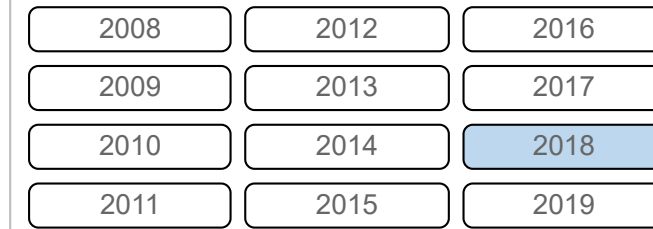


Drug Related Deaths in Denver County

Takeaway: Overdose deaths in Denver are about polysubstance use. 64% of deaths involved 3 or more drugs in the deceased's system.

Caution: These data represent deaths in which drugs were present in specimens examined. Each death may have had other contributing factors.

Select a Year



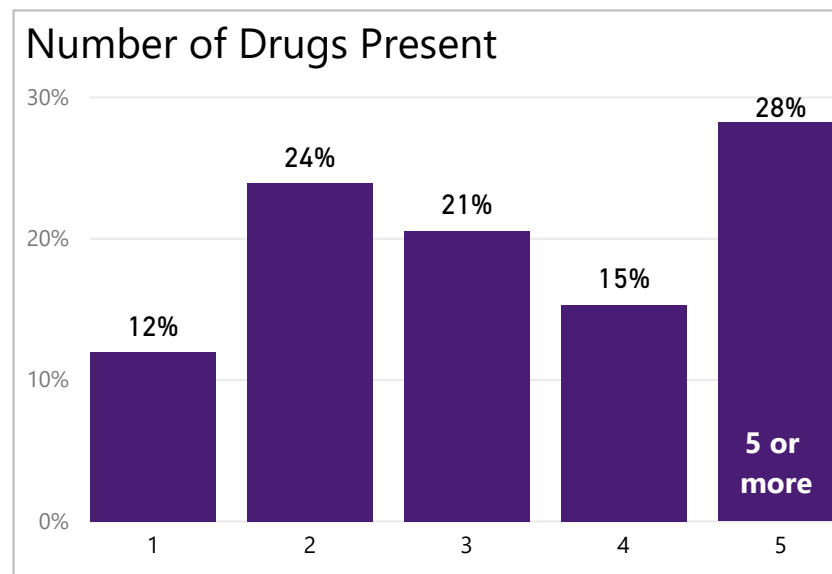
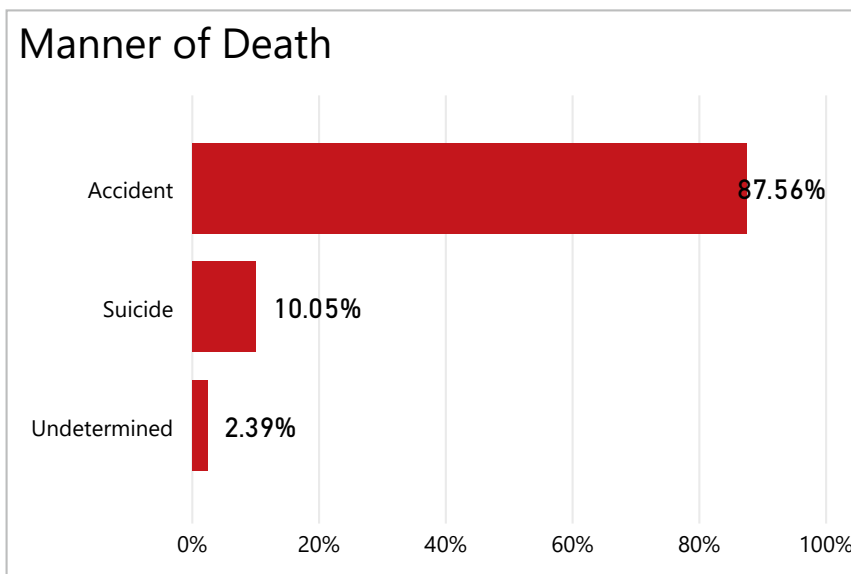
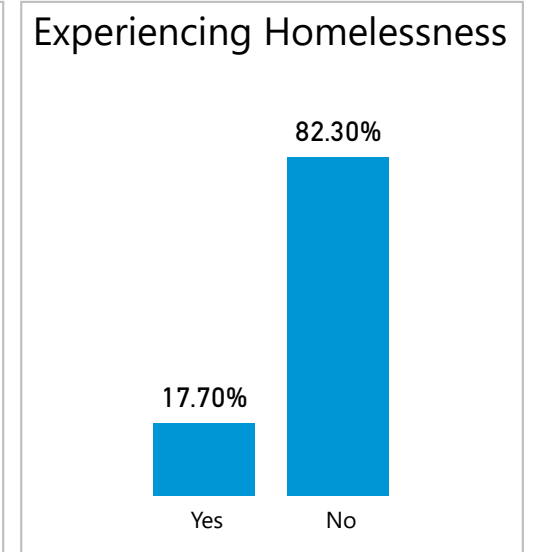
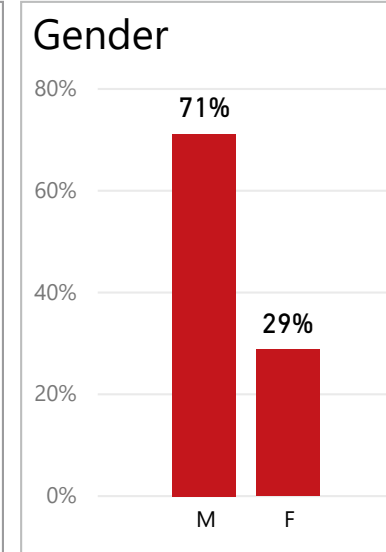
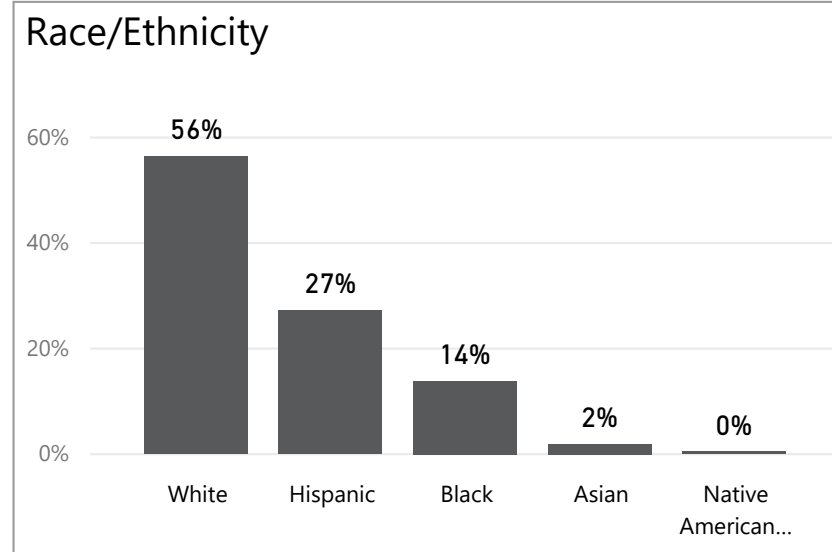
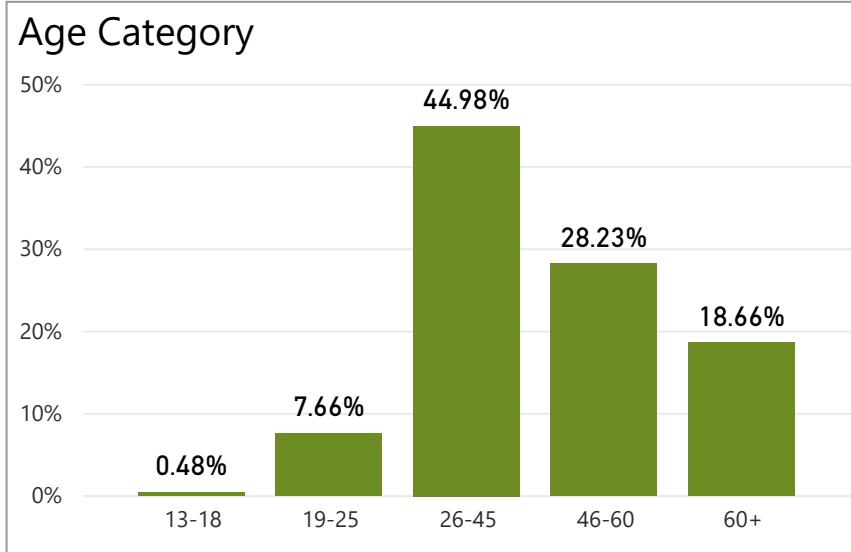
Total Drug Related Deaths

209

Data Start Data End

1/1/2018

12/29/2018



Data Statements From the Medical Examiner's Office:

- Cause of death may have intricate complexities and interpretations.
- These numbers reflect deaths reported to Denver OME as required by CRS 30-10-606 (not every death in the CCD is reported to OME, just those required by statute).
- Numbers may vary from other statewide data due to differences in reporting and coding.

