

Demographic and Geographic Variation in Drug Overdose in the United States

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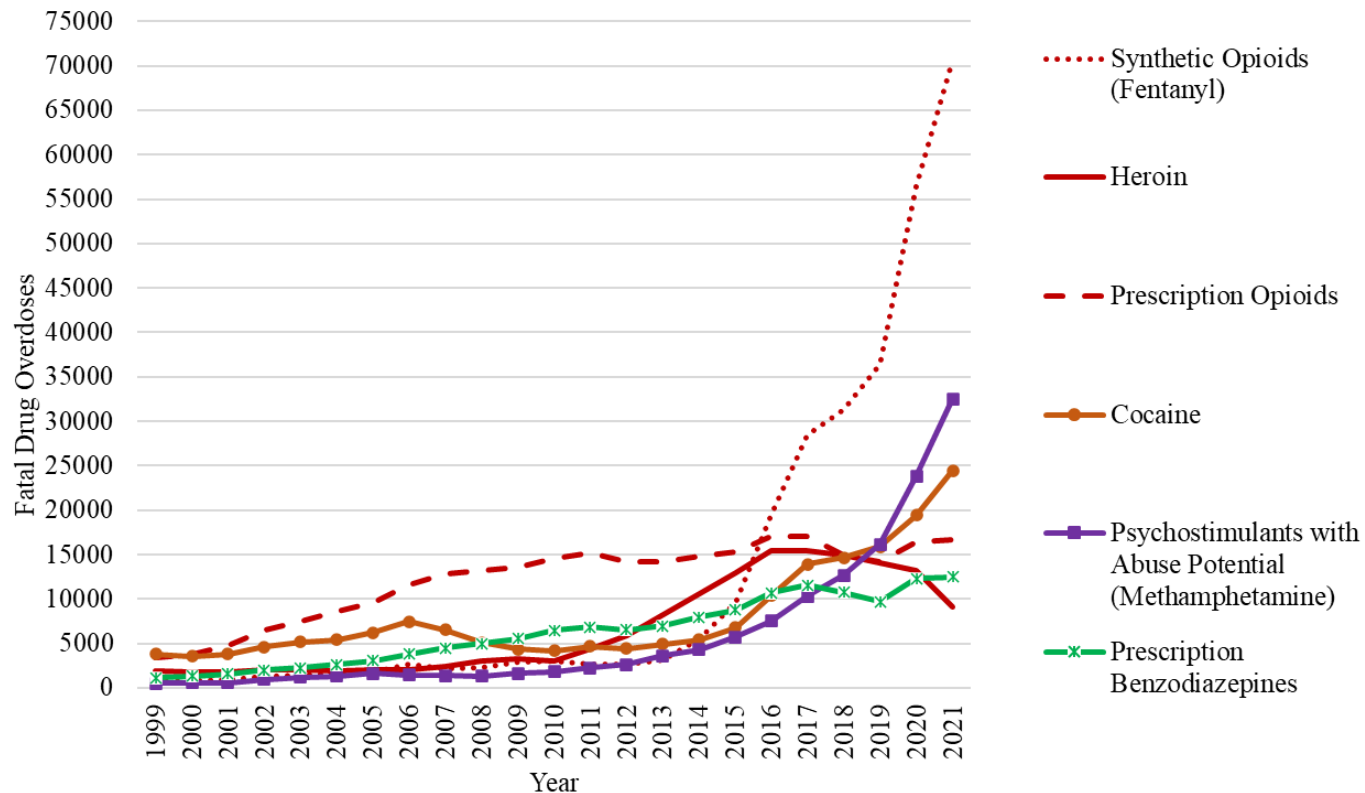
Institute for Research on Poverty
The Opioid Crisis and the Labor Market
Nov. 16, 2022



Big Picture Takeaways

1. Our problem is bigger than opioids.
2. Overdose rates are much higher among some groups and in some places than others.
3. Economic conditions and labor markets matter.

Trends in Fatal Drug Overdoses by Drug Type, 1999-2021



- Over 1,000,000 drug overdose deaths in U.S., 1999-2021
- Opioids are the primary contributor, but cocaine, methamphetamine, and prescription benzodiazepine involvement has also increased.
- Methamphetamine-involved deaths doubled 2019 to 2021.
- Methamphetamine is now the second largest contributor to overdose deaths after fentanyl.

Fatal Drug Overdoses by Drug Type, United States, 1999-2021

Data Source: CDC WONDER, Multiple Cause of Death Files

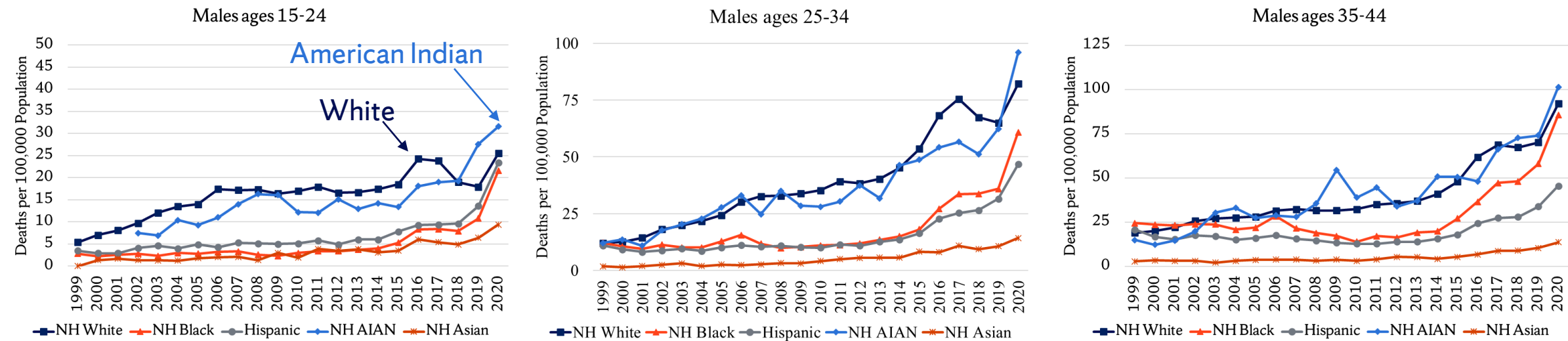
Notes: Includes deaths with an underlying cause ICD-10 code of X40-X44, X60-X64, X85, Y10-Y14.

