

2024 DRUG OVERDOSE DEATH REPORT

January-December

MISSOURI STATEWIDE

This data comes from the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) and includes overdose deaths based on the location **where the individual lived**.

For more information on what data is included and how drug overdose deaths are defined, please visit the Data FAQ Sheet on our website:
<https://www.mimhaddisci.org/missouri-overdose-data-2>

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **The total number of drug overdose deaths statewide decreased by 26% in 2024**—down from 1,948 in 2023 to 1,450—marking the second consecutive year of declining overdose fatalities.
- **Opioid overdose deaths decreased significantly, both in total number and in their proportion of total overdose deaths.** Total opioid deaths **declined 36%** from 1,427 in 2023 to 910, and went from being involved in 73% of total overdose deaths to 63%. This is the lowest total number of opioid-related deaths since 2016.
- **Stimulant-involved deaths not involving opioids decreased by 19% in 2024, from 957 to 776.** Opioid-related deaths often present as acute overdoses, while emerging research suggests stimulant deaths are more frequently associated with chronic health conditions, highlighting the need for different prevention and treatment strategies.
- **All Missouri regions experienced a decrease in overdose deaths**, with the Central Region demonstrating the largest decline, driven by a 57% decrease in opioid-involved overdoses specifically from 147 to 64 deaths. This was followed by the St. Louis region, with a 41% decrease in opioid overdose deaths from 757 to 447 deaths.
- **The Kansas City region, though also witnessing a decrease in overdose deaths, now surpasses the St. Louis region** with the highest mortality rate for the first time since Missouri's overdose data has been systematically reported. This regional difference may be driven by a 11% *increase* in overdose deaths among Black individuals in the Kansas City region, contrasted with a 44% *decrease* in the same demographic group in the St. Louis region.
- Statewide, the number of total overdose deaths among **Black males decreased by 34%** in 2024. However, **Black males continue to be disproportionately impacted** by overdose, with a mortality rate three to five times higher than other demographic groups.



TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS STATEWIDE

 2024 marked a year of significant progress in Missouri, with drug overdose deaths falling by more than a quarter, **from 1,948 in 2023 to 1,450 in 2024, a reduction of 498 lives lost.**

