NEW YORK STATE | Department of Health

Sampling of NYSDOH Harm Reduction Activities: NYSACHO Harm Reduction Symposium

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Senior Policy Advisor to Commissioner of Health, and
Emerging Drug Threats Coordinator

NOVEMBER 2026

NYSDOH: Foundational to the substance use response in the State

Health Care: Supporting substance use related health care via Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act

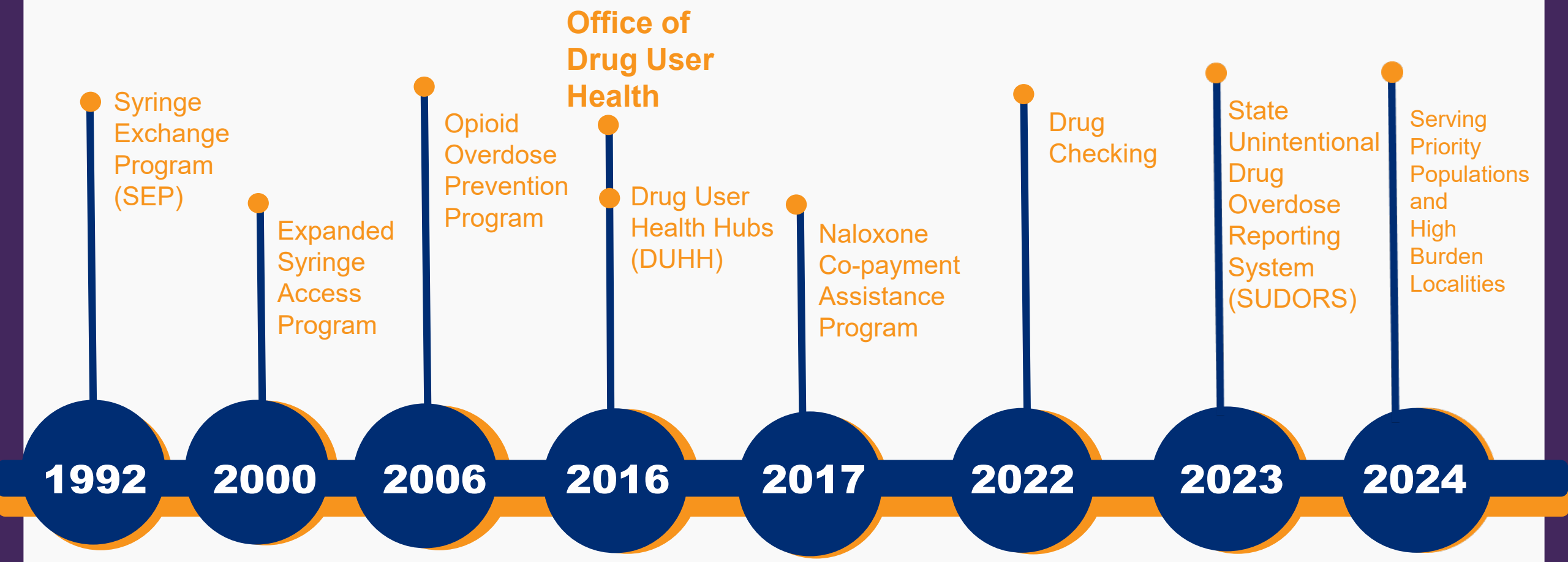
Oversight: Regulate Physician and PA prescribing, Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement enforcing laws, and operating Prescription Monitoring Program data system

Data Systems: Developing and analyzing a wide variety of timely policy and program relevant data systems including Vital Statistics, all-payer claims data, coroner and toxicology reports, emergency medical system information, and drug checking data

Expertise: Home of the groundbreaking Office of Drug User Health with national model programs such as the Drug User Health Hubs; nationally recognized data analysts

