

Save Lives Oregon Learning Collaborative

Substance Use & Overdose Trends in Oregon

July 2026



Save Lives
OREGON

Salvando Vidas
OREGON

In partnership with:

HIVAlliance 



 **Blue Mountain**
HEARTtoHEART
HIV/AIDS Support Services

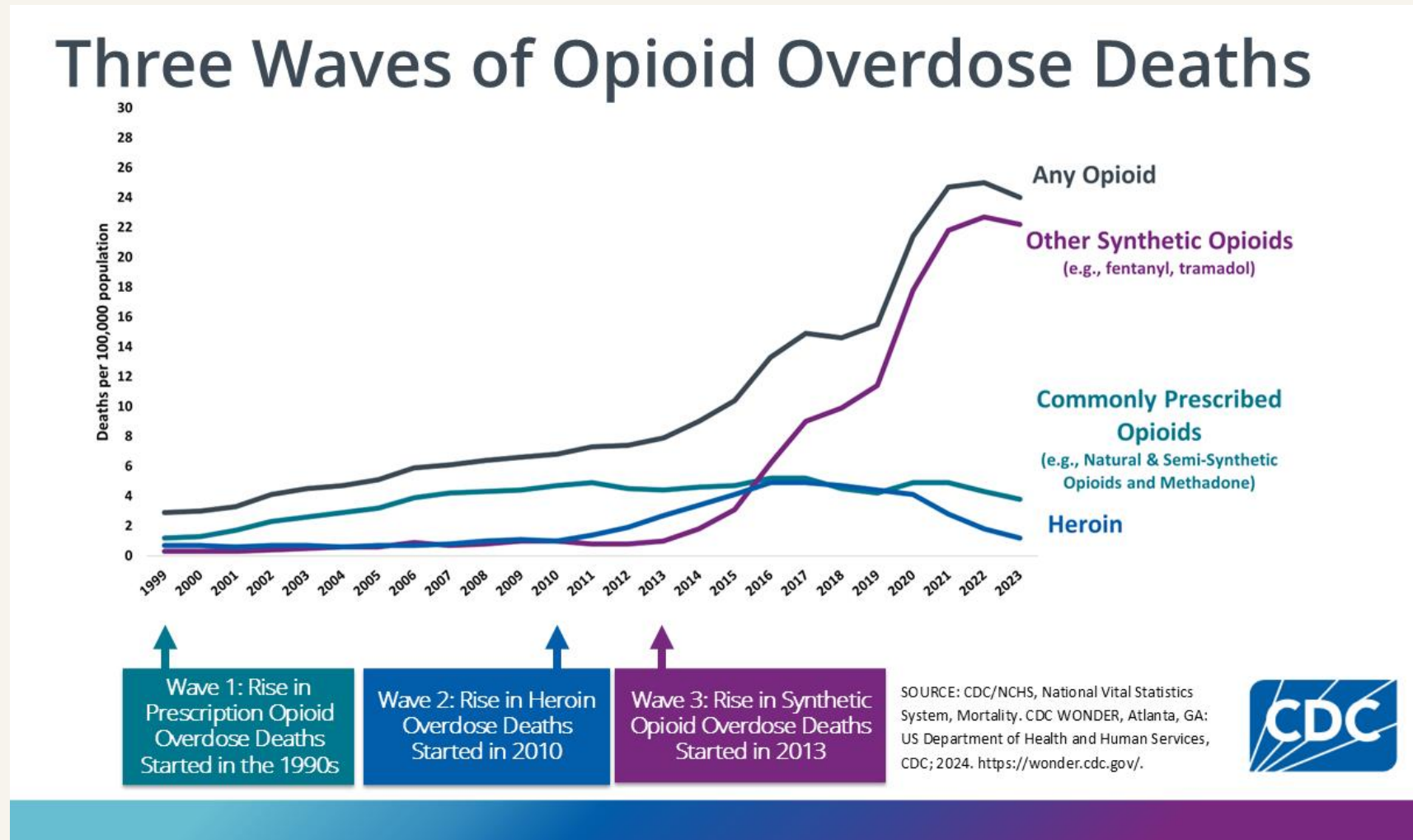
Agenda

- **Facilitator introductions**
 - (name, pronouns, org/role)
- **Oregon data**
- **Drug checking insights from HIV Alliance & Blue Mountain Heart to Heart**
- **Strategies to reduce risk**
- **Discussion & Questions**
 - Please include your questions in the chat

