

SOUTH CAROLINA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL

Drug Overdose Deaths South Carolina

2022

Updated as of 3/29/2024



INTRODUCTION

This report describes fatal drug overdose deaths that occurred in South Carolina in 2022. Data were derived from death certificates registered with the Department of Health and Environmental Control Vital Statistics and represent deaths that occurred in the state of South Carolina regardless of the residence of the decedent.

Drug overdose deaths are identified using underlying cause-of-death codes from the tenth revision of ICD (ICD–10): X40–X44 (unintentional), X60–X64 (suicide), X85 (homicide), and Y10–Y14 (undetermined). Drug overdose deaths involving selected drug categories are identified by additional multiple cause-of-death codes. The current "prescription drugs" category includes both opioid and non-opioid prescription drugs. The category "opioids" includes both legal and illegal opioids. Prescription drugs are identified by the following ICD-10 codes: T36.0--T39.9, T40.2--T40.4, T41.0--T43.5 and T43.7--T50.8. Opioids are identified by codes T40.0--T40.4, T40.6. Other codes used are: heroin T40.1, methadone T40.3, cocaine T40.5. Fentanyl is identified through a search of the literal cause of death. Psychostimulants with abuse potential, which include such drugs as methamphetamine, amphetamine, methylphenidate (Ritalin), and 3,4-methylenedioxy-methamphetamine (MDMA, Ecstasy) are identified by the code T43.6.

Drug overdose deaths may involve multiple drugs; therefore, a single death might be included in more than one category when describing the number of drug overdose deaths involving a specific drug. For example, a death that involved both heroin and fentanyl would be included in the following categories: deaths involving heroin, deaths involving fentanyl, deaths involving opioids, and deaths involving prescription drugs.

Figure 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2013-2022
 Occurrence Data

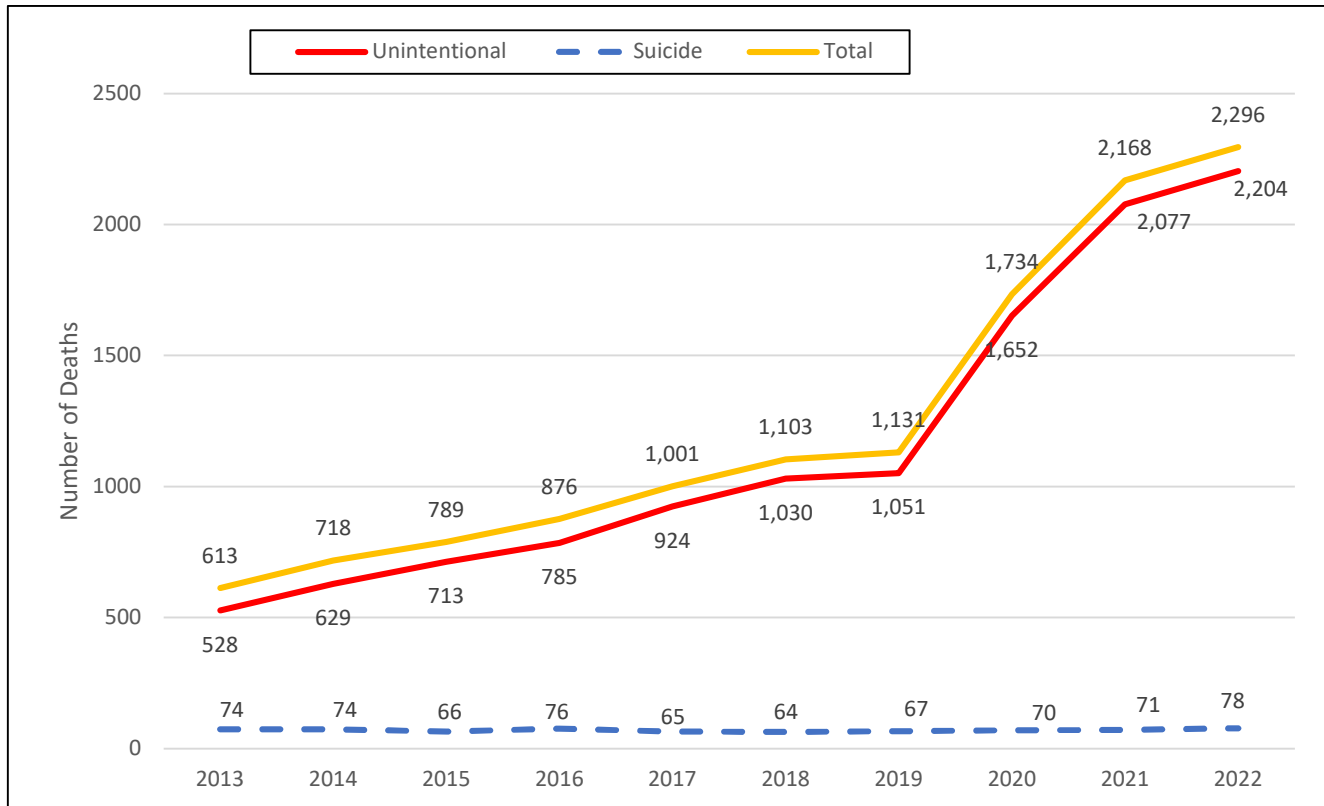


Table 1.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Intent
 South Carolina, 2013-2022
 Occurrence Data

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Total	613	718	789	876	1,001	1,103	1,131	1,734	2,168	2,296
Unintentional	528	629	713	785	924	1,030	1,051	1,652	2,077	2,204
Suicide	74	74	66	76	65	64	67	70	71	78
Homicide	0	3	0	3	1	3	0	1	9	3
Undetermined	11	12	10	12	11	6	13	11	11	11

Table 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Category and Selected Drugs
 South Carolina, 2018-2022
 Occurrence Data