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30+ YEARS OF DOH DEVELOPED HARM REDUCTION MODEL IN NY STATE



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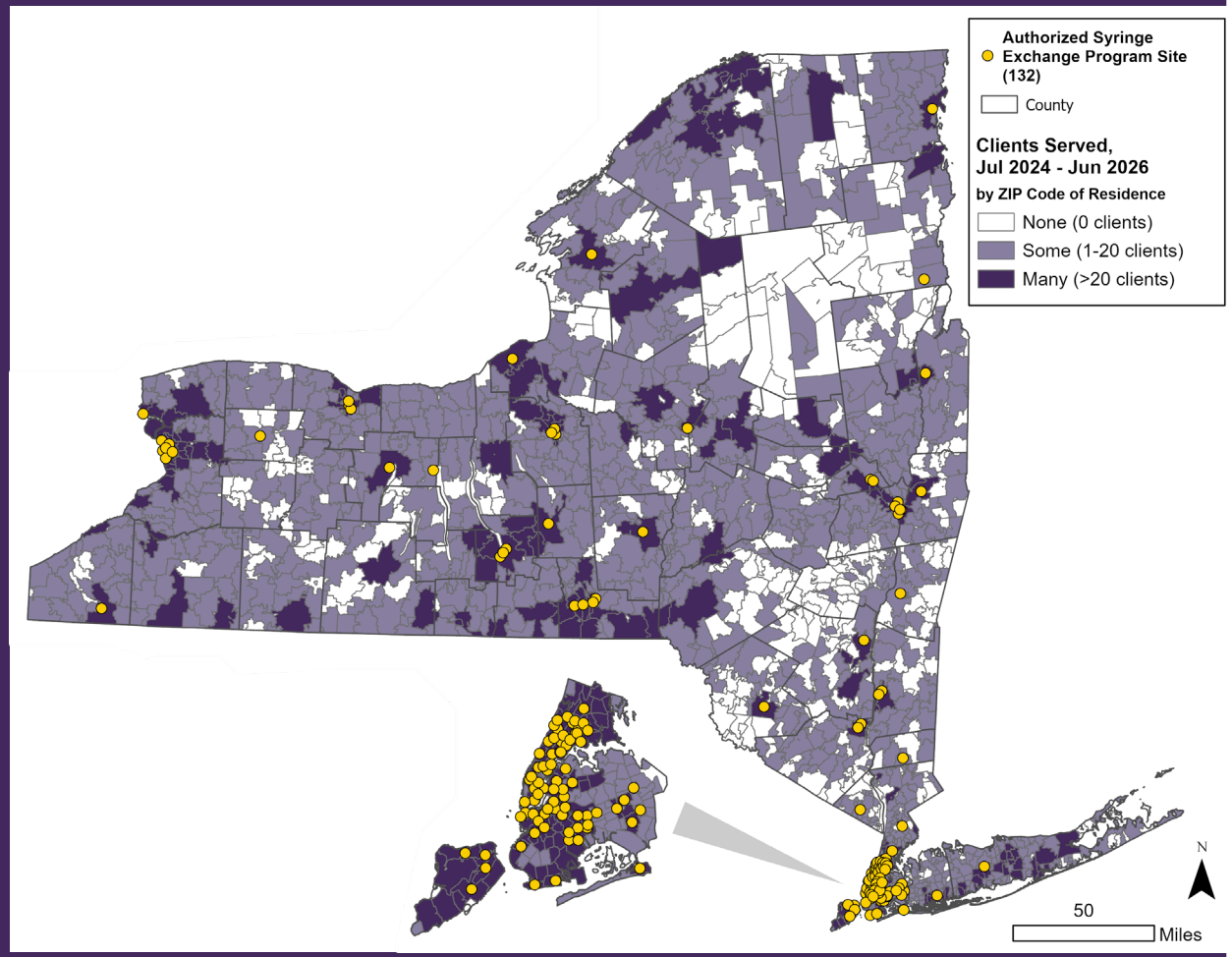
OUR HARM REDUCTION WORK IN NEW YORK



Isaac Hernandez and Acxel Barboza from the Office of Drug User Health providing overdose education with the public

Our work is designed to remove harmful practices and barriers in healthcare, drug treatment and criminal justice systems.

