



2019 Fatal Overdoses in Rhode Island: Data Highlights

**Governor Gina M. Raimondo's Overdose Prevention
and Intervention Task Force**

April 8, 2020

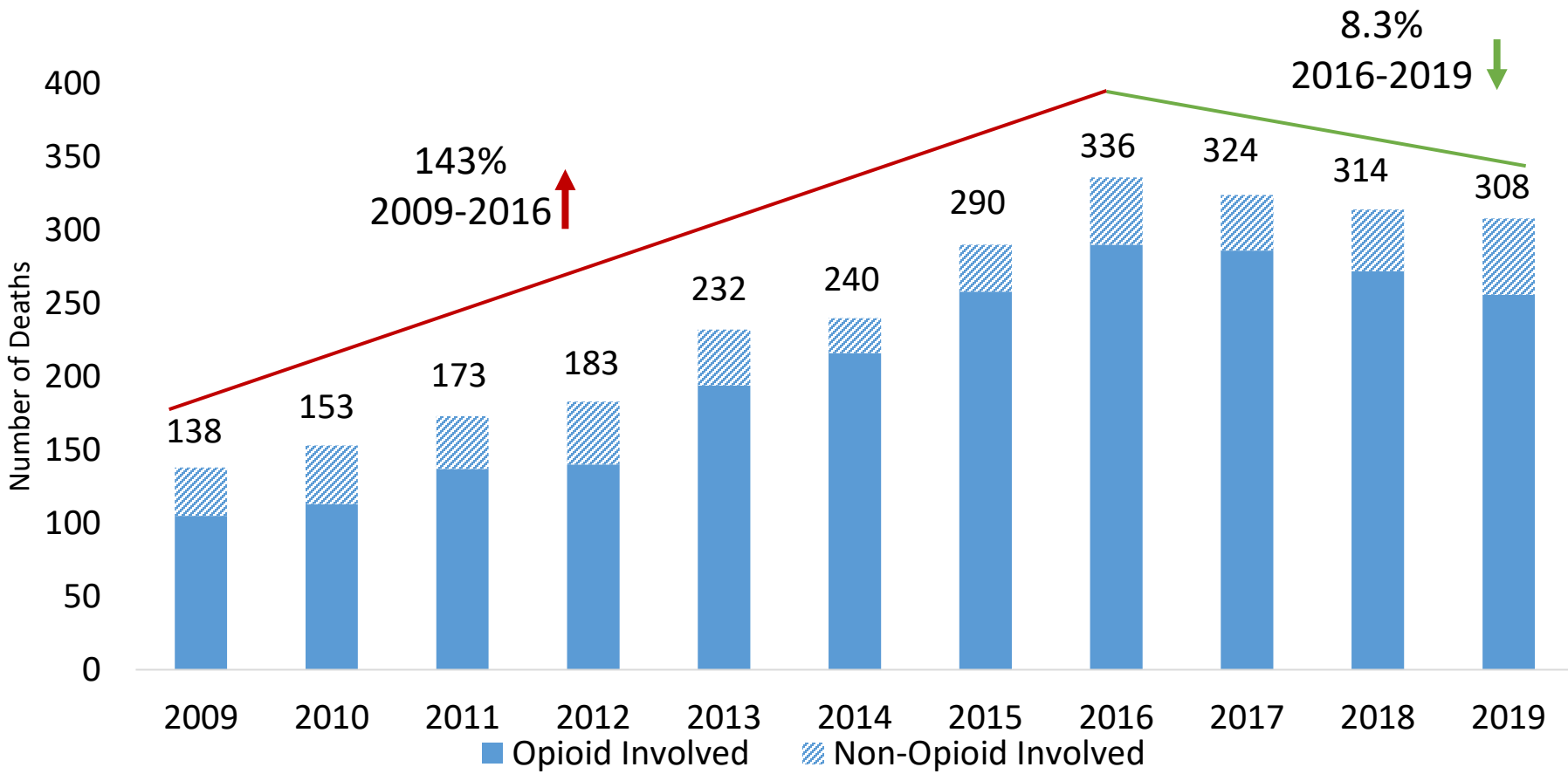
How Does RIDOH Report on Fatal Drug Overdoses?