T-codes represent the drug involved in the overdose, based on multiple cause of death coding.

Categories are not mutually exclusive because deaths may involve more than one drug.

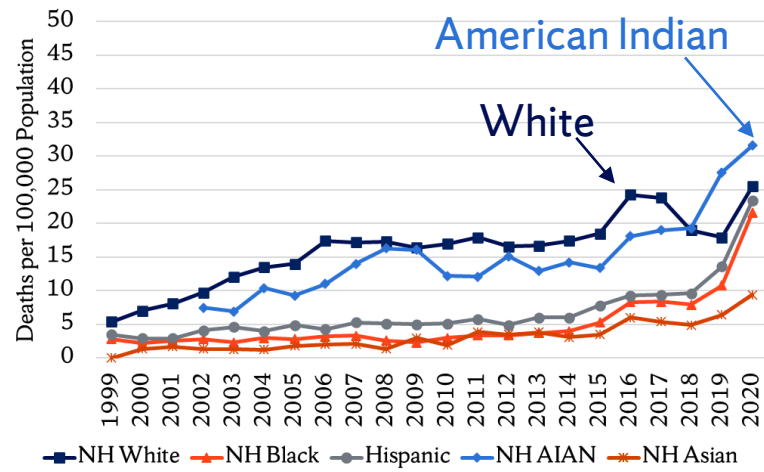
Which Demographic Groups Have the Highest Drug Overdose Rates?