Number and Type of Drugs Present

Total Drug-Related Deaths

209

Select a Year

2008	2012	2016
2009	2013	2017
2010	2014	2018
2011	2015	2019

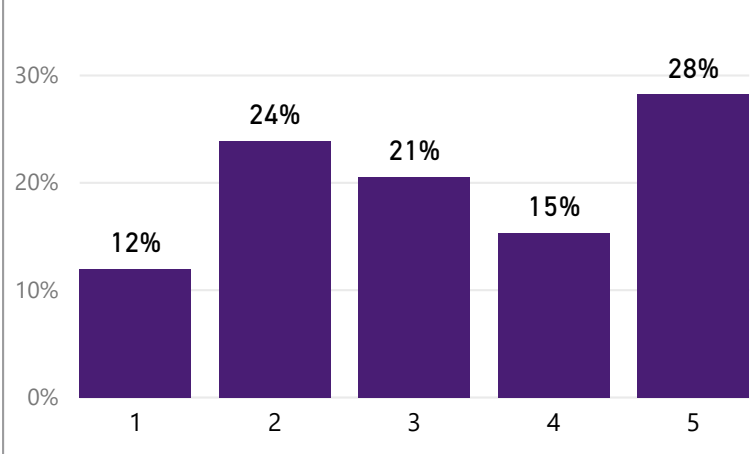
Method of Death

Accident	Suicide	Undetermined
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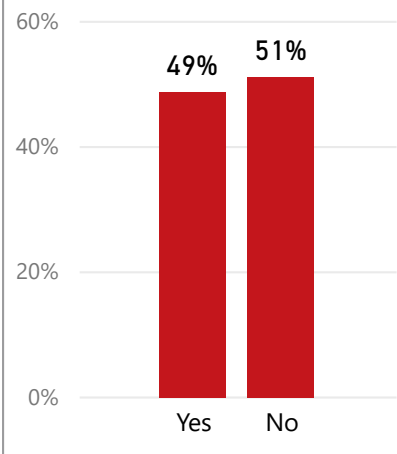
Experiencing Homelessness

Yes	No
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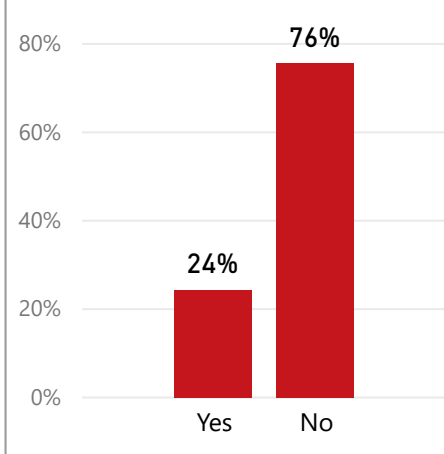
Number of Drugs Present



