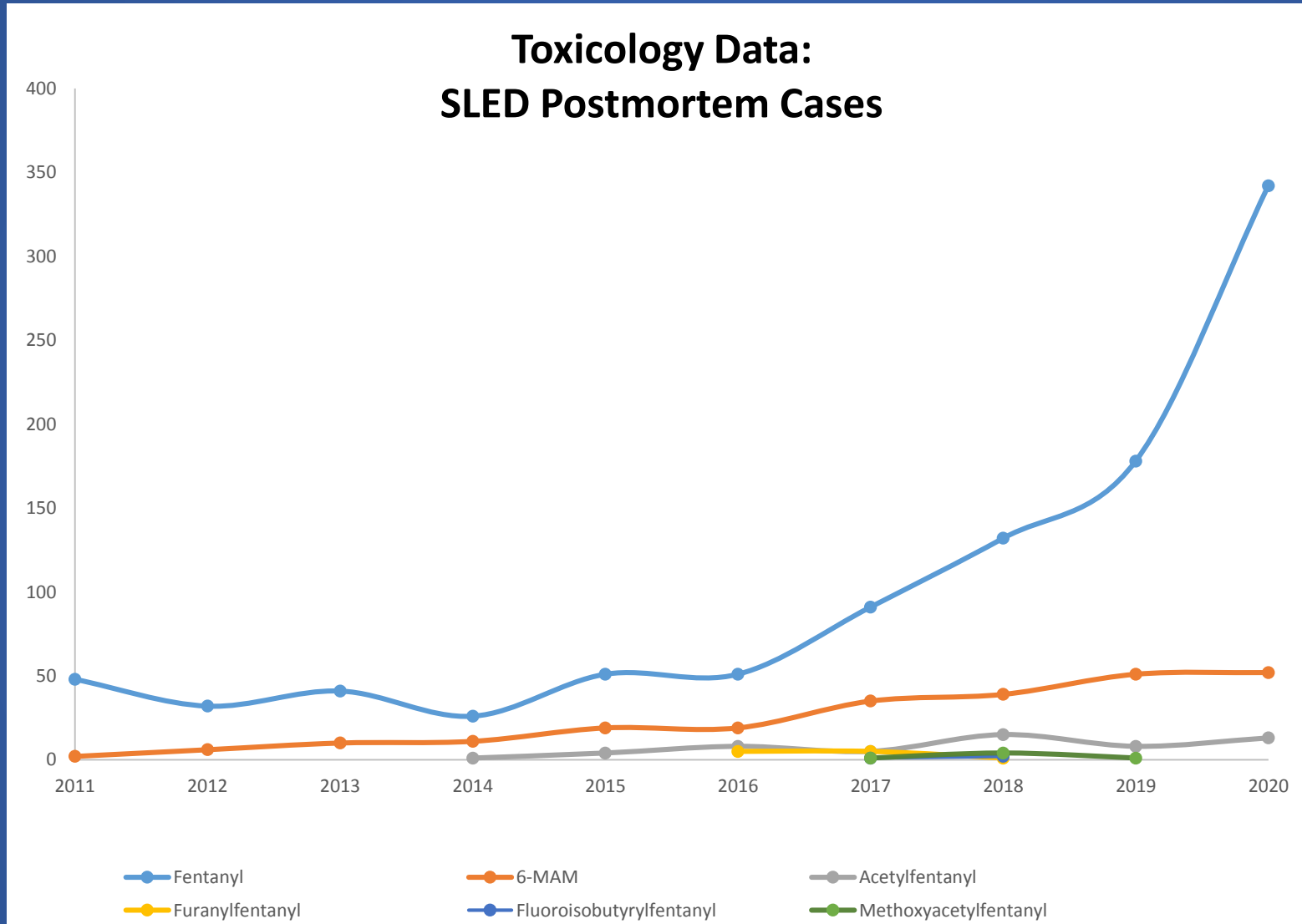
The source of “Wipeout” is likely located in the same area of Baltimore as the source for the brands “Steph Curry” and “Cardi B.” “Wipeout” mixture is sold in Green/White caps, Red/Black caps, and clear caps.