Syringe exchange activity
July 2024 - June 2026

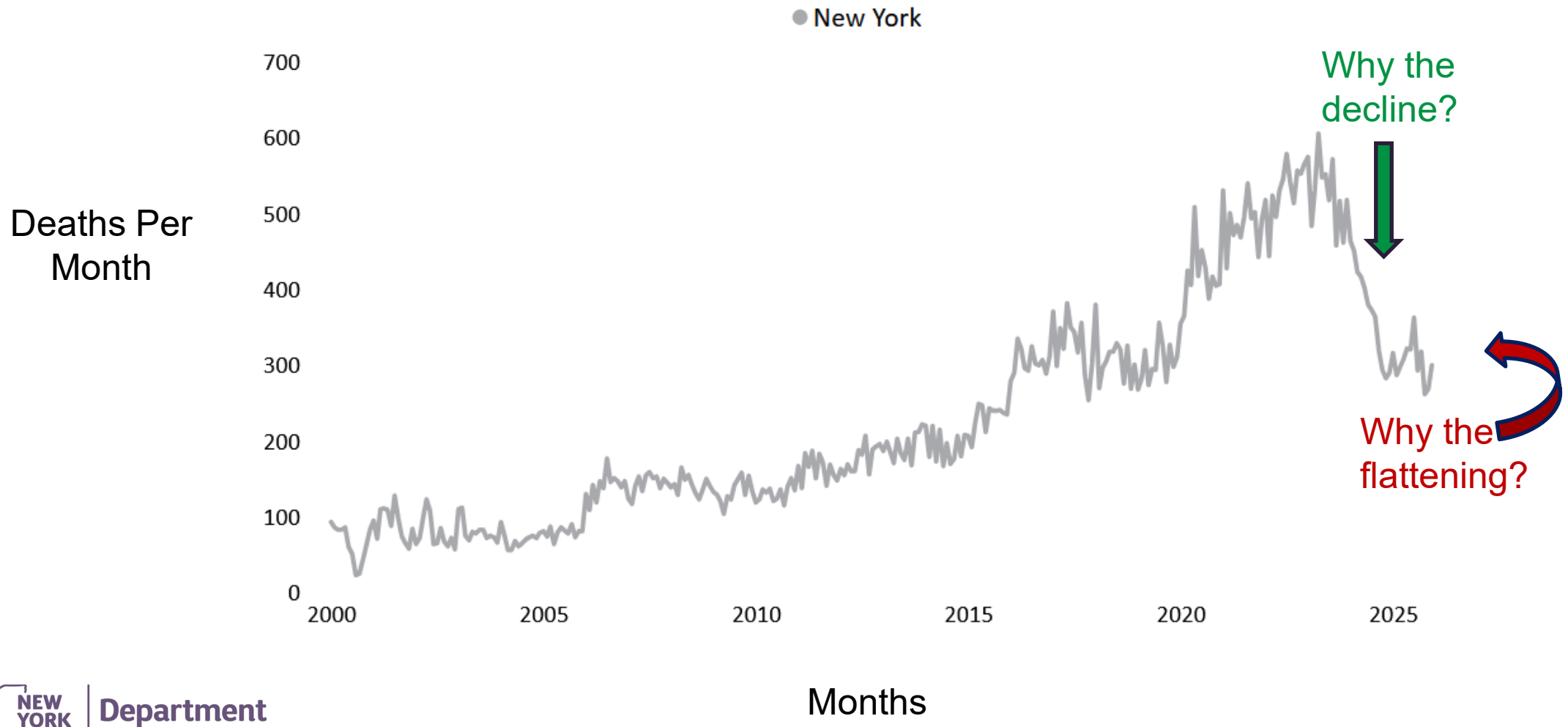


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125 YEARS Built by Science, Driven by People.