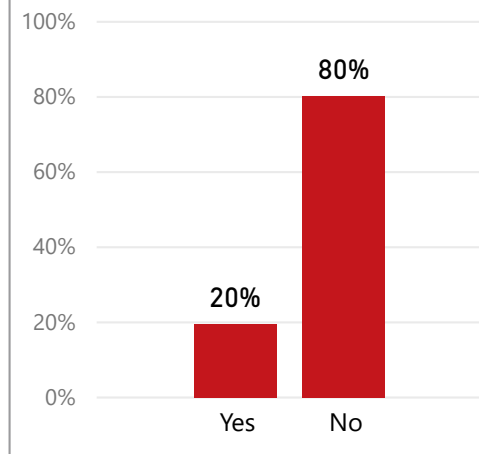
Any Opioids



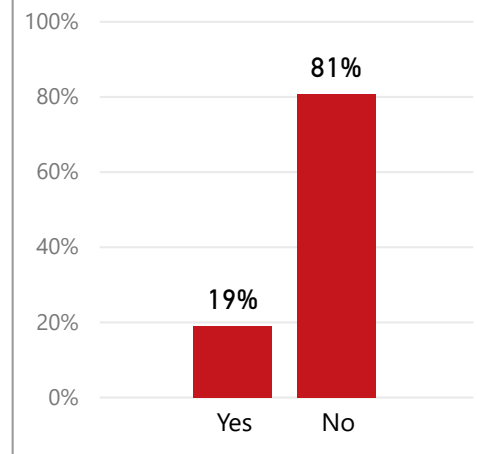
Rx Opioids W/O Heroin



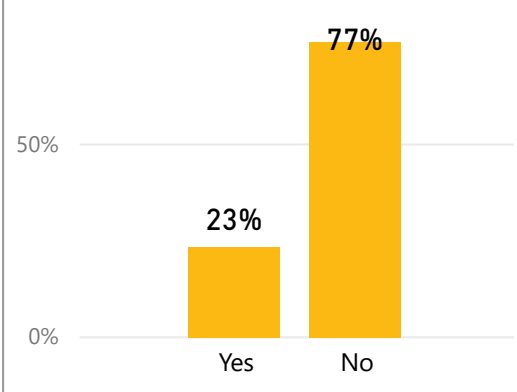
Heroin W/O Rx Opioids



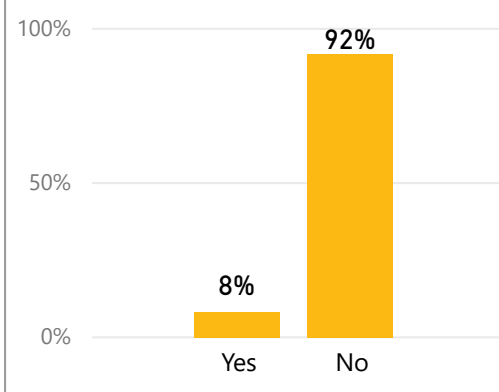
Opioids and Meth



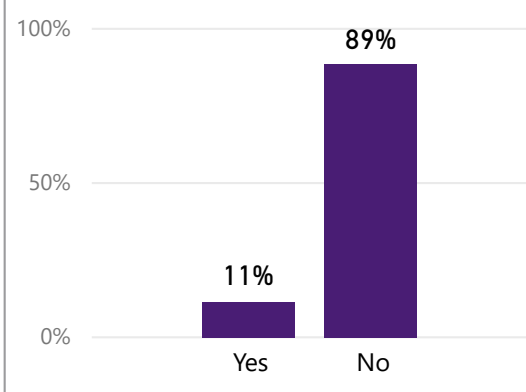
Alcohol Present



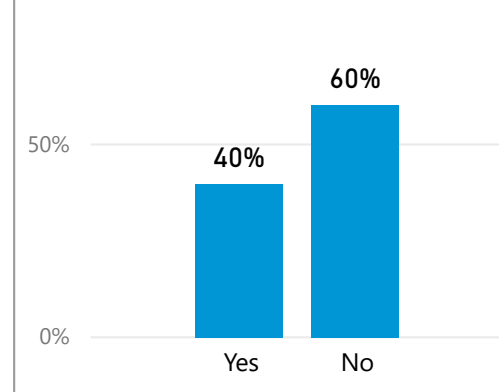
Fentanyl Present



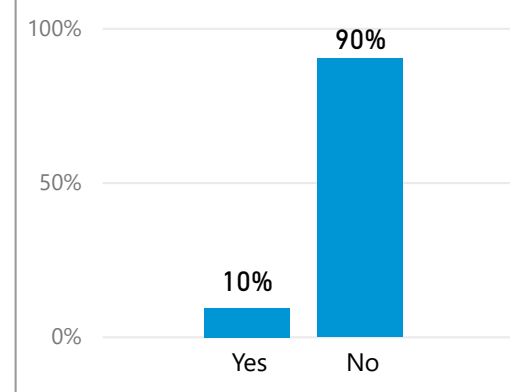
Benzos & Opioids



Meth Present



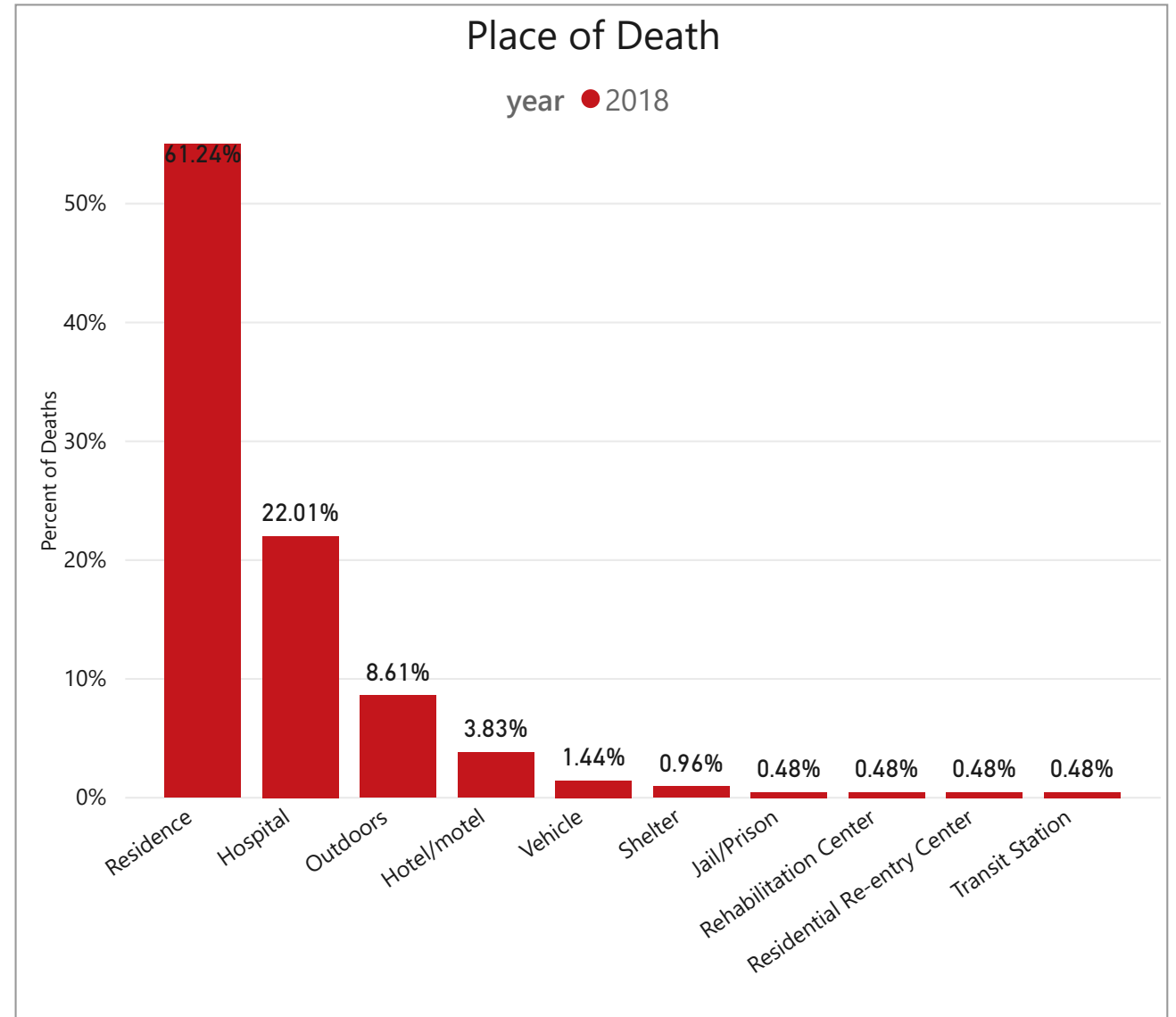
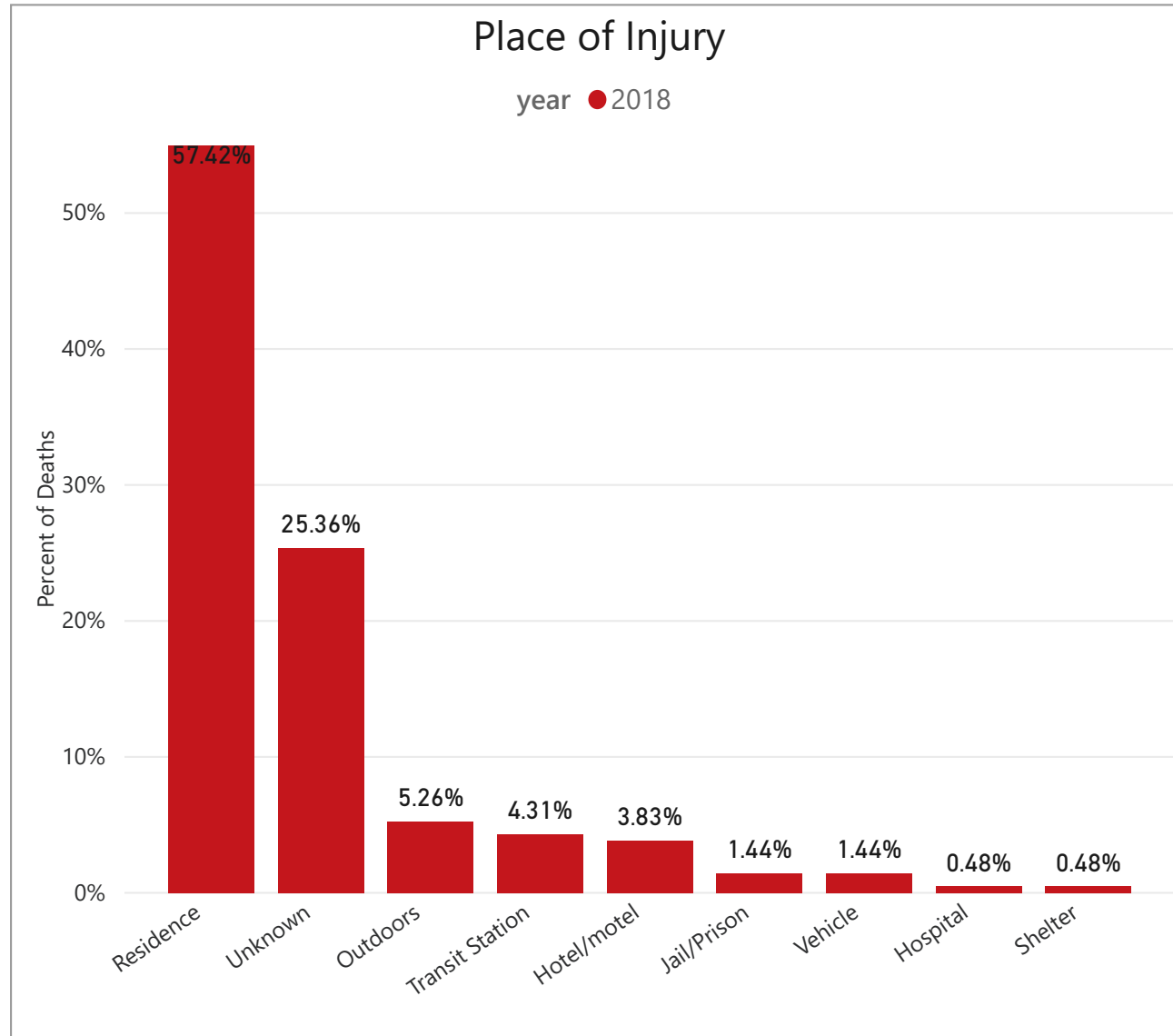
Meth and Heroin



Places of Injury and Death (2018, 2019)

Takeaway: The majority of drug-related deaths occur in residences or in hospitals. Less than 10% of deaths in 2018 occurred outdoors.