Fentanyl

Number of Cases

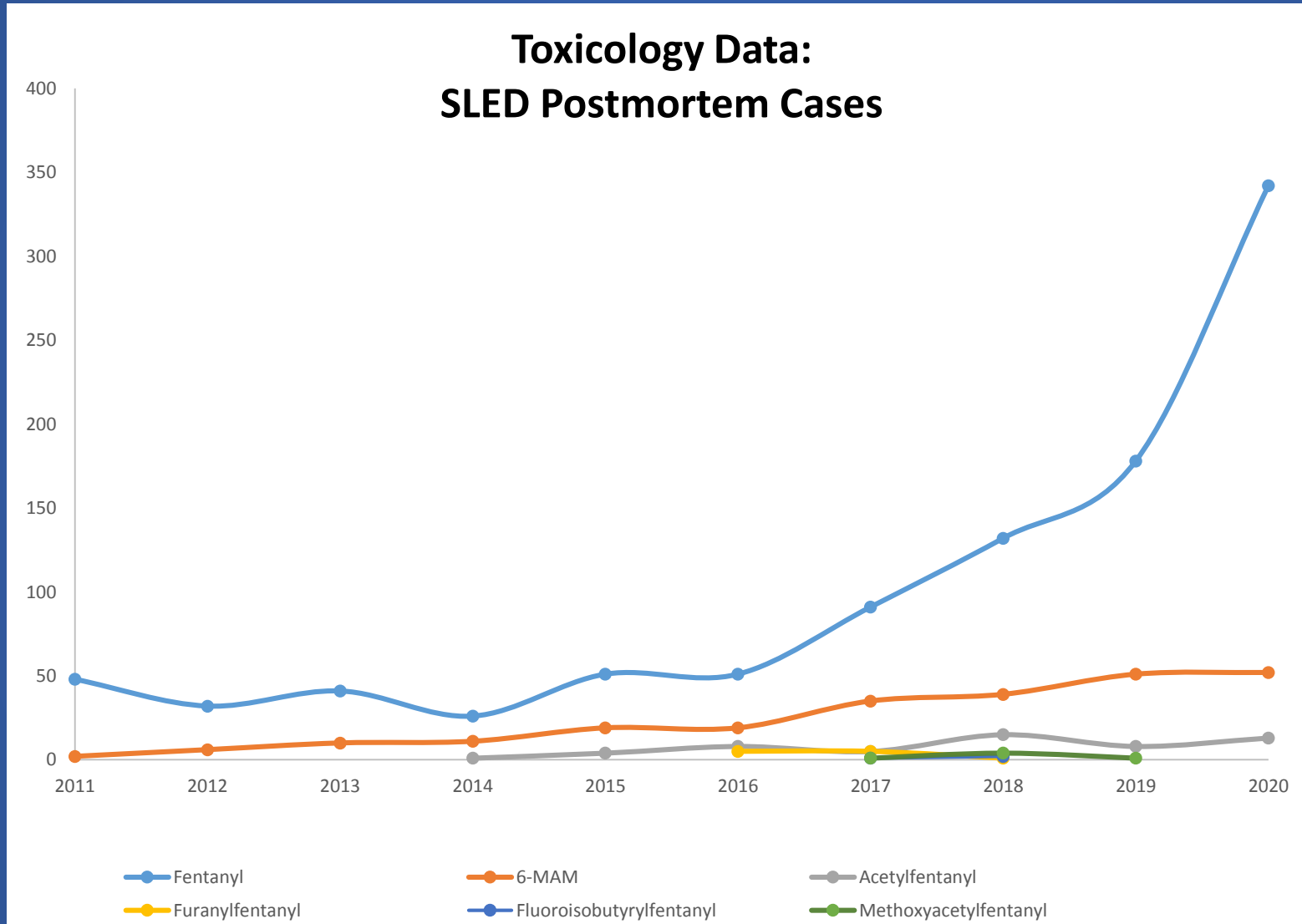
Toxicology Data: SLED Postmortem Cases





What's out there

Number of Cases





What's out there

Fentanyl / Ketamine

March 2021, PA State Police

A search of the vehicle yielded two kilograms of what was first believed to be black tar heroin along with 820 grams of brown powdered heroin, and 14 grams of cocaine.

The evidence was analyzed by the PA State Police lab. The two kilograms tested positive for Fentanyl and Ketamine.



Prescription Drugs



Fentanyl and Heroin



**SLED Forensic
Services Laboratory**



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)

2021 Drug cases with fentanyl and other drugs

Sled 94 seizures of fentanyl and other drugs in 2021

13 mixed with cocaine

38 mixed with meth

44 mixed with meth

Mixed with tramadol and meth

Mixed with tramadol and cocaine

Mixed with heroin and cocaine

Cocaine

Meth

Heroin

Cathine

Amphetamine

MDMA

Morphine

Codeine

Oxycodone

Tramacol

Benzyl Furanyl

Meth

Etizolam

Gabapentin

Fluoro-MDMB-PICA

Acetyl Fentanyl

Ketamine

Meth

Norfentanyl

Fluorofentanyl

**SLED Forensic
Services Laboratory**



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)

| | | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|--|
| Xylazine | | | | | |
| 2018 | 2 | | | 1 | |
| 2020 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 | |

ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



Clonazepam

Clonazepam, is a medium-duration psychoactive drug that also belongs to the class of benzodiazepines.

- **has been reported to be more fast-acting and its effects can be felt within 20 to 60 minutes**
- **has the reputation of being highly potent as it produces very strong sedation and effects even when taken in small doses such as 0.5 mg**
- **Compared to other benzodiazepines, clonazepam has been found to be both physically and psychologically addictive. Tolerance may develop within a few days of continuous use.**
- **As with most benzodiazepines, abrupt discontinuation of use can pose serious threats to the frequent users including seizures and sudden death.**



Clonazepam

February 2021



Atlanta-Carolinas HIDTA South Carolina

As part of an ongoing investigation, the Greenville DEU investigators recovered three pill presses, binding agents and a substance believed to be Clonazepam in a Greer apartment. The pill presses were capable of making 4,000 pills an hour. The subject of the investigation was found deceased at the location from a fatal overdose and had been selling the drugs over the black web marketed as a Xanax. Investigators were able to identify locations throughout the US where packages had been sent to. One location was identified in NC and when local LE showed up there they found the subject at that location in an overdose state. Several other overdoses in the South Carolina upstate area have been connected with this substance.



ATLANTA-CAROLINAS HIGH INTENSITY DRUG TRAFFICKING AREA (AHIDTA)



Clonazepam

| Clonazepam | | | | |
|------------|----|----|----|-----|
| 2018 | | | 1 | |
| 2019 | 81 | 70 | 73 | 109 |
| 2020 | | 3 | 7 | 9 |
| 2021 | 24 | 14 | | |

Xylazine

Xylazine is a drug used in veterinary medicine as a sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant.

Xylazine has been studied in humans for its potential as an analgesic, hypnotic, and anesthetic but these trials were terminated due to its severe hypotension and central nervous system depressant effect.

Xylazine is approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for veterinary use only. It is not controlled under the federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

Xylazine

Xylazine effects include blurred vision, disorientation, drowsiness, staggering, coma, and respiratory depression.

Exposure to Xylazine is common amongst heroin, fentanyl and cocaine abusers as it is often used as an adulterant with illicit substances.

Fatality case reports have documented concentration ranges from a trace amount up to 16,000 ng/mL in both as a contributing factor and sole use.

Xylazine

| Xylazine | | | | |
|----------|---|---|---|---|
| 2018 | 2 | | 1 | |
| 2020 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 2 |

Xylazine

Anderson County lab – seen in mixtures of Fentanyl and Ketamine

past 2-3 years, powder form, coming from Coroner’s Office

Charleston Lab - We have seen Xylazine once in August 2018. It was a couple of bags of brown powder. The bags also contained Heroin, Fentanyl, and Quinine.