NY Annual Drug Fatalities Declined 2022 through 2025; Trends Now Flattening

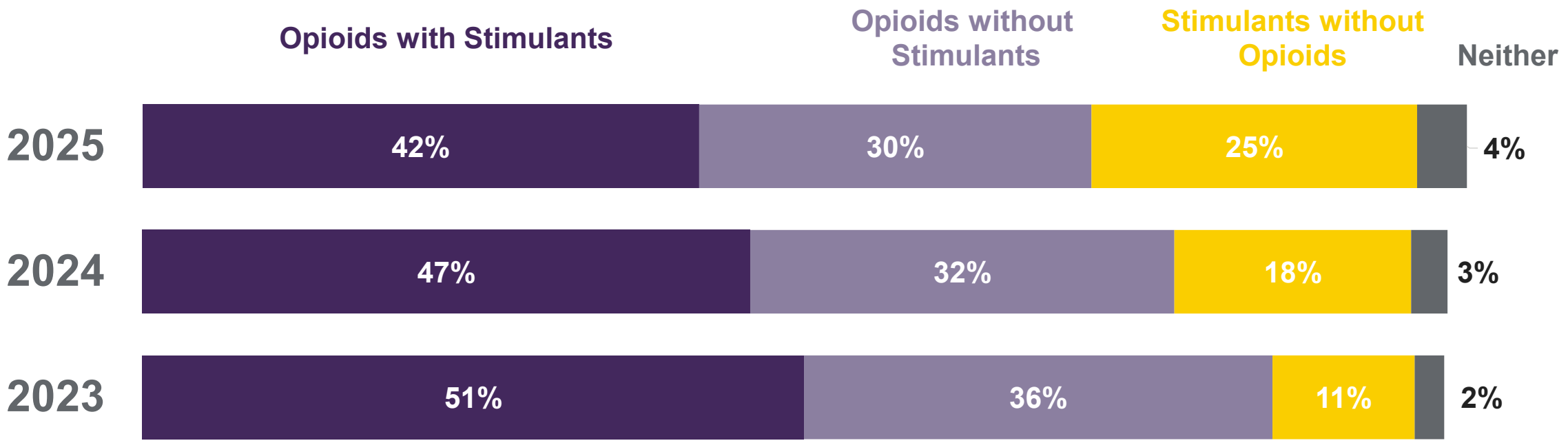
Source: CDC WONDER Monthly Data Based on New York Vital Statistics Information



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INCREASE IN DEATHS INVOLVING STIMULANTS WITHOUT OPIOIDS

In 2025, 42% of overdose deaths involved both opioids and stimulants; 25% involved stimulants without opioids, up from 11% in 2023 and 18% in 2024.



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Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (January-June 2025)

