



Governor Daniel J. McKee's Task Force on Overdose Prevention and Intervention

July 14, 2021

NICOLE ALEXANDER-SCOTT, MD, MPH: DIRECTOR, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

RICHARD CHAREST, MBA: DIRECTOR, RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE, DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES, AND HOSPITALS



WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Recovery Friendly Workplace July Designees



CITY of EAST PROVIDENCE

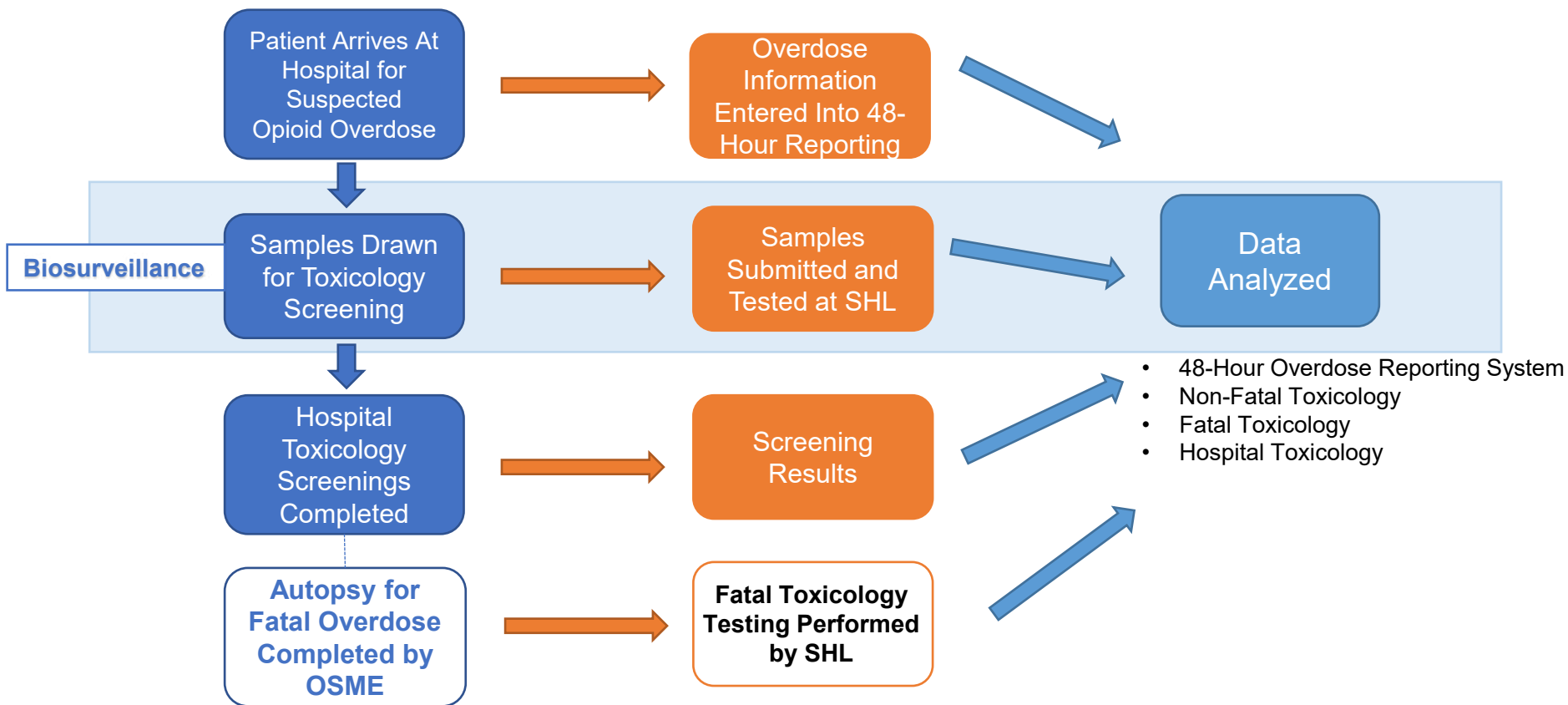
The **Recovery Friendly Workplace Initiative** promotes individual wellness by working with employers to help them create work environments that further mental and physical well-being of employees, proactively preventing substance misuse, and supporting recovery from substance use disorders in the workplace and community. **Learn more at RecoveryFriendlyRI.com**