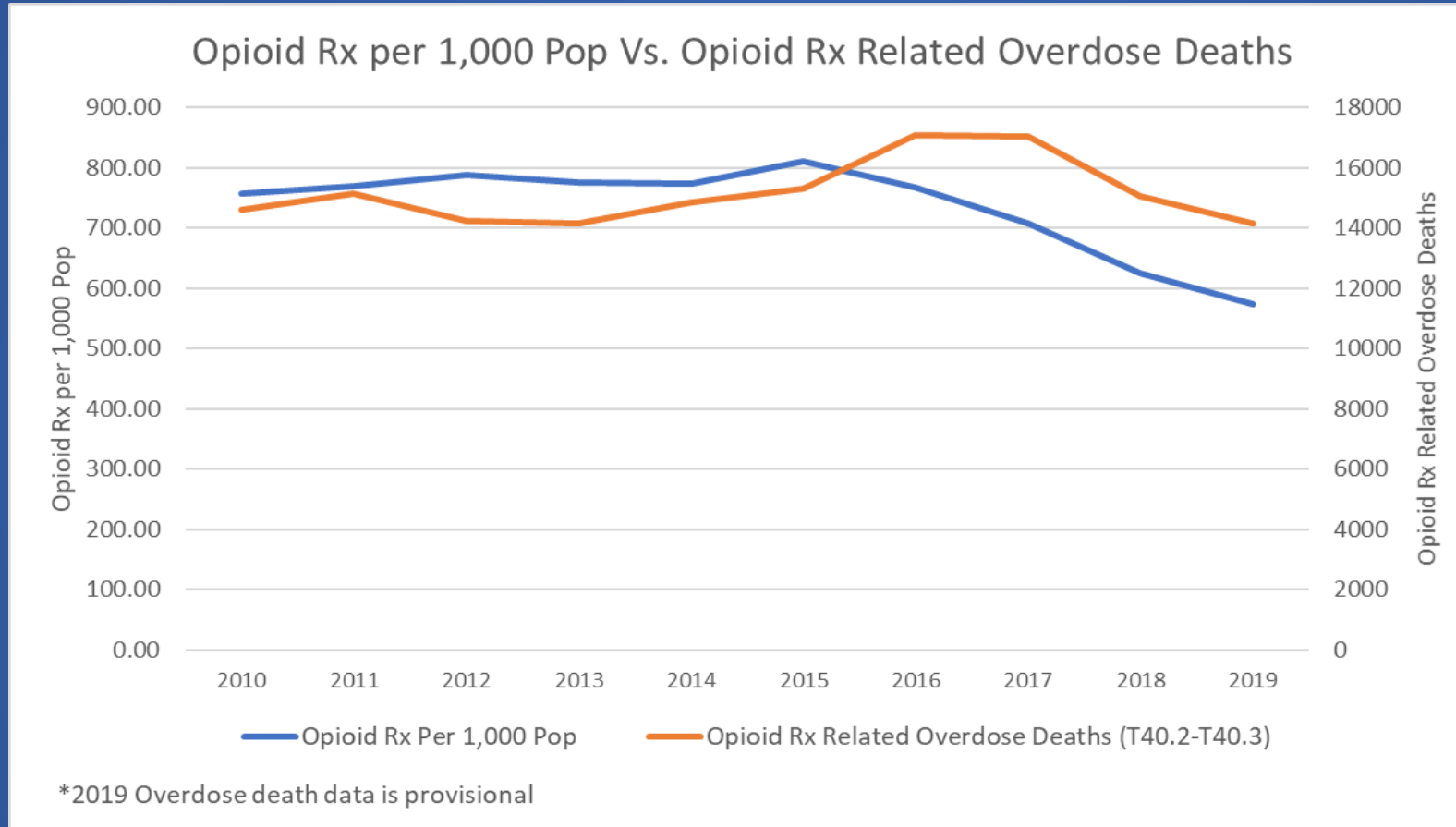
Richland County Lab - Yes we have seen Xylazine in several cases

Negative from Beaufort, Charleston, Columbia and Richland.

No response from others

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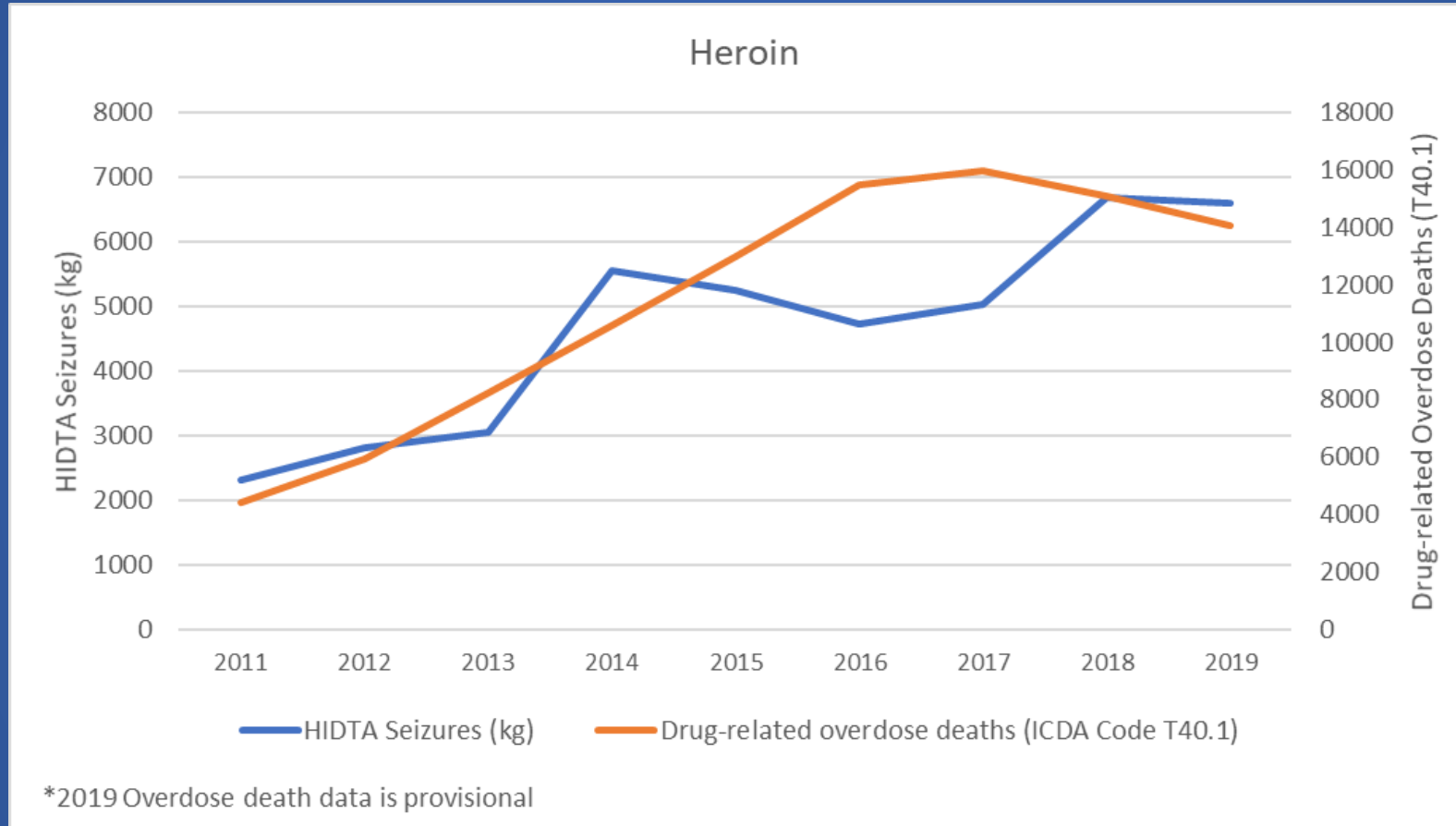