- The **Office of State Medical Examiners (OSME)** determines cause and manner of death based on clinical judgment, experience, and consideration of the following:
 - Autopsy results
 - Toxicology testing
 - Scene investigation
 - Medical history
- RIDOH reports on drug overdose deaths where the manner of death is “Accident,” and does not include other manners such as suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.

Continuing to Bend the Curve

Between **2016 and 2019**, accidental drug overdose deaths decreased by **8.3%**, from 336 in 2016 to **308 in 2019**.

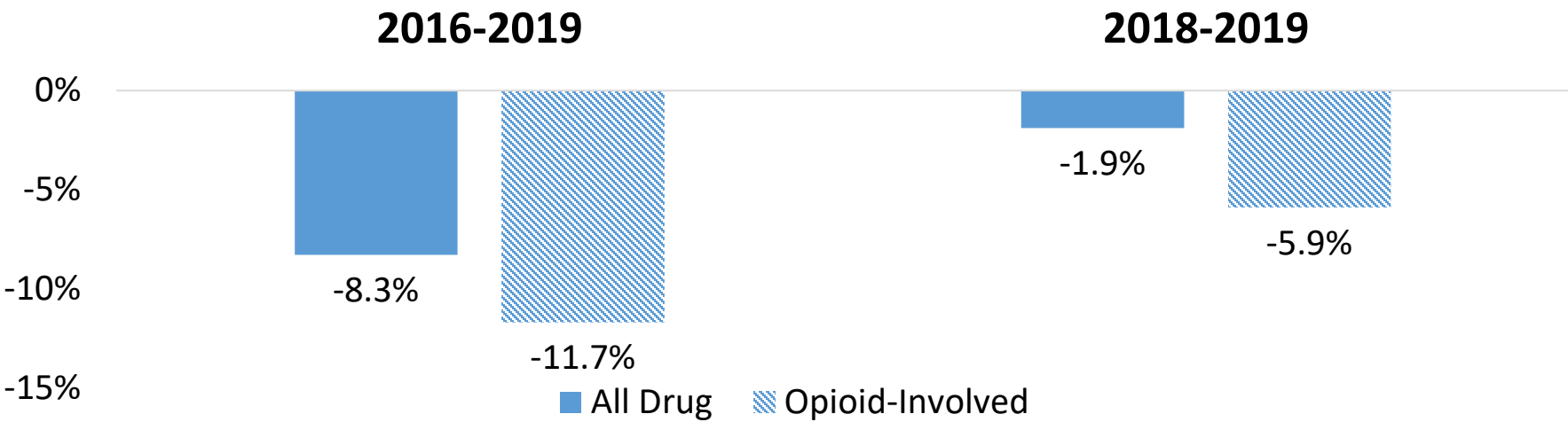


Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of 03/31/2020 pending final validation and are subject to change. Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths.



Bending the Curve

	All-Drug		Opioid-Involved	
	2016-2019	2018-2019	2016-2019	2018-2019
Counts	336 to 308	314 to 308	290 to 256	272 to 256
Percent Change	8.3% ↓	1.9% ↓	11.7% ↓	5.9% ↓



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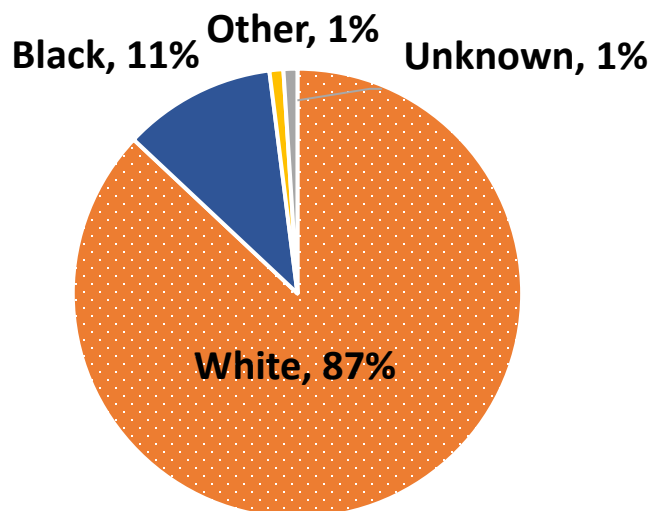
Demographics