Overdose Trends in Oregon



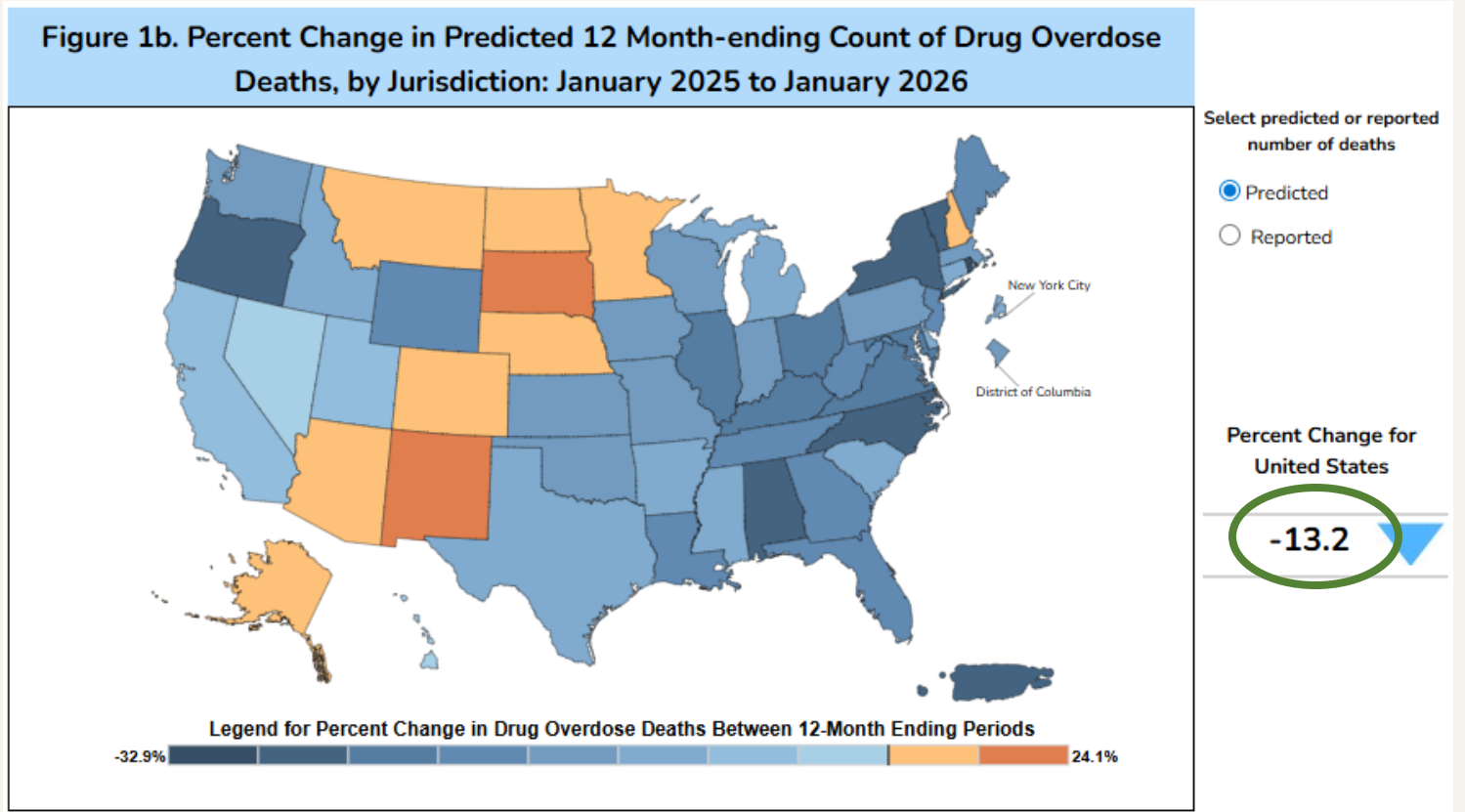
The **opioid epidemic** in context



Big picture

Declining overdose deaths nationwide since 2024

Source: CDC

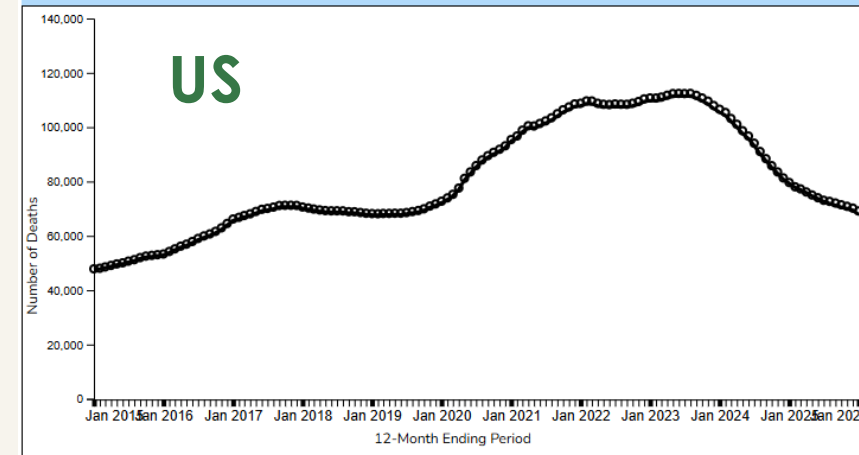


Big picture

Steep decline in deaths,
slightly behind US overall

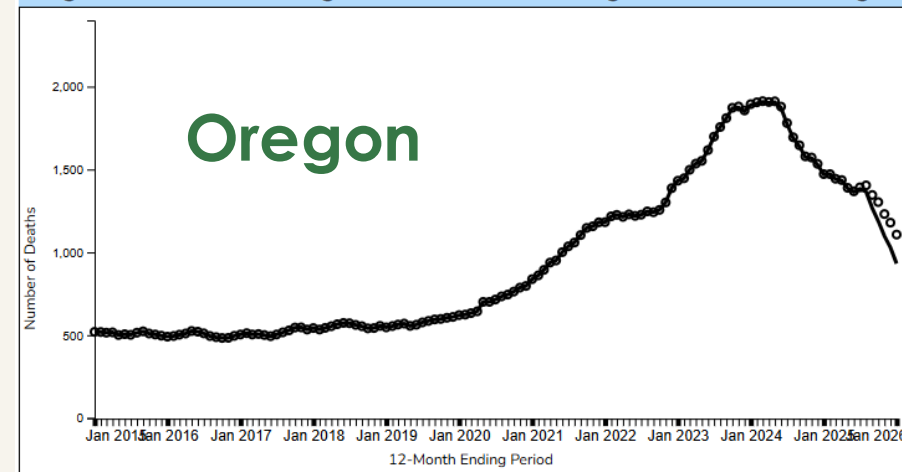
Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: United States



Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026

Figure 1a. 12 Month-ending Provisional Counts of Drug Overdose Deaths: Oregon



Big picture

Stimulant overdoses have not decreased to the same degree that opioid overdoses have

Based on data available for analysis on: June 7, 2026

After opening the **drug class dropdown**, click the top of the dropdown menu again to make the checkboxes disappear.

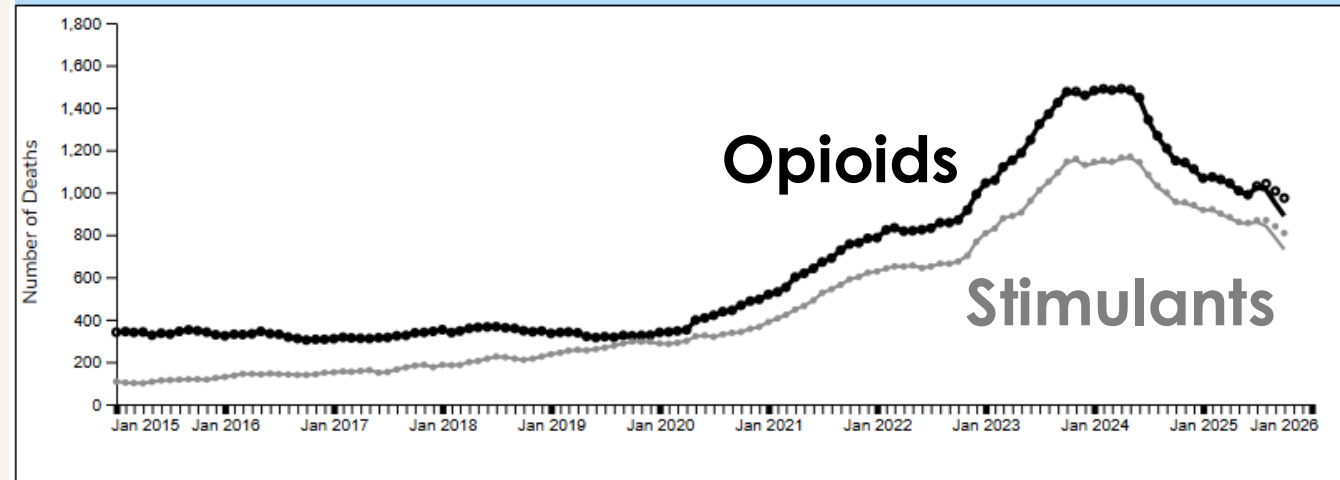
Select Jurisdiction

Oregon

Select specific drugs or drug classes

Select drug class

Figure 2. 12 Month-ending Provisional Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug or Drug Class: Oregon