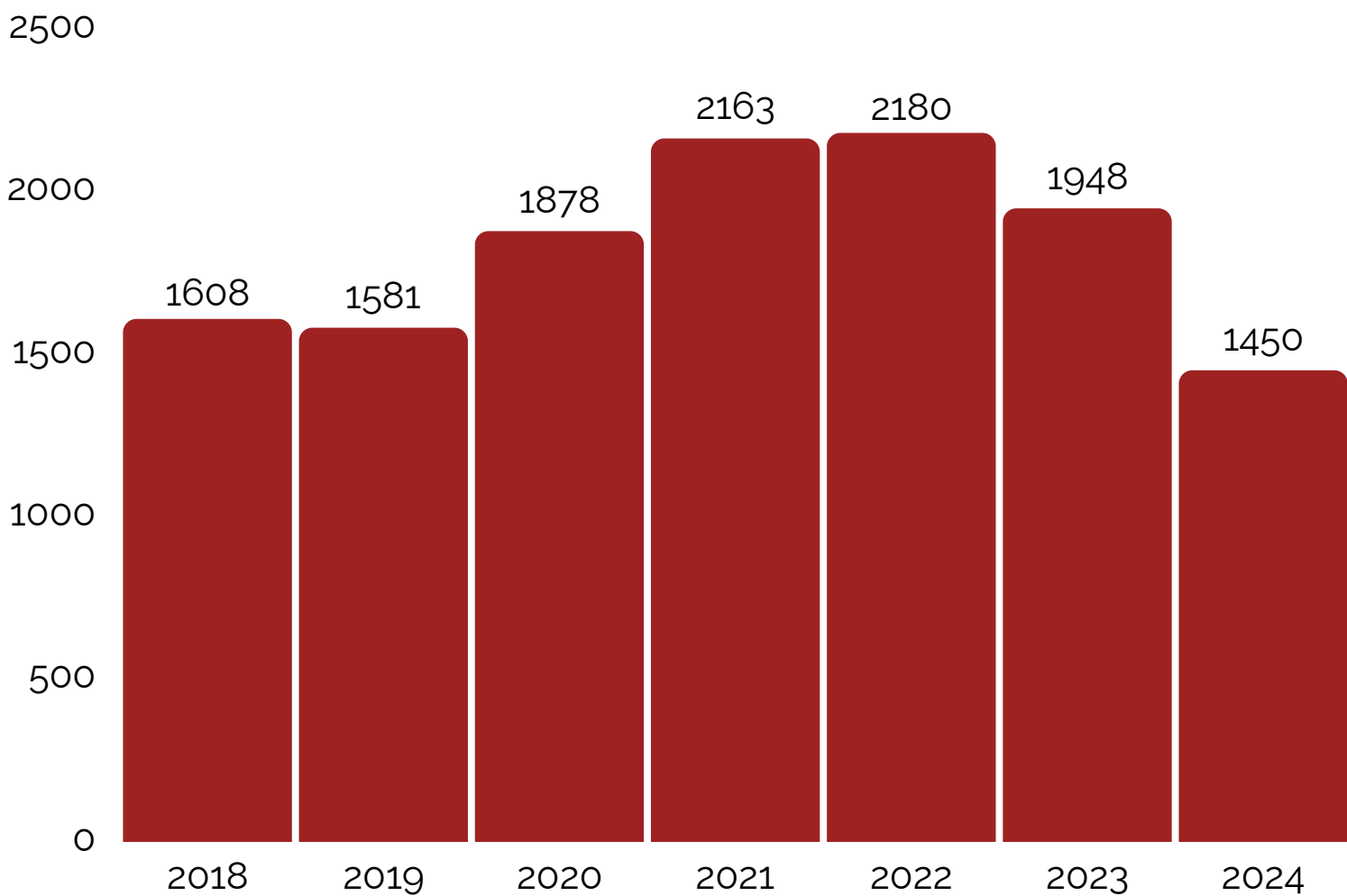
1450

people lost their lives to a drug overdose in 2024.

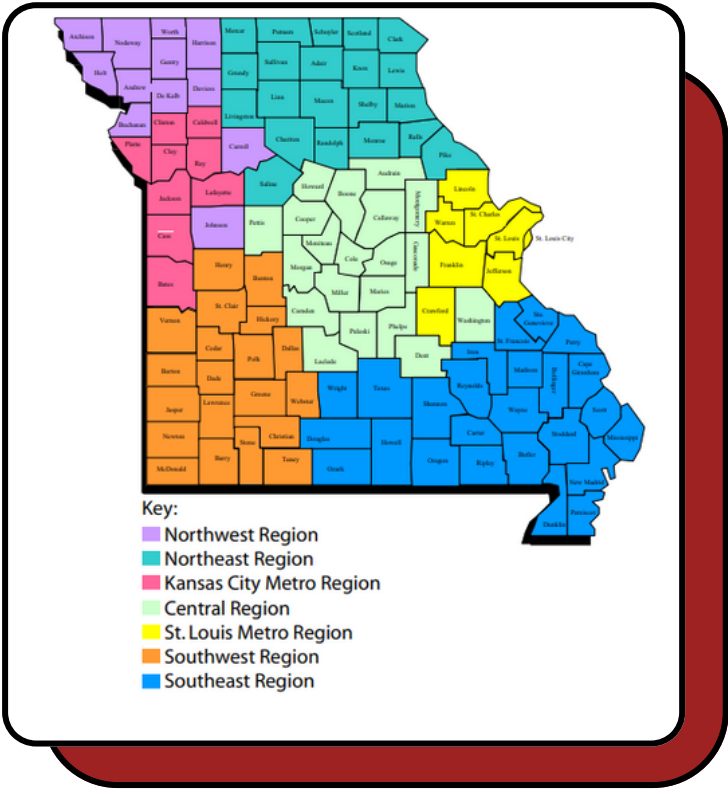


This is an **26% decrease** compared to 2023.