Caution: Places of injury and death are determined at the medical examiner's discretion. Estimates may not be exact.



Current Trends Drug Related Deaths in Denver County

Takeaway: Opioid-related deaths do not appear to be increasing. Meth-related deaths may have increased in 2017.

Caution: By-week and by-month sample sizes are small. Variation could easily be random noise. Use caution interpreting trends or speculating about the future.

Total Drug Related Deaths

2019 34

2018 209

Data Start 1/1/2017 Data End 3/11/2019

Select Month

1 12

Select Method of Death

Accident

Suicide

Undetermined

Select Race/Ethnicity

Asian

Hispanic

Other

Black

Native Amer...

White

Experiencing Homelessness

Yes

No

Any Opioids Present

Yes

No

Opioids (Not Heroin)

Yes

No

Meth Present

Yes

No

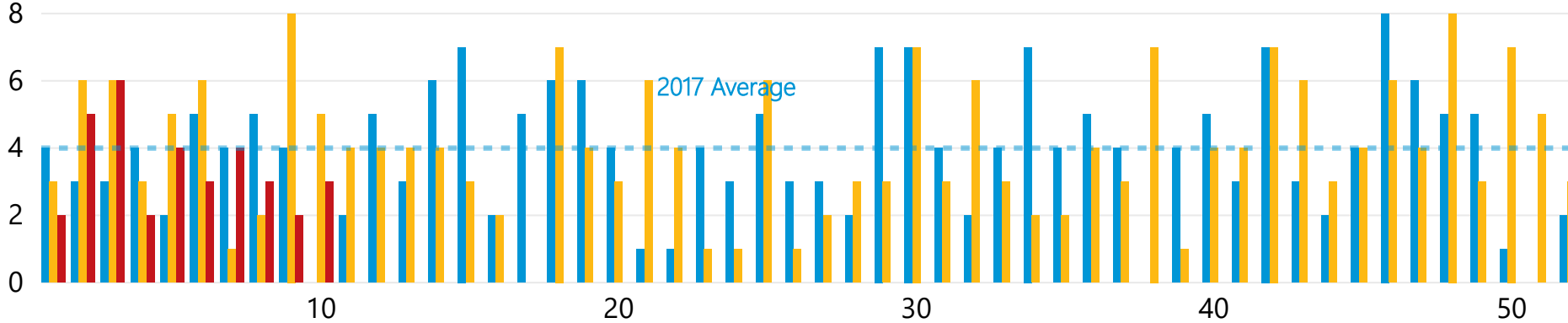
Fentanyl Present

Yes

No

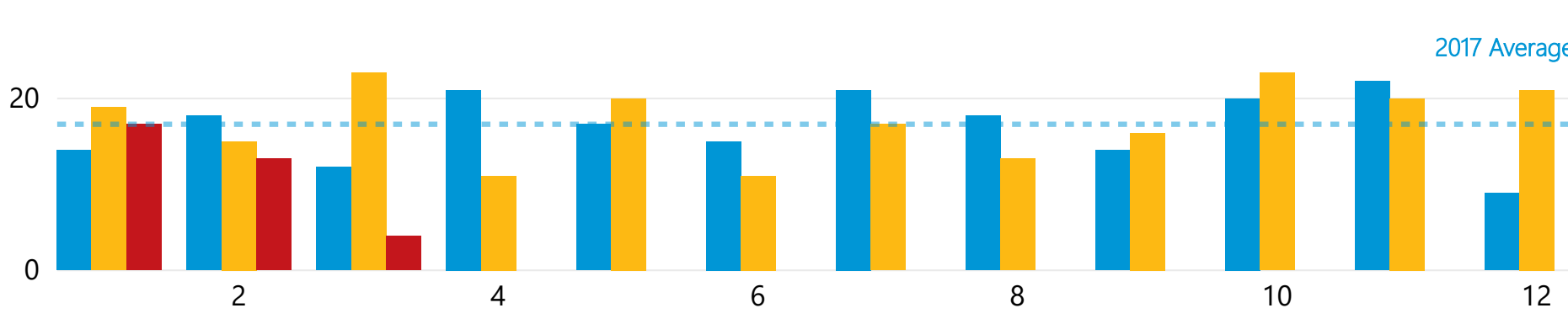
Drug Related Deaths By Week

2017 2018 2019



Drug Related Deaths By Month

2017 2018 2019



Historical Trends in Drug Related Deaths

Select Race/Ethnicity

- Asian
- Hispanic
- Other
- Black
- Native America...
- White

Select Method Of Death

- Accident
- Suicide
- Undetermined
- Homicide

Drug Related Deaths

2059

Select Date Range

1/2/2008 12/29/2018



Note: Given 2019 is our current year and cannot yet show trends, 2019 data have been removed from this page.

Select Drugs Present

Any Opioids

- No
- Yes

Meth

- No
- Yes

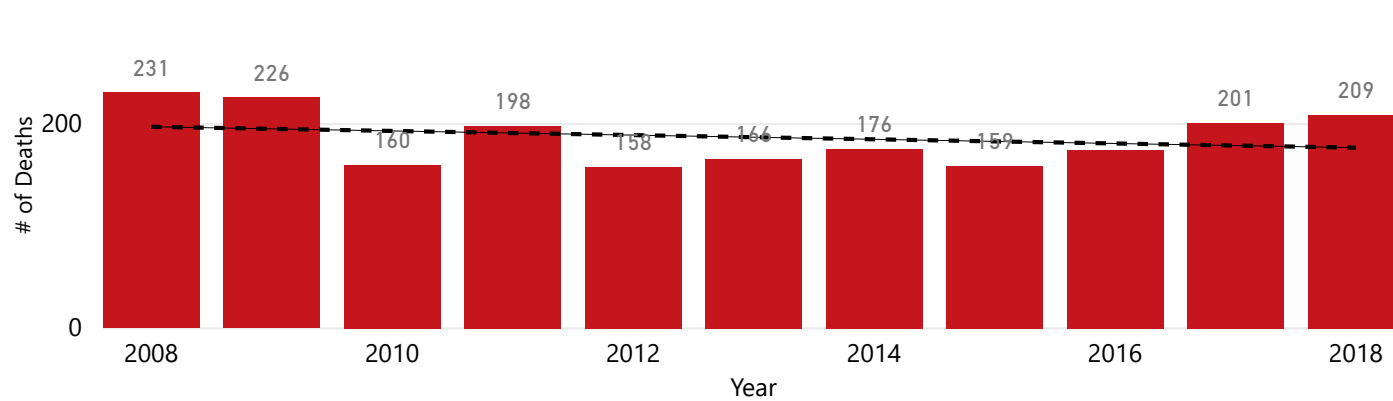
Fentanyl

- No
- Yes

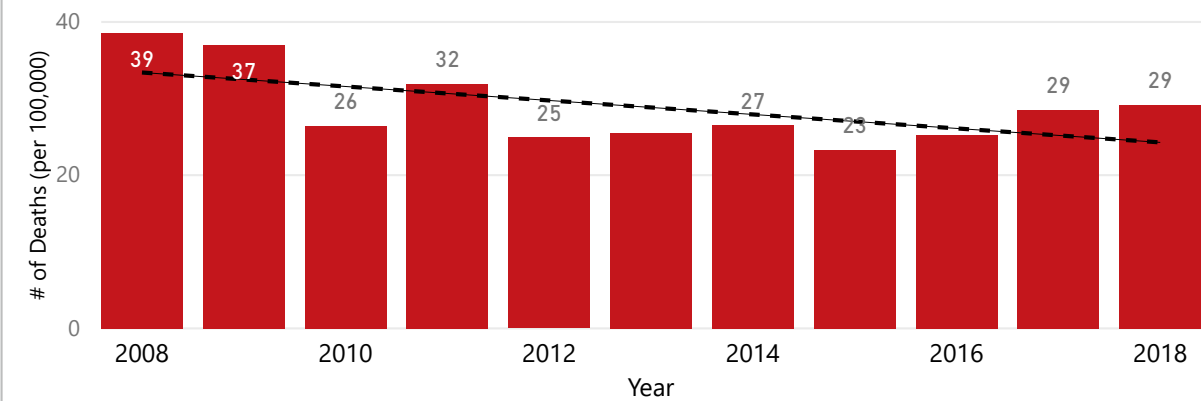
Heroin W/O Opioids

- No
- Yes

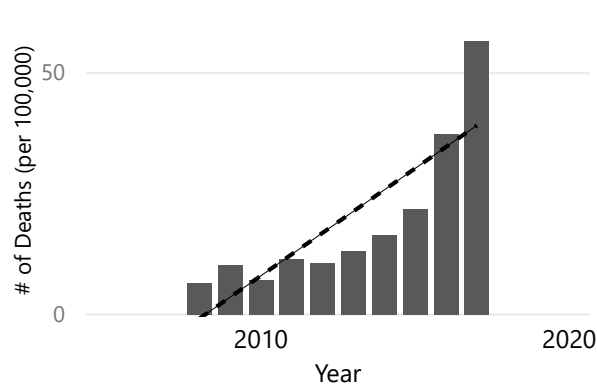
Total Drug Related Deaths (Not Population Adjusted)