Proportion of Fatal Overdoses by Race

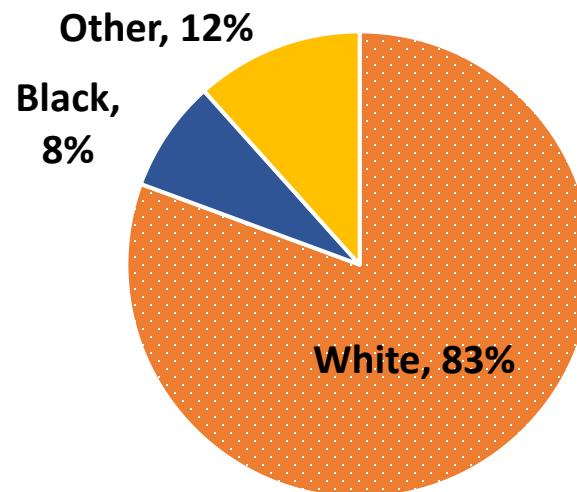


Most drug overdose deaths occurred in the **White population**.

2019 Fatal Overdoses



Rhode Island Population

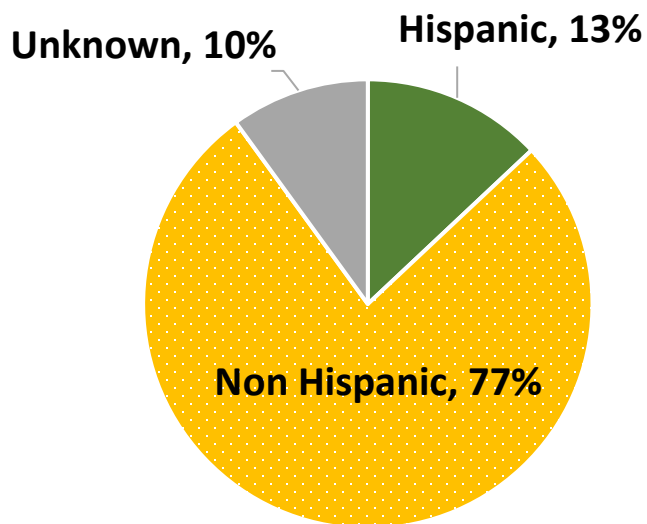


The **rate** of overdose deaths among **Black persons** fluctuated between 2009 and 2019.

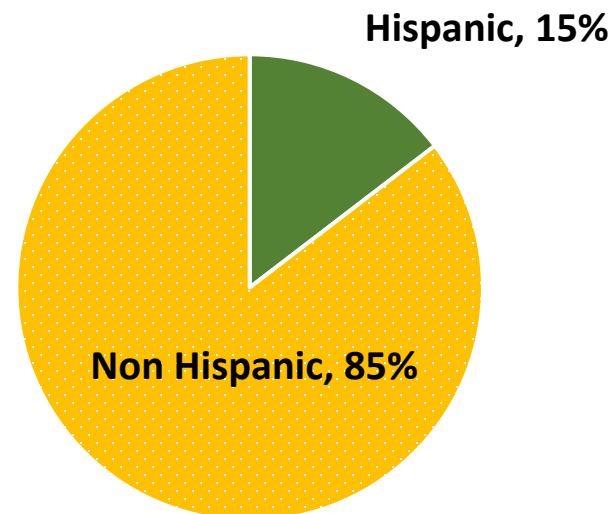
Proportion of Fatal Overdoses by Ethnicity

A majority of drug overdose deaths occurred among **Non-Hispanics**.