Legend for Drug or Drug Class

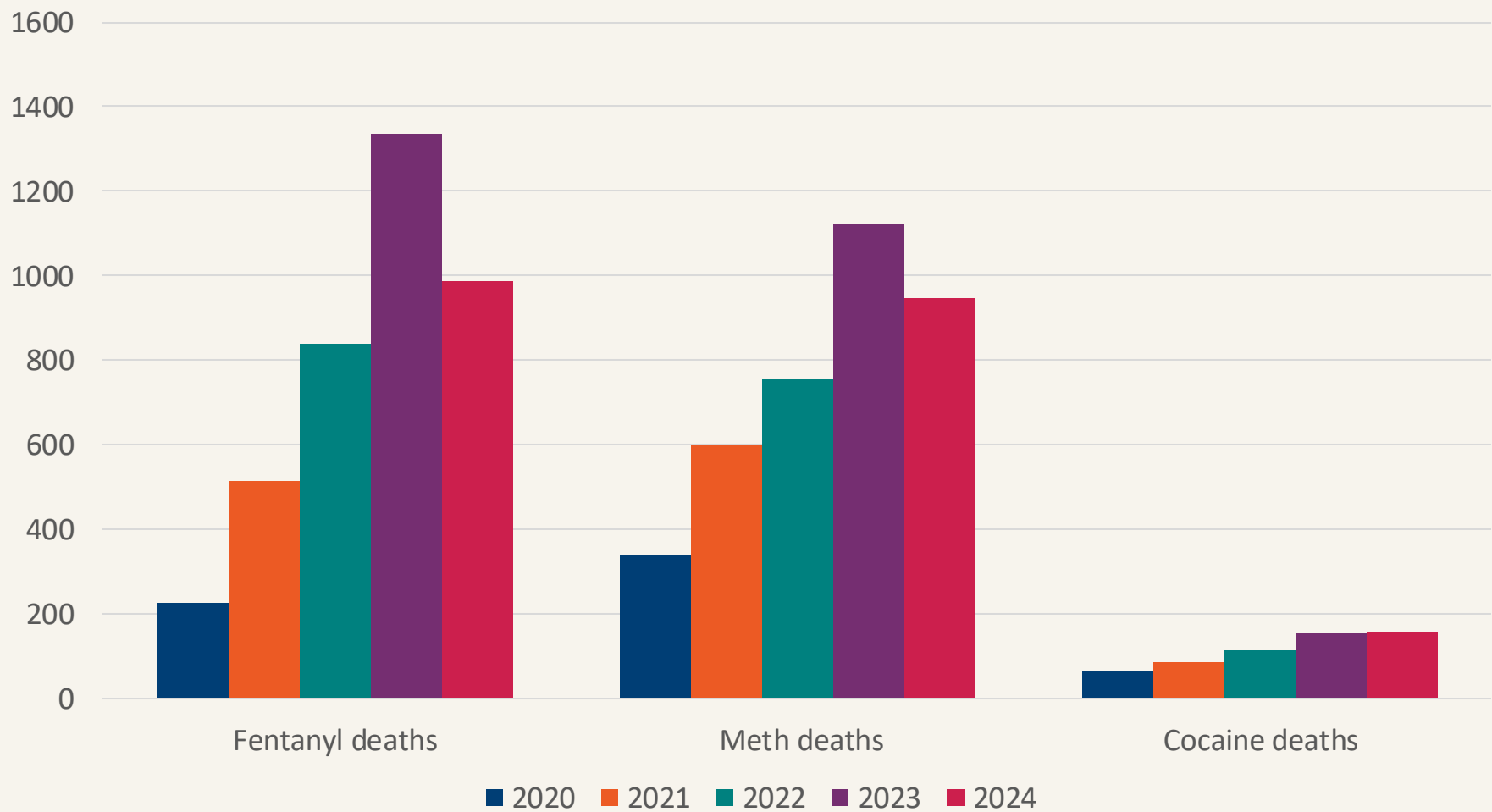
Opioids (T40.0-T40.4, T40.6)

Psychostimulants with abuse potential (T43.6)

---- Reported Value

○ Predicted Value

Data shows **declines in overdose deaths in 2024**



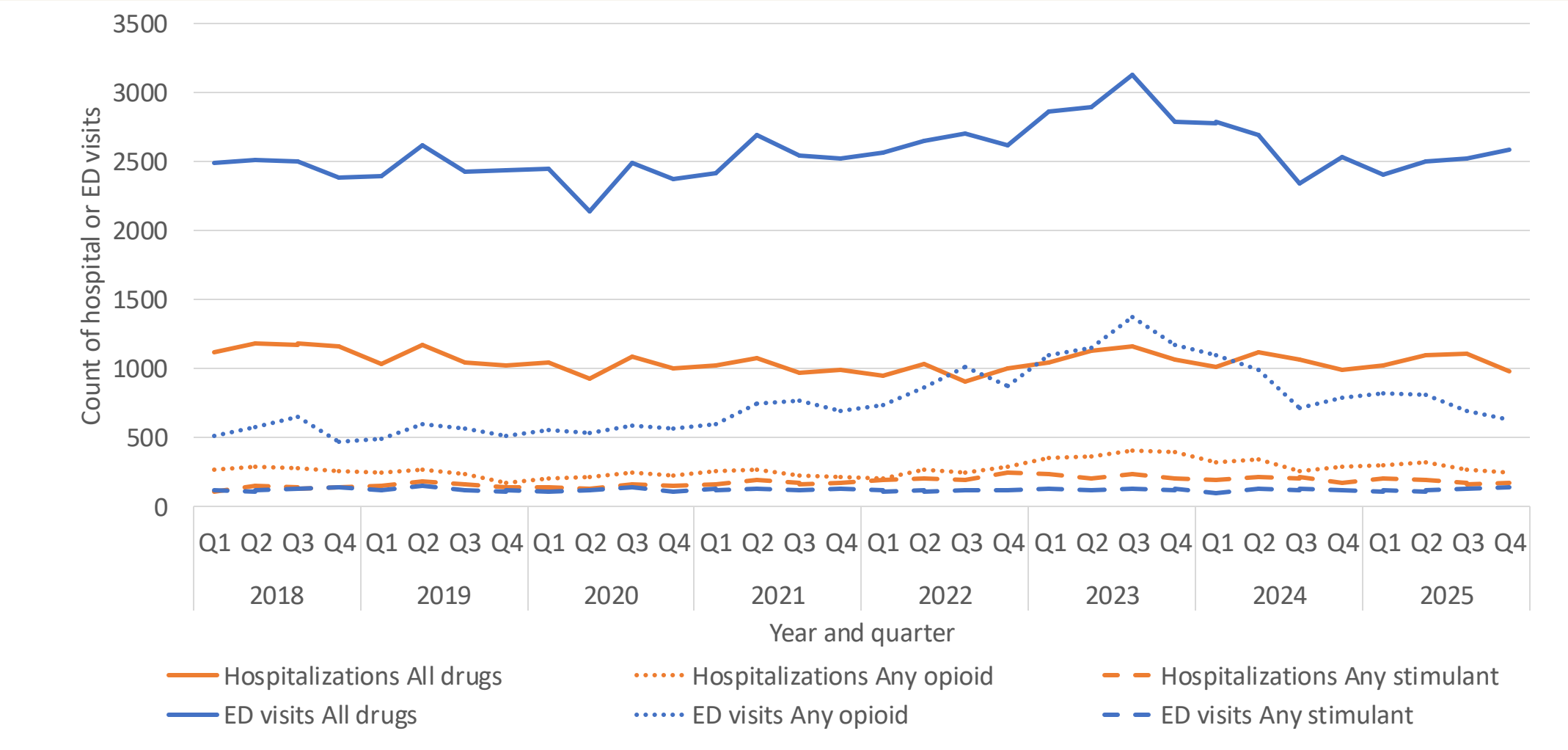
Source: Oregon State Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS)