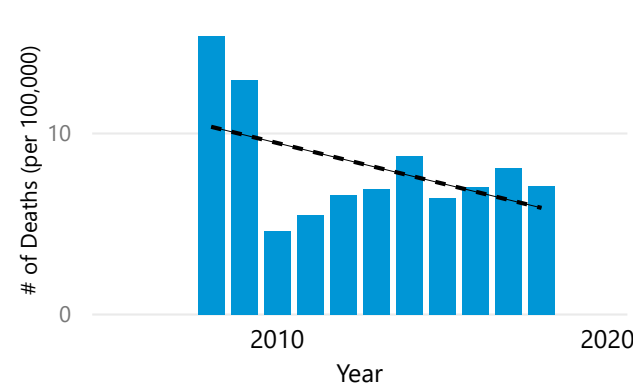
Drug Related Death Rate (Per 100,000 Residents)



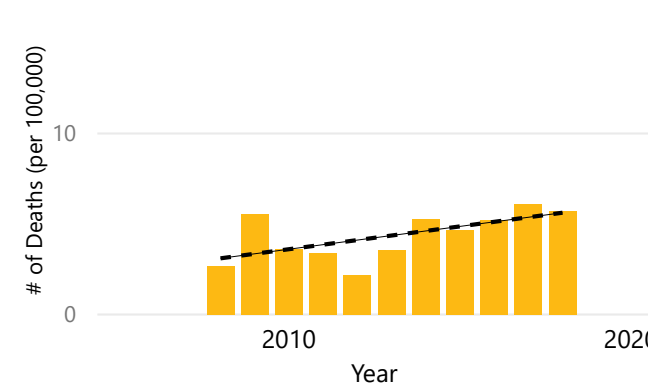
Vancouver Drug Related Deaths Per 10,000



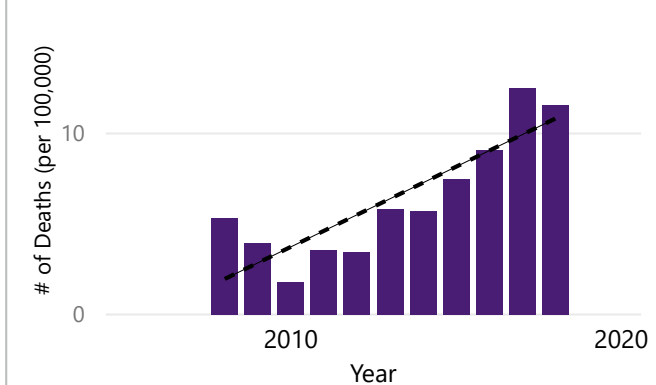
Opioid Involved Deaths Without Heroin



Heroin Involved Deaths Without Opioids



Meth Involved Deaths



Racial/Ethnic Breakdown of Drug Related Deaths

Takeaway: The White and Black population in Denver are disproportionately more likely to experience a drug-related death. The Hispanic/Latino, Native, and Asian populations are disproportionately less likely to experience a drug-related death.

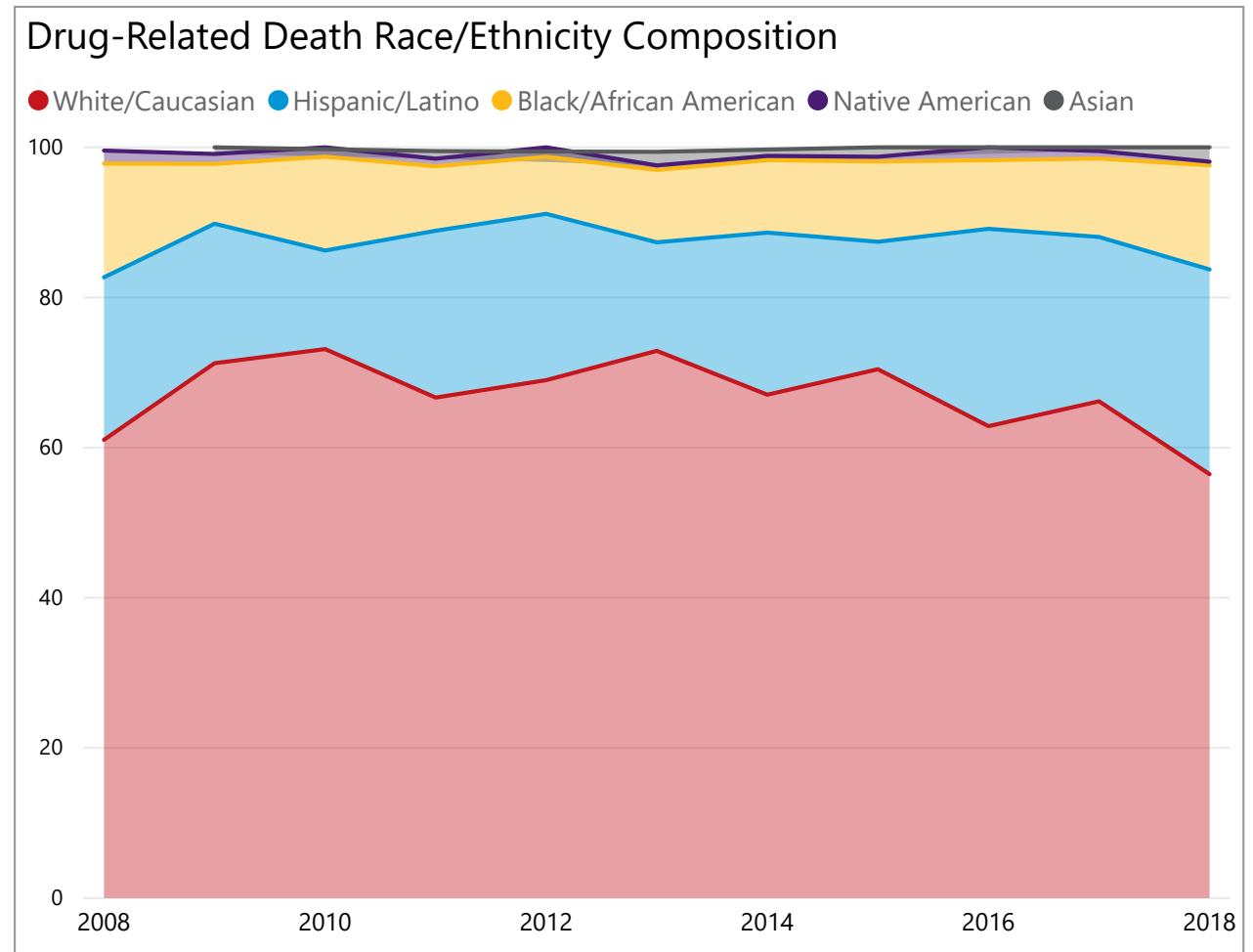
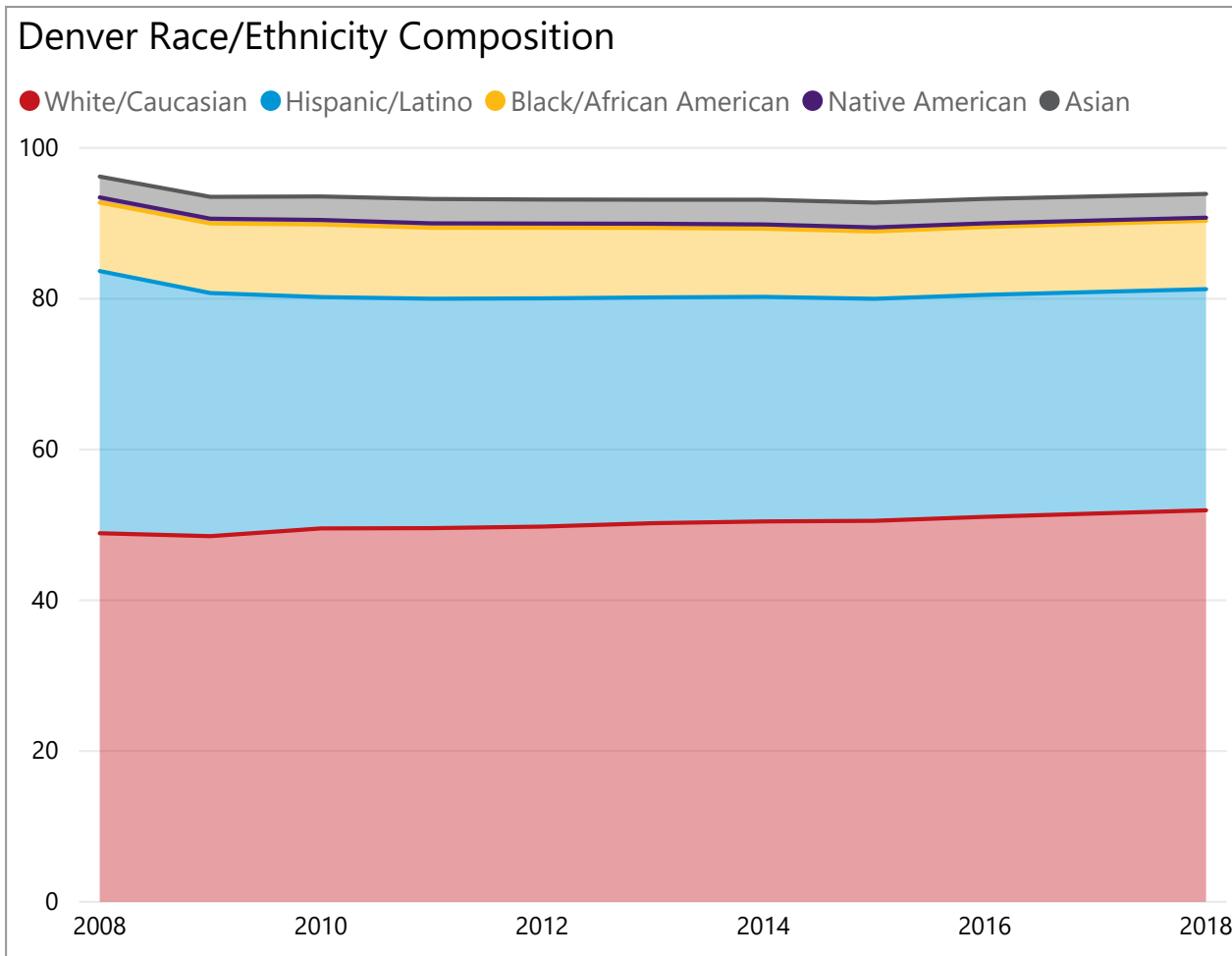
Caution: Race and ethnic identity are judgements made in the OME; they may be incorrect and do not account for people with multiple race/ethnic identities.