Opioid Rx as reported by state PDMPs for 2011 through 2019 compared to the provisional number of overdose deaths involving opioid Rx, as reported from CDC.

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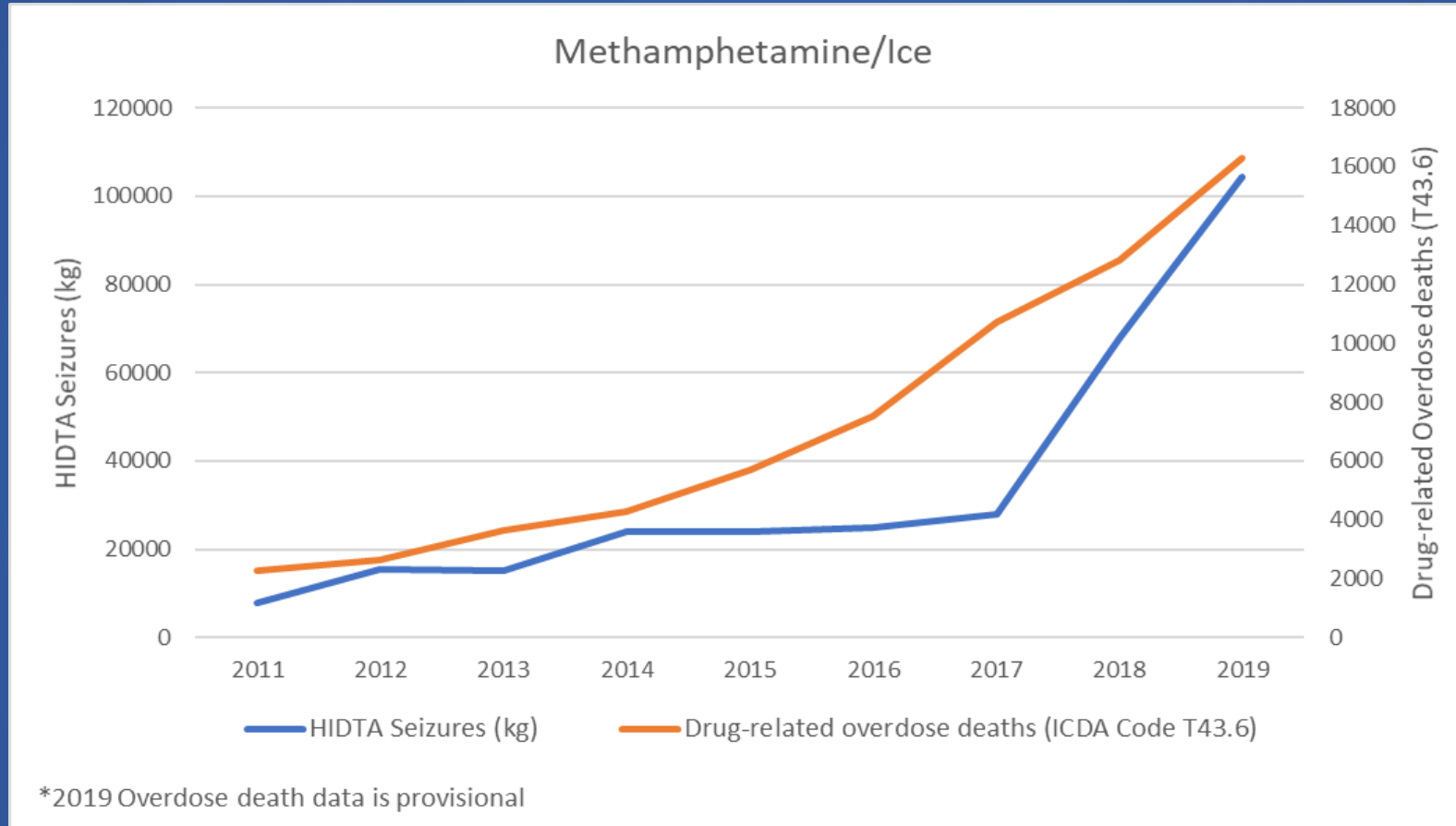


The above graph compares HIDTA Heroin seizures to heroin related drug overdose deaths over a eight-year period.