Year	Total Drug Overdose	Prescription Drugs	Opioids	Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	Fentanyl	Heroin	Methadone	Cocaine
2018	1,103	863	816	242	460	168	57	254
2019	1,131	923	876	338	537	196	28	230
2020	1,734	1,463	1,400	551	1,100	244	46	352
2021	2,168	1,853	1,733	778	1,494	136	69	446
2022	2,296	1,982	1,864	794	1,660	54	58	562

Figure 2.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category
 South Carolina, 2018-2022
 Occurrence Data

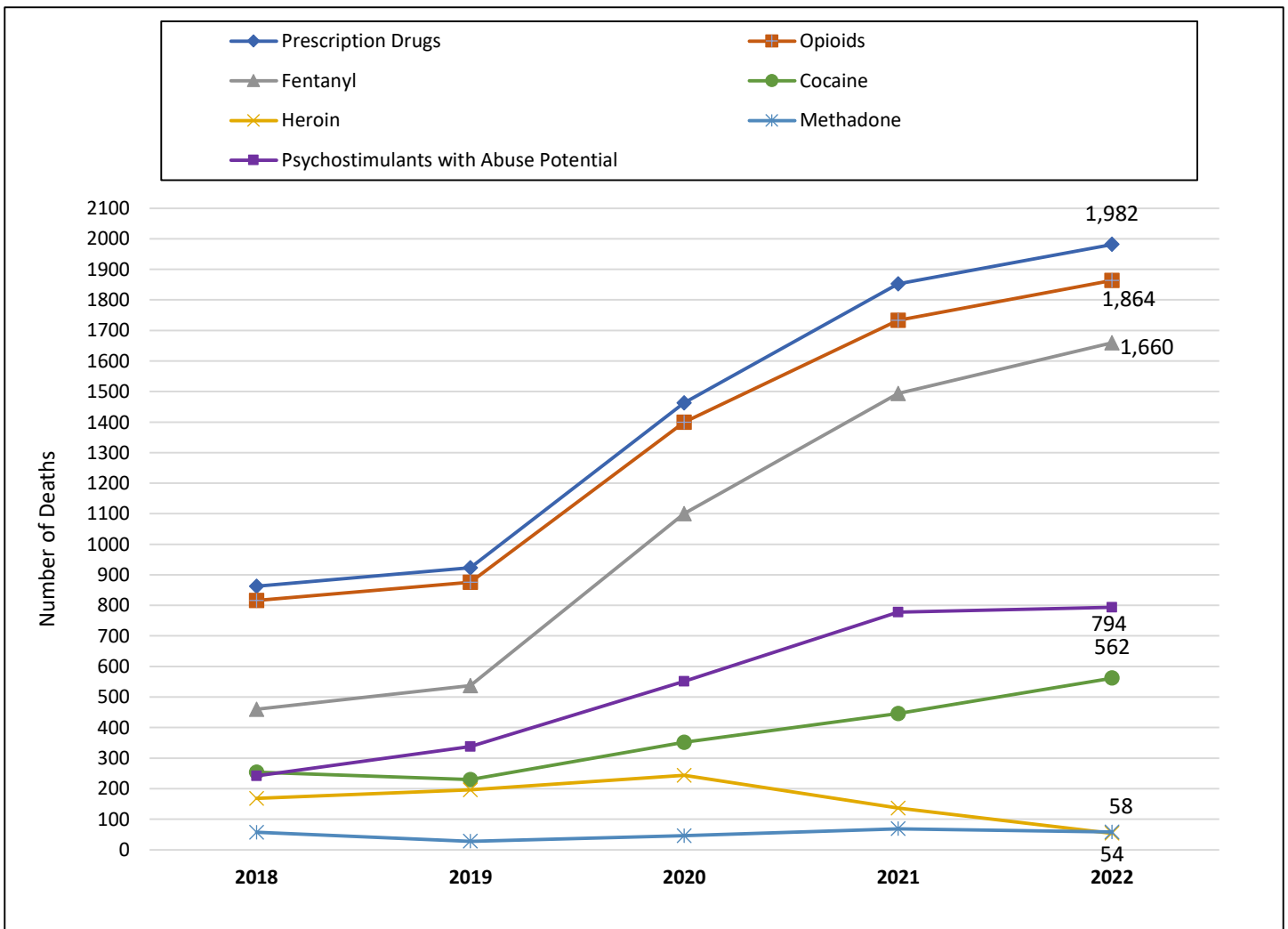


Table 3. A
Drug Overdose Deaths by Drug Category and County
South Carolina, 2022
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose		Prescription Drugs		Opioids		Psychostimulants with Abuse Potential	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	2,296	45.2	1,982	39.3	1,864	37.4	794	16.4
Abbeville	5	22.9	5	22.9	3	15.4	1	6.4
Aiken	89	54.2	77	46.6	73	44.6	37	22.4
Allendale	1	6.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Anderson	70	34.1	48	23.9	49	24.7	39	19.6
Bamberg	7	61.8	6	57.0	6	57.0	1	4.8
Barnwell	14	78.4	11	59.5	11	59.5	2	13.2
Beaufort	42	25.4	40	24.5	38	23.9	9	6.2
Berkeley	70	29.3	61	26.1	57	24.6	28	12.5
Calhoun	6	56.9	4	38.4	4	38.4	-	-
Charleston	220	50.3	189	43.7	174	40.5	45	10.9
Cherokee	22	46.0	16	34.8	15	33.4	9	19.5
Chester	13	46.7	11	40.4	10	37.0	5	13.6
Chesterfield	13	29.3	12	26.9	12	26.9	3	8.2
Clarendon	6	18.0	5	16.1	4	14.7	1	5.0
Colleton	12	34.4	10	29.9	9	26.9	7	20.1
Darlington	27	49.4	23	41.1	23	42.6	10	19.3
Dillon	21	75.5	19	66.5	20	71.6	3	11.5
Dorchester	41	24.0	33	19.5	35	20.7	16	9.7
Edgefield	12	42.7	7	23.3	6	20.5	4	15.5
Fairfield	4	27.6	4	27.6	4	27.6	-	-
Florence	82	64.9	67	54.0	66	53.5	21	18.1
Georgetown	38	64.7	36	63.3	37	64.1	8	16.5
Greenville	287	53.0	246	46.1	231	43.6	130	25.0
Greenwood	37	59.4	31	49.4	30	47.7	15	25.4
Hampton	3	13.6	3	13.6	3	13.6	1	6.0
Horry	233	72.3	210	65.2	192	61.4	57	18.8
Jasper	26	95.3	22	84.6	22	84.6	3	11.6
Kershaw	25	40.4	23	36.8	21	34.0	6	10.2
Lancaster	51	51.3	49	49.5	46	46.2	16	16.7
Laurens	32	50.2	28	44.6	27	43.4	23	37.4
Lee	10	59.0	7	41.6	7	41.6	5	30.1
Lexington	125	42.4	115	39.0	106	36.4	56	19.5
McCormick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marion	9	39.6	9	39.6	8	35.6	1	5.1
Marlboro	4	17.5	4	17.5	4	17.5	2	7.9
Newberry	13	40.0	12	35.9	11	31.9	4	10.2
Oconee	24	33.0	20	27.6	18	24.1	11	16.1
Orangeburg	37	46.1	26	31.6	24	29.7	13	18.0
Pickens	52	41.0	45	36.8	38	32.5	26	20.9
Richland	132	31.4	110	26.1	104	24.7	40	10.3
Saluda	5	30.9	4	23.5	4	23.5	1	7.3