Number of Drug Overdose Deaths Over Time
Missouri Statewide

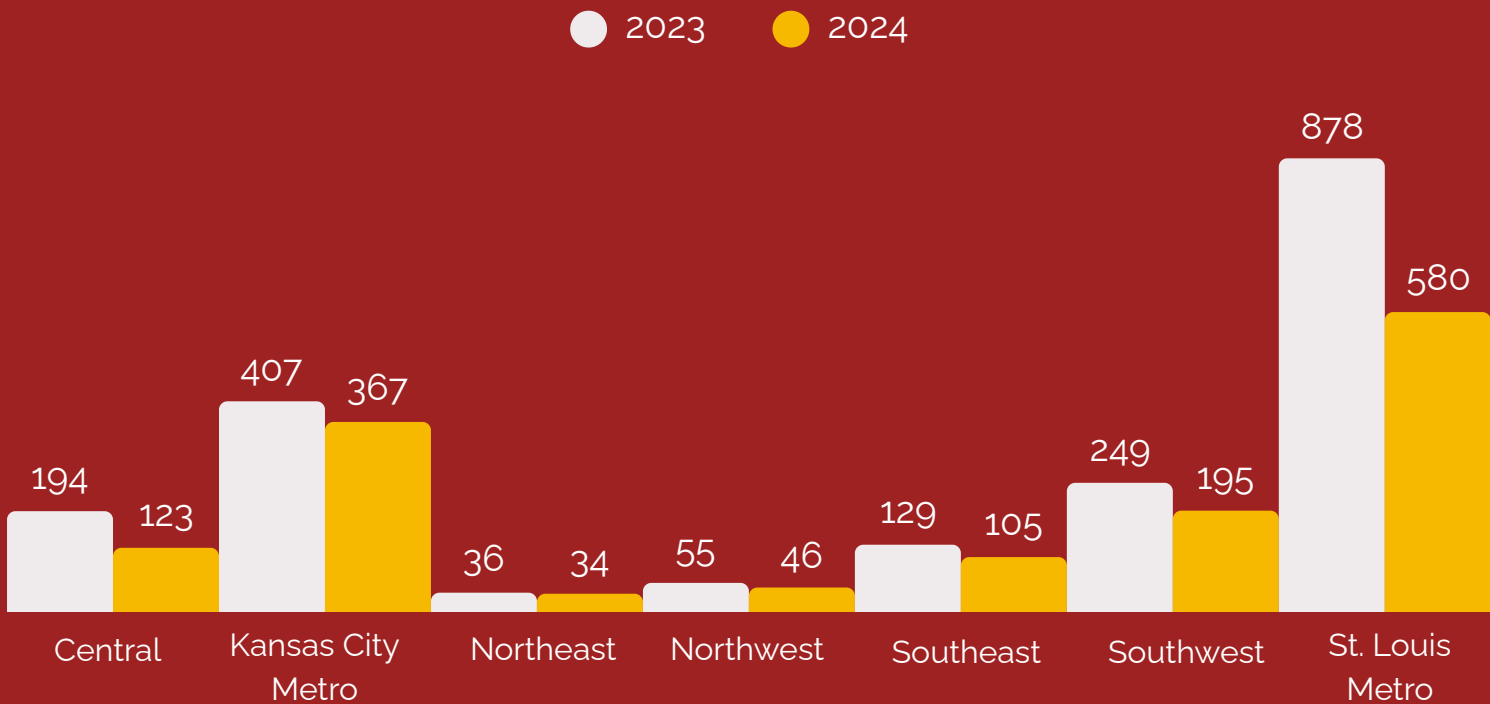


TOTAL NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION



- Every region experienced decreases in the total number of overdose deaths in 2024 compared to 2023.
- The Central Region showed the highest decrease (-37%) in overdose deaths in 2024.
- The St. Louis Metro Region continues to have the highest total number of overdose deaths within the state - although it experienced a 34% decrease in deaths in 2024 compared to 2023.