Fentanyl and methamphetamine

Associated deaths

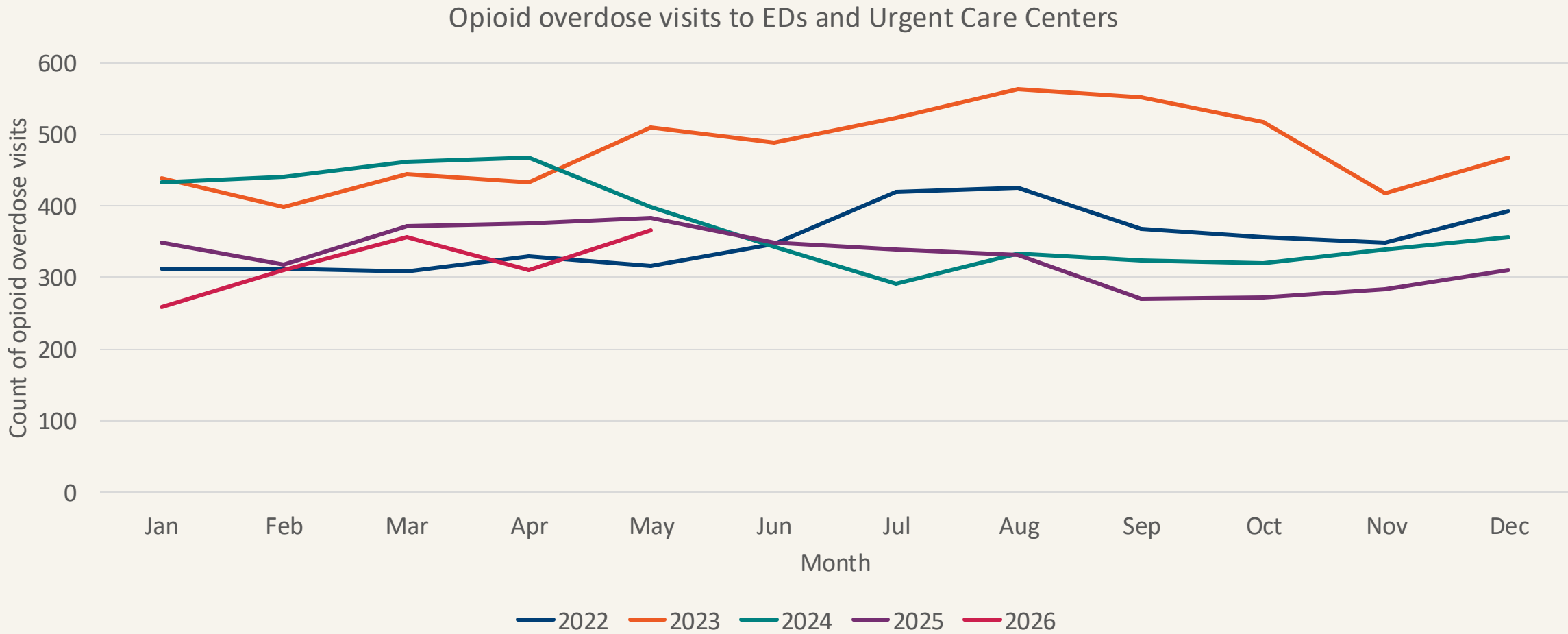
Drugs involved in drug overdose deaths, Oregon, 2020–24				
Year	Fentanyl deaths	Meth deaths	Cocaine deaths	All overdose deaths
2020	227	339	65	701
2021	513	600	85	1083
2022	839	753	112	1292
2023	1331	1118	154	1761
2024	988	947	156	1443
Source: Oregon SUDORS				

Nonfatal overdoses **have decreased slightly**



Source: OHA Hospital Reporting Program, 2018-2025 inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department discharge data

Opioid overdose **decrease** in ESSENCE



Source: Oregon ESSENCE

Emerging substances

- General decrease in **xylazine** in drug checking data nationwide, but no clear signs of decline in Oregon overdose data
- **Medetomidine** is increasing across the country
 - Similar effects to xylazine (increases sedation), but without the skin effects of xylazine
 - Severe withdrawal symptoms, may require ICU
- **Carfentanil** is present
 - One of the most potent opioids – can be 100 times stronger than fentanyl

Xylazine



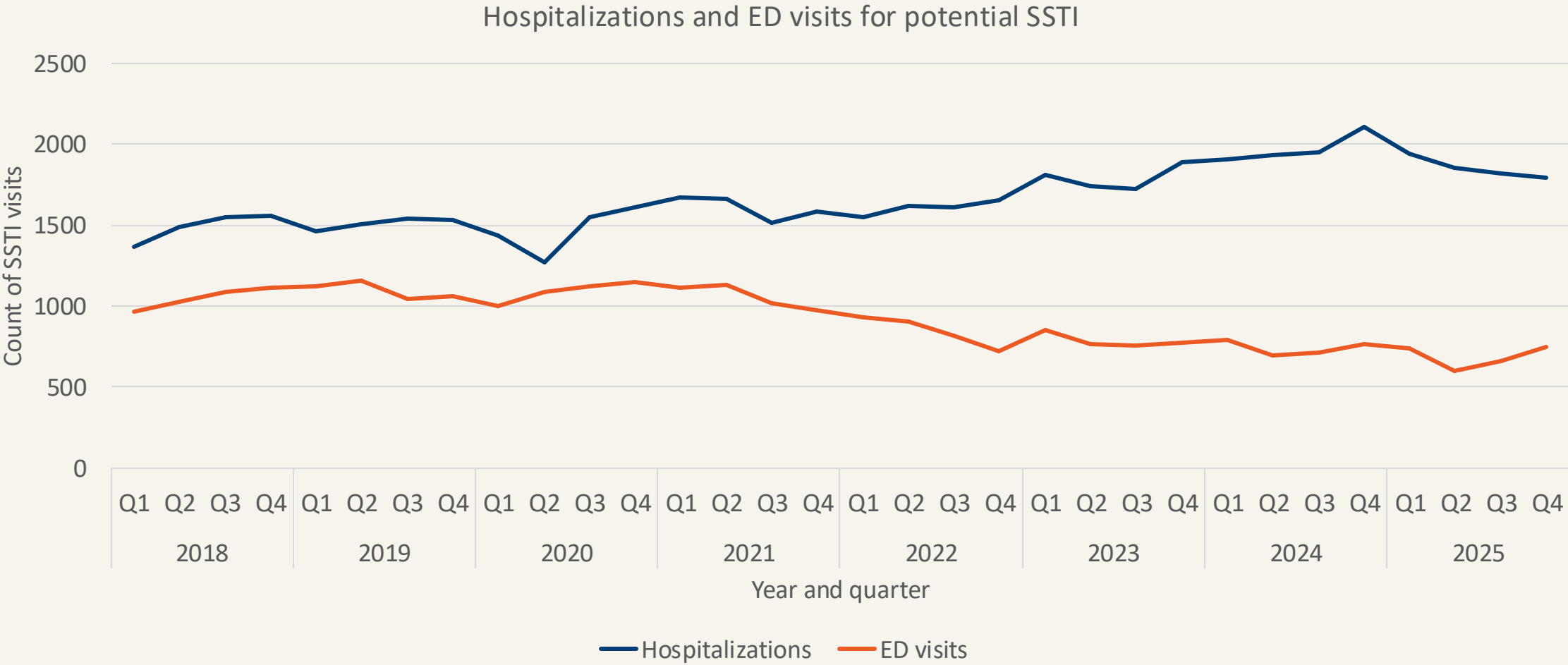
- Non-opioid veterinary sedative
- Now found in drug supply across the US
- Typically mixed with other illicit drugs
 - Called “tranq” or “zombie”
 - Called “tranq dope” when mixed with fentanyl
 - Can outlast and prolong fentanyl
- May be injected, ingested, snorted, or smoked
- Can cause fatal overdose and deep flesh wounds
- Naloxone does not reverse the effects of xylazine but it should always be given during an overdose because it's frequently mixed with opioids, like fentanyl