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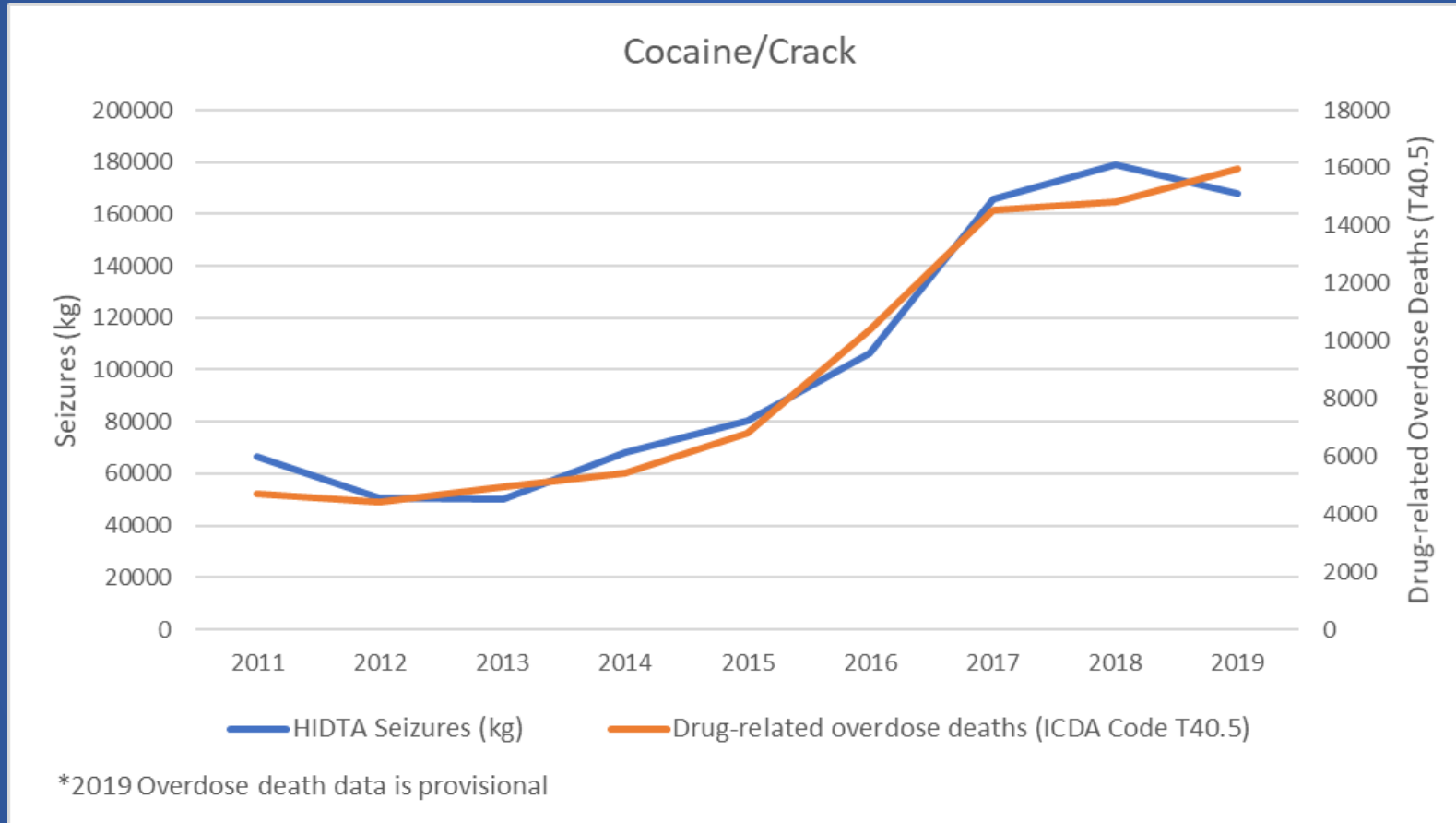


Methamphetamine seizures and deaths, while smaller in numbers than cocaine, are both increasing at a faster rate from 2011 to 2019.

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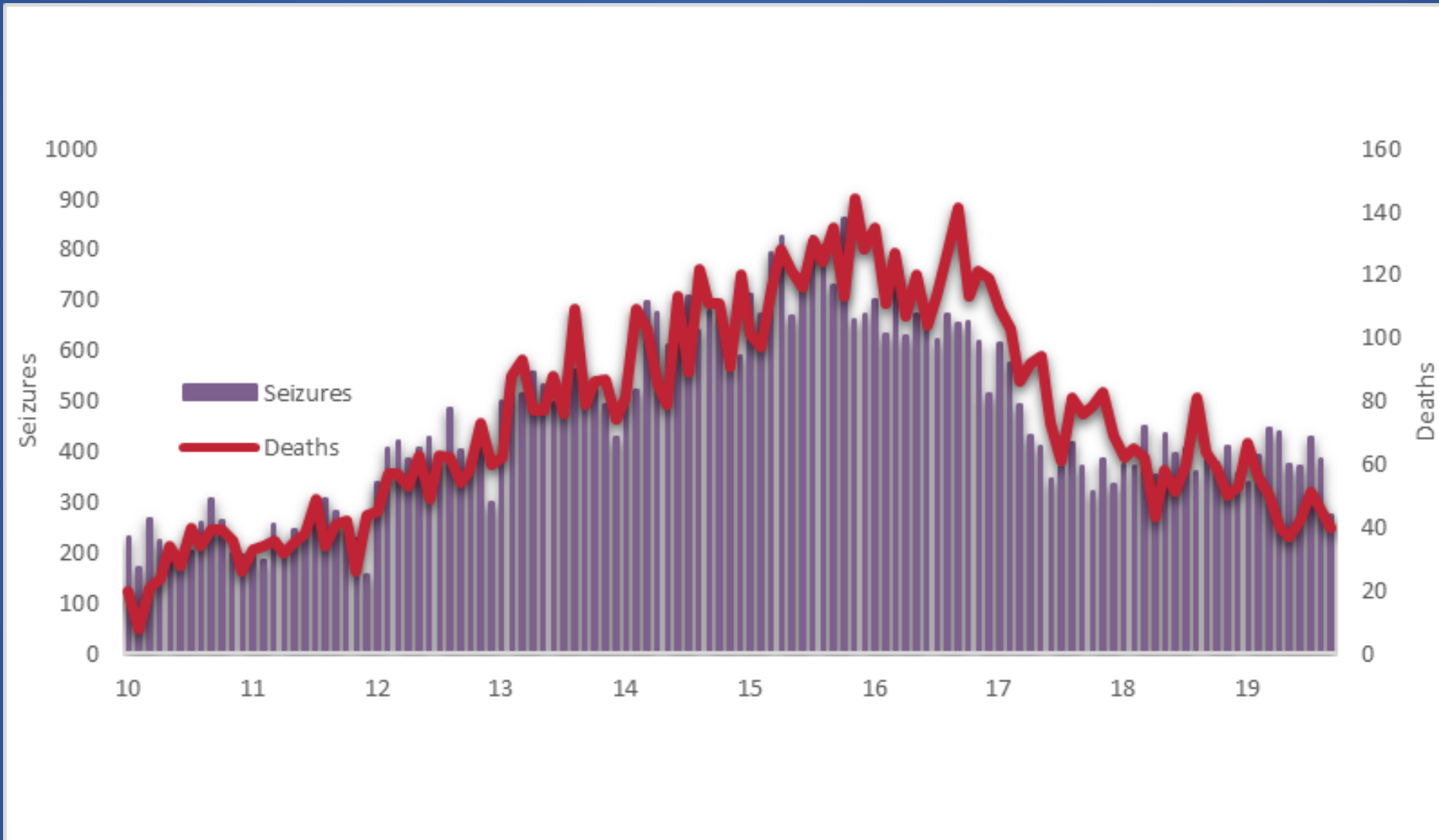
A National HIDTA Program