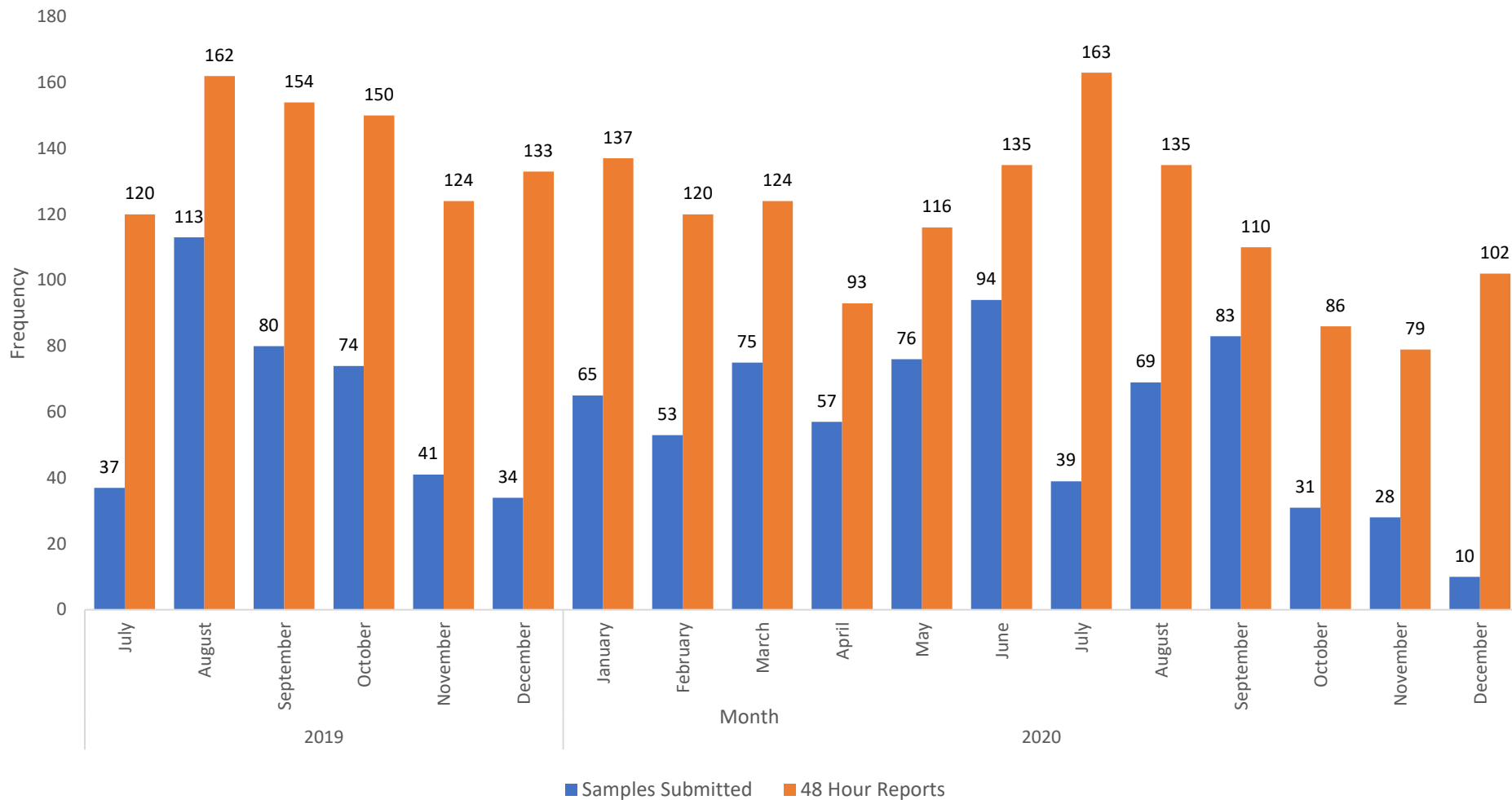
Insights from Biosurveillance: Non-Fatal Overdoses in Rhode Island

**Ewa King, PhD; Director
State Health Laboratories
Rhode Island Department of Health**

Opioid Overdose Surveillance in Rhode Island



Samples and Reported Overdoses by Month and Year of Overdose



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

State Health Laboratories (SHL) Opioid and Fentanyl Analog Panels



Opioid Panel

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. 6-Monoacetylmorphine | 11. Morphine-3 β -D-glucuronide |
| 2. Buprenorphine | 12. Morphine-6 β -D-glucuronide |
| 3. Codeine-6 β -D-glucuronide | 13. Morphine |
| 4. Codeine | 14. Norbuprenorphine |
| 5. Dihydrocodeine | 15. Norfentanyl |
| 6. EDDP | 16. O-desmethyl Tramadol |
| 7. Fentanyl | 17. Oxycodone |
| 8. Hydrocodone | 18. Oxymorphone |
| 9. Hydromorphone | 19. Tramadol |