Denver Race/Ethnicity Composition

year	White/Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Black/African American	Native American	Asian
2018	51.93	29.33	9.08	0.40	3.15

Drug-Related Death Race/Ethnicity Composition

year	White/Caucasian	Hispanic/Latino	Black/African American	Native American	Asian
2018	56.46	27.27	13.88	0.48	1.91



Arapahoe House Closure

Background: The Denver Metro's Primary Substance Use Treatment Facility, Arapahoe House, closed on January 2, 2018. Over the next few months, increased Overdose/Poisoning calls (in 2018 and 2019) to 911 could be a **red flag** indicating increased deaths from fewer available resources.

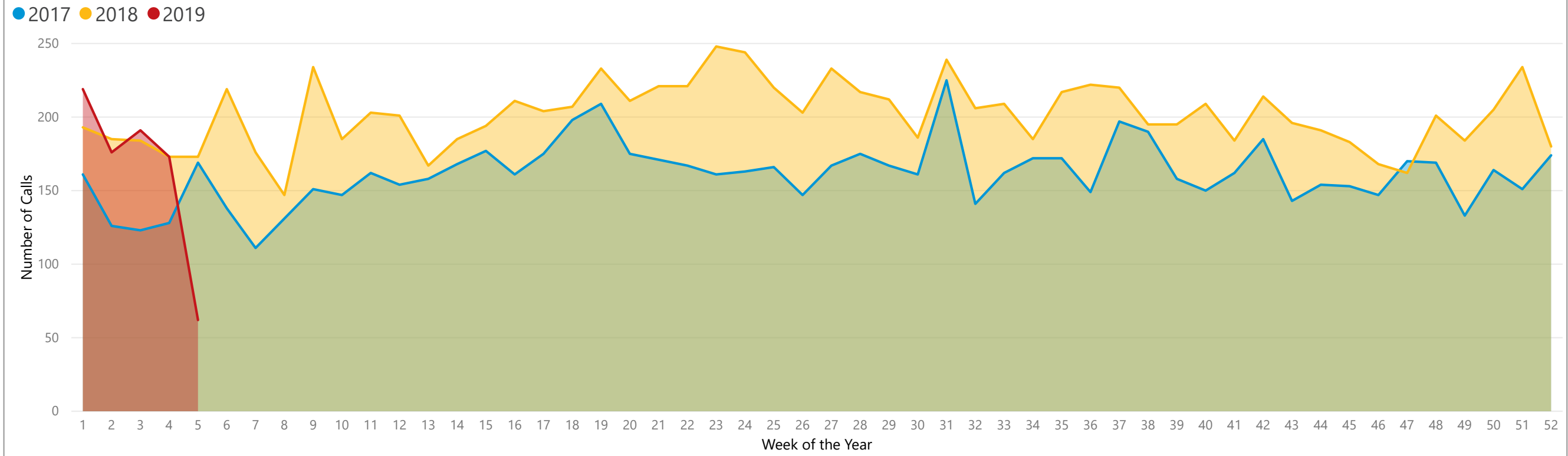
Caution: "Overdose/Poisoning" captures drug related deaths as well as events like alcohol poisoning and accidentally ingesting household products. Sustained increases in calls in 2018 and 2019 suggests a need for further research on the effects of the closure.

Select Agency (to Filter Calls)