2019 Fatal Overdoses



Rhode Island Population

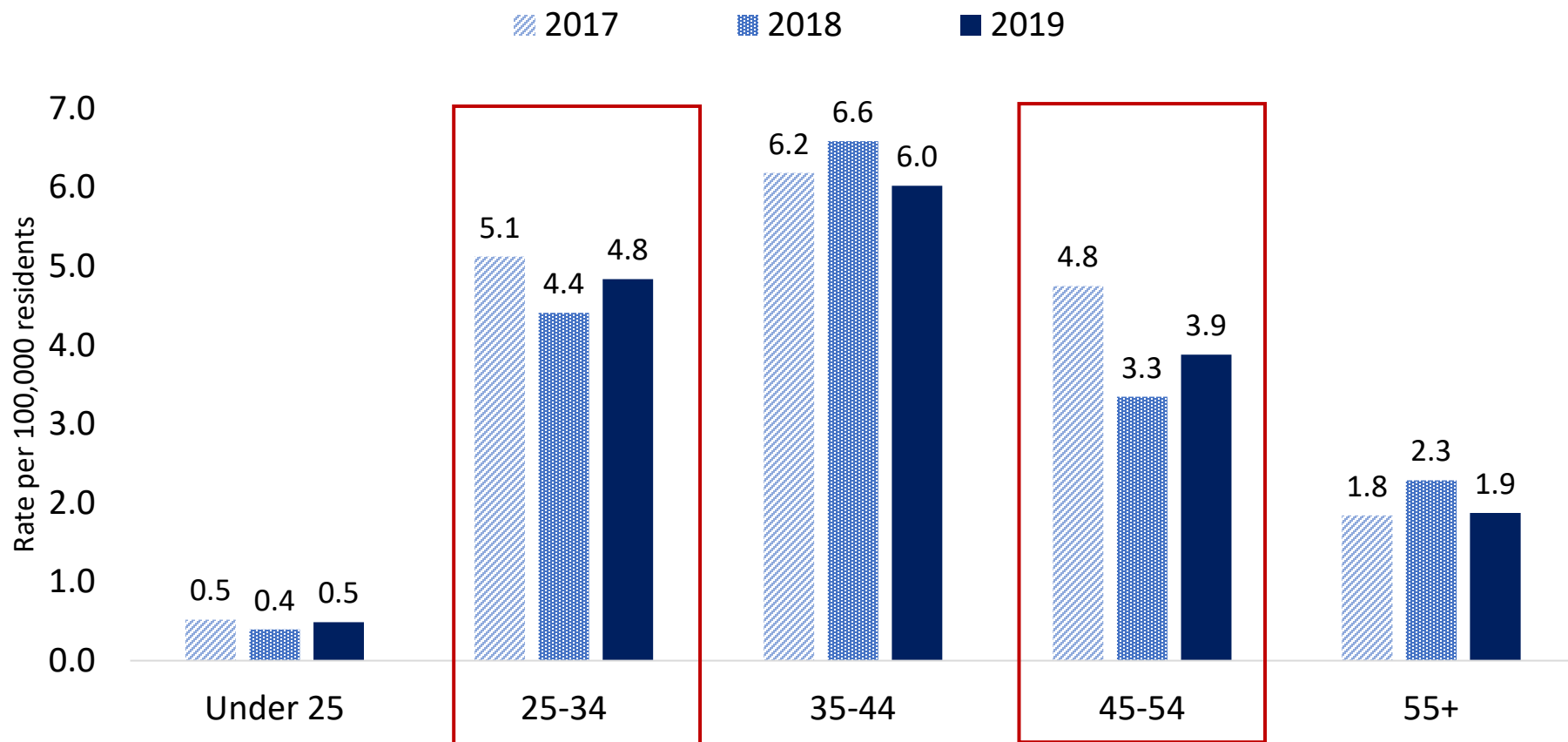


The **rate** of overdose deaths among **Hispanic persons** fluctuated between 2009 and 2019, remaining lower than among Non-Hispanics.

Rate of Fatal Overdoses by Age Category



Compared to 2018, **rates** of fatal overdose increased among people between the ages of **25-34** and **45-54**.



