

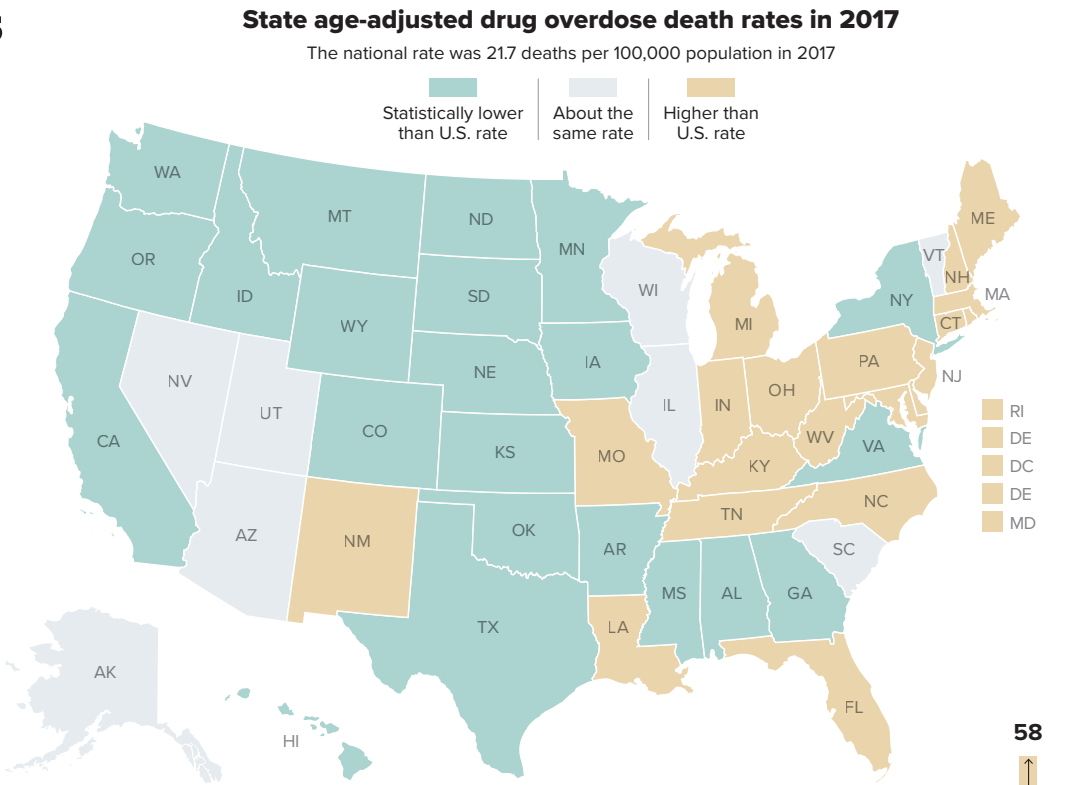
Nov. 29, 2018

Drug Overdose Deaths Continue to Climb

Overall, the national drug overdose death rate increased to 21.7 deaths for every 100,000 people in 2017, up from 19.8 in 2016, according to new CDC data.

West Virginia remains the state with the highest death rate with 58 deaths per 100,000 people, an increase from 52 in 2016. Nine states, however, saw a lower death rate in 2017 — including two of the hardest-hit states, New Hampshire and Massachusetts.

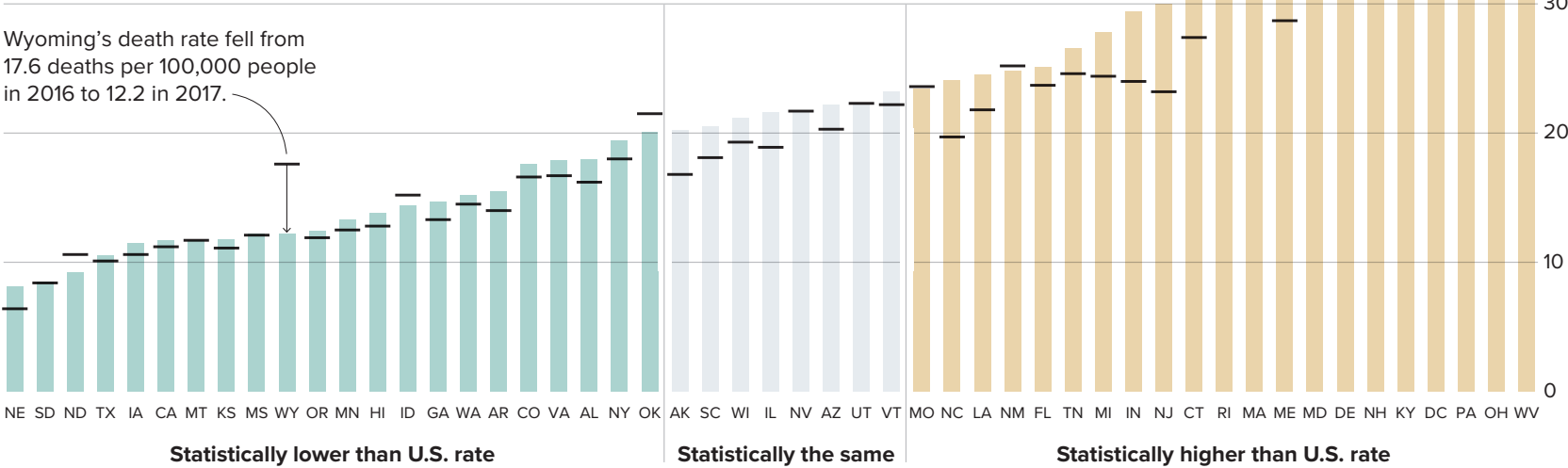
The drug overdose epidemic continues to be fueled by increases in overdoses involving synthetic opioids, which include the highly potent fentanyl. The CDC considers this to be the third wave of the opioid crisis, characterized by a surge in synthetic opioid overdoses, following prescription opioid deaths (first wave) and heroin deaths (second wave).