EMS

Fire

Number of Overdose/Poisoning Calls

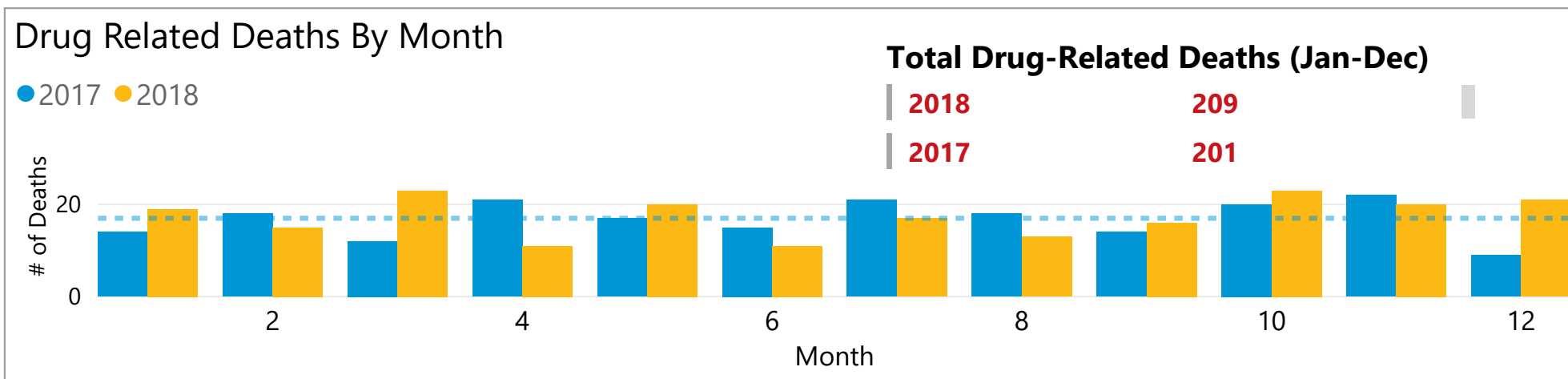
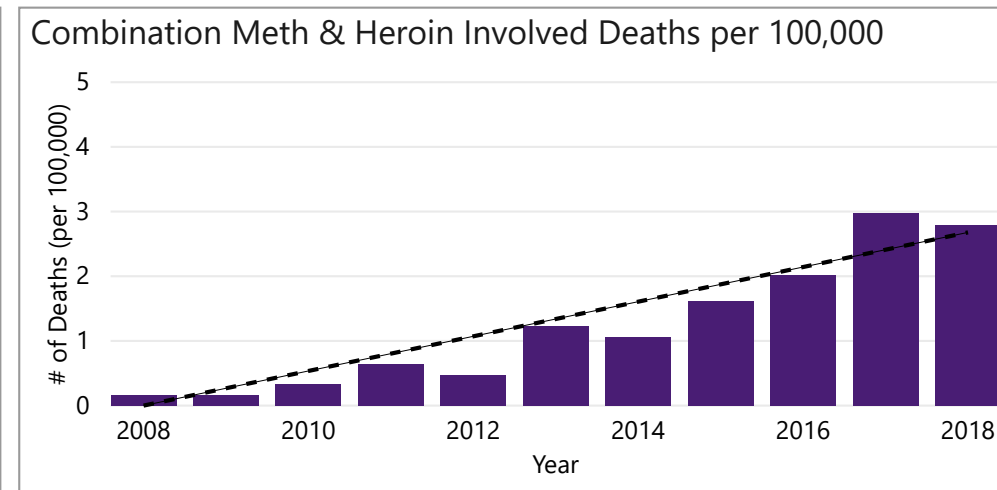
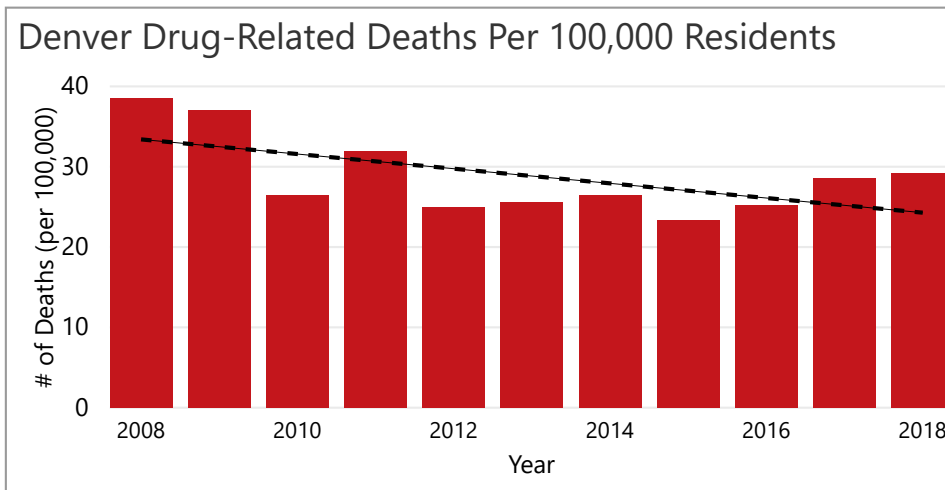


Drug-Related Deaths in the City & County of Denver

Data Source: Denver Department of Public Health & Environment, Office of the Medical Examiner
2018 End of Year Summary

HISTORICAL TRENDS (2008-2018) - Overdose deaths have decreased in Denver on average over the last decade. Small recent increases fall within the normal variation of the data series. The combination of methamphetamine and heroin involved deaths are increasing.

YEAR TO DATE - The total number of drug related deaths in Denver increased from 201 in 2017 to 209 in 2018. While this indicates an increase in the absolute number of deaths, the change in the rate of drug related deaths per 100,000 people indicates that this increase is likely, in part, related to an increase in the overall population in Denver.



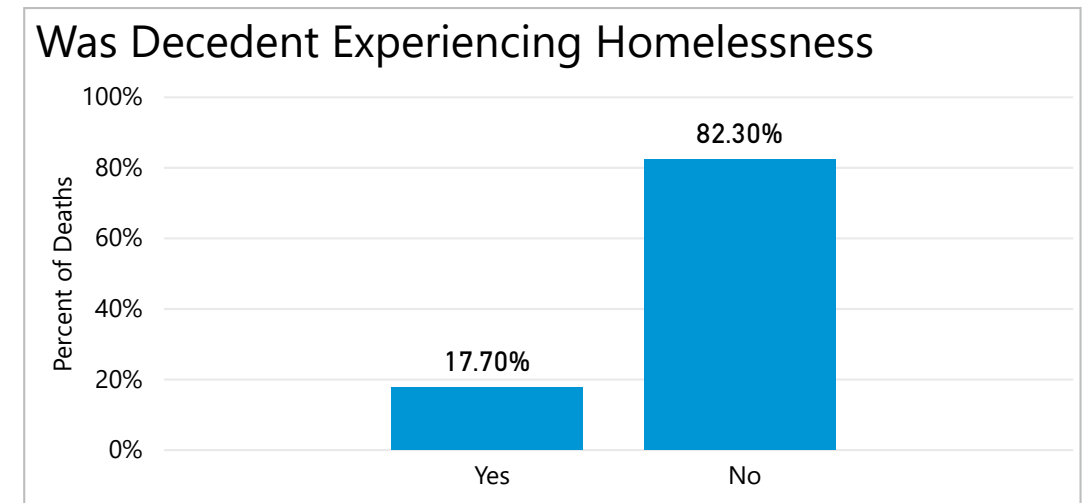
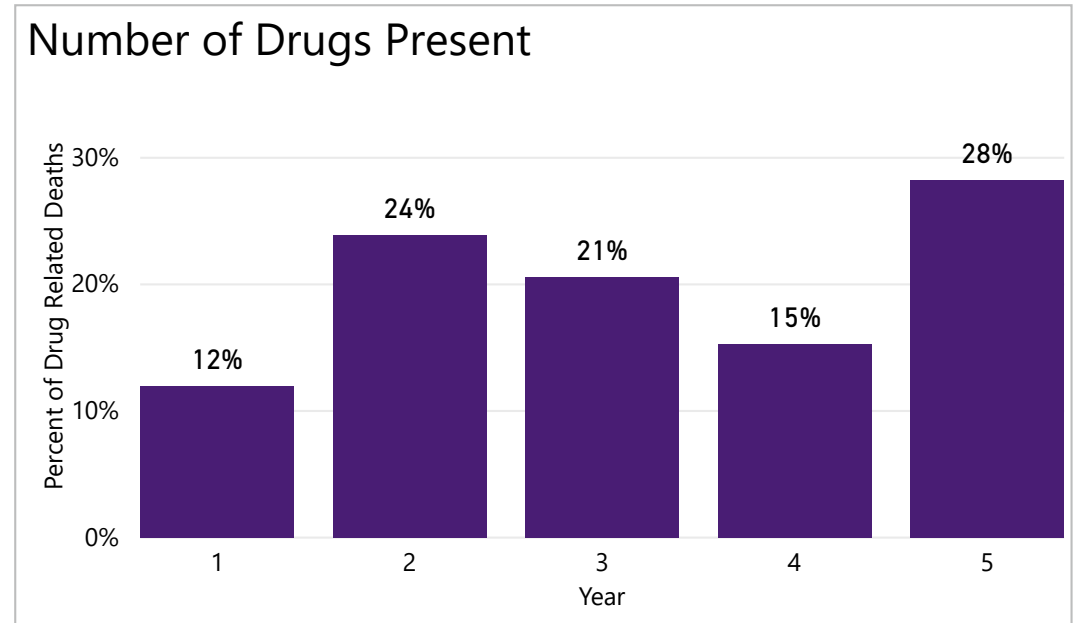
POLYSUBSTANCE USE - The majority of drug overdose deaths in Denver involve multiple substances found in the deceased's system, i.e. toxicology. In 2018:

- 12% of deaths involved 1 drug in the deceased's system.
- 64% of deaths involved 3 or more drugs in the deceased's system.
- 28% of deaths involved 5 or more drugs in the deceased's system.