Spartanburg	193	57.7	166	49.8	154	46.7	77	24.2
Sumter	40	43.0	39	42.1	37	40.2	10	10.3
Union	17	63.8	13	51.3	13	51.3	7	24.1
Williamsburg	17	59.2	13	46.2	12	44.6	5	16.9
York	109	35.6	103	33.7	96	31.5	36	11.7

¹Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population. Rates calculated with 20 or fewer deaths are unreliable and should be used cautiously.

Table 3. B
Drug Overdose Deaths by Selected Drugs and County
South Carolina, 2022
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Fentanyl		Heroin		Methadone		Cocaine	
	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹	Number	Rate ¹
South Carolina	1,660	33.7	54	1.2	58	1.1	562	10.8
Abbeville	3	15.4	-	-	-	-	2	8.9
Aiken	72	43.8	-	-	1	0.8	8	3.9
Allendale	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	6.5
Anderson	42	21.2	5	3.0	-	-	12	5.6
Bamberg	6	57.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Barnwell	10	53.8	-	-	-	-	3	14.4
Beaufort	34	21.3	3	1.4	2	1.1	18	11.0
Berkeley	46	20.0	-	-	2	0.9	16	6.5
Calhoun	2	19.9	-	-	1	10.7	2	18.5
Charleston	157	37.2	6	1.5	6	1.4	76	16.8
Cherokee	13	29.7	1	2.6	-	-	3	4.8
Chester	9	32.4	-	-	1	4.5	7	25.5
Chesterfield	10	24.1	-	-	1	1.4	1	2.4
Clarendon	4	14.7	-	-	-	-	4	11.6
Colleton	8	25.4	1	2.9	-	-	2	4.5
Darlington	19	35.7	2	3.5	1	1.7	4	8.3
Dillon	16	55.7	1	5.1	1	4.2	5	19.6
Dorchester	25	15.1	1	0.7	3	1.8	13	7.9
Edgefield	6	20.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fairfield	3	19.7	-	-	1	7.9	-	-
Florence	54	44.4	4	2.8	3	2.8	28	22.4
Georgetown	33	58.7	2	3.1	1	1.9	12	18.6
Greenville	216	40.9	6	1.3	6	1.1	63	11.2
Greenwood	27	44.9	-	-	-	-	5	8.9
Hampton	2	9.8	-	-	1	3.8	-	-
Horry	176	56.8	1	0.3	4	1.3	79	25.3
Jasper	19	75.4	1	3.8	-	-	9	33.5
Kershaw	21	34.0	-	-	-	-	5	7.1
Lancaster	42	42.9	2	2.3	4	3.7	10	9.4
Laurens	27	43.4	-	-	-	-	3	5.2
Lee	6	37.9	1	8.7	1	3.8	-	-
Lexington	93	32.3	2	0.7	3	0.8	23	7.5
McCormick	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Marion	8	35.6	1	4.1	-	-	1	3.9
Marlboro	4	17.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Newberry	8	23.3	-	-	3	9.7	2	7.0
Oconee	8	12.7	-	-	3	4.1	3	4.5
Orangeburg	18	22.3	1	1.5	-	-	14	13.9
Pickens	31	27.6	-	-	1	0.9	6	5.1
Richland	88	21.0	2	0.5	2	0.5	53	12.7
Saluda	4	23.5	-	-	-	-	2	10.5
Spartanburg	144	44.0	10	3.2	2	0.5	34	9.4
Sumter	33	36.2	-	-	1	1.2	13	13.8
Union	13	51.3	-	-	-	-	2	8.0
Williamsburg	12	44.6	-	-	-	-	8	25.2
York	88	29.3	1	0.3	3	0.8	10	3.1

¹Age-adjusted rate per 100,000 population. Rates calculated with 20 or fewer deaths are unreliable and should be used cautiously.