Trends in Fatal Drug Overdose Rates among Males by Race, 1999-2020

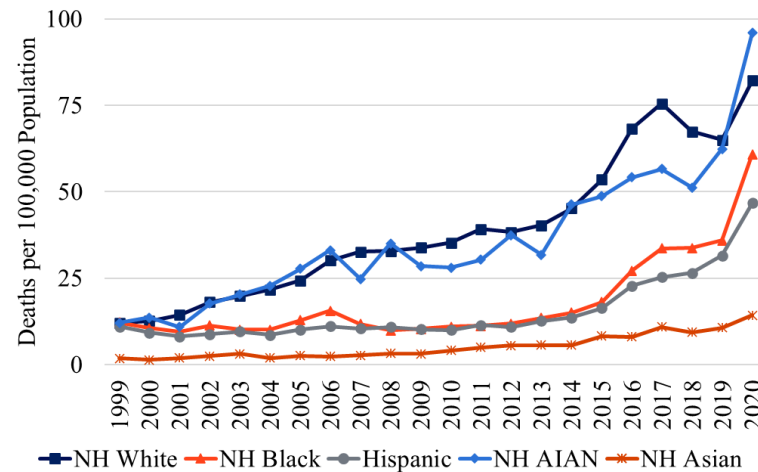


Trends in Fatal Drug Overdose Rates among Males by Race, 1999-2020

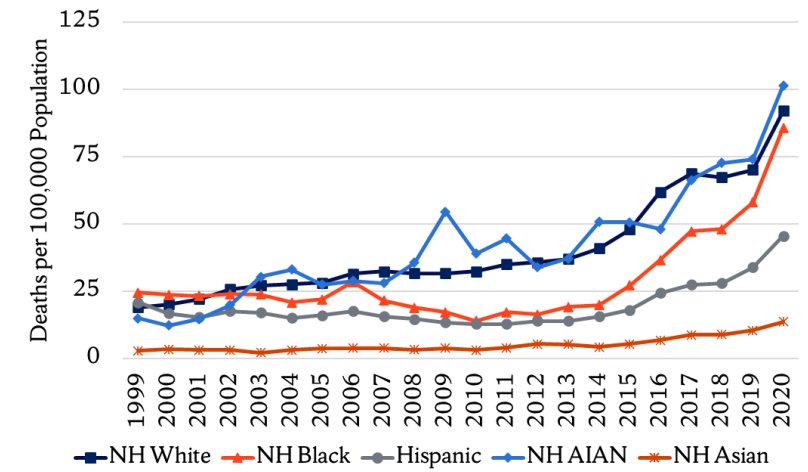
Males ages 15-24



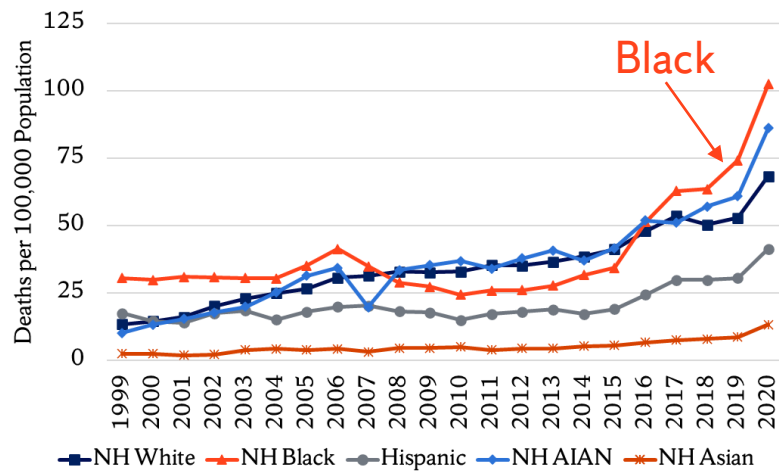
Males ages 25-34



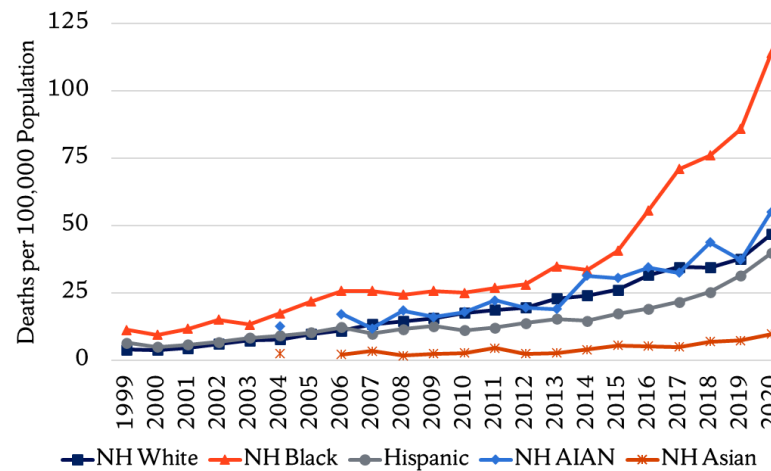
Males ages 35-44