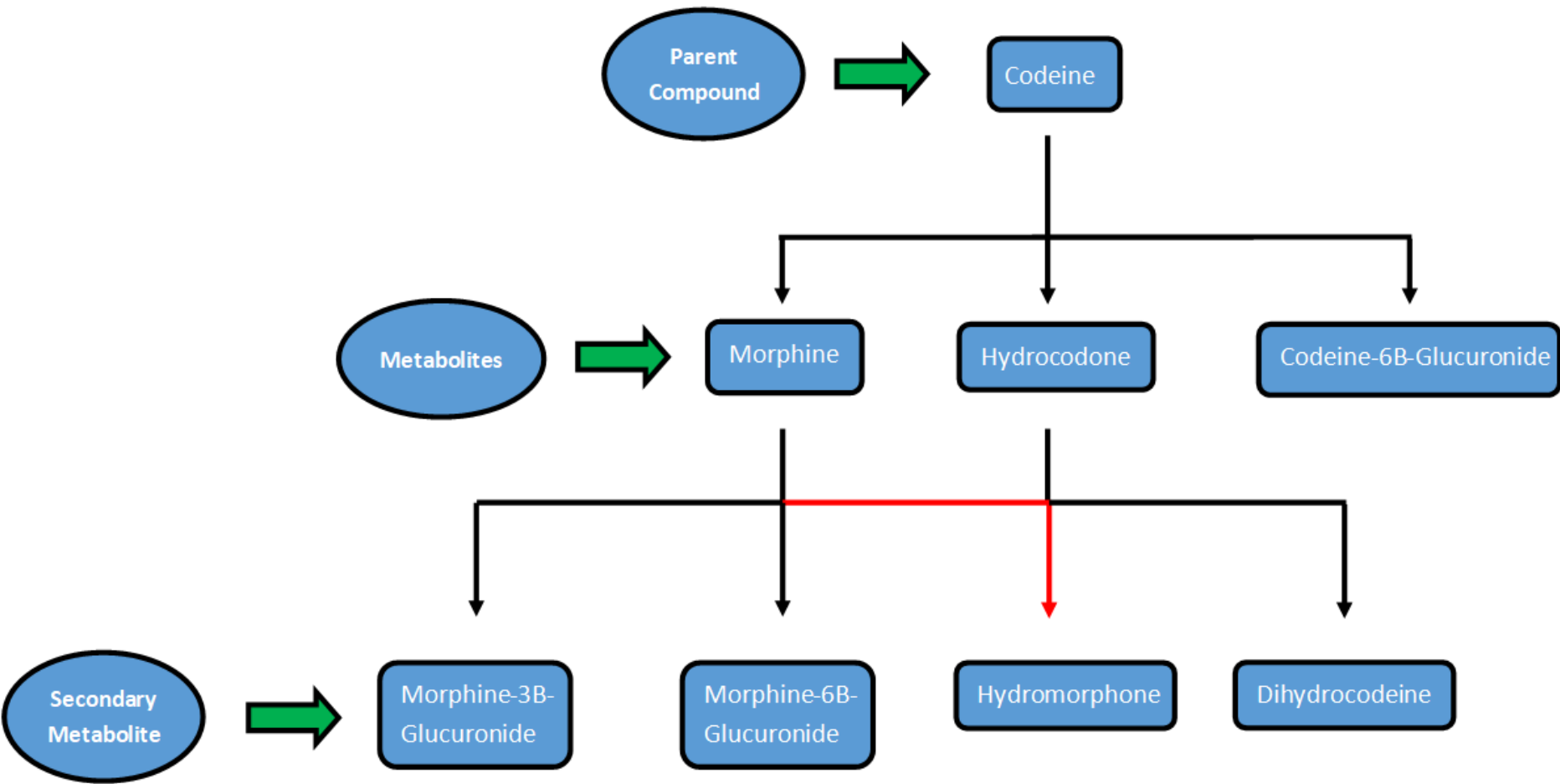
Fentanyl Analog Panel

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 20. 4-ANPP | 30. Methoxyacetylfentanyl |
| 21. Acetylfentanyl | 31. Methylacetylfentanyl |
| 22. Acrylfentanyl | 32. Norcarfentanil |
| 23. Benzylfentanyl | 33. p-Fluorobutrylfentanyl |
| 24. Butrylfentanyl | 34. p-Fluorofentanyl |
| 25. Carfentanil | 35. Remifentanil |
| 26. Cis-3-Methylfentanyl | 36. Sufentanil |
| 27. Cyclopropylfentanyl | 37. U-47700 |
| 28. Furanylfentanyl | 38. U-48800 |
| 29. +/- Hydrothiofentanyl | 39. U-49900 |
| | 40. Valerylfentanyl |

Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Note: *Panels may be run separately or in tandem.

Interpreting SHL Data: Example Metabolic Pathway



Understanding SHL Data



Non-Fatal Overdose-Related Urine Samples Submitted to the SHL
(N=1,059)



Samples with Opioids, Fentanyl Analogs, or Metabolites Detected
(N=784)

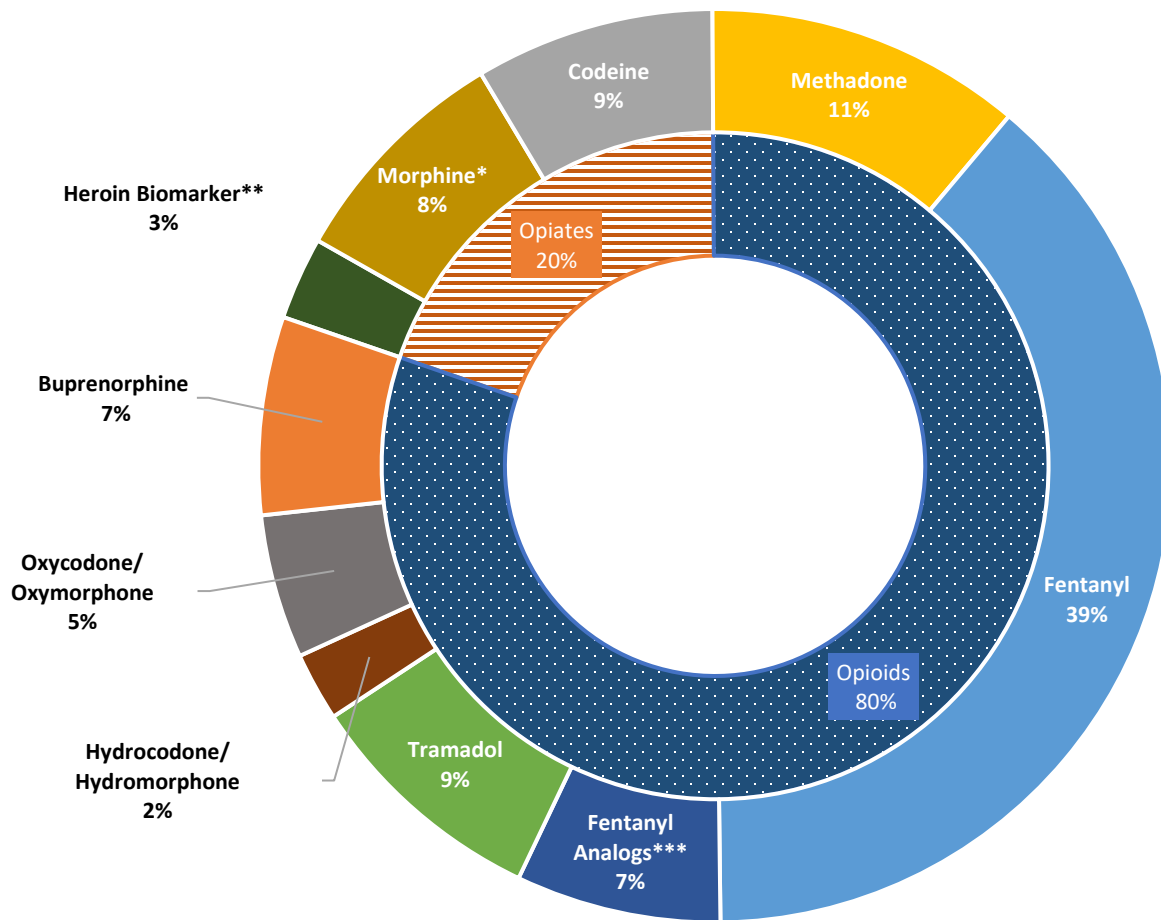


Detected Parent Drugs or Metabolites
(N=3,275)



Substances Identified
(N=1,569)

Substances Identified July 2019-December 2020



Opioids refer to all natural, synthetic, and semi-synthetic opioid products.