Figure 3.
 Number of Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2022
 Occurrence Data

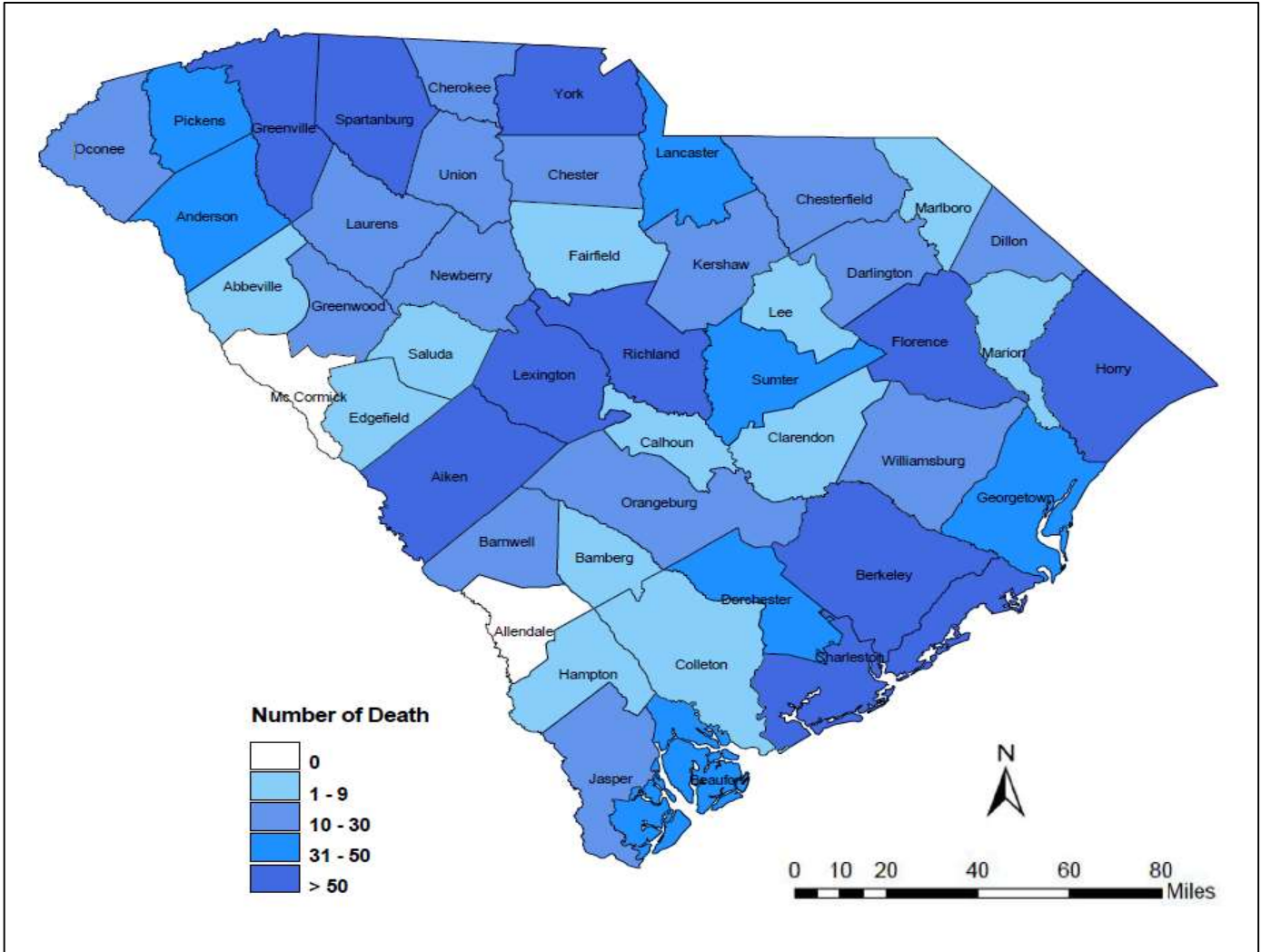


Figure 4.
 Age-Adjusted Rate for Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2022
 Occurrence Data