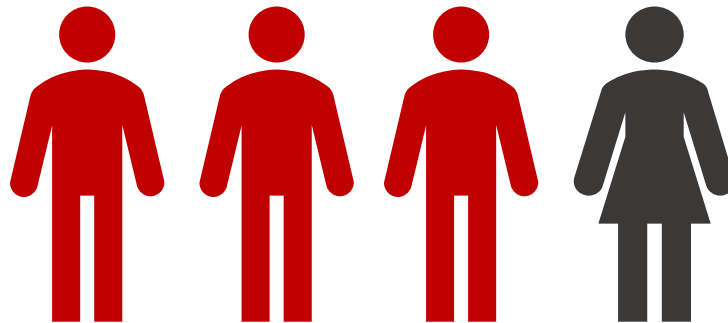
Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Rates calculated using US Census 2017 Estimates. Rates reflect the rate of accidental drug overdose death per 100,000 residents. Data updated as of 3/31/2020, pending final validation and subject to change.

Note: Data reflect accidental drug overdose deaths and do not include suicides, homicides, or undetermined deaths. Data reflect fatal overdoses occurring in Rhode Island among Rhode Island residents.

Proportion and Rate of Fatal Overdoses by Sex



In 2019, approximately **three out of four (73%)** overdose deaths occurred in **males**.



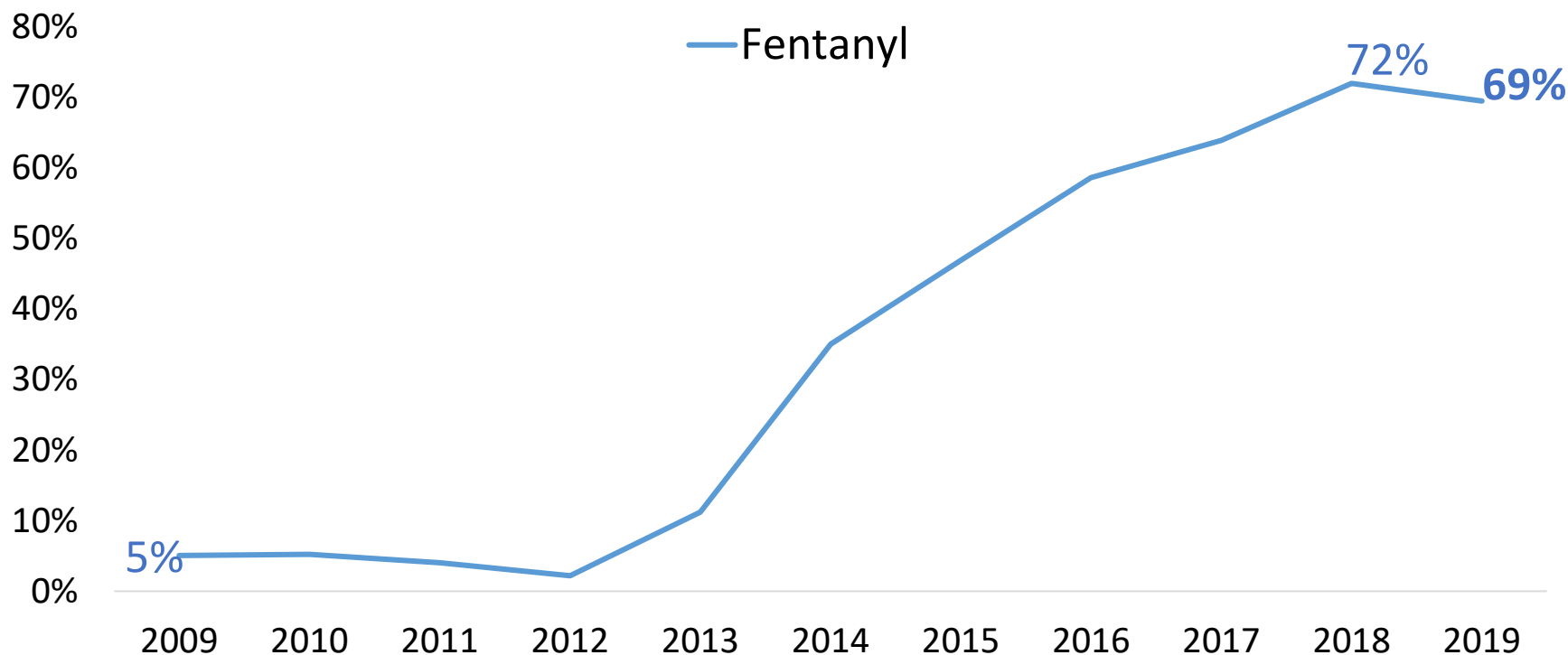


Substances Contributing to Cause of Death

Select Substances Contributing to Cause of Death: Fentanyl



The proportion of **fentanyl-involved** fatal overdoses **decreased** for the first time from 2018 to 2019, but remains high.