Number of Missouri Drug Overdose Deaths by Region
2023 vs 2024



DRUG OVERDOSE MORTALITY RATES OVERALL BY REGION

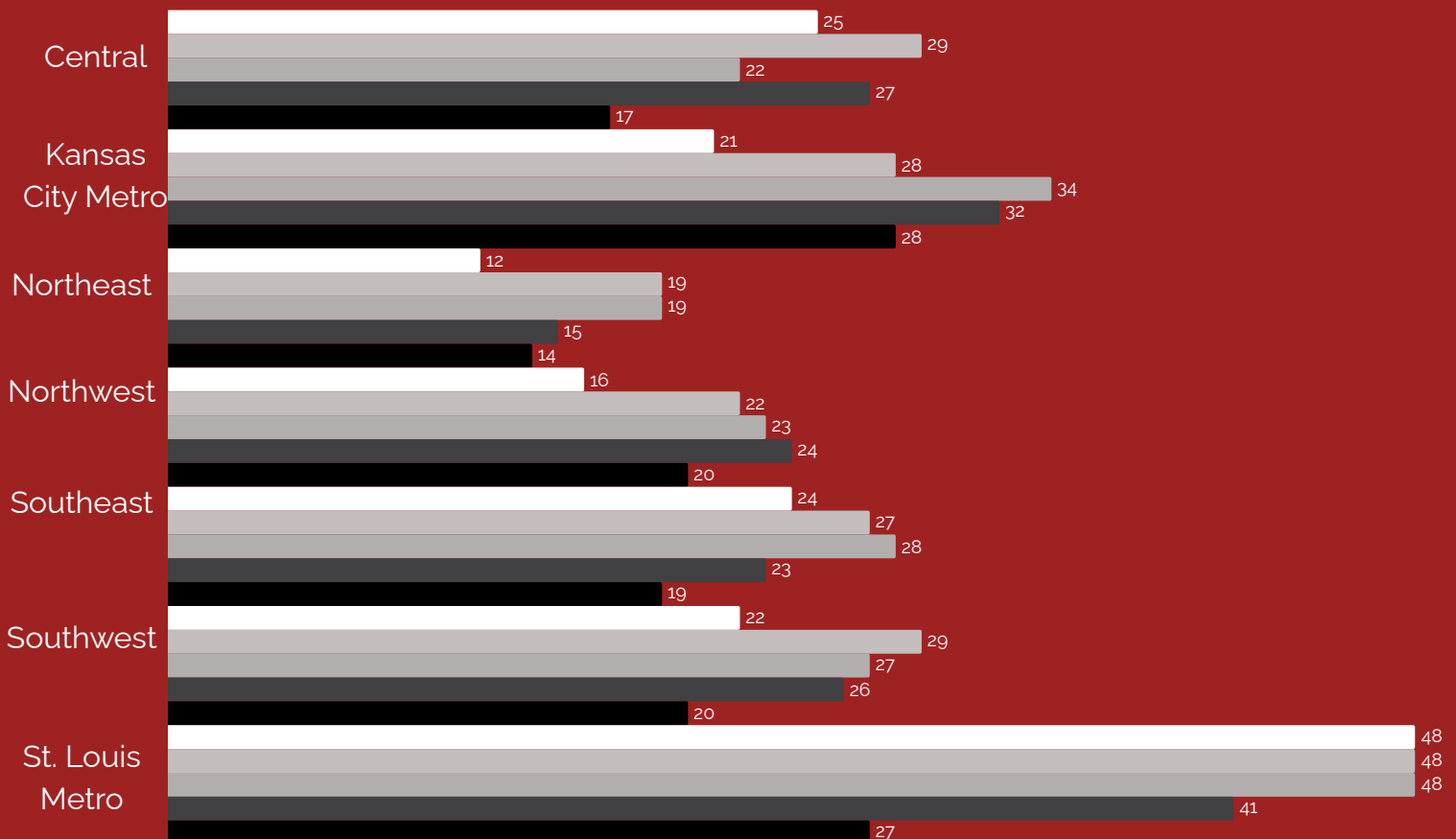
- For the first time in recent years, **the Kansas City region recorded the highest overdose mortality rate** in the state.
- Meanwhile, **the St. Louis region saw a dramatic decline**—from 41 deaths per 100,000 residents in 2023 to 27 per 100,000 in 2024, a 14-point drop.



Mortality rates provide an estimate of how often deaths occur in a population. This makes it easier to compare the outcomes of groups with different population sizes.