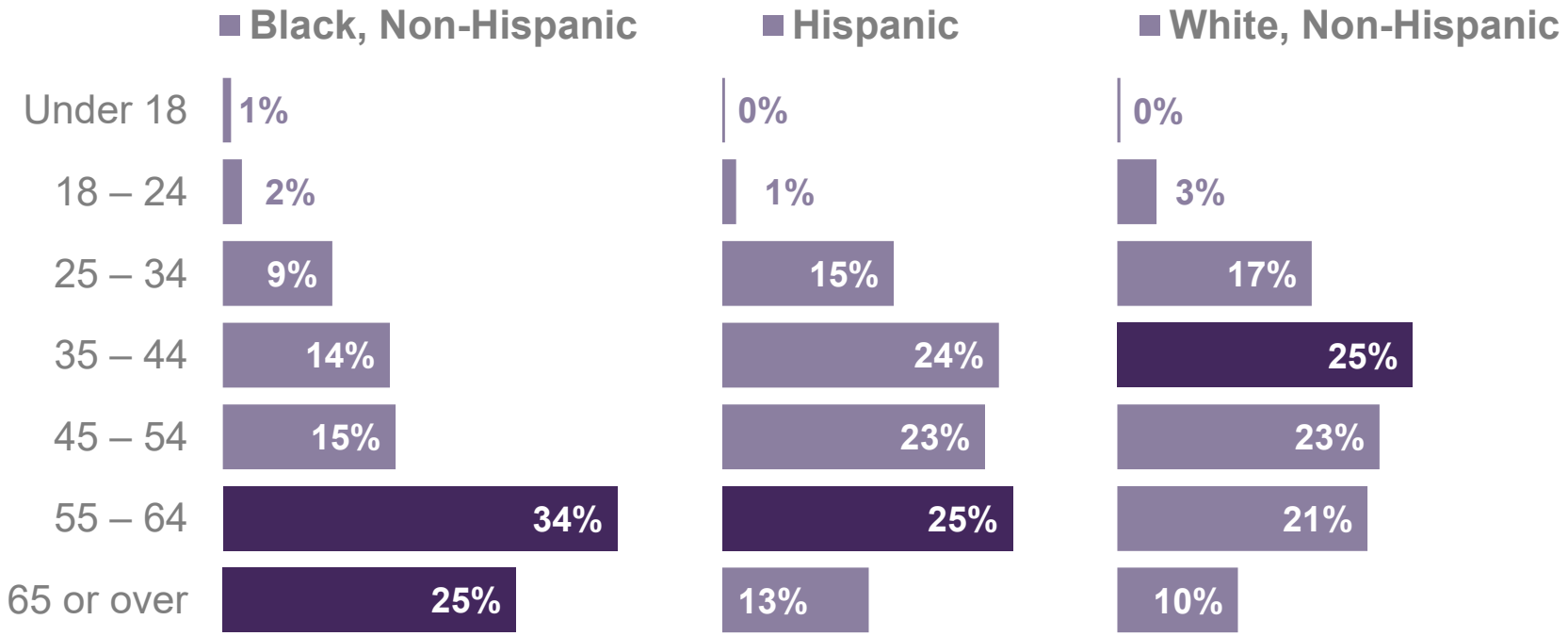
5 Stimulant-related NYSDOH programmatic responses

1. Examination of educational materials on how to respond to a possible overdose/”overamping” (stimulant, opioid, or both)
2. Understanding population-level “ceiling” on naloxone impact (in cases of stimulant-only drug overdoses)
3. Listening to and learning from front line service providers and persons with lived experience
4. Piloting contingency management
5. Communication message expansion

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BLACK, NON-HISPANIC, OVERDOSE DECEDENTS WERE OLDER THAN OTHERS

59% of Black, non-Hispanic people who died of an overdose were 55 years or older. 25% of White, non-Hispanic, people who died of an overdose were 35 to 44 years old.



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Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (January-June 2025)

NYS DOH DRUG CHECKING DATA IS PUBLIC AND UPDATED MONTHLY;
the system serves as a national model for drug supply monitoring

An official website of New York State. Here's how you know

Department of Health | Individuals/Families | Providers/Professionals | Health Facilities | Health Data | About Us | Search