Xylazine-associated wounds



- Xylazine-associated wounds have been reported from injecting, smoking and snorting
 - Can appear anywhere on the body, including sites distant from injection
- Often start as blisters and ulcers that can progress rapidly
 - Can spread into muscles, tendons, and bones
 - Necrosis (tissue death) and secondary bacterial infections can occur
- May require prolonged medical care to heal

Severe skin and soft tissue infection hospitalizations **are increasing**



Source: OHA Hospital Reporting Program, 2018-2025 inpatient hospitalizations and emergency department discharge data

Xylazine

Associated deaths

Xylazine detection or involvement in drug overdose deaths, Oregon, 2020–24		
Year	Forensic detection of xylazine	Xylazine-involved deaths
2020	2	0
2021	9	1
2022	10	2
2023	11	8
2024*	12	7
* Preliminary data, subject to change Source: SUDORS. All deaths involving xylazine were co-involved with fentanyl.		

Medetomidine



- Non-opioid veterinary sedative, can be 100-200 times more potent than xylazine
- It can slow breathing and heart rate and cause overdose
- Increasingly being found across the US
- May be injected, ingested, snorted, or smoked
- Naloxone does not reverse the effects of medetomidine but it should always be given during an overdose because it's frequently mixed with opioids, like fentanyl

Carfentanil

- An ultra-potent synthetic opioid up to 100 times more potent than fentanyl
- Used as a veterinary tranquilizing agent for elephants and other large mammals
- Increasingly being found across the US
- Naloxone can be used to reverse the effects of opioids like carfentanil



Carfentanil

Associated deaths

Carfentanil detection/involvement in drug overdose deaths, Oregon, 2020–25		
Year	Carfentanil detected	Carfentanil-involved deaths
2020	0	0
2021	0	0
2022	1	1
2023	0	0
2024	4	4
2025*	2	2
* Preliminary data, subject to change. Source: SUDORS.		

Other emerging substances

- Nitazenes
- Orphines (e.g., cychlorphine)
- Street Adderall
- Tusi or pink cocaine

Nitazenes
Associated deaths

Nitazene detection or involvement in drug overdose deaths, Oregon, 2020–25		
Year	Nitazene detected	Nitazene-involved deaths
2020	1	1
2021	3	2
2022	1	0
2023	4	2
2024	1	1
2025*	0	0
* Preliminary data, subject to change. Source: SUDORS. All deaths involving nitazenes were co-involved with other drug(s).		

Ketamine

Associated deaths

Ketamine detection or involvement in drug overdose deaths, Oregon, 2020–25		
Year	Ketamine detected	Ketamine-involved deaths
2020	9	3
2021	11	2
2022	23	7
2023	17	9
2024	18	8
2025	12	5
* Preliminary data, subject to change. Source: SUDORS. All deaths involving ketamine were co-involved with other drug(s) or alcohol.		

Drug Checking Programs



National drug checking program

Opioid Data Lab

The Street Drug Analysis Lab is a public service of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. We provide analytical chemistry services and information for public health.



OPIOID DATA LAB
Street Drug Analysis Lab @ UNC

Using the UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab:

- Track emerging drug trends & monitor your region through UNC dashboards
 - You can search by specific substances or by location to see what is being detected in Oregon
 - You can search by region to monitor current trends
- Submit drug samples anonymously
 - Eligible partner orgs – many on this call would qualify – can enroll, receive a sample collection kit and mail samples for analysis. The more samples they get, the more accurate the data will be for tracking trends

Visit **[Opioiddata.org](https://opioiddata.org)**

Local drug checking program



Blue Mountain Heart to Heart is based in Walla Walla, Kennewick and Clarkston, Washington where they operate drug check programs and other services