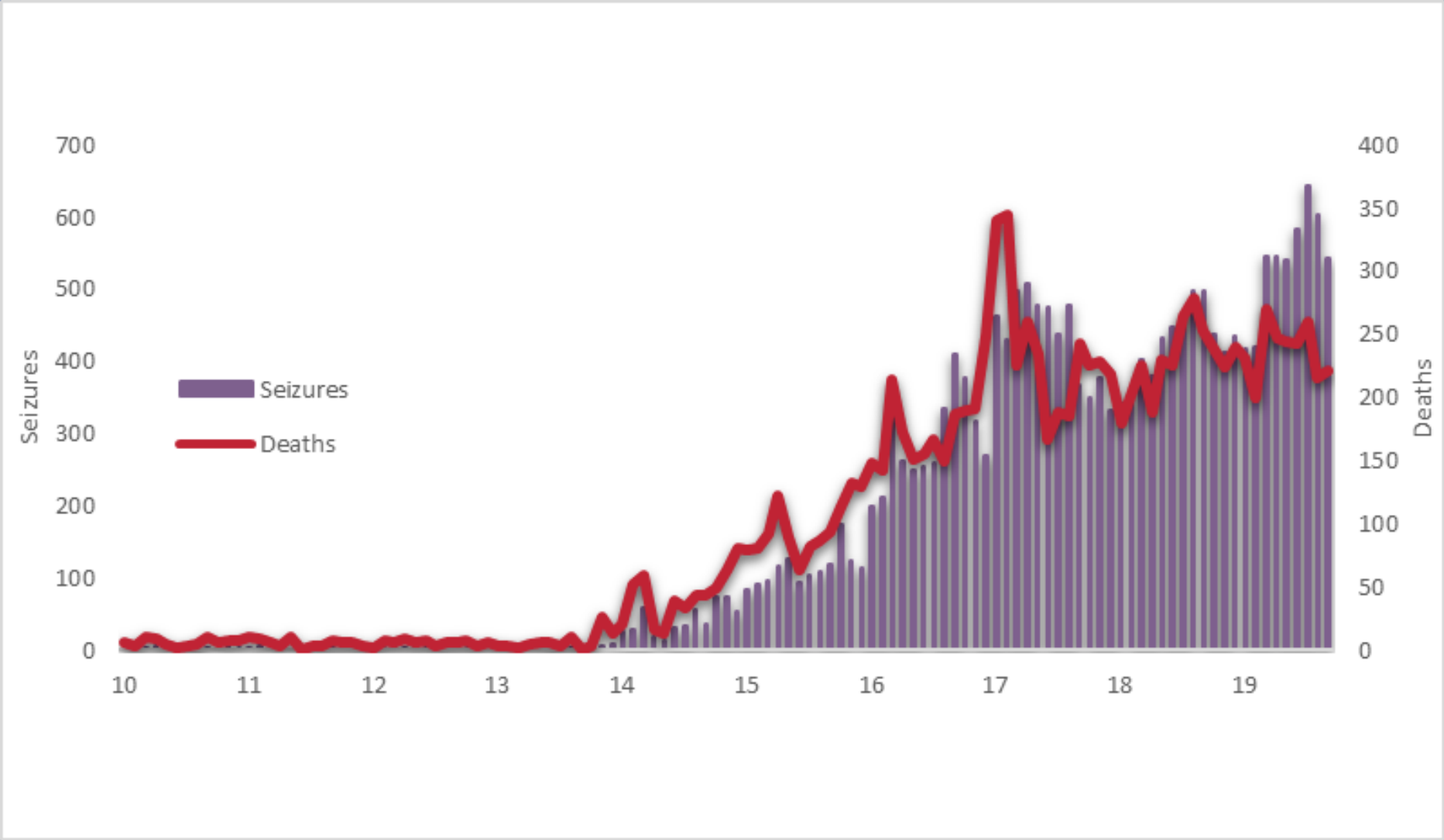
The comparison of HIDTA seizures of Cocaine to deaths involving cocaine show rapid increases from 2011 through 2016, suggesting that the increased deaths are highly correlated with increasing supply.