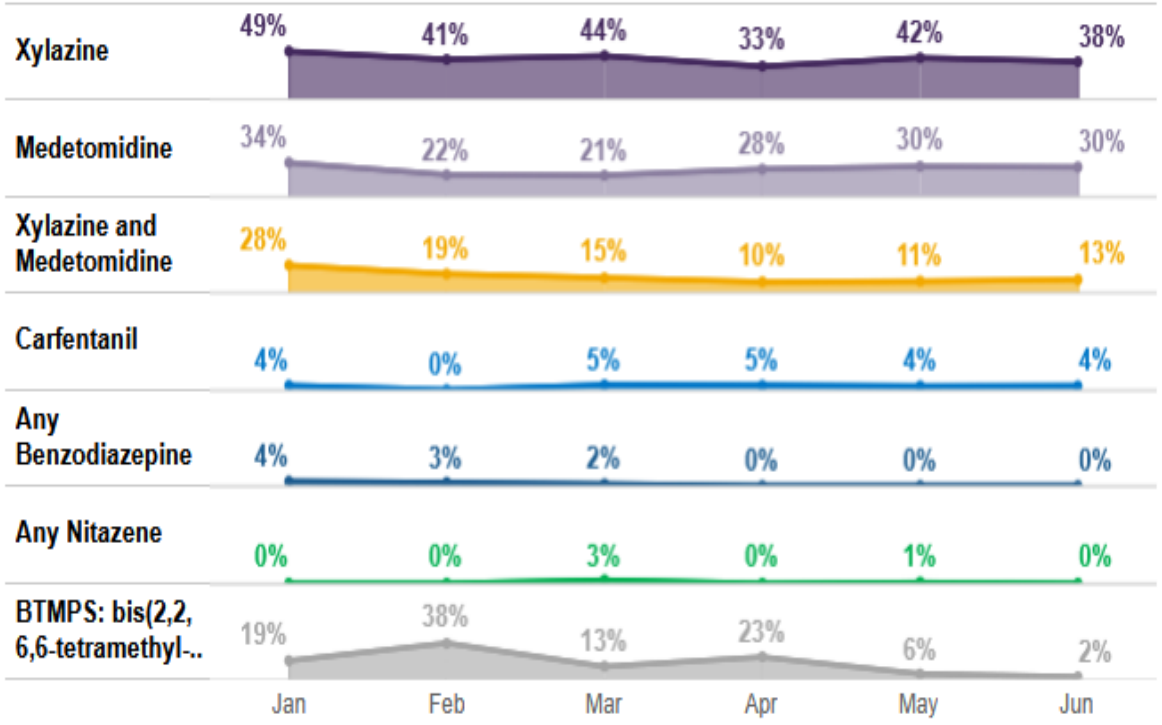
You are Here: Home Page > Drug Checking > Drug Checking Data

Drug Checking Data

Data | FAQs | Drug Dictionary | Alerts | Resources | Back to OOP

Drug Checking Data

How often, each month, were the following substances found in **Opioid samples**?



Notes:
- Data limited to samples received between January 1, 2026 and June 30, 2026 with at least one opioid detected by confirmatory lab testing. More recent data are provisional and results may change as additional lab results are received.

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AIDS Institute

N-propionitrile brorphine public health alert

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT

DRUG CHECKING PROGRAMS

July 1, 2026

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AIDS Institute

SITUATION

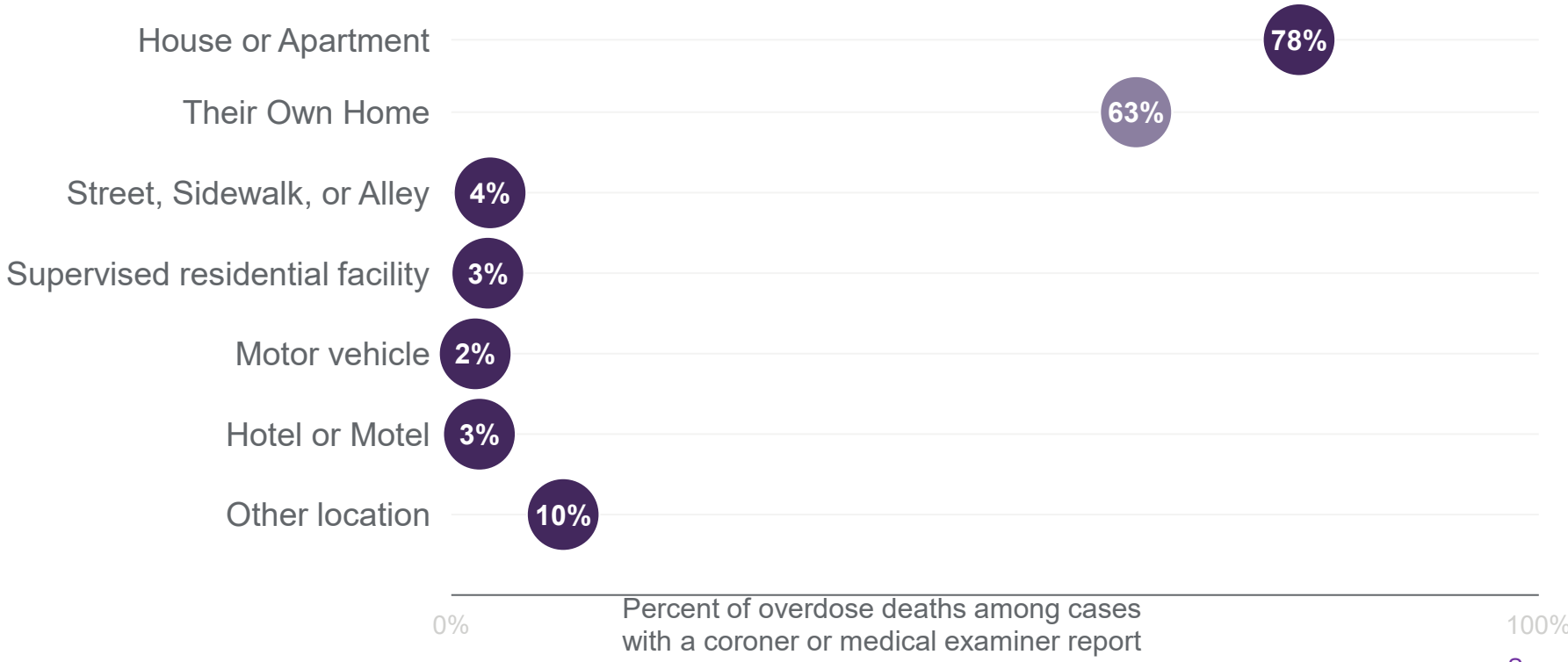
The New York State Department of Health (NYSDOH) through its NYSDOH Drug Checking Program, has identified N-propionitrile brorphine in Upstate New York. N-propionitrile brorphine is a synthetic opioid belonging to the emerging benzimidazole-2-one, or "orphine" class. Multiple orphines have been detected across the United States in recent years. While the potency of N-propionitrile brorphine is not known, it is structurally similar to N-propionitrile chlorphine (also known as cyclorphine), which is estimated to be more potent than fentanyl.