What they are seeing

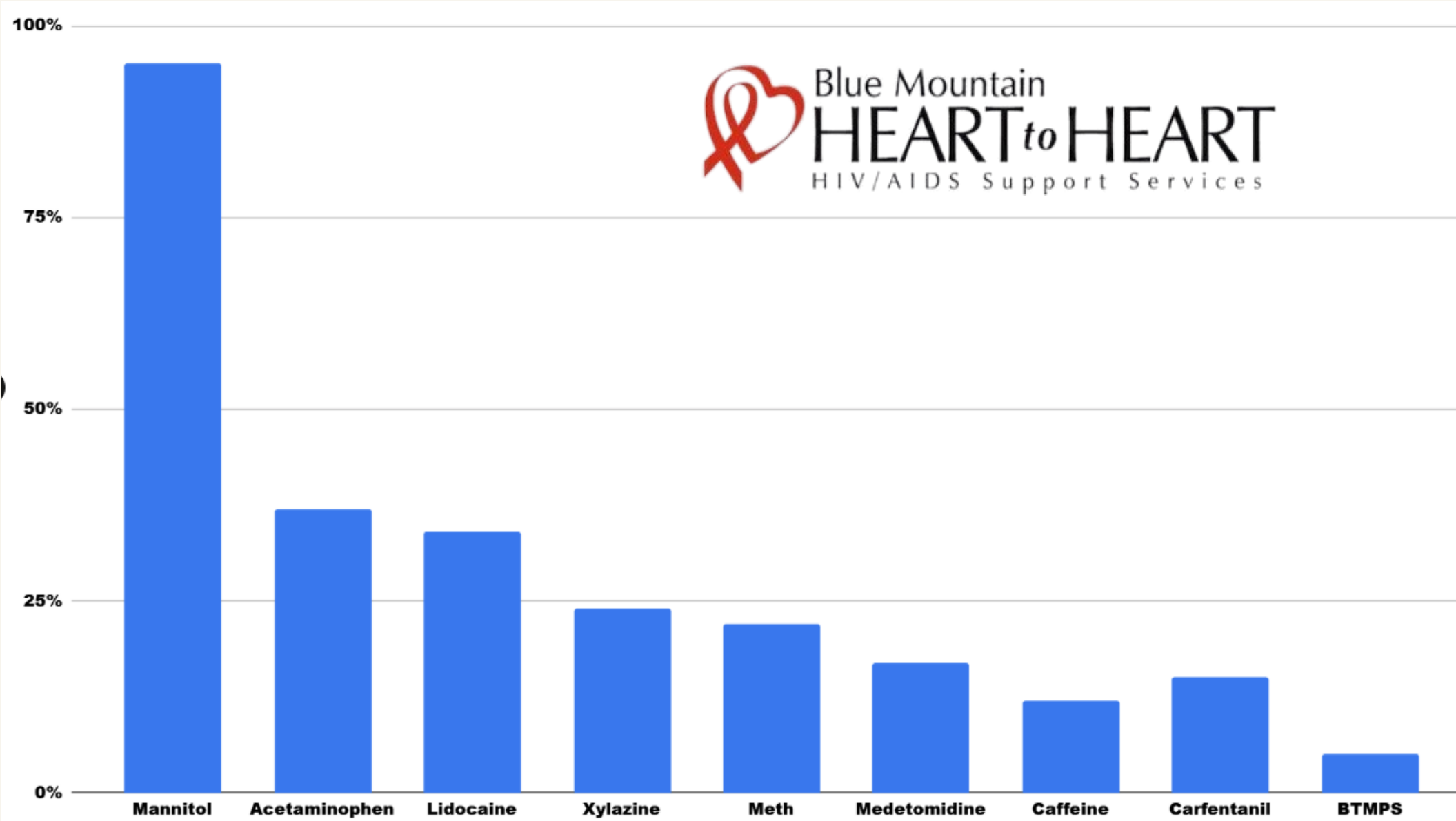
Emerging substances:

- Medetomidine has been detected more frequently in recent samples
- Carfentanil has been detected in samples

Haven't seen:

- Nitazenes have not been detected
- BTMPS "Bug Spray" was last detected in April 2026 at trace levels and has not been seen since.
- Some fentanyl samples tested contained methamphetamine. In some cases, this may be intentional mixing, not necessarily unintentional contamination.

Substances detected alongside fentanyl samples from Blue Mountain Heart to Heart testing
2026 data



Local drug checking program



HIV Alliance launched drug checking services in September 2025 and have collected 26 samples to date, which may not represent significant trends in the area



What they are seeing

Seeing most often:

- Methamphetamine has been the most common substance found in testing, accounting for 69% of samples
 - *Most methamphetamine samples contained only meth (16 out of 18 contained only methamphetamine with no other substances detected in bulk or trace scans)*
- Fentanyl/Fentanyl was the second most common at 23%

What's new:

- The program identified the first ketamine sample in February 2026.

Haven't seen:

- In the limited testing that has been done so far, BTMPS, medetomidine and nitazenes have not been found in testing.

Now What?

Strategies to keep people safer



Stigma free support & education

Seek out medical care options sans stigma.

Who in your community can offer this service? Can the folks you serve safely access medical care? What avenues exist to advocate for better options?

Be careful about scare tactics:

New does not always mean scarier. Be careful of the sources for information about drugs and remember drug supplies are very local.

Our drug supply has always been in flux:

Doing illicit drugs has always had a lot of unknowns. We know more now than ever before AND people who use drugs have always used in an unknown drug supply

**Always have
naloxone
visible when
using**

**Use slow,
use less**

Overdoses can happen quickly. Space out doses.

**Consider
alternatives
to injecting**

Snorting or smoking carries a reduced overdose risk compared to injecting.

**Take turns
when you
use drugs**

Make sure one person is alert and naloxone is visible.

**Test your
drugs every
time for
fentanyl**

Always test your drugs even if you got them from the same person or same bag.

**Reach out
if you use
alone**

Call a friend or use a service like **Never Use Alone** at 877-696-1996 or **The Brave App**.



Move naloxone closer to people

Instead of expecting people to come to services, bring naloxone to:

- Where people live
- Where people gather
- Where people already feel comfortable

Communities benefit from multiple models of naloxone access:

- Fixed sites
- Mobile outreach
- Peer distribution
- NaloxBoxes
- Vending machines
- Mail delivery

Source: National Association of County and City Health Officials. (2024, July). Understanding the needs of rural communities: Principles and practices for overdose prevention and response.

Overdose Response Steps



1. Know the signs of an overdose



2. Check for response



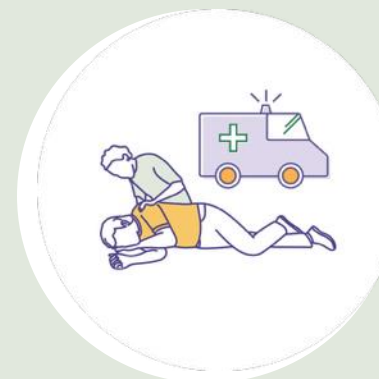
3. Call 911



4. Give ONE dose of naloxone



5. Start rescue breathing*



6. Put person in recovery position and wait for first responders

**If person has not started breathing on their own, it is CRITICAL to start breathing for them*

Ways to Access Naloxone & Other Supplies Outside of Save Lives Oregon:



MMCAP

Eligible organizations can apply for their own MMCAP account to directly purchase naloxone and health supplies at negotiated pricing. Many organizations use MMCAP to build long-term sustainability and reduce reliance on a single funding source. **Most SLO partners are eligible.**



Medical, Outreach or Drug Checking Vendors

Organizations may also purchase supplies through vendors like McKesson, Henry Schein and Total Access Group for medical and outreach supplies. Specialized vendors like BTNX, Smoke Works and LMI Textiles provide fentanyl test strips, custom kits and outreach distribution materials.



Lower-Cost Community Supply Programs

Programs like Remedy Alliance // For The People and the NASEN Buyers Club help community organizations access lower-cost naloxone, safer-use supplies, fentanyl test strips and outreach materials. These programs are designed to support organizations serving people at highest risk of overdose.



Pharmacies, Retail & Local Community Resources

Pharmacies and retail vendors can be helpful for smaller or urgent purchases, and naloxone is available through Oregon's statewide standing order. Local public and behavioral health agencies, syringe service programs and community organizations may also provide supplies directly or help connect organizations to funding and purchasing resources.