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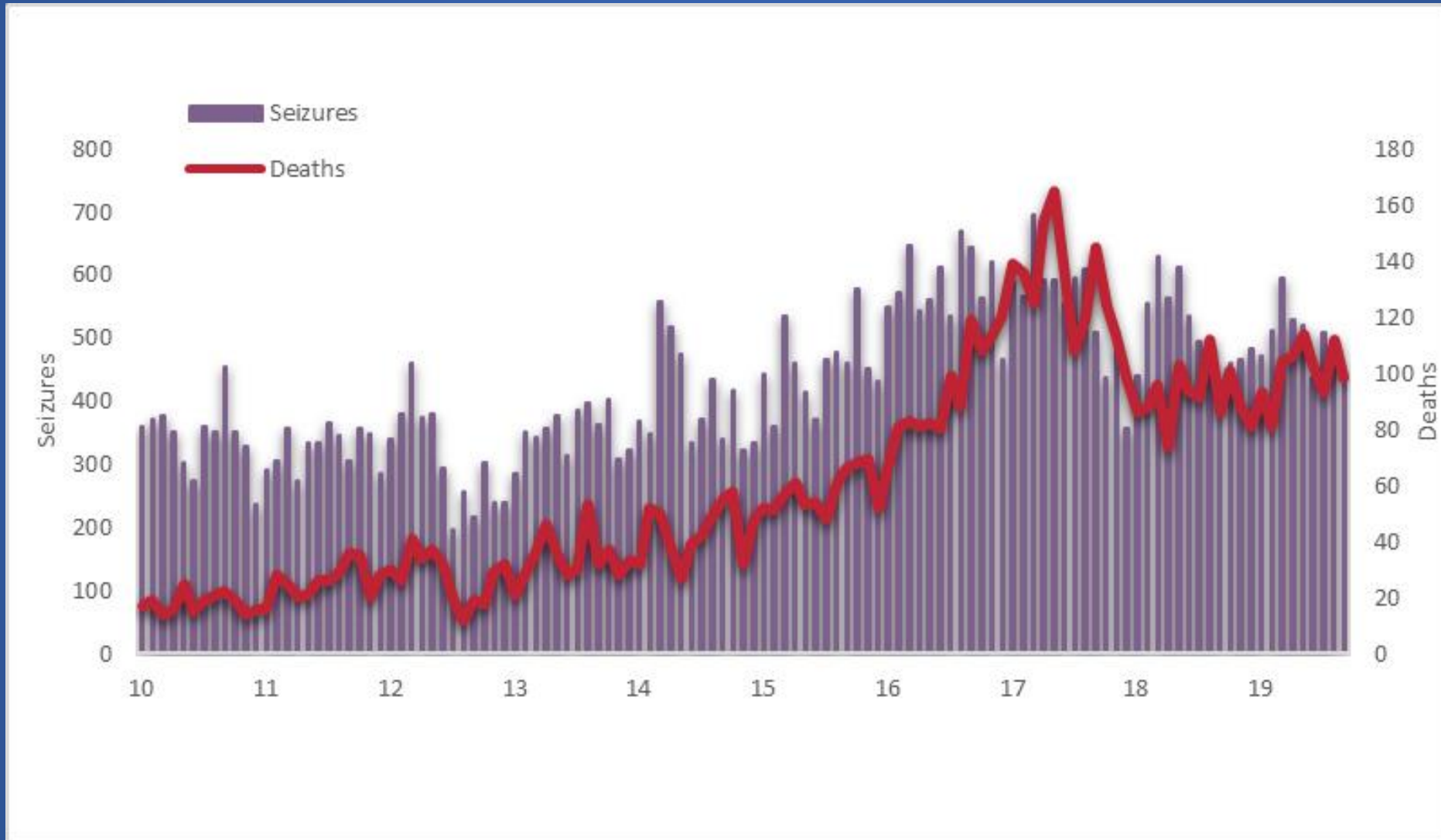
Heroin Overdose Deaths and Drug Seizures Ohio, 2010 - 2019



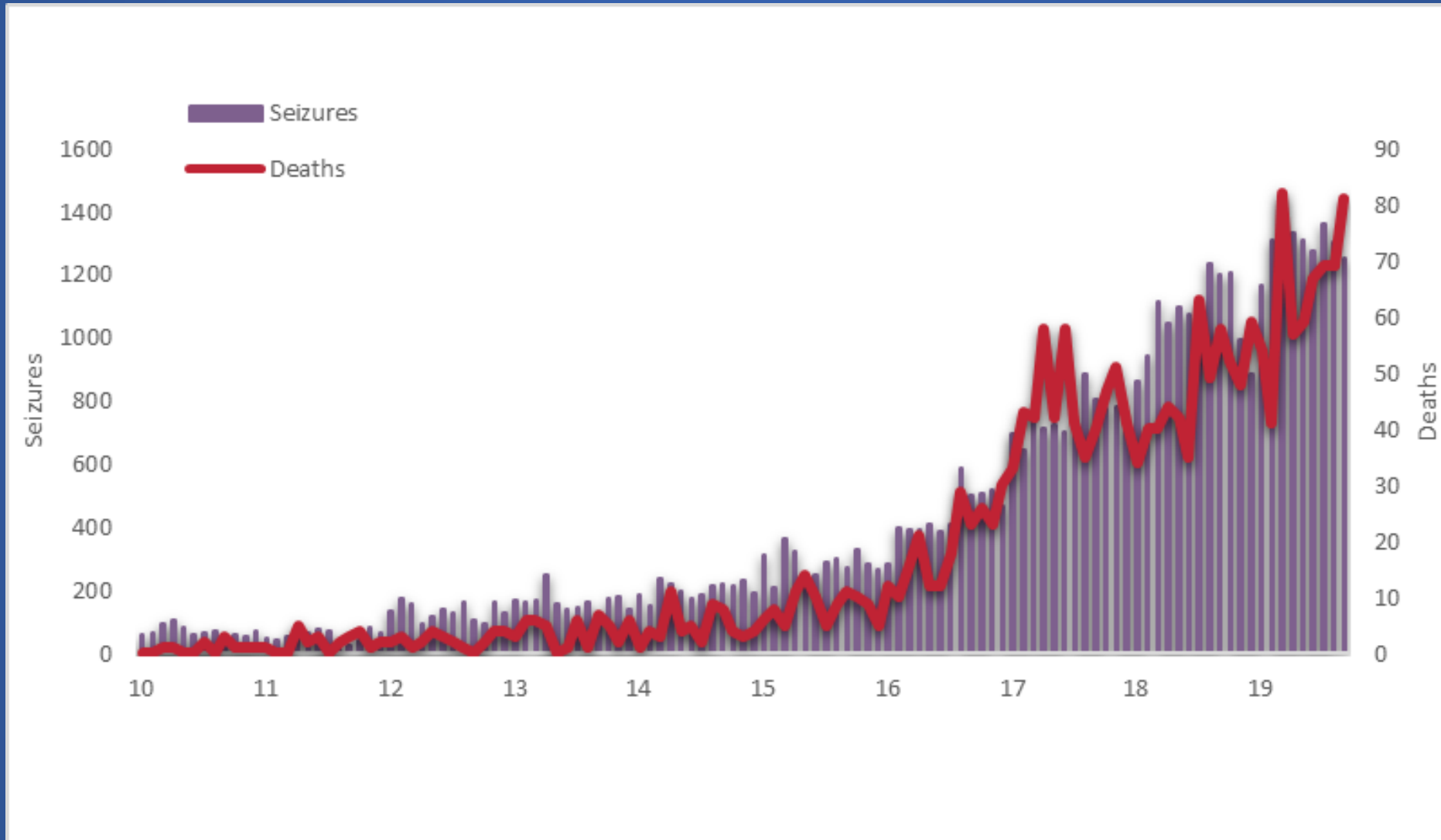
Fentanyl Overdose Deaths and Drug Seizures Ohio, 2010 - 2019