Change in state's age-adjusted drug overdose death rate from 2016-2017

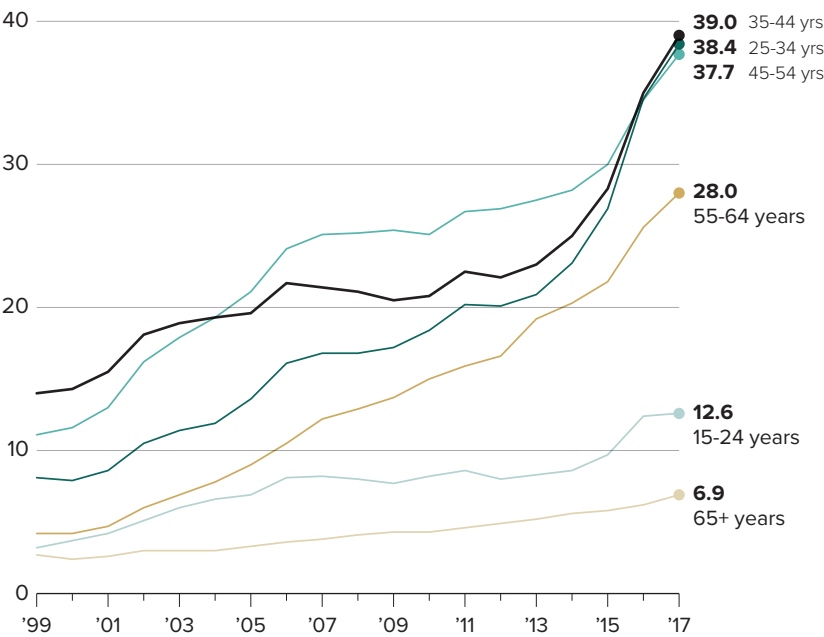
2017 DATA ► DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION
2016

Wyoming's death rate fell from 17.6 deaths per 100,000 people in 2016 to 12.2 in 2017.



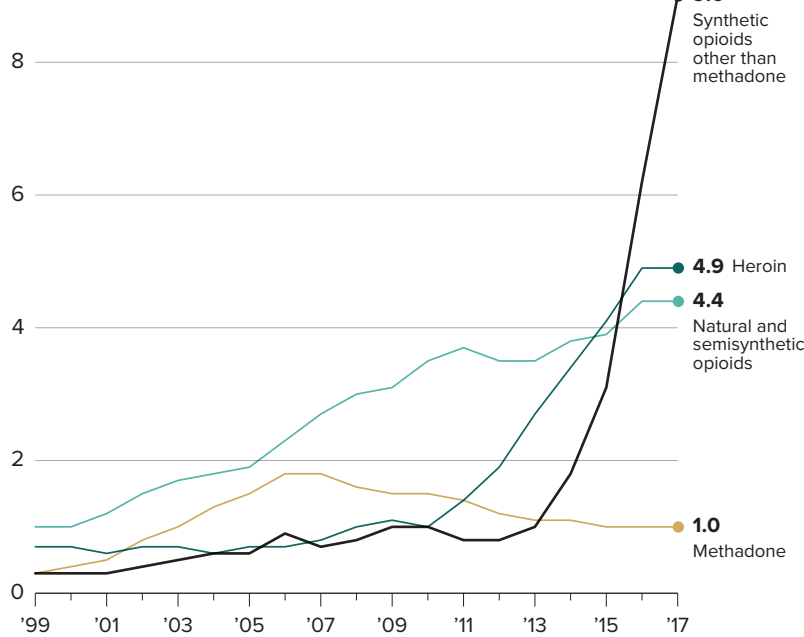
Drug overdose death rate by age group

DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION



Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate by type of opioid

DEATHS PER 100,000 POPULATION



Note: CDC classifies drug-poisoning (overdose) deaths using underlying ICD-10 cause-of-death codes X40-X44, X60-X64, X85 and Y10-Y14.

Sources: CDC National Center for Health Statistics Data Briefs 294 and 329

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