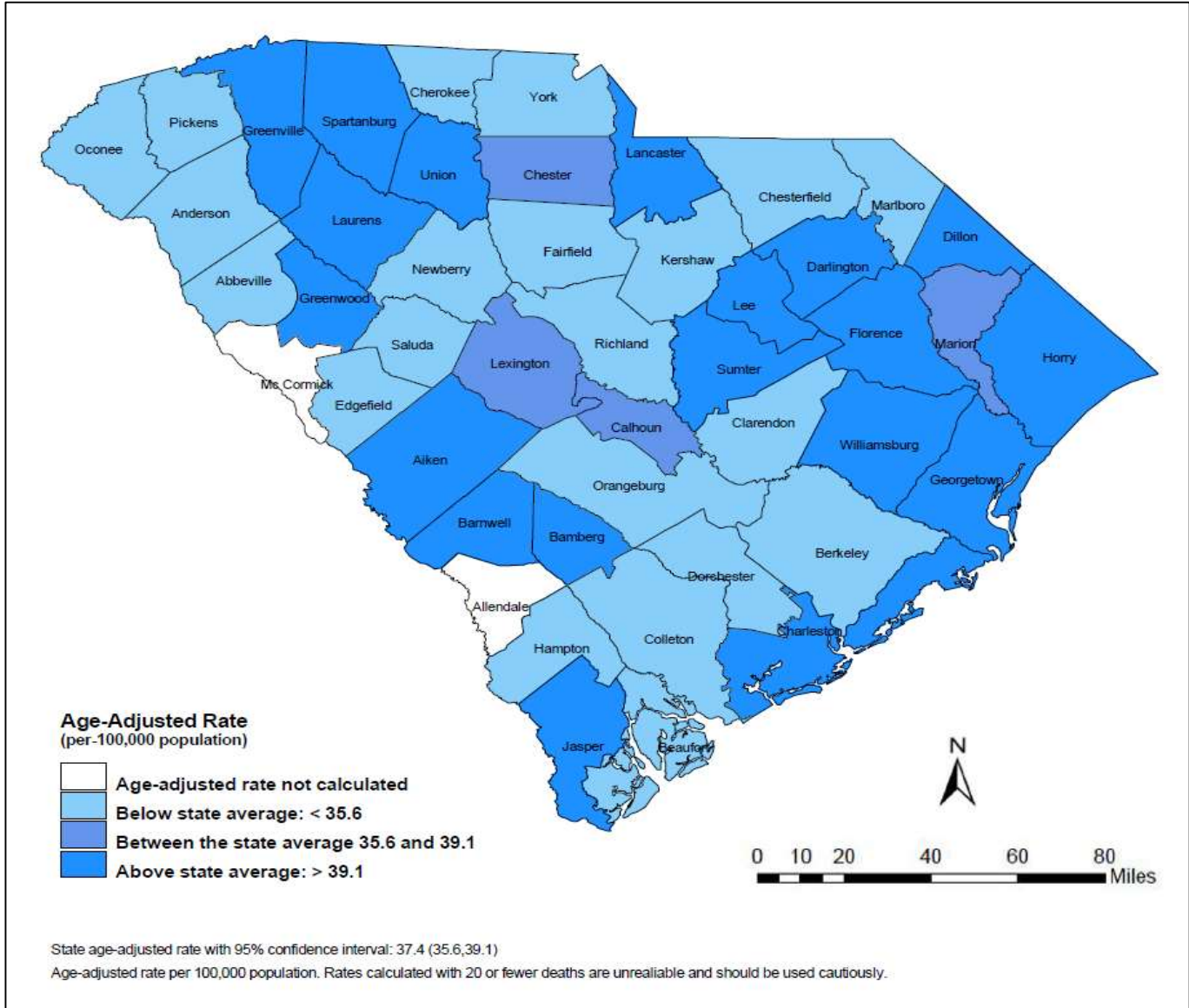


Table 4.
Change in Drug Overdose Deaths by County
South Carolina, 2021-2022
Occurrence Data

County of Death	Total Drug Overdose			Opioids Overdose		
	2021	2022	Percent Change	2021	2022	Percent Change
South Carolina	2,168	2,296	5.9	1,733	1,864	7.6
Abbeville	7	5		7	3	
Aiken	85	89	4.7	75	73	-2.7
Allendale	3	1		2	-	
Anderson	70	70	0.0	45	49	8.9
Bamberg	1	7		1	6	
Barnwell	10	14	40.0	8	11	37.5
Beaufort	49	42	-14.3	40	38	-5.0
Berkeley	70	70	0.0	64	57	-10.9
Calhoun	3	6		3	4	
Charleston	201	220	9.5	156	174	11.5
Cherokee	10	22	120.0	5	15	200.0 *
Chester	13	13	0.0	11	10	-9.1
Chesterfield	17	13	-23.5	16	12	-25.0
Clarendon	11	6		9	4	
Colleton	11	12	9.1	7	9	
Darlington	14	27	92.9	13	23	76.9
Dillon	16	21	31.3	16	20	25.0
Dorchester	36	41	13.9	30	35	16.7
Edgefield	5	12	140.0	4	6	
Fairfield	3	4		3	4	
Florence	66	82	24.2	57	66	15.8
Georgetown	38	38	0.0	32	37	15.6
Greenville	270	287	6.3	213	231	8.5
Greenwood	40	37	-7.5	36	30	-16.7
Hampton	3	3		3	3	
Horry	272	233	-14.3	212	192	-9.4
Jasper	13	26	100.0	11	22	100.0
Kershaw	28	25	-10.7	21	21	0.0
Lancaster	51	51	0.0	49	46	-6.1
Laurens	31	32	3.2	24	27	12.5
Lee	4	10	150.0	3	7	
Lexington	106	125	17.9	85	106	24.7
McCormick	-	-		-	-	
Marion	6	9		6	8	
Marlboro	4	4		4	4	
Newberry	11	13	18.2	8	11	37.5
Oconee	30	24	-20.0	24	18	-25.0
Orangeburg	37	37	0.0	16	24	50.0
Pickens	55	52	-5.5	41	38	-7.3
Richland	137	132	-3.6	98	104	6.1
Saluda	1	5		1	4	
Spartanburg	153	193	26.1	129	154	19.4
Sumter	29	40	37.9	24	37	54.2
Union	15	17	13.3	13	13	0.0
Williamsburg	18	17	-5.6	11	12	9.1
York	115	109	-5.2	97	96	-1.0

* Percent change not calculated for counties with fewer than 10 deaths in 2022.

* Statistically significant at 95% confidence interval

Figure 5.
 Change in Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by County
 South Carolina, 2021-2022
 Occurrence Data