Cocaine Overdose Deaths and Drug Seizures Ohio, 2010 - 2019



Methamphetamine Overdose Deaths and Drug Seizures Ohio, 2010 - 2019



What's out there

THC Edibles

May 2020 – ACHIDTA put out a DEA bulletin regarding THC laced candy and cereal seized by the Charleston County Sheriff's Office in April 2020 being shipped from California via USPS. Similar to a seizure seized by Summerville PD in Feb 2020

(U//LES) Figure 2. Seized THC-laced Candy



Source: Summerville Police Department



DEA
BULLETIN



Atlanta Field
Division



UNCLASSIFIED//LAW ENFORCEMENT SENSITIVE

(U) South Carolina, Seizures of THC-laced Kids Candy and Cereal

(U) This DEA Bulletin is based on preliminary reporting and may be subject to updating as additional information becomes available.

DEA-ATL-BUL-xxx-FY
May 2020

(U) Event

(U//LES) On April 15, 2020, the Charleston County Sheriff's Office (CCSO) seized five drug-laden parcels being shipped to a local address from California via the United States Postal Service (USPS). In addition to bulk raw marijuana, the parcels included numerous packets of THC (tetrahydrocannabinol) edibles, which mimicked legitimately manufactured and packaged children's candy (see Figure 1). The THC-laced candy is similar to drugs that were seized by the Summerville Police Department during February of 2020, which were also sent via parcel from California through the USPS (see Figure 2). Two weeks after their April 15th seizure, the CCSO seized another parcel containing raw bulk marijuana and THC-soaked kids' cereal (see Figure 3).

(U//LES) Figure 1. Seized THC-laced Candy



Source: Charleston County Sheriff's Office

What's out there

THC Edibles

March 2021 - the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics (OBN) and the Oklahoma Medical Marijuana Authority (OMMA). They are investigating the source of THC edibles that put at least two people in an Oklahoma City hospital this past week. Two individuals became ill from eating THC chip products that appear to have been packaged for the California medical marijuana market.

In April 2021 The Lancaster County School District Director of Safety and Transportation Bryan Vaughn said peanut butter and jelly sandwiches full of THC were found in a bag in a classroom. The package was designed to look like “Uncrustables,” which are frozen peanut butter and jelly sandwiches commonly packed in school lunches.



Trend Changes

Two (2) Major Trend Changes

Opioids – A

- **Rx Opioids – Driving force behind the Opioid Epidemic – Finally capped.**
 - Radical expansion of Rx opioids peaked 2015 after 2 decades.
 - Demand - non-medical use of Rx opioids has begun decline.
 - Overdose Deaths – Rx opioids – finally peaked 2016 & 2017.
- **Outlook – Rx Opioids – Continuing Decreases:**
 - Supply of,
 - Demand for non-medical use,
 - Overdose deaths from Rx opioids.

Trend Changes

Two (2) Major Trend Changes

Opioids – B

- **Outlook – Heroin – levels of abuse well below Rx opioids.**
 - Supply, demand, and overdose deaths expected to minimally increase and then level off.
- **Outlook – Fentanyl**
 - Use in combination with other opioids and stimulants will continue,
 - Overdose deaths involving Fentanyl to continue increases.

Trend Changes

Two (2) Major Trend Changes

Stimulants – A

- **Licit and illicit stimulants are rapidly surging:**
 - Supply,
 - Demand for non-medical use,
 - Overdose deaths.
 - Simultaneous with Opioid Epidemic &
 - Intertwined with Opioid Epidemic
 - *e.g. fentanyl in combination with cocaine & meth.*

Trend Changes

Two (2) Major Trend Changes

Stimulants – B

- **Outlook – Cocaine – continued increases:**
 - supply, demand, and adverse outcomes.
- **Outlook – Methamphetamine – further increases:**
 - Supply,
 - Demand,
 - Overdose deaths.

CMEs and CEUs

MUSC designates this live activity for a maximum of 1.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*[™]MUSC will award 0.1 CEUs for this activity (1 contact hour = 0.1 CEU)

NEW WEBSITE ADDRESS

<https://medicine.musc.edu/departments/psychiatry/divisions-and-programs/programs/echo-oud>

Please copy and paste the evaluation link into your web browser to complete a very brief survey:

https://redcap.link/ECHO_Evaluation

| Upcoming ECHO OUD Session | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|
| Date | Topic | Presenter |
| 10/15 | Pulse on SC Overdose Deaths | Caitlin Kratz, MSW, LISW-CP/S, LAC, AADC |