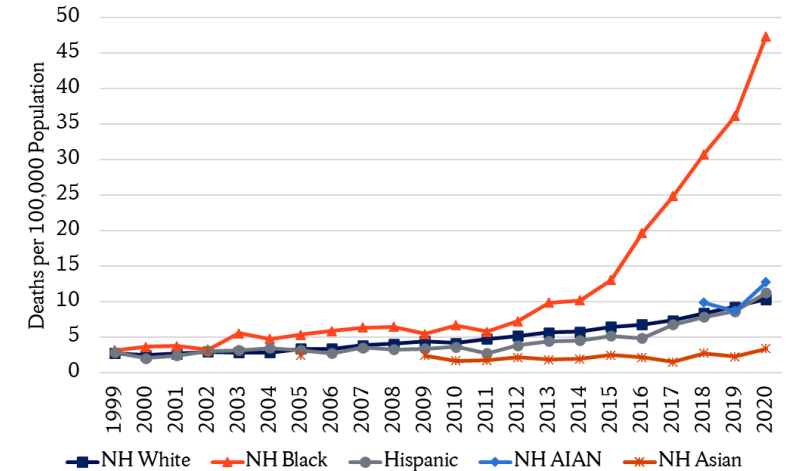
Males ages 45-54



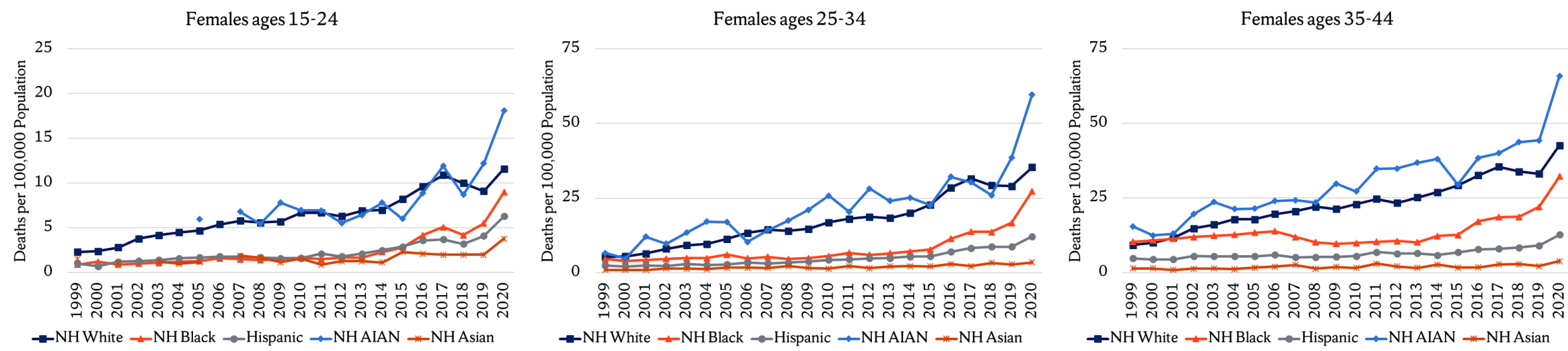
Males ages 55-64



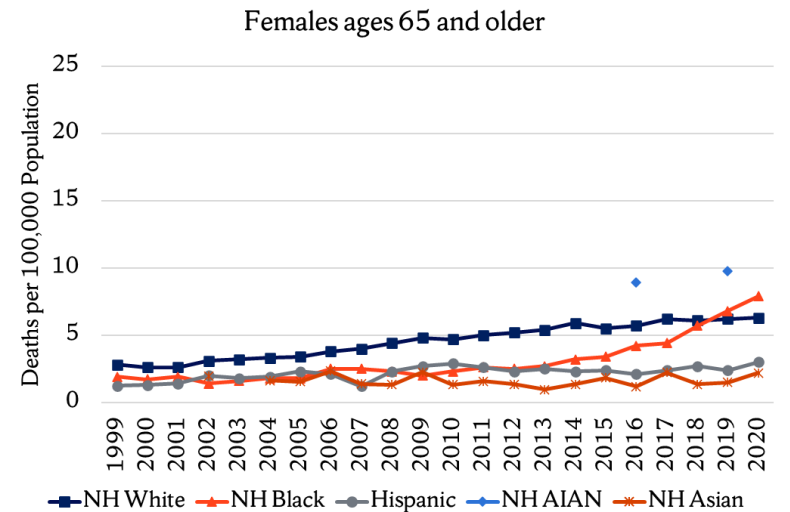
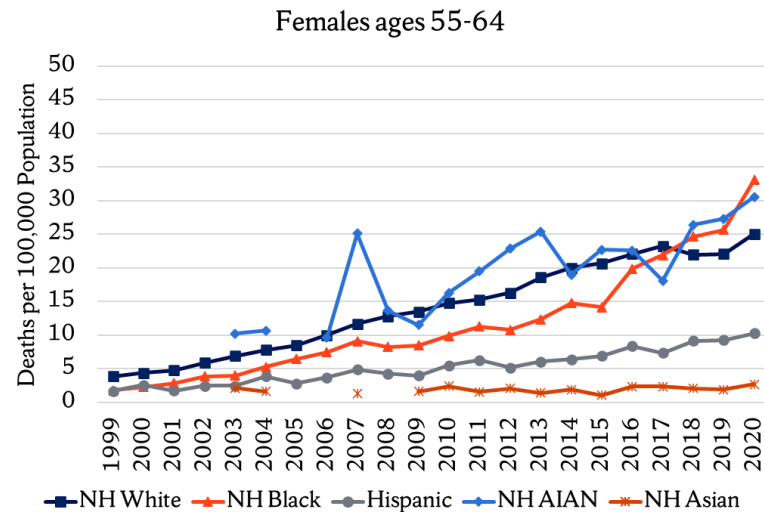
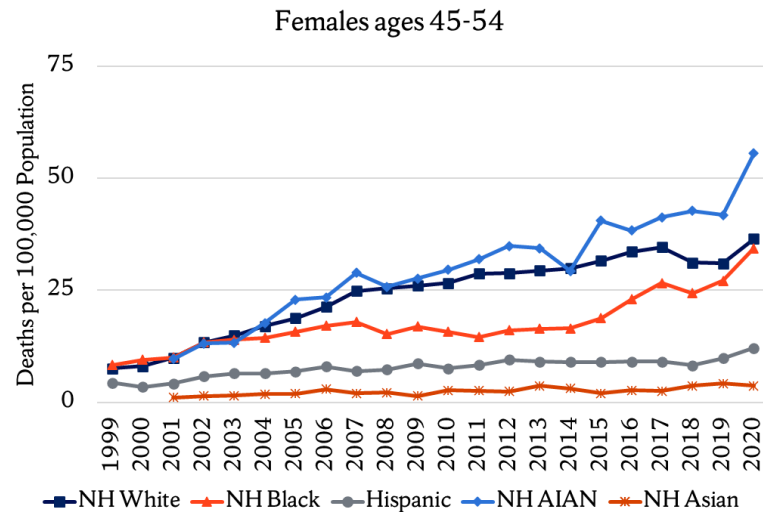
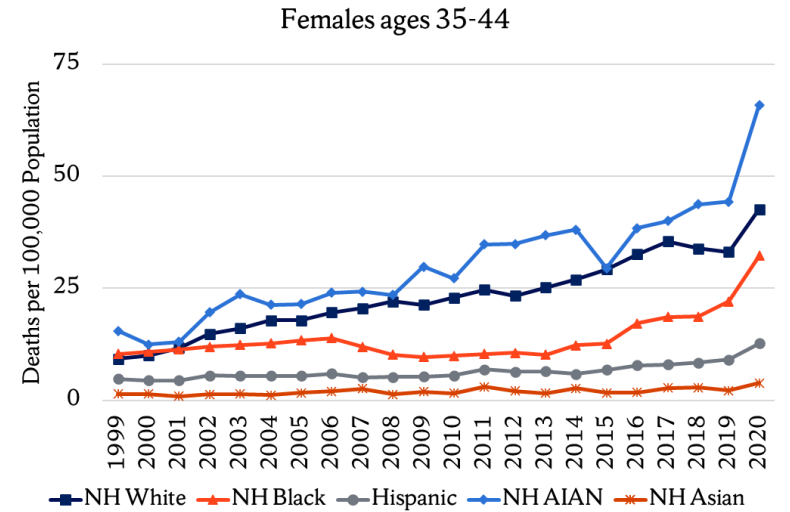
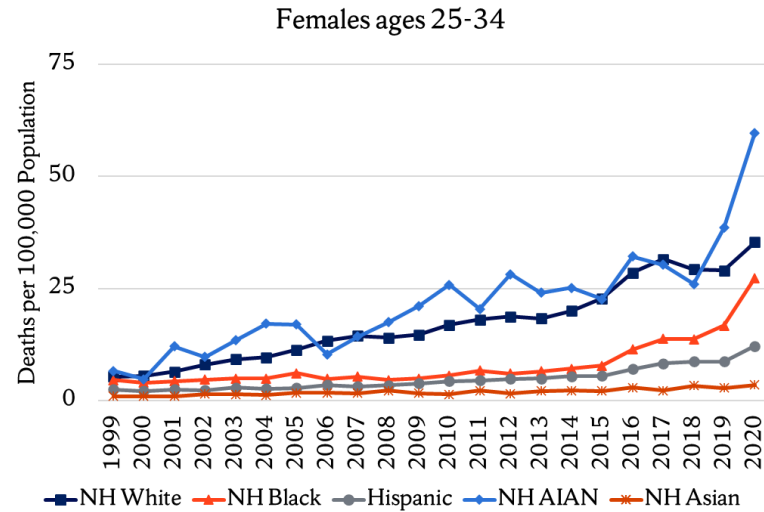
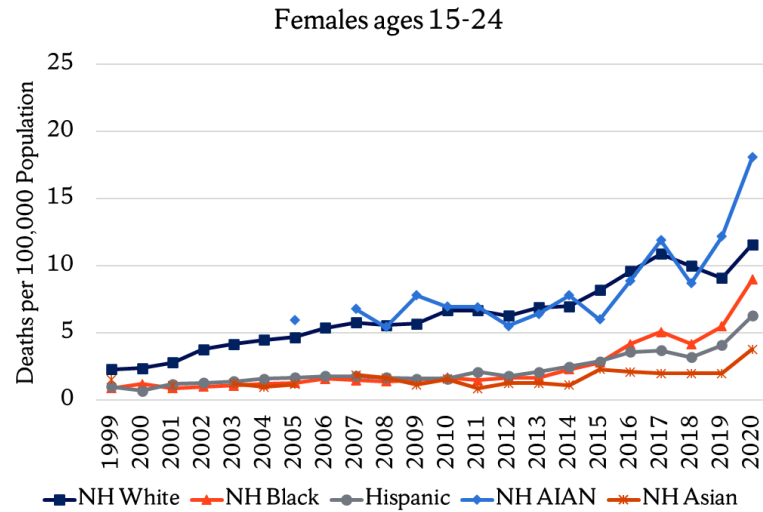
Males ages 65 and older