Opiates refer to natural opioids (e.g., heroin, morphine, codeine).

Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Notes:

*Morphine encounters could indicate morphine usage or some other opiate (but not synthetic opioid).

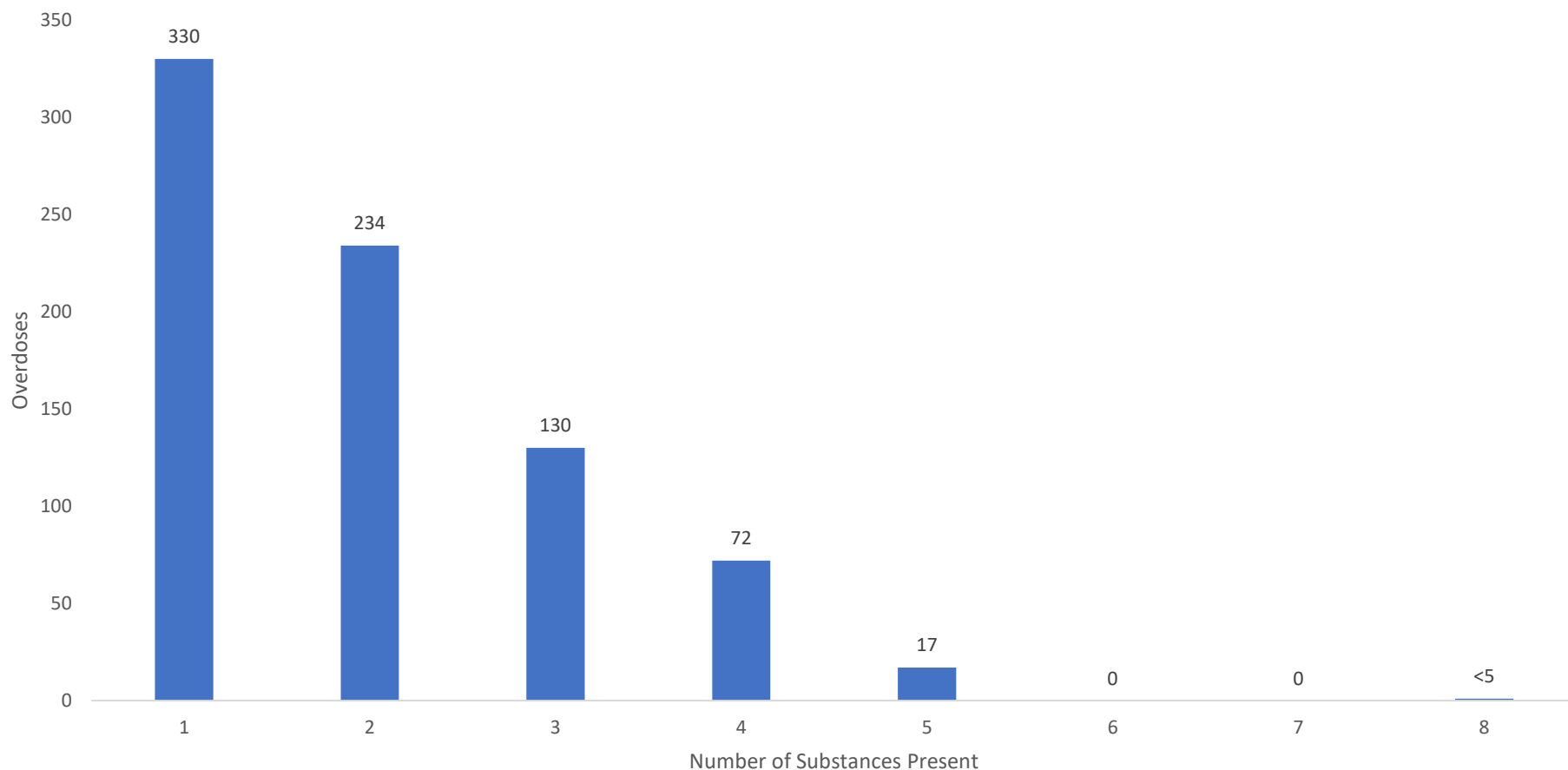
** Represents 6-monoacetylmorphine

***Fentanyl analogs include all parent substrates identified in the "Fentanyl Analog Panel."