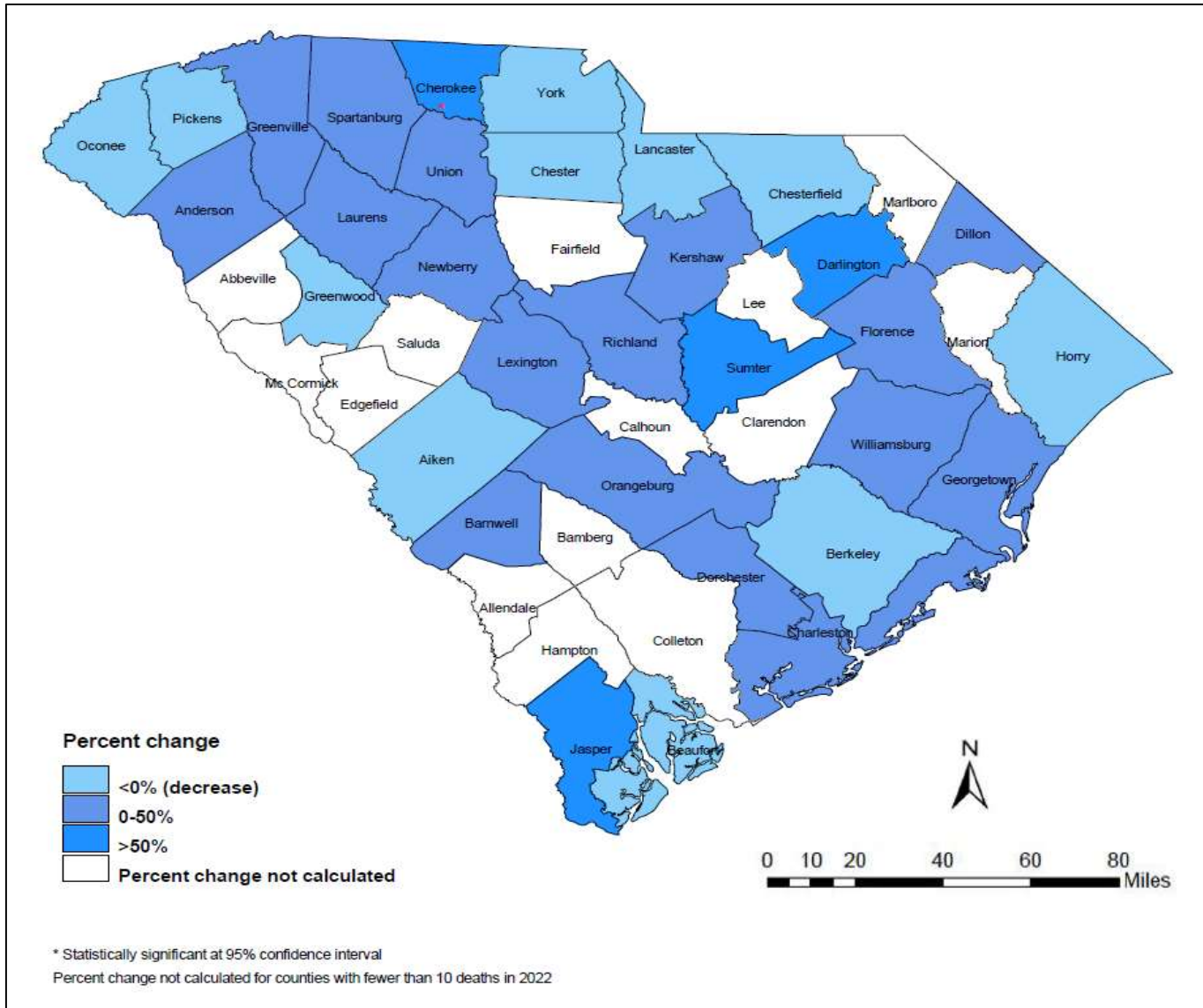


Figure 6.
 Opioid-Involved Overdose Deaths by Age
 South Carolina, 2018-2022
 Occurrence Data

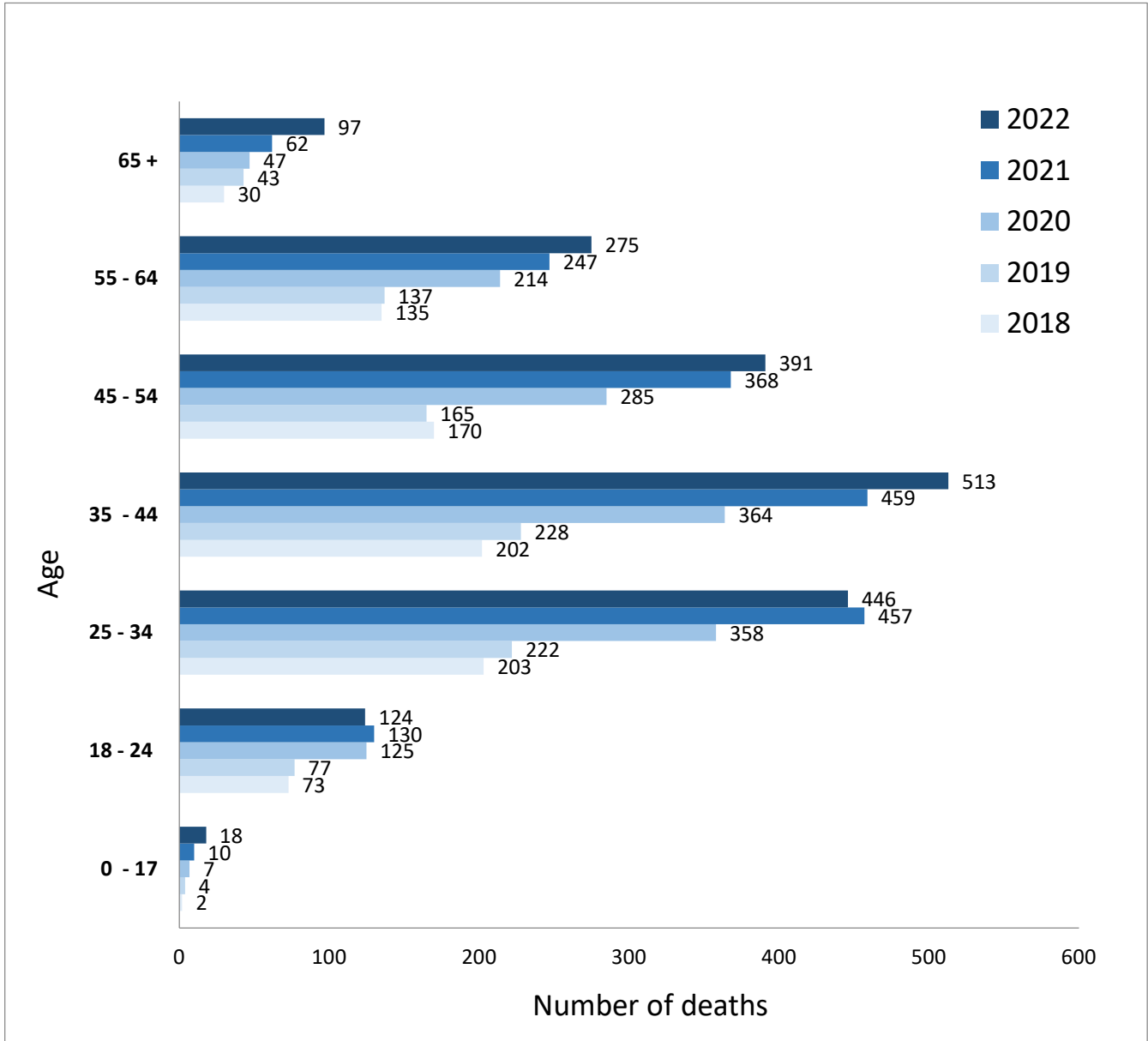


Figure 7.
Select Drug Categories by Race/Sex
South Carolina, 2022
Occurrence Data