Instructional Guides & Resources for Kits

Save Lives Oregon offers instructional guides and resources for agencies to download, print and include in overdose response kits

savelivesoregon.org/resources



Understanding Oregon's Good Samaritan Law

If someone is experiencing an overdose and you seek medical help for them, **neither of you can be arrested or prosecuted for:**

1. Possessing drugs or drug paraphernalia
2. Being in a place where drugs are used
3. Violating probation, parole, or outstanding Oregon warrants related to #1 or #2 above

The Good Samaritan Law **does not protect you from:**

- ✗ Other crimes not specified and other state or federal warrants

Please call 911

Save Lives OREGON

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Save Lives OREGON

Join Us: Upcoming Learning Collaboratives

Save Lives Oregon Learning Collaboratives happen monthly on the 3rd Thursday of each month. Learn more and register:

savelivesoregon.org/events



Events

Join us for harm reduction trainings & events

[Audience](#) [Language](#) [Facilitators](#) [Virtual Events](#)

[<](#) [Today](#) [Upcoming](#)

[Submit an Event](#)

June 2025

WED
18

June 18 @ 1:00 pm

"Substance Use & Overdose Trends in Oregon" Learning Collaborative

[On Virtual Event](#)

Audience: Learning Collaboratives are designed for service providers and peers from organizations and agencies partnering with Save Lives Oregon and the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse to implement life-saving harm reduction strategies across the state.

[Register](#)



July 2025

THU
17

July 17 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

"Building Harm Reduction Kits" Learning Collaborative

[On Virtual Event](#)

Learning Collaboratives are designed for service providers and peers from organizations and agencies partnering with Save Lives Oregon and the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse to implement life-saving harm reduction strategies across the state.

[Register](#)



August 2025

THU
21

August 21 @ 1:00 pm - 2:30 pm

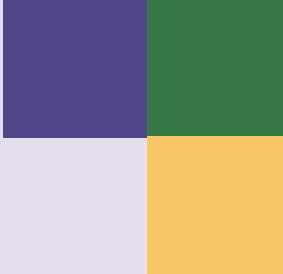
"Harm Reduction in Rural Communities" Learning Collaborative

[On Virtual Event](#)

Learning Collaboratives are designed for service providers and peers from organizations and agencies partnering with Save Lives Oregon and the Harm Reduction Clearinghouse to implement life-saving harm reduction strategies across the state.

[Register](#)





Questions?

Thank you!

Additional Information



Nasal Naloxone Kit Examples

Example kit from Max's Mission

- ✓ 1-Blue printed Max's Mission Naloxone Kit bag
- ✓ 1-CPR face shield
- ✓ 2-Doses 4 mg Naloxone nasal spray
- ✓ 1-English instruction card
- ✓ 1-Spanish instruction card
- ✓ 1-Good Samaritan card
- ✓ 1-Useful resources card

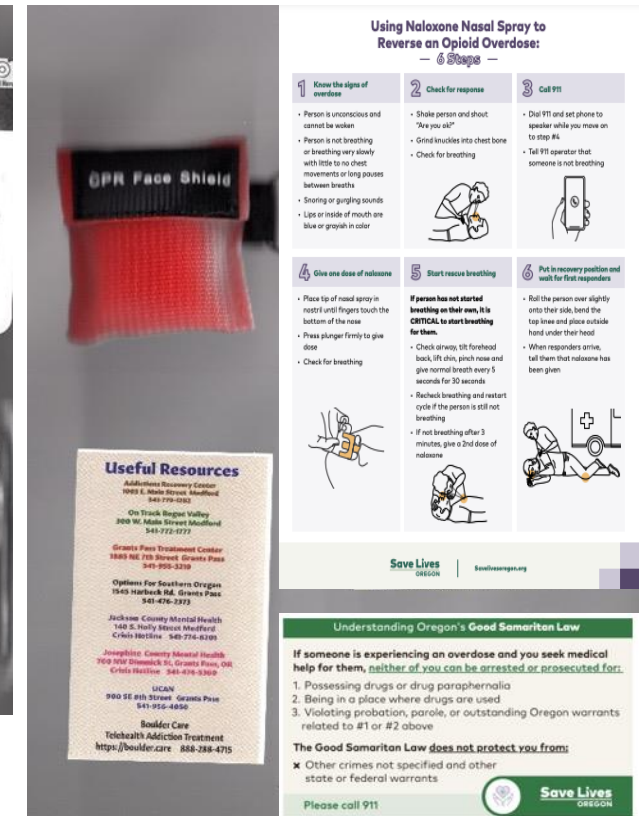


Photo from Max's Mission

Intramuscular (IM) Naloxone Kit Examples

Example kit from Max's Mission

- ✓ 1-Black printed Max's Mission Naloxone Kit bag
- ✓ 1-CPR face shield
- ✓ 2-Vials 0.4 mg naloxone
- ✓ 2-3ML/CC large gauge syringes
- ✓ 4 – Band-Aids
- ✓ 4 – Prep pads
- ✓ 1-Instruction card
- ✓ 1-Good Samaritan card
- ✓ 1-Useful resources card



Photo from Max's Mission

Overdose Response Boxes

Examples from HIV Alliance

Good for places that respond to client overdoses or serve clients who are at high risk of overdose.

Supplies are organized and in the same spot.

- ✓ IM naloxone vials
- ✓ IM syringes
- ✓ Nasal naloxone
- ✓ Mouth shield
- ✓ Gloves
- ✓ Stopwatch
- ✓ Oximeter
- ✓ Band-Aids
- ✓ Prep Pads
- ✓ Instructions



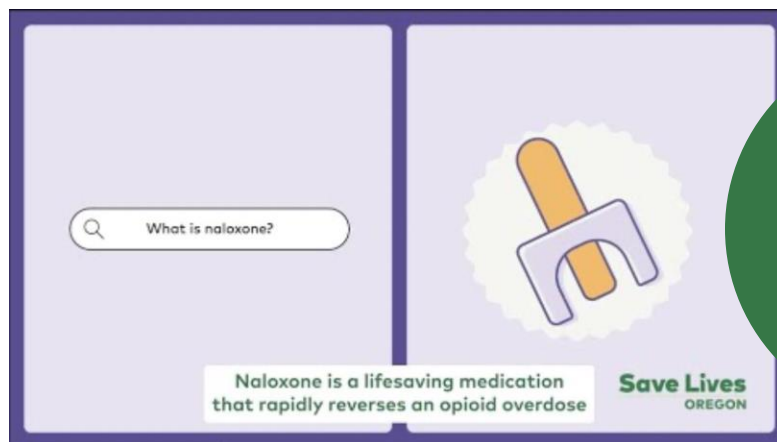
Photos from HIV Alliance



Nasal Naloxone Video Instructions

Community-facing videos to teach the public about the importance of naloxone

Help by sharing the videos on your social media channels, adding them to your website or sharing in your newsletters!



English

https://bit.ly/slo_naloxone



Spanish

https://bit.ly/SVO_naloxona



Nasal Naloxone Guides

How to use naloxone nasal spray to reverse an opioid overdose

Naloxone is a safe medicine.
Even if naloxone is given to someone who is not experiencing an overdose, it will not harm them.

You are protected.
Oregon law protects anyone who gives naloxone in a good faith effort to reverse an opioid overdose.