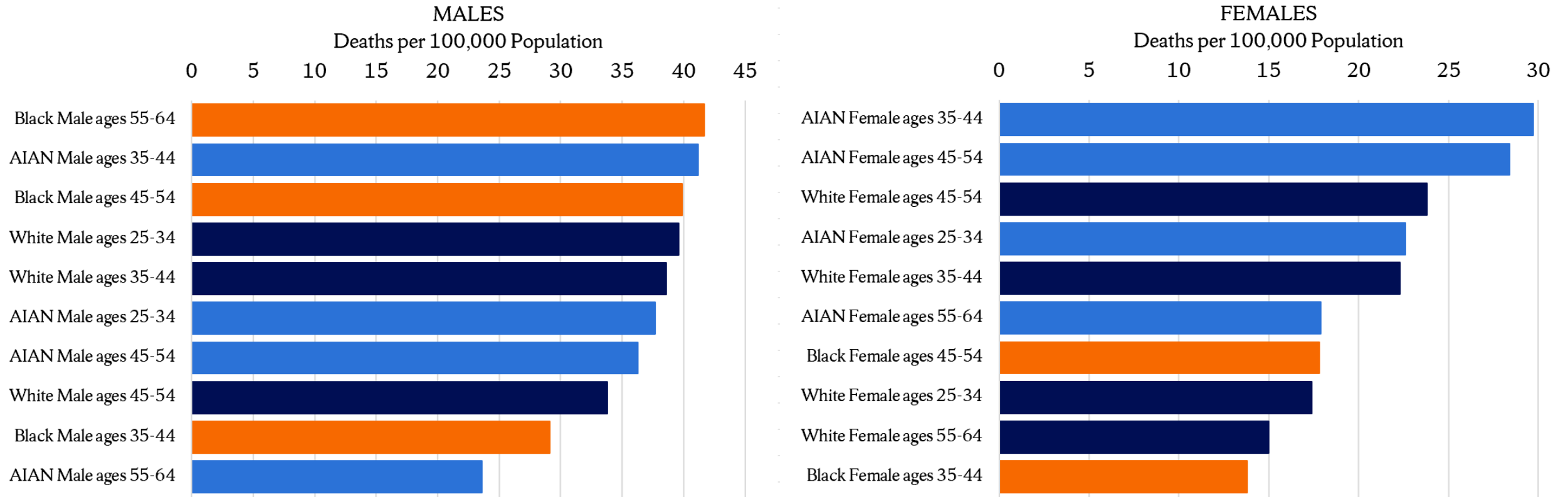
Trends in Fatal Drug Overdose Rates among Females by Race, 1999-2020



Trends in Fatal Drug Overdose Rates among Females by Race, 1999-2020

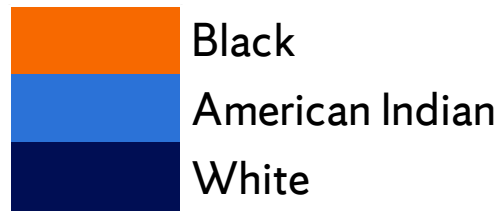


Ranking of Overall Fatal Drug Overdose Rates by Age Group and Race/Ethnicity for Males and Females, 1999-2020



Rates highest among...

- AIAN males and females 25-64
- Black males 35-64; Black females 35-54
- White males and females 25-54



Data Source: CDC WONDER Online Database.
Note: AIAN=American Indian/Alaska Native

Which Places Have the Highest Drug Overdose Rates?

Is the Drug Overdose Crisis Disproportionately Rural?



Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
CDC 24/7: Saving Lives, Protecting People™

Rural America in Crisis: The Changing Opioid Overdose Epidemic



What's Behind the Addiction Crisis in Rural America?

🕒 Friday, 05 January 2018 ✍️ Zoe van Vlaanderen University of Vermont 📁 Addiction Medicine Update



Why Is The Opioid Epidemic Hitting Rural America Especially Hard?

