

March 21, 2019

CDC: Fentanyl-Related Deaths Have Surged More than Tenfold

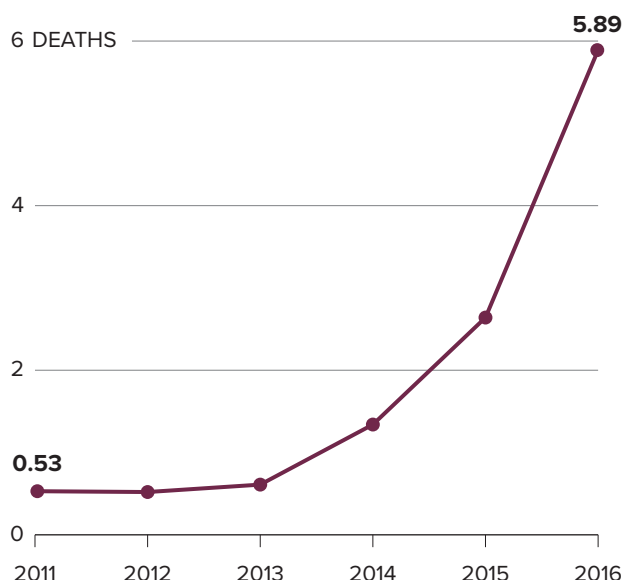
BY JANIE BOSCHMA, POLITICO PRO DATAPOINT

Fatal overdoses involving fentanyl have increased rapidly — reaching nearly six deaths for every 100,000 Americans by 2016 — a more than tenfold increase in six years, according to a new federal analysis. A team of researchers from CDC’s National Center for Health Statistics and the FDA analyzed multiple cause-of-death data as well as any mention of fentanyl and its various forms on death certificates. Overdose deaths involving fentanyl in 2016 were highest in New England, and were also highest among white populations, men, and those between the ages of 25 and 44.

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).

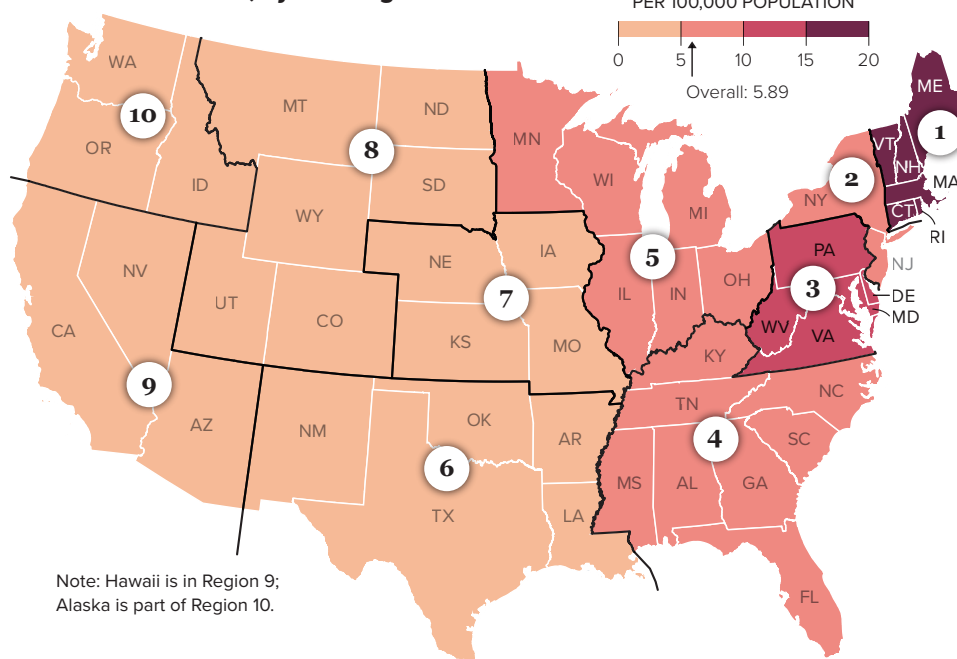
Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate involving fentanyl