Substances Identified in Non-Fatal Overdoses

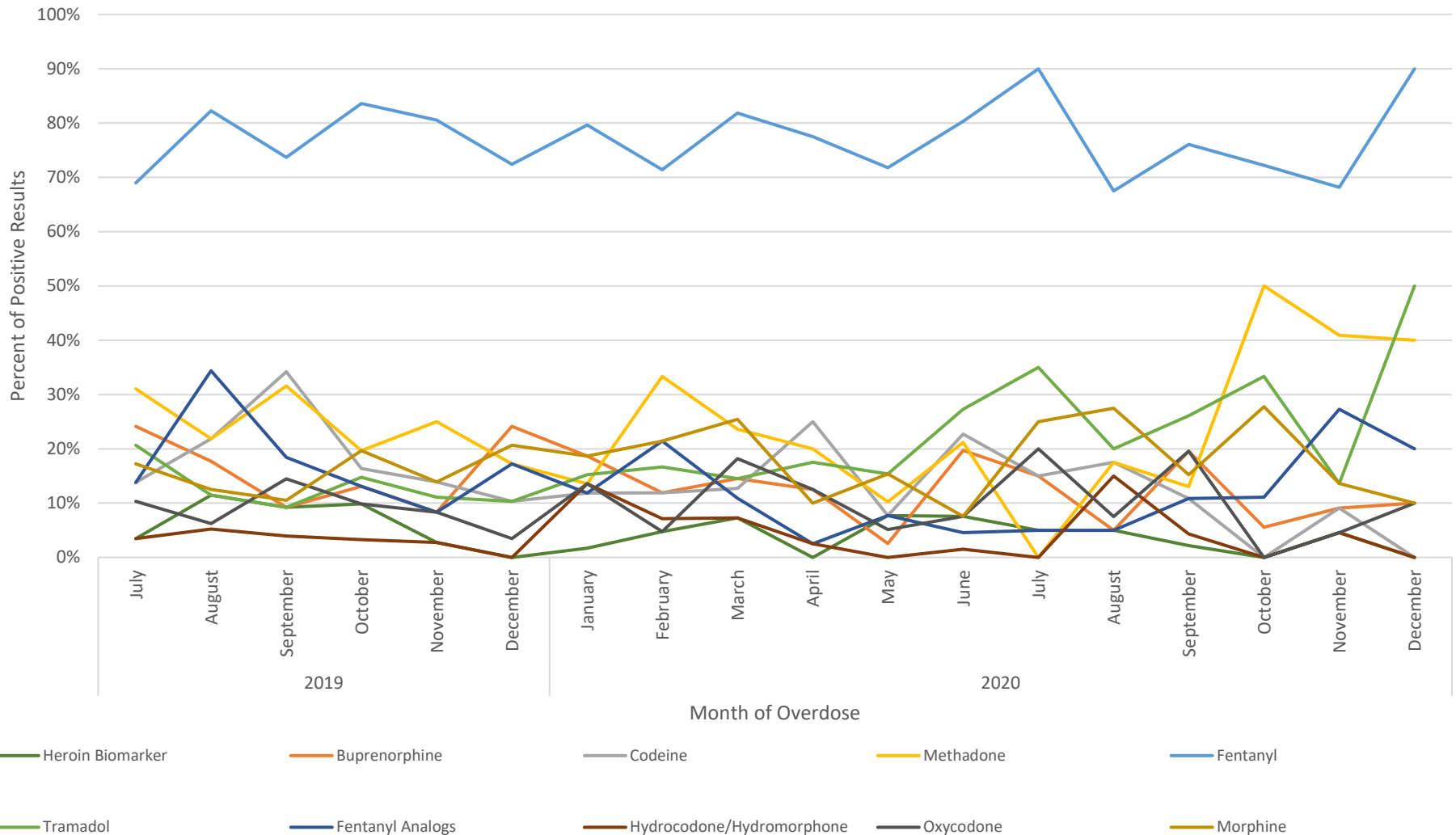


On average, **two substances** were detected per overdose, with a **maximum of eight substances**.



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

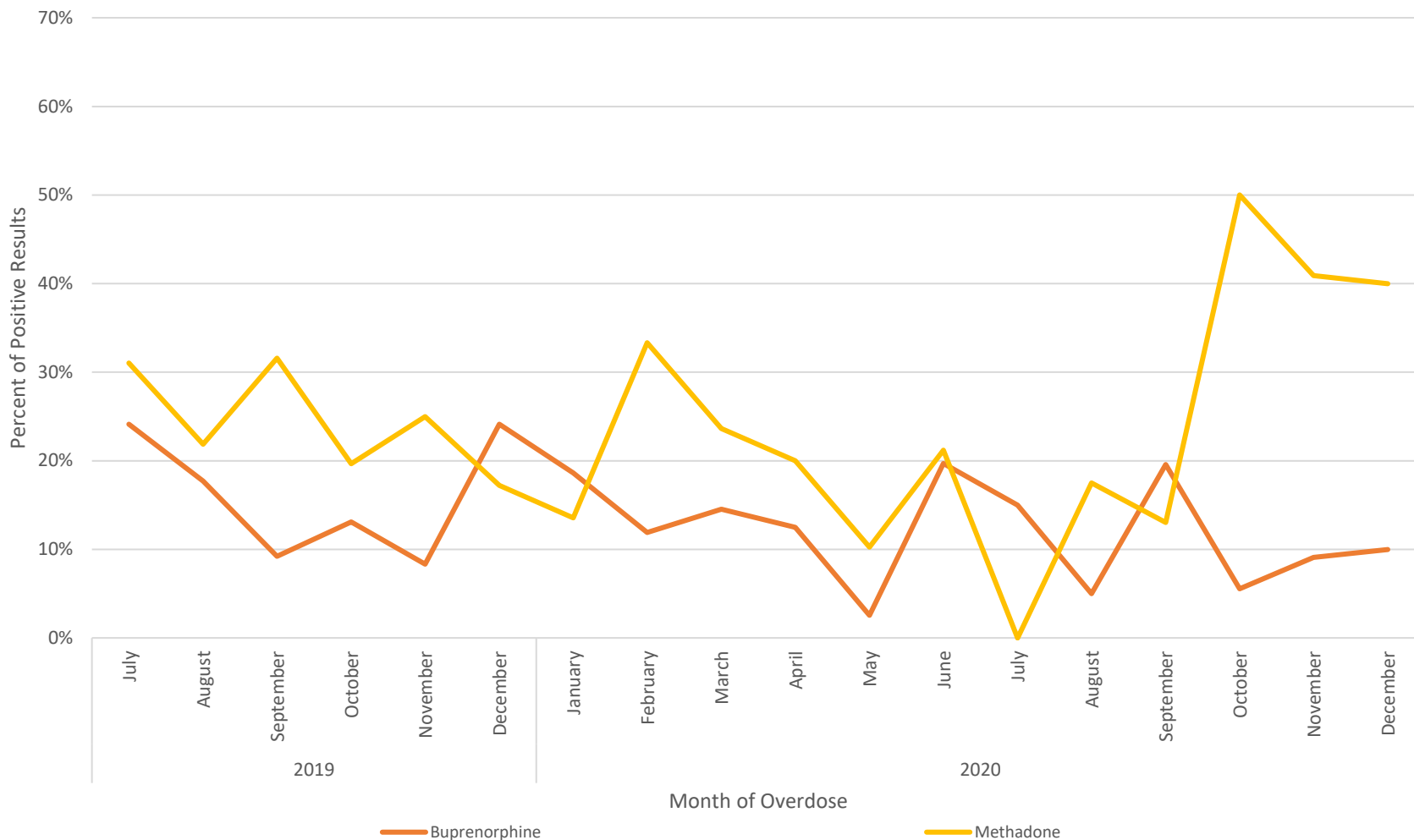
Trend Analysis Of Substances Identified by Month, Normalized; July 2019-Dec 2020