By LUKE RUNYON • JAN 4, 2017

THE CONVERSATION

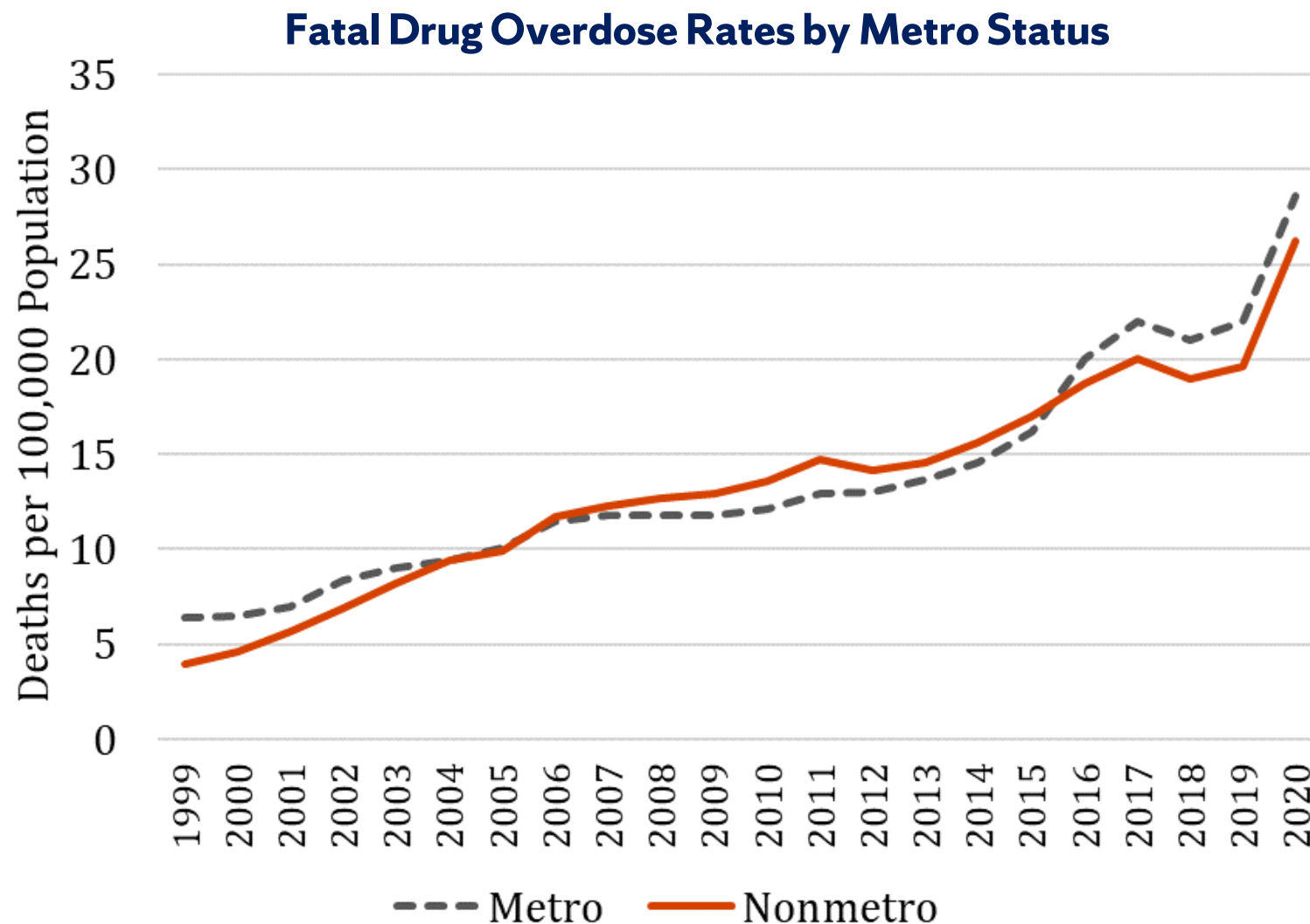
Academic rigor, journalistic flair

The opioid crisis is at its worst in rural areas. Can telemedicine help?

November 9, 2017 12.02pm EST

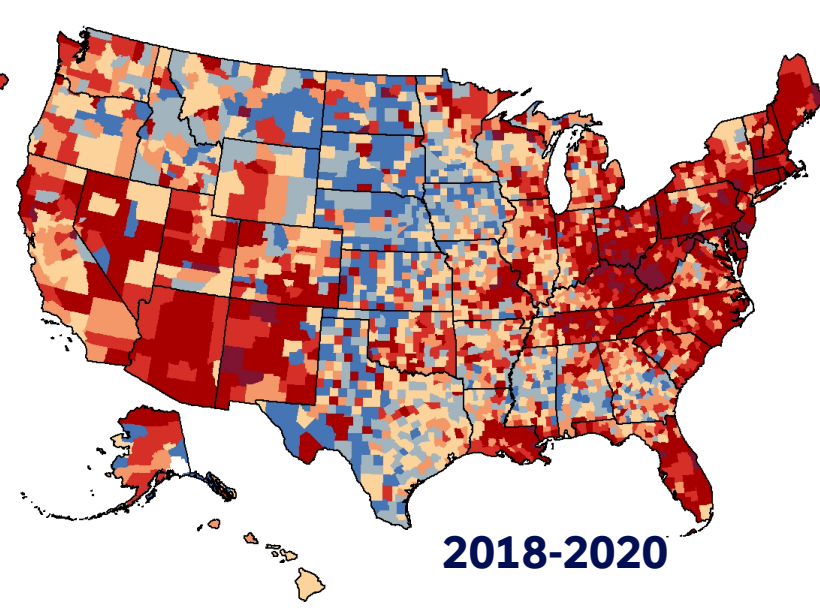
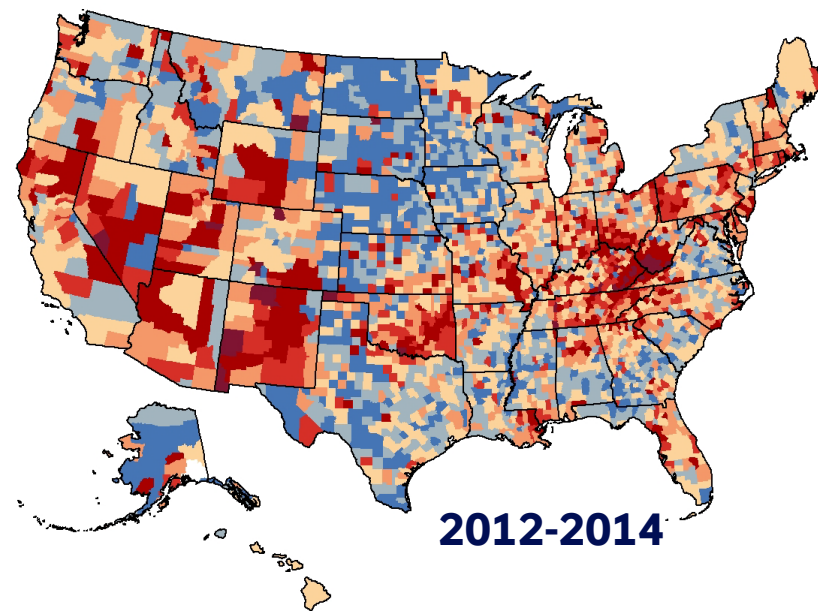
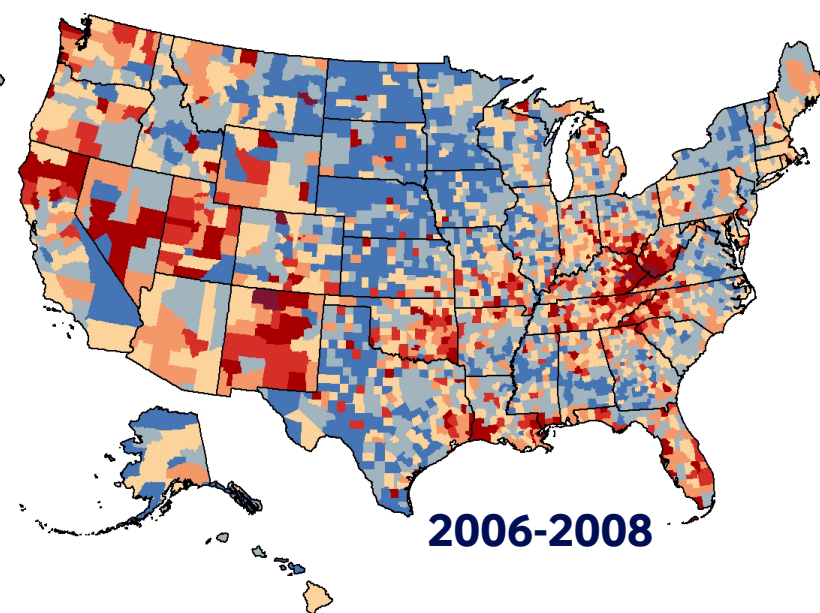
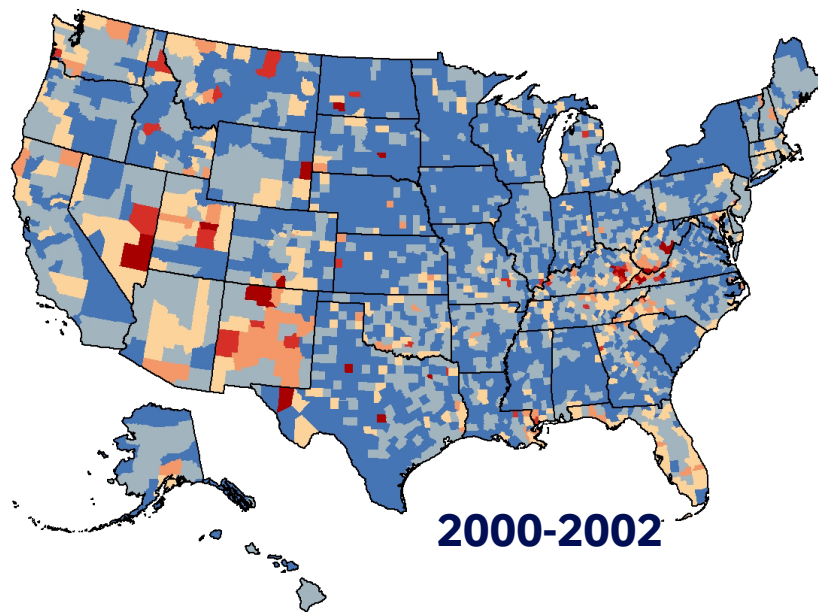