PER 100,000 POPULATION



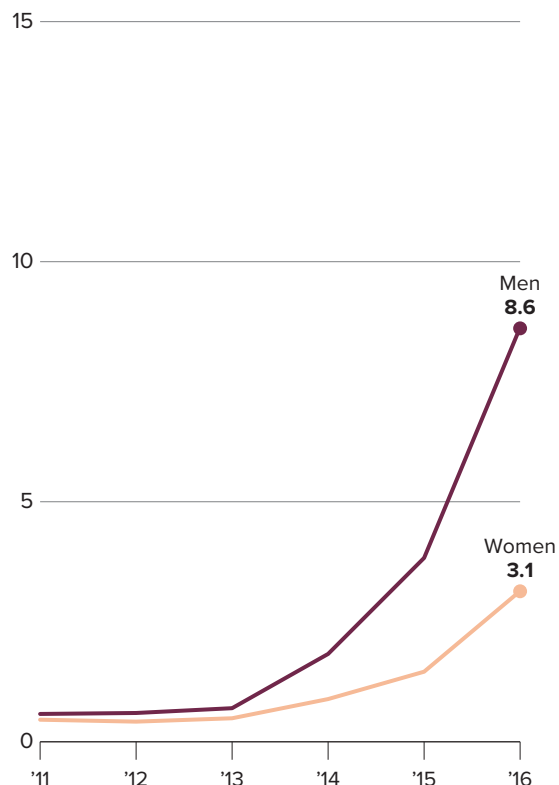
Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate involving fentanyl in 2016, by HHS region

PER 100,000 POPULATION
Overall: 5.89



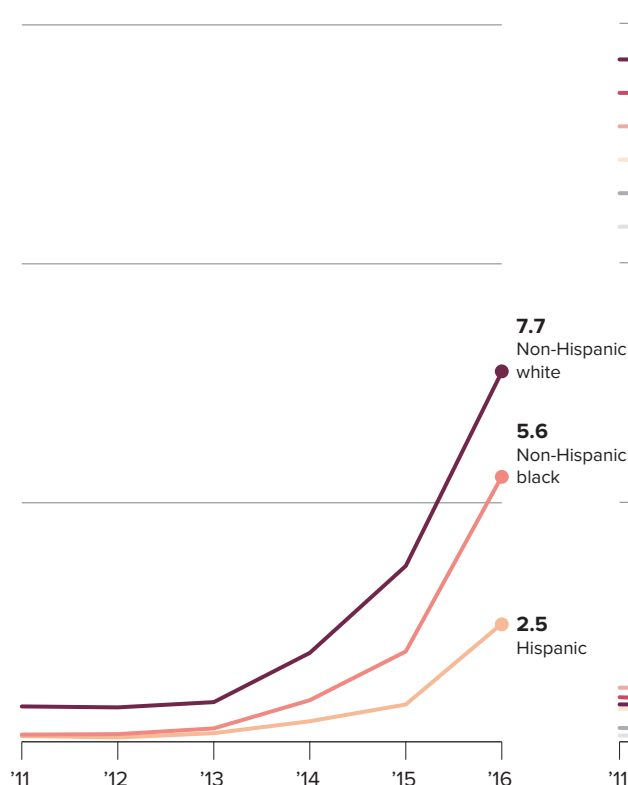
Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate involving fentanyl, by gender

PER 100,000 POPULATION



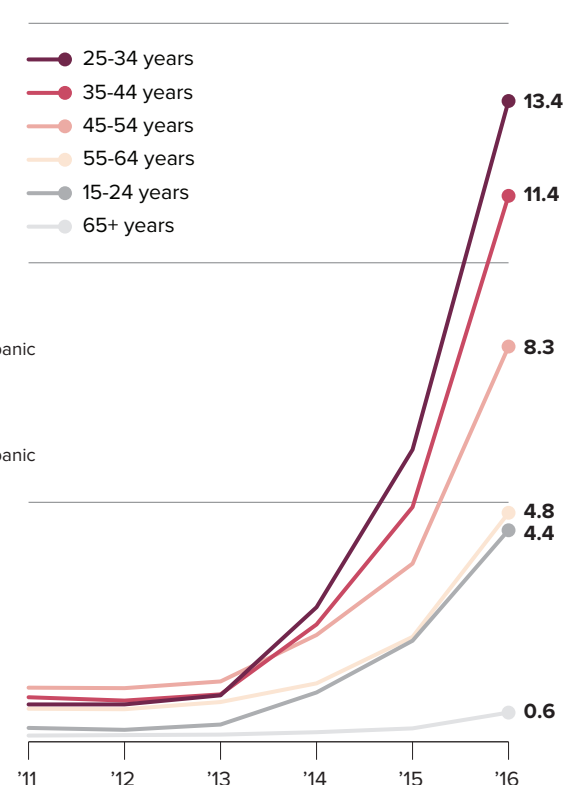
Age-adjusted drug overdose death rate involving fentanyl, by race and ethnicity

PER 100,000 POPULATION



Per capita drug overdose death rate involving fentanyl, by age

PER 100,000 POPULATION



Note: The report’s authors define “drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl” as drug overdose deaths involving fentanyl, whether prescription or illicitly manufactured, as well as deaths involving any fentanyl metabolites, precursors, or analogs as identified in the death certificate literal text.

Source: CDC National Center for Health Statistics March 2019 National Vital Statistic Report: “Drug Overdose Deaths Involving Fentanyl, 2011-16”

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