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

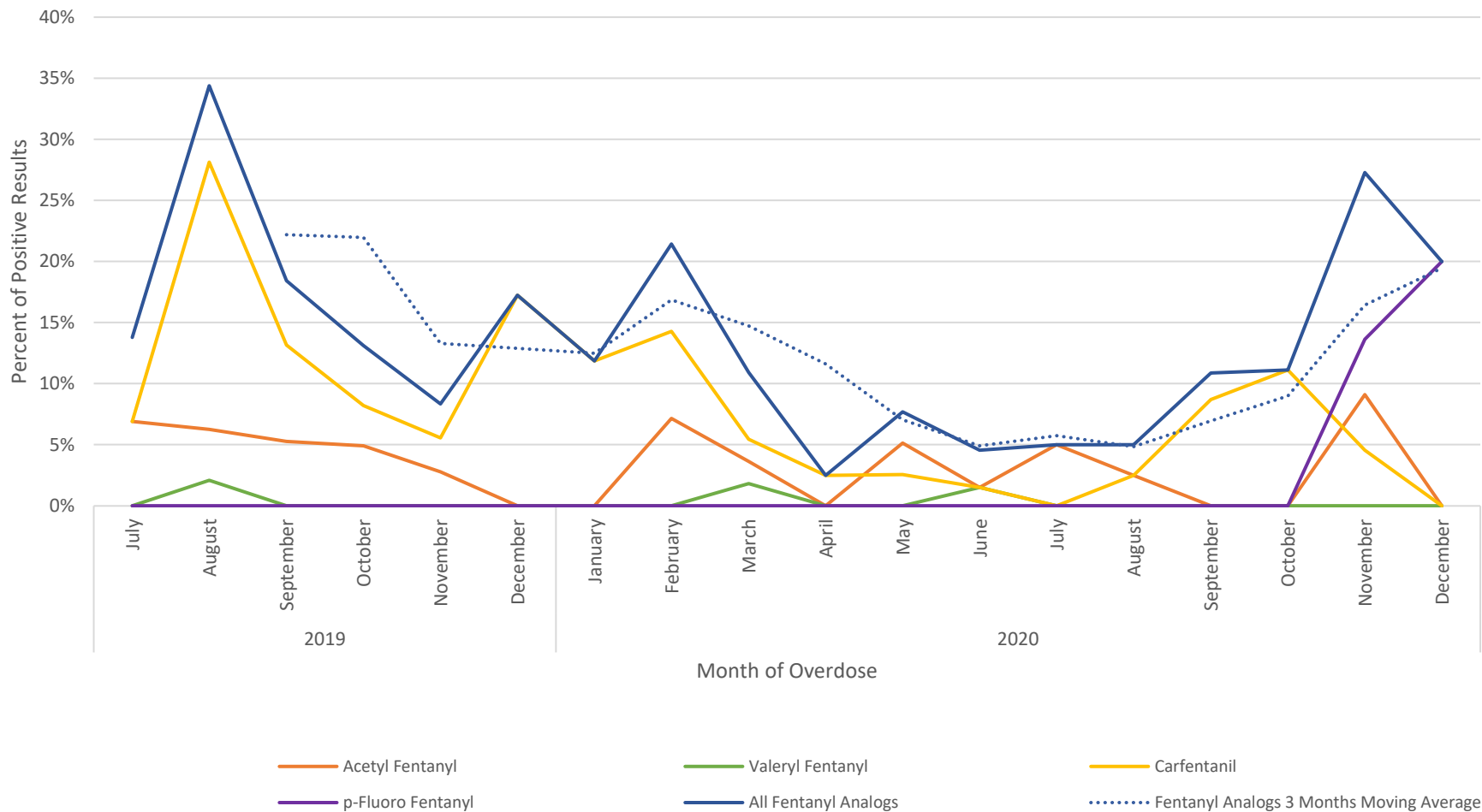
Note: "Heroin Biomarker" represents 6-monoacetylmorphine

Opioid Dependence Medication Trends by Month, Normalized; July 2019-Dec 2020



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Fentanyl Analog Trends by Month Normalized; July 2019-Dec 2020



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Looking At Overdoses By Individual



These data describe individuals who:

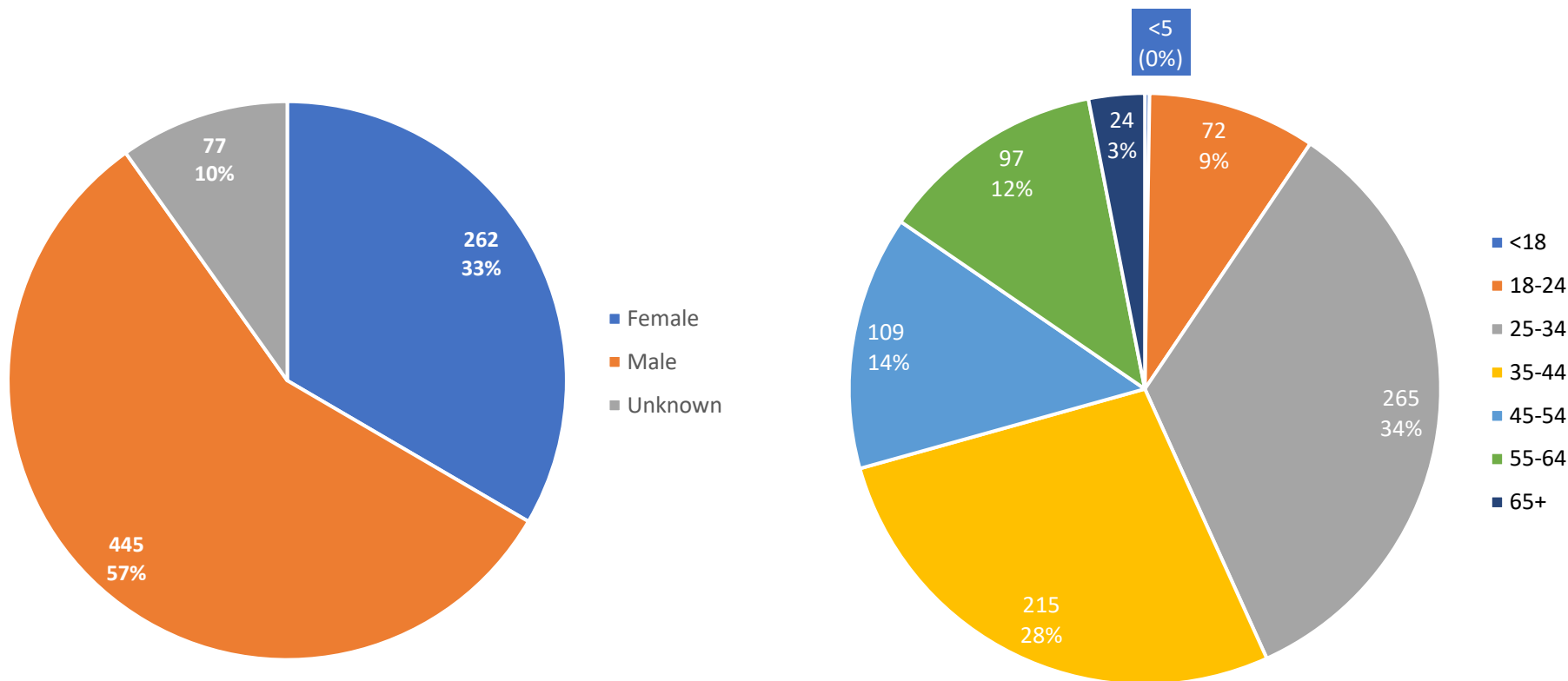
- Experienced a suspected opioid overdose; ***and***
- Were seen in a hospital in Rhode Island; ***and***
- Had a urine sample drawn for toxicology screening; ***and***
- Had a sample forwarded to the SHL for further testing.