The Drug Overdose Crisis is Not Disproportionately Rural

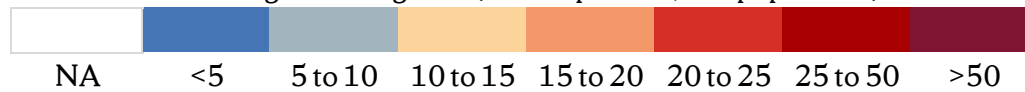


Data Source: National Vital Statistics System. Notes: Rates are age adjusted. Metro status is based on USDA county classifications.

Fatal Drug Overdose Rates by County, 2000-2020

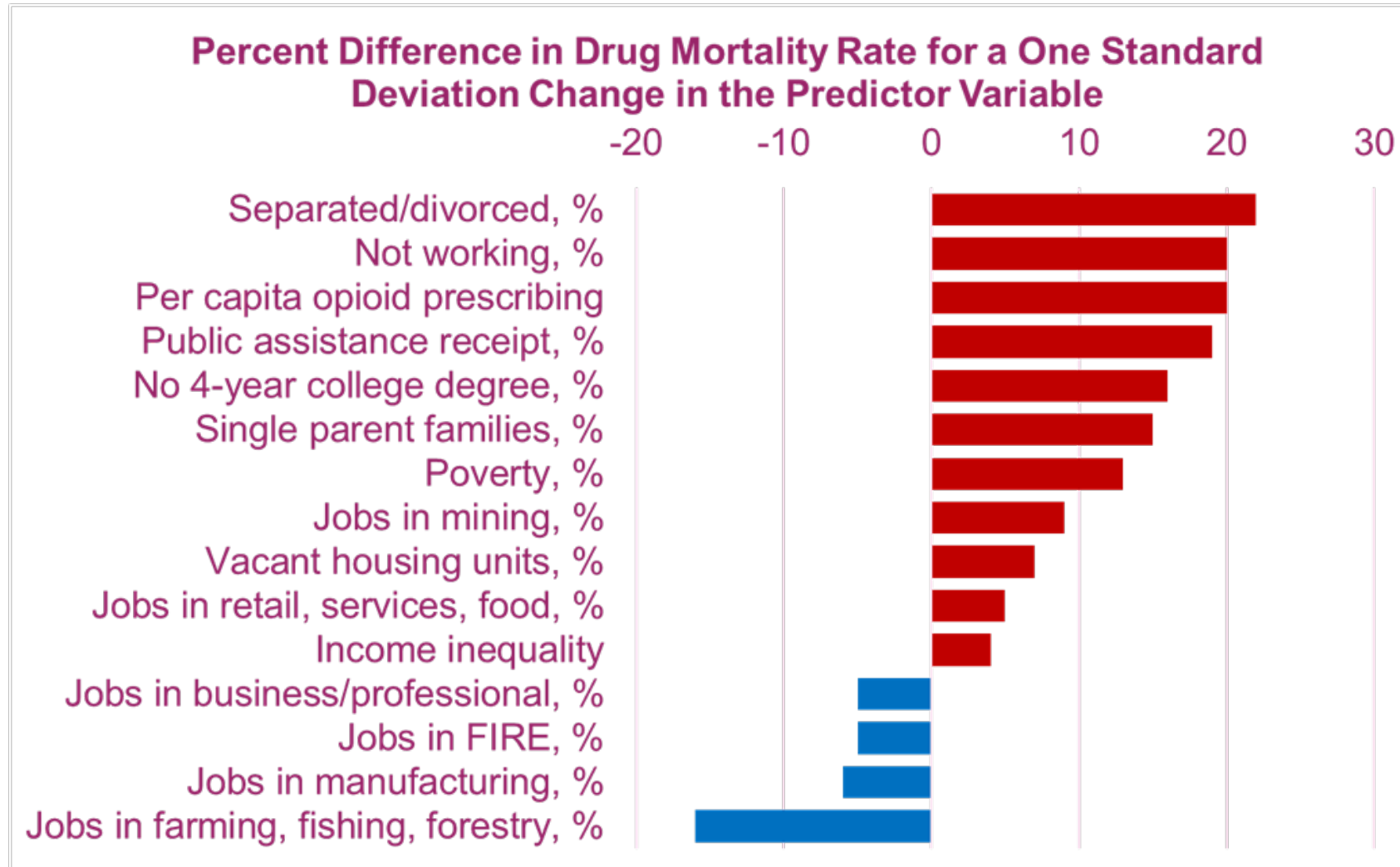


Fatal Drug Poisoning Rate (Deaths per 100,000 population)