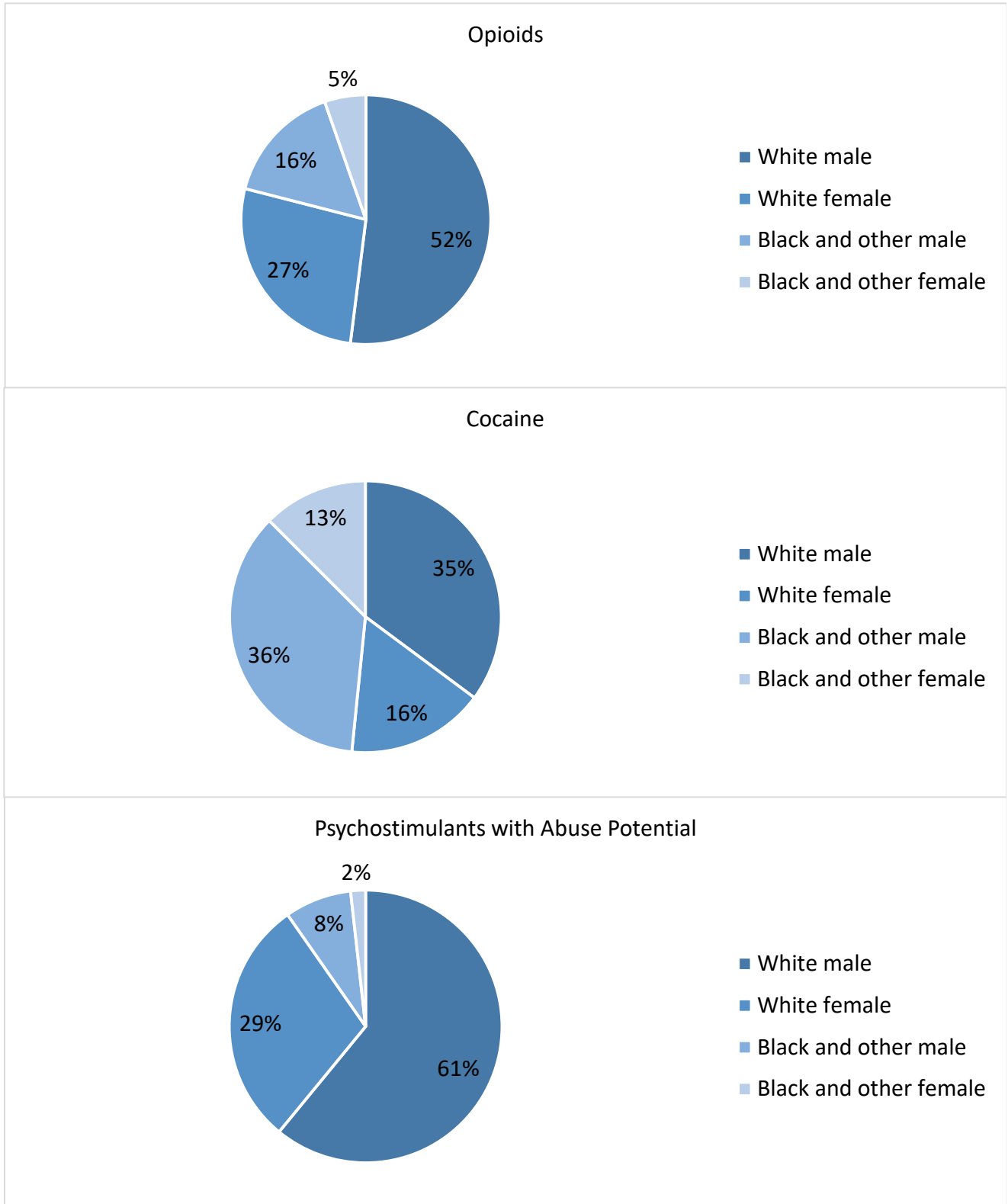


Figure 8.
 Select Drug Categories by Education
 South Carolina, 2022
 Occurrence Data