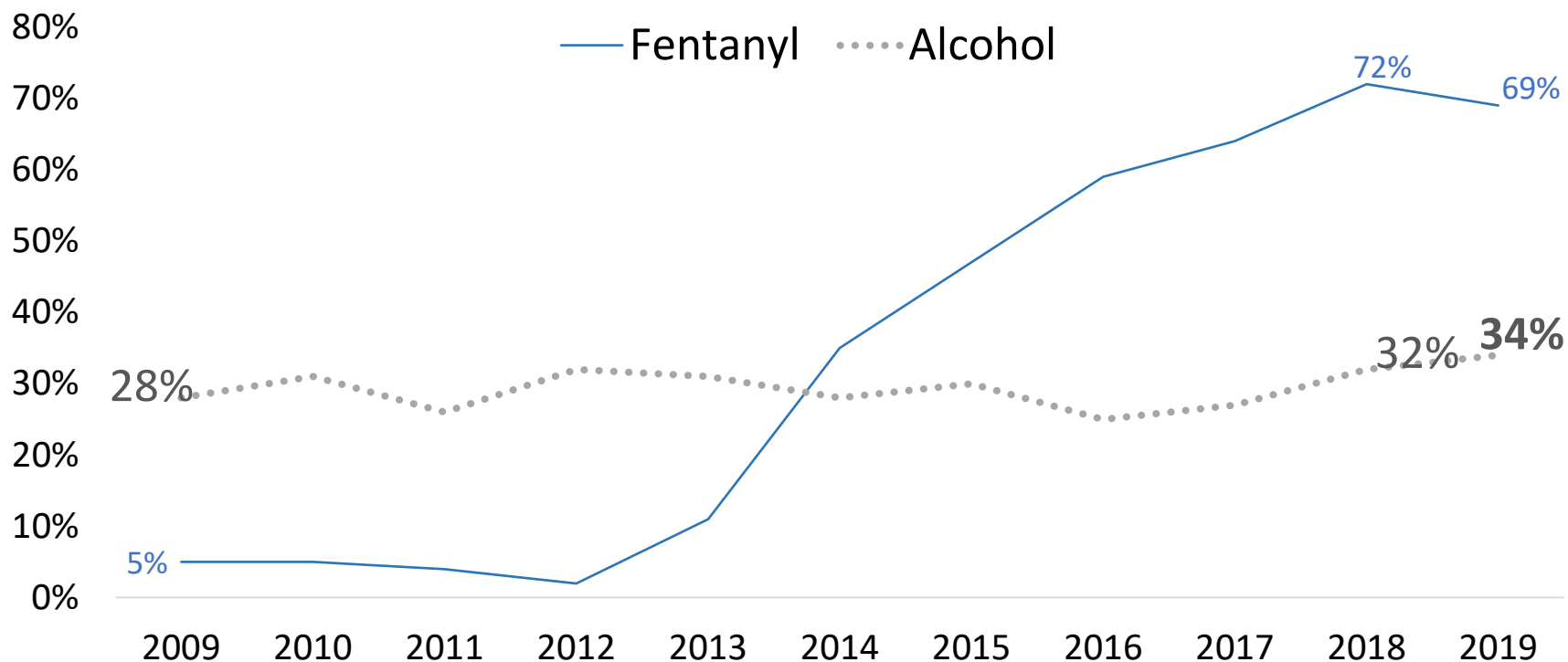
Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of 3/31/2020, pending final validation and subject to change.

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Select Substances Contributing to Cause of Death: Alcohol



The proportion of fatal overdoses where alcohol also contributed to the death remained relatively **stable** over time, but has increased in recent years.



Source: Office of the State Medical Examiners (OSME), Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH). Data updated as of 3/31/2020, pending final validation and subject to change.