DRUGS PRESENT (see footnote 2) - In 2018, more than half of Denver deaths involved some opioid in the deceased's system (including heroin).

- 24% had prescription opioids (not including heroin), down from 28% in 2017.
- 20% had heroin present but not prescription opioids, down from 21% in 2017.
- Methamphetamine was present in 40% of deaths.

HOUSING STATUS - The Denver Office of the Medical Examiner investigators determine that the majority of people (82%) who died from a probable drug-overdose were not experiencing homelessness (see footnote 3).

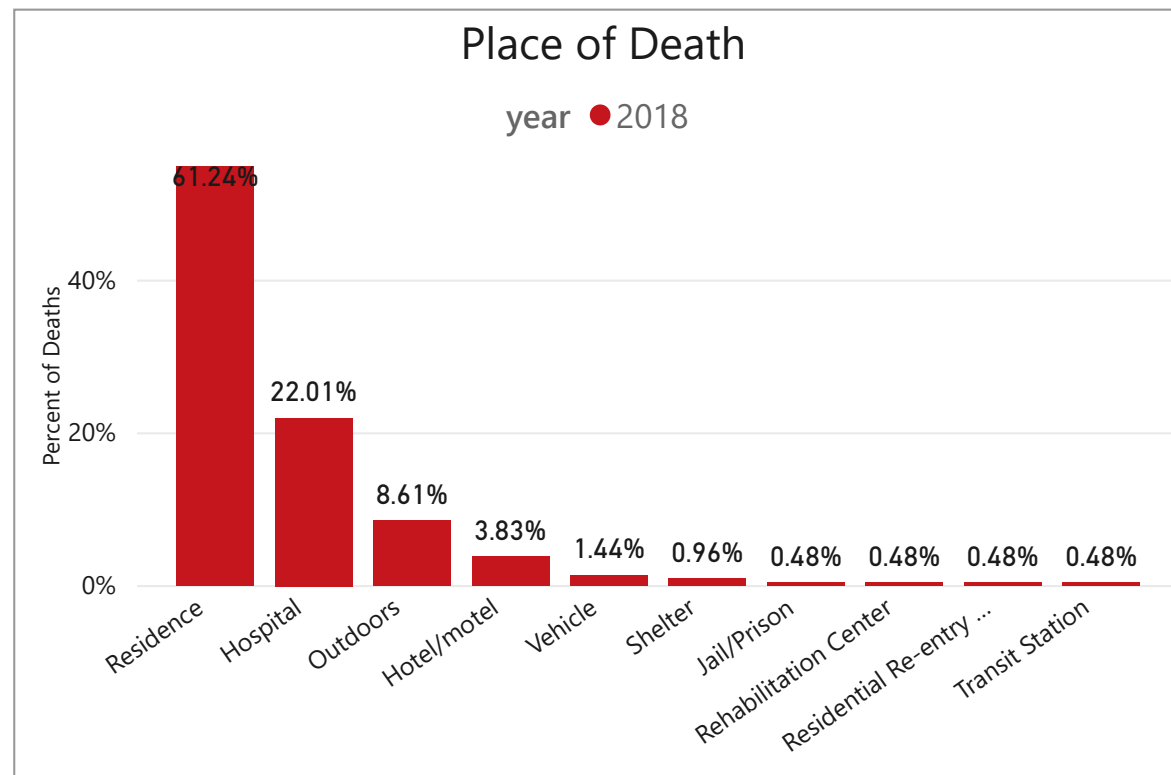
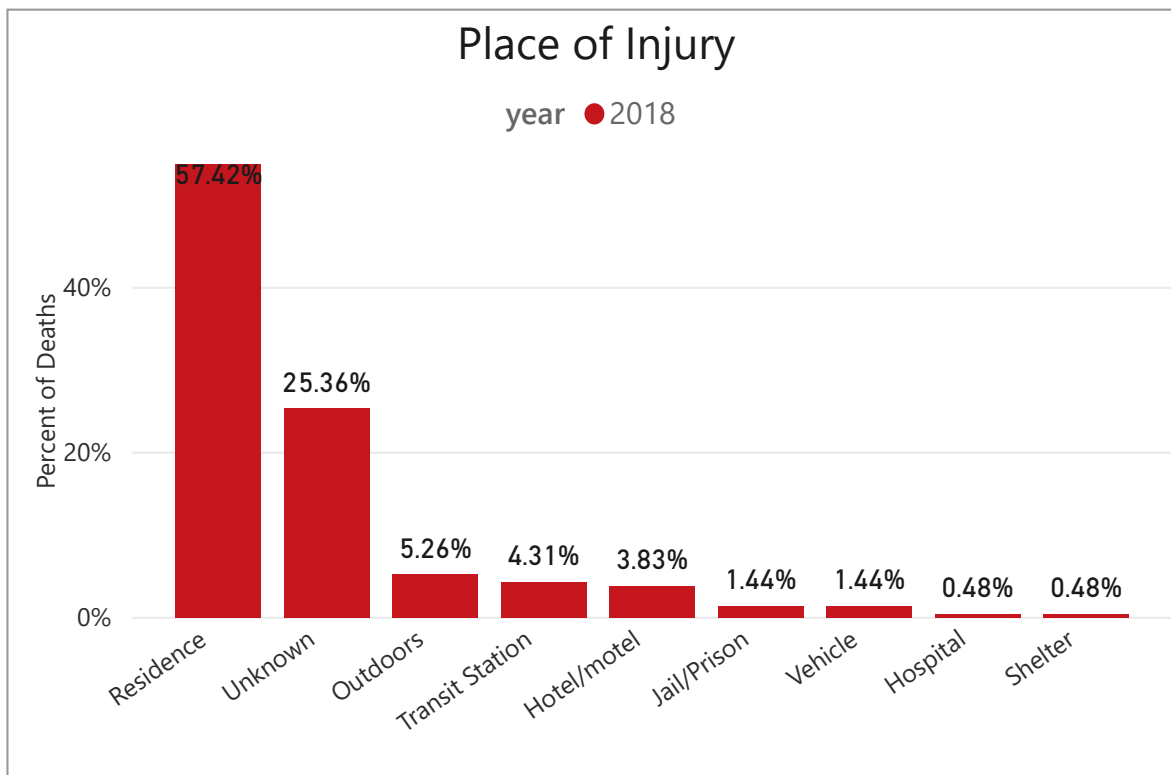


2. These data represent deaths in which the specified drugs were present in specimens examined. Each death may have had other contributing factors.

3. Determining homeless status is not an exact science. This determination is based on OME investigators' classification after extensive research into an individual's life.

LOCATIONS (see footnote 4) - Most drug related deaths occur in private residences or hospitals. In 2018:

- 61% of deaths occurred in private residences; 22% occurred in a hospital.
- Only 9% of deaths occurred outdoors.



Additional Data Notes and Limitations

1. Cause of death may have intricate complexities and interpretations.
2. The numbers presented in this summary reflect deaths reported to the Denver Office of the Medical Examiner (OME) as required by CRS 30-10-606 (not every death in the City and County of Denver is reported to OME, just those required by statute).
3. Numbers may vary from other statewide data due to differences in reporting and coding.
4. Drug-related deaths can include a manner of natural, accident, suicide, homicide, and undetermined. The manner of death is the determination of how the injury or disease lead to the death, whereas cause of death is the specific injury or disease that lead to the death.

4. The place of death is where the decedent actually expired (i.e. died on the street). The place of injury is where the injury occurred prior to death (i.e. car accident location).