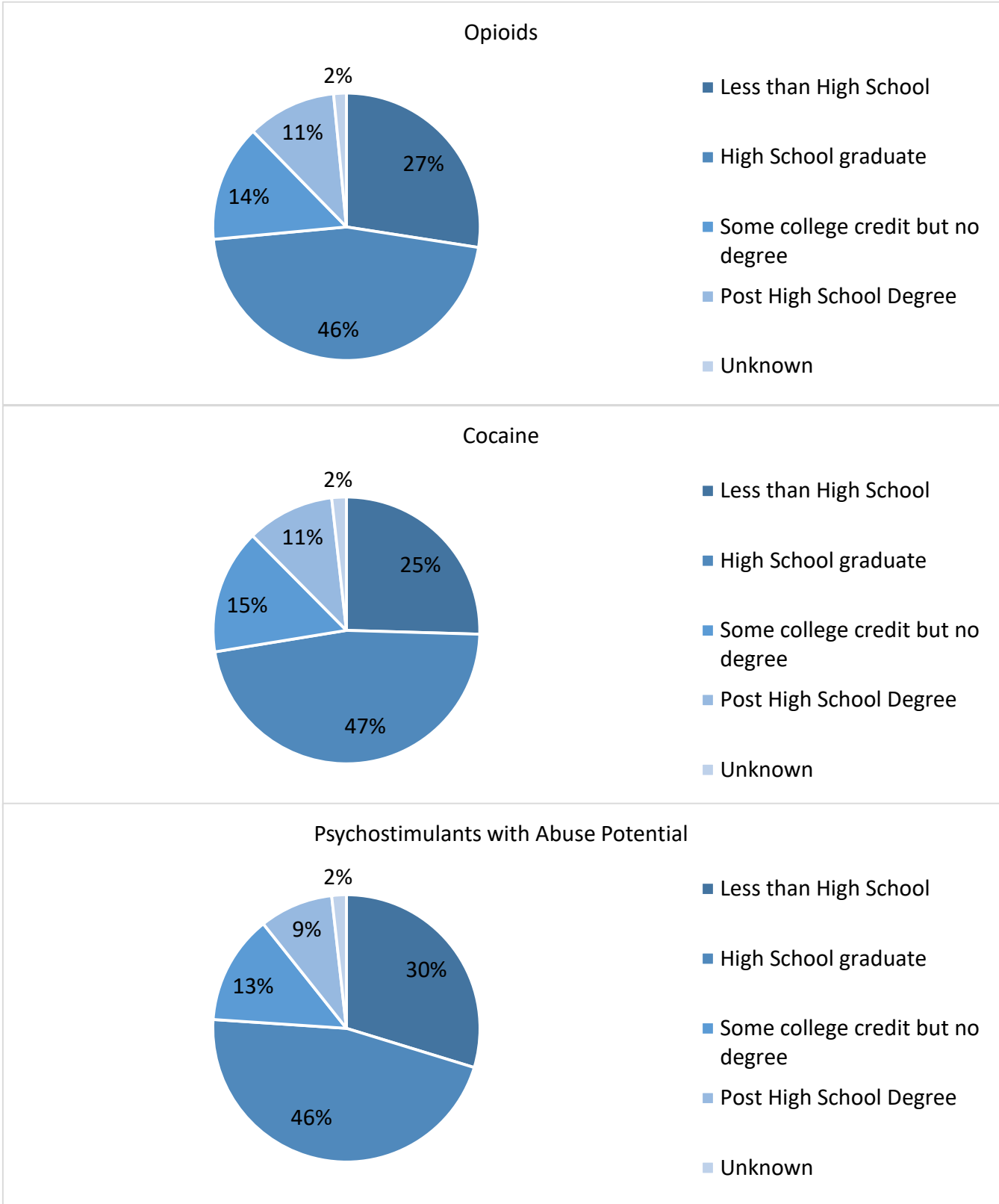
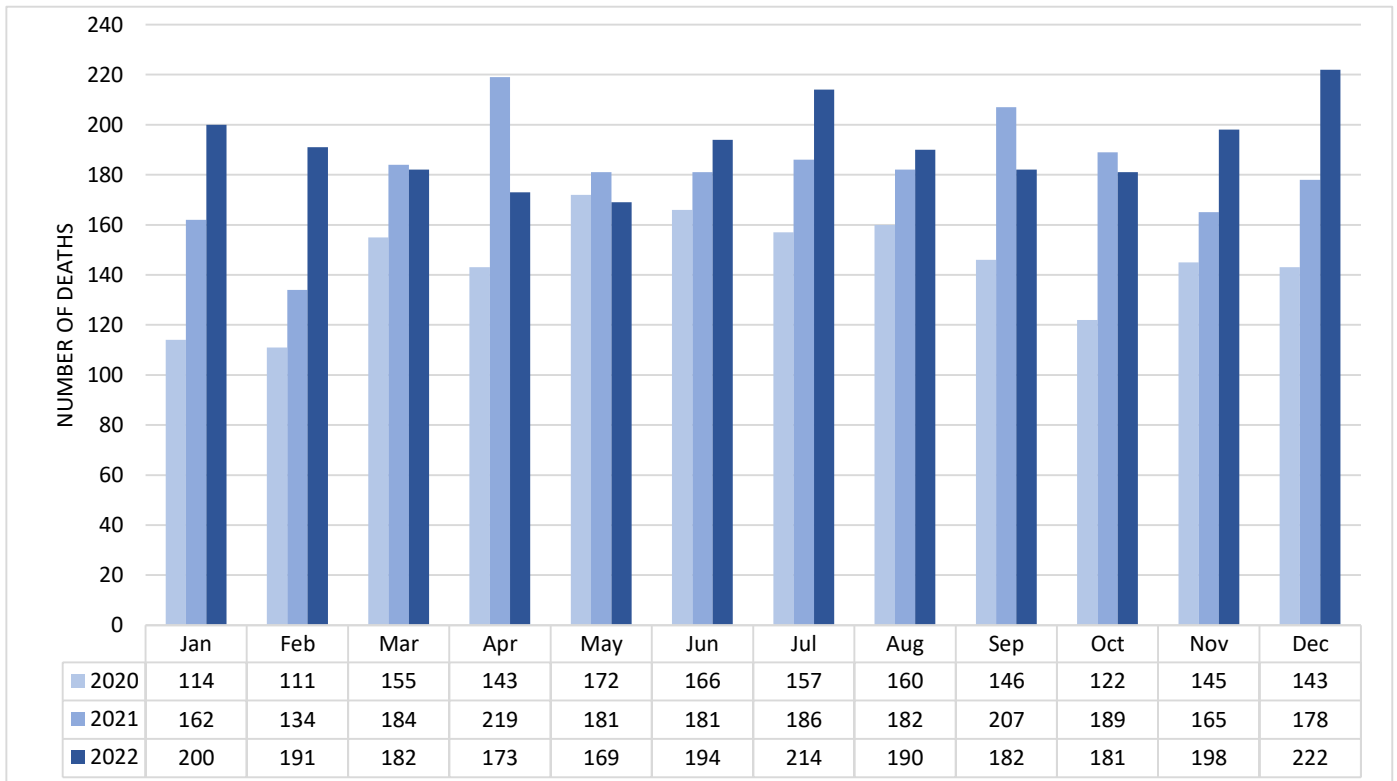


Figure 9.
 Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by Month
 South Carolina, 2020-2022
 Occurrence Data



* Covid-19 pandemic started in March, 2020