Source: https://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/consumers/prevention/oduh/docs/2026-07-01_n-propionitrile_brorphine_advisory.pdf

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MOST OVERDOSES OCCUR IN A RESIDENTIAL SETTING

78% of overdoses occurred in a house or an apartment; 63% occurred where the decedent lived.



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Notes:
- "House or Apartment" and "Home" include the driveway, porch, yard, garage
- "Supervised residential facility" includes places like a shelter, halfway house, or group home
- "Motor vehicle" includes motor homes, regardless of the vehicle's location, and excludes school bus and public transportation

Source: State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (January-June 2025)

Giving All New Yorkers the Tools to Reverse an Overdose

IMPACT: New York State Department of Health naloxone services are a cost-effective tool to prevent overdose deaths

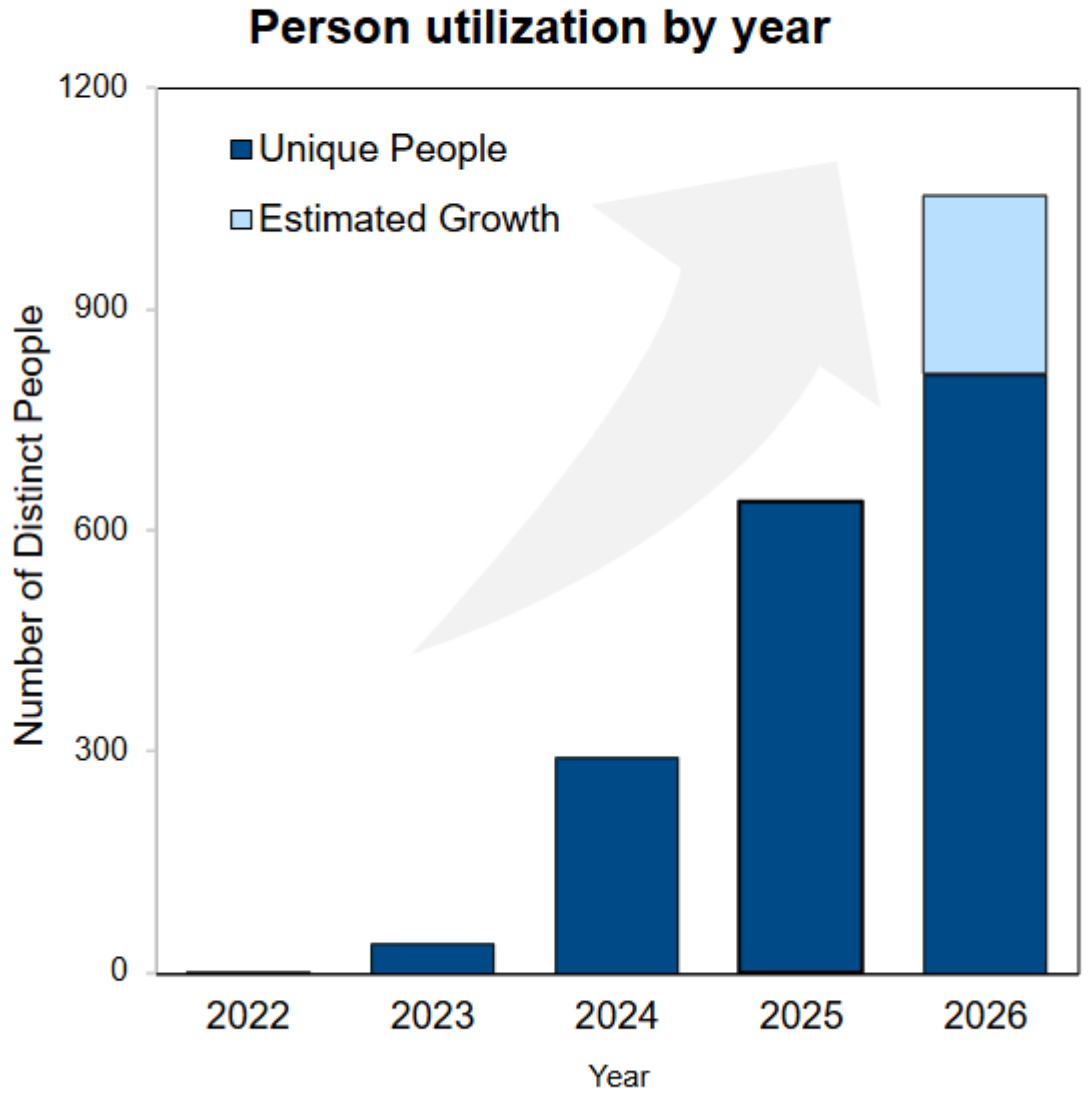
- Study published in the *Journal of Public Health Management & Practice* highlights naloxone's life-saving impact in New York. Source: https://www.ovid.com/jnls/jphmp/toc/2026/03000
- The two-year results concluded that naloxone saved more than **6,500 lives**, representing more than **204,000 years** of life
- For every **$1 spent**, return on investment totals **$3,219**

REACH: From January 2022 through October 15, 2026, NYSDOH has distributed over 1.8 million naloxone kits giving the program broad reach

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BUPRENORPHINE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

- Helps eligible residents who are uninsured or underinsured to **pay** for life-saving medication
- The Program can be used to fill prescriptions program-enrolled pharmacy
- This is **NOT a prescription for buprenorphine**; individuals will need to have a prescription from their provider



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125 YEARS Built by Science, Driven by People.

Prevention Agenda Goal Met Early – But No Time for Coasting

New York State Prevention Agenda 2030 drug fatality rate goal met five years early – but no time for coasting

Given flattening of declines, persistence of stimulants, and emerging drug threats, achieving the next period of downturns in drug fatalities will require vision, commitment, perseverance, and innovation – truly a collective challenge

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AN OVERDOSE-FREE GENERATION



New York State's public health initiative on drug use:

Saving Lives, Promoting Health, Fighting Bias

Every New Yorker who has died of an overdose is someone's child, a family member, a friend, a loved one. The Department uses evidence-based strategies to prevent drug misuse, respond to overdoses and address the harms associated with drug use, with the goal of creating an overdose-free generation.

health.ny.gov/
overdosefreegeneration

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