Patient Demographics

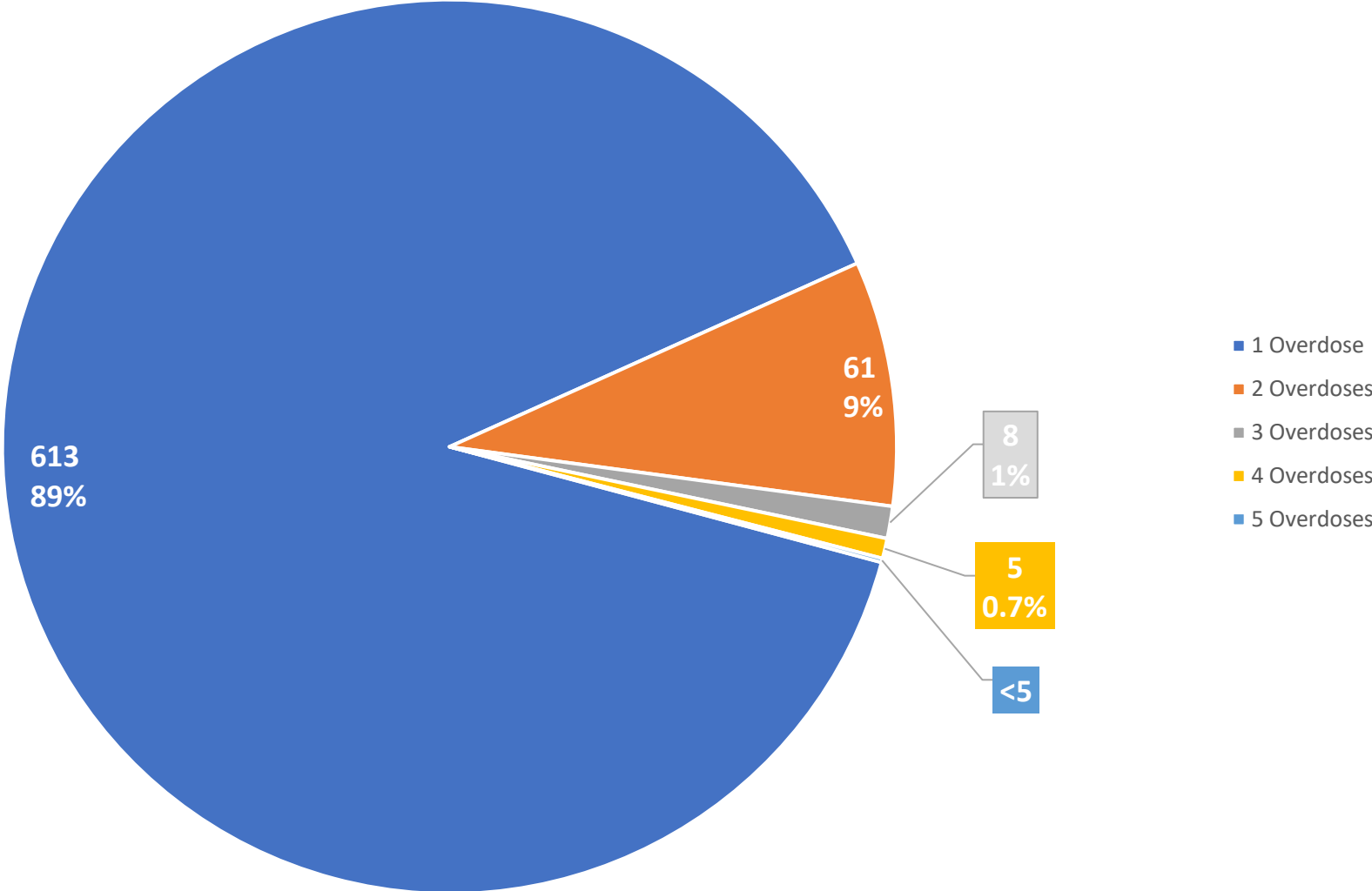
July 2019-December 2020



Overall, overdoses were most common among men (57%) and those aged 25-44 (62%).



Number of Overdoses Per Individual July 2019-December 2020



Source: Rhode Island State Health Laboratories

Key Takeaways



- Fentanyl was the most commonly detected substance in urine samples associated with non-fatal overdoses, present in 77% of encounters.
- Fentanyl analog use was relatively prominent in 2019, but declined in 2020.
- Methadone and buprenorphine use declined sharply in the spring of 2020.
- 57.9% of overdoses involved individuals with more than one opioid substance present in their system at the time of overdose.
- At least 10% of individuals experienced multiple, non-fatal overdoses in 18 months.

As of November 2020, we are now detecting the presence of p-Fluoro fentanyl.

- This substance has not been detected previously in any submitted samples.
- The number of samples positive for this analyte increased in December 2020.
- We continue to detect this analyte in 2021 samples.

Biosurveillance-Led Insights



- A substantial number of residual urine specimens is available for surveillance of non-fatal overdoses.
- Urine toxicology provides a definitive view of the drugs involved in non-fatal overdoses in the state.
- Allows for trend monitoring of opioids (and other drugs) involved in non-fatal overdoses over time.
- Quantifies relative contributions from fentanyl analogs.



PUBLIC COMMENT

Legislative Outcomes

Briefing on Substance Use Disorder (SUD)-Related Legislation in 2021



Senator Joshua Miller

Chairman of the Committee on Health and Human Services

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Bills Passed by the Legislature

- [S3A/H5763](#) - Ends the discriminatory practice of gender rating within health plans.
- [S4Baa/H6032Aaa](#) - Expands access to telemedicine services.
- [S16B/H5245A](#) - Creates a harm reduction center advisory committee and pilot program.
- [S62Aaa/5370Aaa](#) - Strengthens access to confidential health care.
- [S65A/H6328](#) – Decriminalizes buprenorphine.
- [S188A/H6083A](#) - Reclassifies simple possession of 10 grams or less of certain controlled substances as a misdemeanor.

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Bills Passed by the Legislature

- [S256Aaa/H5098A](#) - Increases the maximum fine amount for those found guilty of unprofessional conduct by the Board of Medical Licensure and Discipline.
- [S648A/H5710aa](#) - Allows medical directors to have access to the Prescription Drug Monitoring Database for quality improvement activities within their practices.
- [S713/H6014](#) - Allows multi-disciplinary team reviews of drug-related deaths at the Rhode Island Department of Health (RIDOH) to continue.
- [S879A/H5707A](#) - Allows for pharmacists to administer adult medications approved by RIDOH in consultation with the board of pharmacy.

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Provisions Included in the Budget

- Article 2aa –
 - **Opioid Stewardship Fund** - Authorizes the establishment of accounts within agencies that receive monies from the Opioid Stewardship Fund and clarifies the reporting requirements for programs receiving funds.
 - **9-8-8 Planning Grant** - Establishes an account within the Rhode Island Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental, Disabilities, and Hospitals (BHDDH) for the purpose of receiving funds from the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline for a 9-8-8 planning grant. The grant will assist with implementing a new, national, three-digit (9-8-8) number for mental health crisis and suicide response.

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Provisions Included in the Budget

- **Article 14aa** - Establishes the Rhode Island Pay for Success Act, which will provide housing and supportive services interventions for 125 persons in Rhode Island experiencing homelessness who are high utilizers of the healthcare and justice systems.
- **BHDDH Federal Fund Changes** - Increases federal funds by \$25.1 million within the Behavioral Healthcare Services program to reflect the receipt of federal grants through the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 and American Rescue Plan.

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Bills Passed by the Senate Only

- [S5A](#) - Codifies portions of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) in state law.
- [S48](#) - Expands drug awareness programs to high schools and clarifies funding for these programs.
- [S305](#) - Requires BHDDH to coordinate with RIDOH to propose revisions to the “Alcoholism” and the “Emergency Commitment for Drug Intoxication” chapters of Rhode Island current law.

2021 Legislative Outcomes: Bills Passed by the Senate Only

- [S591A](#) - Increases reimbursement rates for behavioral health providers.
- [S712](#) - Codifies the prohibition of health insurance annual and lifetime limits into state law.
- [S769A](#) - Requires coverage for inpatient treatment of substance use disorder (SUD) during the health insurance review process.
- [S898A](#) - requires EOHHS to conduct a study to assess the impact of using Medicaid funds to provide coverage for the treatment of underlying conditions that contribute to homelessness.

Thank you!





PUBLIC COMMENT