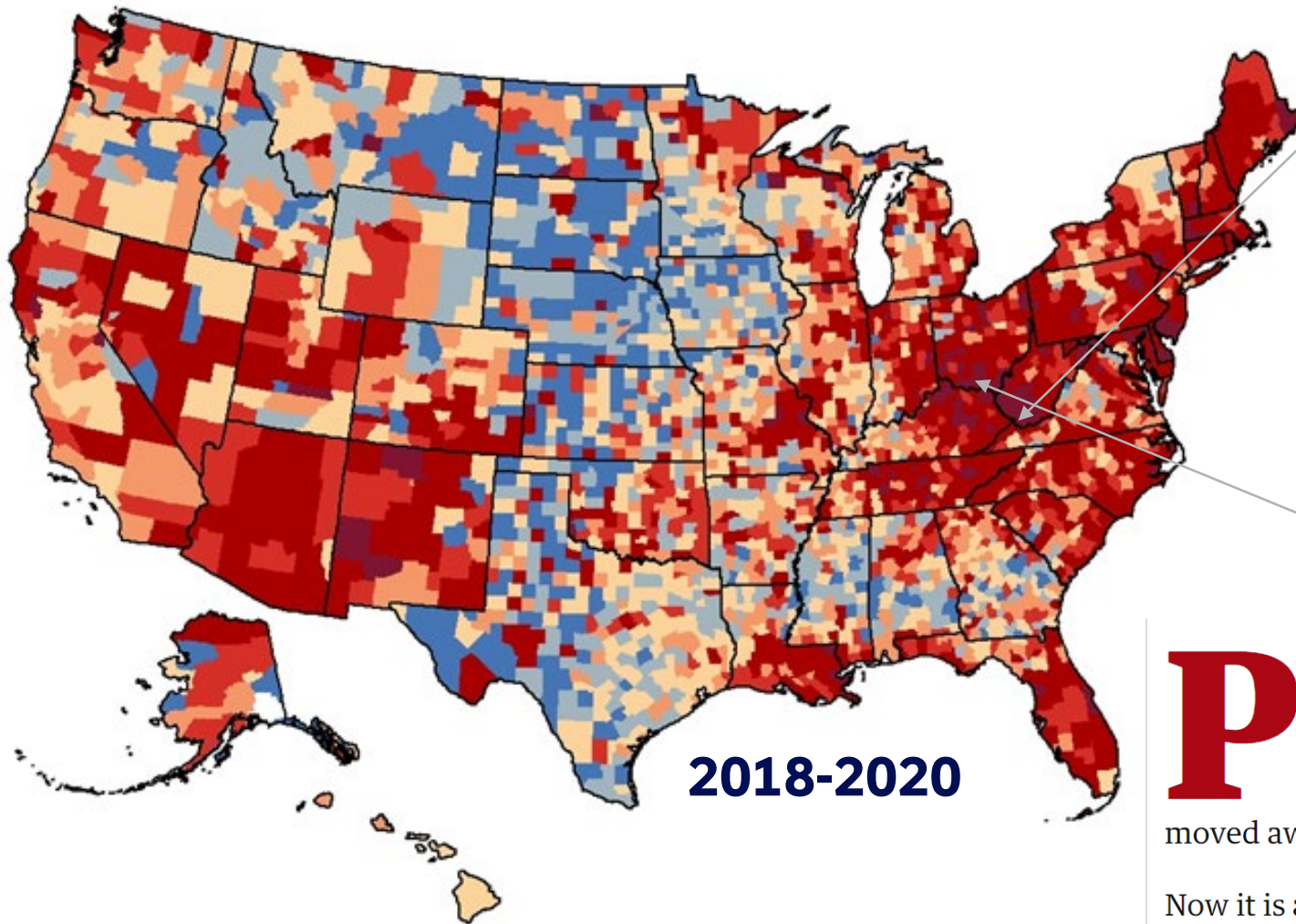
Data Source: NVSS Restricted Mortality Files

What Place-Level Factors Predict Higher Drug Overdose Rates?

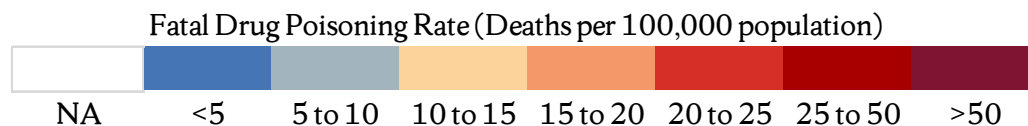


Overdose rates are pooled from 2006-2015 and are age-adjusted; predictors are measured in 2000

Monnat, Shannon M. 2018. "Factors Associated with County-Level Differences in U.S. Drug-Related Mortality Rates." *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 54(5):611-619.



2018-2020



Data Source: NVSS Restricted Mortality Files

McDowell County, WV
10th highest OD rate in US

REASON PODCAST

McDowell Is the Poorest, Sickest, Most Hopeless County in America. Why Doesn't Everyone Just Leave? (Reason Podcast)

Ronald Bailey traveled back to his familial home to find out what went wrong in Appalachia.

NICK GILLESPIE | 1.3.2017 3:50 PM

Scioto County, OH
5th highest OD rate in US

Portsmouth, Ohio, once known for making things (steel, shoes, bricks), is now known for drugs, and labeled by some as the “[pill mill of America](#)”. The city peaked at 40,000 people in 1940, and as it emptied of factories and jobs - some made obsolete, some moved away - it also emptied of people and hope.

Now it is a town half the size, filled with despair and filling with drugs.

Chris Arnade, The Guardian, May 2017

Takeaways

- Overdose trends vary across demographic groups and geography.
 - Highest among American Indian males and females 25-64, White males and females 25-54, Black males 35-64, and Black females 35-54.
 - These are prime labor force age groups.
 - Highest in Appalachia, Industrial Midwest, parts of desert Southwest.
- Economic change (dislocation) and labor markets have played a big role.
- Our problem is bigger than opioids.

Thank you.

Acknowledgments

- National Institute on Drug Abuse (U01DA055972)
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- Rural Population Research Network (USDA Agricultural Experiment Station Multistate Research Project: W5001)