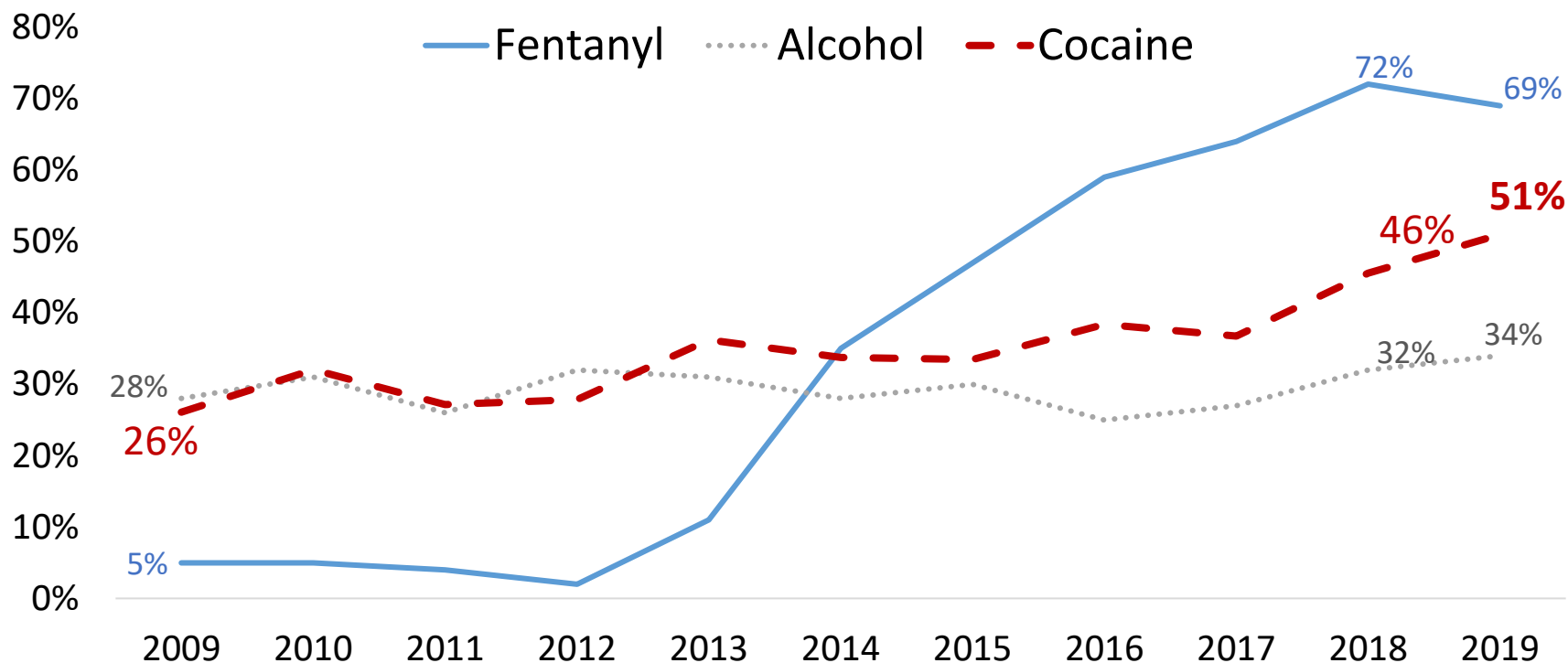
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Select Substances Contributing to Cause of Death: Cocaine



One in two fatal overdoses in 2019 involved cocaine.

This is an increase from one in four in 2009.



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Next Steps



- Find these data and more on these websites:
 - [Health.RI.gov](https://www.health.ri.gov)
 - [PreventOverdoseRI.org](https://www.preventoverdoseri.org)
- Continue to Connect People to Harm Reduction Resources and Treatment Options via Street Outreach
- Increase Access to Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) through provider telehealth



Rachel Scagos, MPH

Senior Public Health Epidemiologist

Drug Overdose Surveillance Program

Center for Health Data & Analysis (CHDA)

Rhode Island Department of Health

Rachel.Scagos@health.ri.gov