- 1 Know the signs of overdose**
 - Person is unconscious and cannot be woken
 - Person is not breathing or breathing very slowly with little to no chest movements or long pauses between breaths
 - Snoring or gurgling sounds
 - Lips or inside of mouth are blue or grayish in color
- 2 Check for response**
 - Shake person and shout, "Are you ok?"
 - Grind knuckles into chest bone
 - Check for breathing
- 3 Call 911**
 - Dial 911 and set phone to speaker while you move on to step #4
 - Tell operator that someone is not breathing
- 4 Give one dose of naloxone**
 - Place tip of nasal spray in nostril until fingers touch the bottom of the nose
 - Press plunger firmly to give dose
 - Check for breathing
- 5 Start rescue breathing**

If person has not started breathing on their own, it is CRITICAL to start breathing for them.

 - Check airway, tilt forehead back, lift chin, pinch nose and give normal breath every 5 seconds for 30 seconds
 - Recheck breathing and restart cycle if the person is still not breathing
 - If not breathing after 3 minutes, give a 2nd dose of naloxone
- 6 Put in recovery position**
 - Roll the person over slightly onto their side, bend the top knee and place outside hand under their head
 - When first responders arrive, tell them that naloxone has been given

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SaveLivesOregon.org

3/08/24



Foldable pamphlet

Using Naloxone Nasal Spray to Reverse an Opioid Overdose: 6 Steps

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 - Person is unconscious and cannot be woken
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One-pager



IM Naloxone Guides

How to use naloxone intramuscular injection to reverse an opioid overdose

Naloxone is a safe medicine.
Even if naloxone is given to someone who is not experiencing an overdose, it will not harm them.

You are protected.
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3/18/24

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 - Grind knuckles into chest bone
 - Check for breathing
- 3 Call 911**
 - Dial 911 and set phone to speaker while you move on to step #4
 - Tell operator that someone is not breathing
- 4 Give one dose of naloxone**
 - Remove caps from vial and needle and with vial upside down, insert needle into vial
 - Draw 1ml making sure syringe fills with liquid, not air
 - Insert needle into large muscle like upper arm or thigh and press plunger to release dose
 - Check for breathing
- 5 Start rescue breathing**

If person has not started breathing on their own, it is CRITICAL to start breathing for them.

 - Check airway, tilt forehead back, lift chin, pinch nose and give normal breath every 5 seconds for 30 seconds
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- 6 Put in recovery position**
 - Roll the person over slightly onto their side, bend the top knee and place outside hand under their head
 - When first responders arrive, tell them that naloxone has been given



Foldable pamphlet

Using Naloxone Intramuscular Injection to Reverse an Opioid Overdose: 6 Steps

- 1 Know the signs of overdose**
 - Person is unconscious and cannot be woken
 - Person is not breathing or breathing very slowly with little to no chest movements or long pauses between breaths
 - Snoring or gurgling sounds
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One-pager



Oregon Good Samaritan Law Wallet Cards



Printable card
page

Understanding Oregon's Good Samaritan Law

If someone is experiencing an overdose and you seek medical help for them, neither of you can be arrested or prosecuted for:

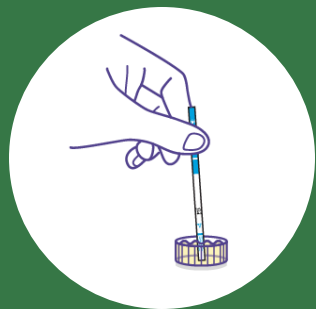
1. Possessing drugs or drug paraphernalia
2. Being in a place where drugs are used
3. Violating probation, parole, or outstanding Oregon warrants related to #1 or #2 above

The Good Samaritan Law does not protect you from:

- ✕ Other crimes not specified and other state or federal warrants

Please call 911

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BTNX Fentanyl Test Strip Guide + Steps to Reduce Risk Pamphlet

How to test your drugs for fentanyl

with BTNX Rapid Response™ test strips

It is most accurate to test everything you intend to consume.

After testing, you can either drink the mixture, snort it, or wait for the water to evaporate to use. You can also test a sample, but fentanyl isn't always mixed evenly into drugs.

- 1 Prepare drugs**
Powder, Crystal, Pills
 Crush up and mix well. Measure out 10 mg of powder into a small baggie or container like a water bottle cap.
10 mg = the size of a grain of rice or 1 micro scoop
Injection
 Prepare shot in an unused cooker; set aside. Use cooker with residue.
Whole supply test
 Calculate entire supply weight. Crush up & mix well.
- 2 Add water**
 Add about 5 ml/cc of water to baggie, container, or cooker. Mix well.
5 ml/cc water = 1 plastic bottle cap or teaspoon
Whole supply test

Drug weight	Add water & mix well	MOST DRUGS	METH OR MDMA
10 mg	5 ml/cc or 1 tsp	1/4 cup or 2 oz	2.5 cups or 20 oz
1 g	50 ml/cc or 10 tsp		
5 g	250 ml/cc or 1 cup		12.5 cups or 100 oz
- 3 Dip strip for 15 seconds**
 Hold strip's dark blue end. Dip other end into mixture for 15 seconds.
 Don't dip past the wavy blue lines.
- 4 Wait 5 minutes**
 Lay the test strip down on a flat surface.
 Wait 5 minutes to read result.
- 5 Read result**

Just because a portion of your supply tested negative does not mean your entire supply is fentanyl free.

1 red line = POSITIVE for fentanyl
 Fentanyl may be present in the drugs.
 If there is only a red line on the left or no red lines appear, the test is invalid. Retest with a new strip.

2 red lines = NEGATIVE for fentanyl
 Look closely for a second line; it can be faint!

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Take steps to lower your risk

Even if a fentanyl test result is negative, there is still a risk of an overdose. You can take these steps to lower that risk.

Test your drugs. Never use alone. Carry naloxone.

What is fentanyl?
 Fentanyl is a strong synthetic opioid that increases the risk of an overdose.
 Powdered fentanyl looks just like many other drugs. It may be mixed with drugs like heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine, ketamine, MDMA, or in fake pills that look like prescription pills.

Always have naloxone visible when using
 Overdoses can happen quickly. Space out doses.

Use slow, use less
 Overdoses can happen quickly. Space out doses.

Consider alternatives to injecting
 Snorting or smoking carries a reduced overdose risk compared to injecting.

Take turns when you use drugs
 Make sure one person is alert and naloxone is visible.

Test your drugs every time for fentanyl
 Always test your drugs even if you got them from the same person or same bag.

Reach out if you use alone
 Call a friend or use a service like **Never Use Alone** 696-1996 or **The Bridge**.

What should I know about fentanyl test strips?
 Fentanyl test strips can be helpful, but they are NOT perfect tools.
 • Depending on the drugs you are testing and/or the method used to test, your results may not be correct or reliable.
 • False positives and false negatives can occur.
 • Fentanyl test strips can tell you if your drugs contain fentanyl but NOT how much OR how strong the effect of the drugs will be on you.
 • Just because a portion of your supply tested negative does not mean your entire supply is fentanyl free.

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