Missouri Drug Overdose Mortality Rates per 100k people, 2020-2024
(By Region)

● 2020 ● 2021 ● 2022 ● 2023 ● 2024

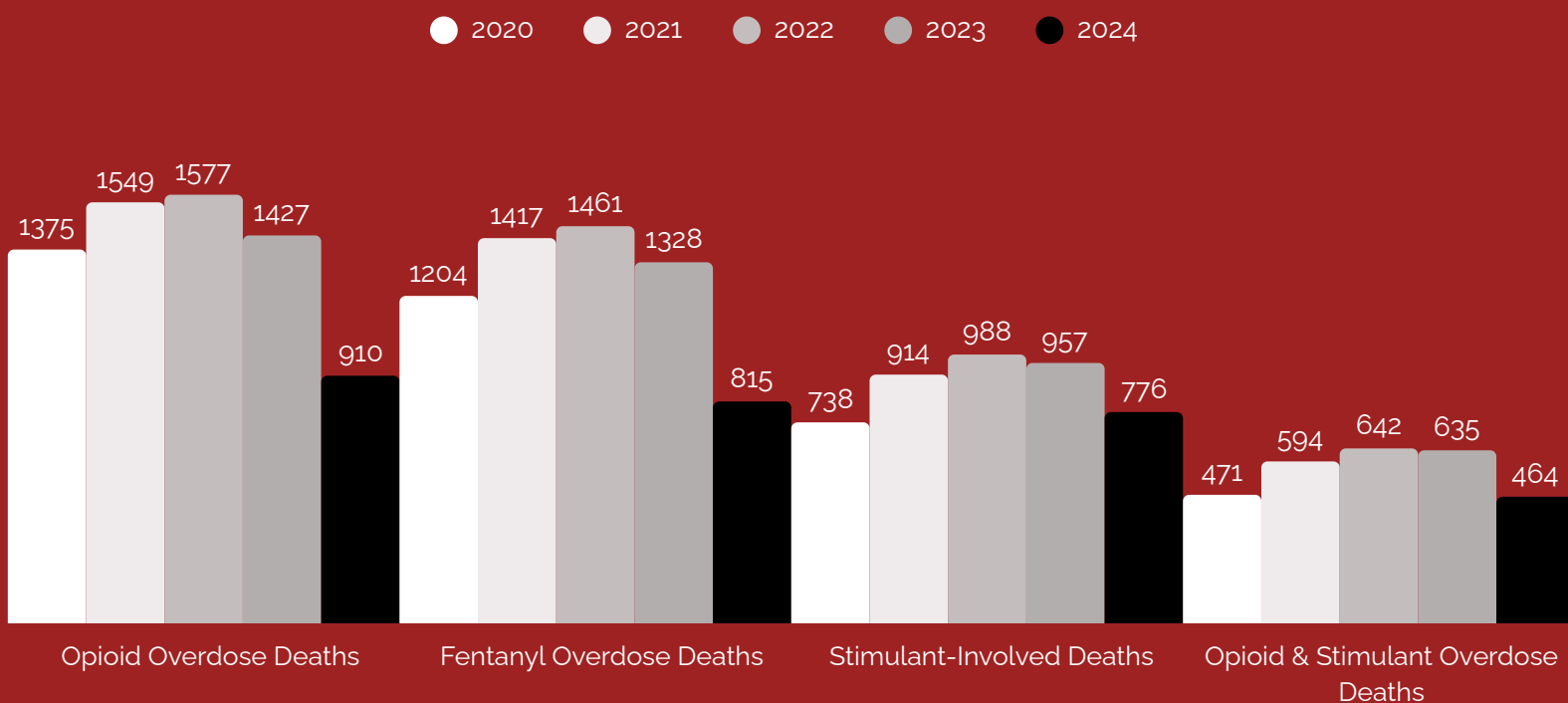


Rates calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Resident Population Estimates

TYPES OF DRUGS INVOLVED IN OVERDOSE DEATHS STATEWIDE

- Overdose deaths **decreased across all drug types** in 2024 compared to 2023.
- **Opioid-involved deaths declined by 36%**, with fentanyl-involved deaths specifically declining by 39%.
- The total number of **drug-related deaths involving stimulants also decreased**:
 - In combination with opioids (-27%)
 - Stimulants without opioids (-19%)

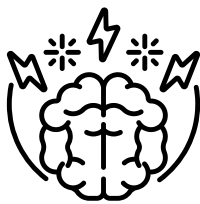
Number of Overdose Deaths by Drug Type, 2020-2024 (Missouri Statewide)



63% of all overdose deaths involved an **opioid**, down from **73%** in 2023

Fentanyl was involved in **almost all (90%)** opioid overdose deaths

2024



More than half (54%) of all deaths involved a **stimulant**



About 1 in 3 (32%) of deaths involved the presence of **both opioids and stimulants**

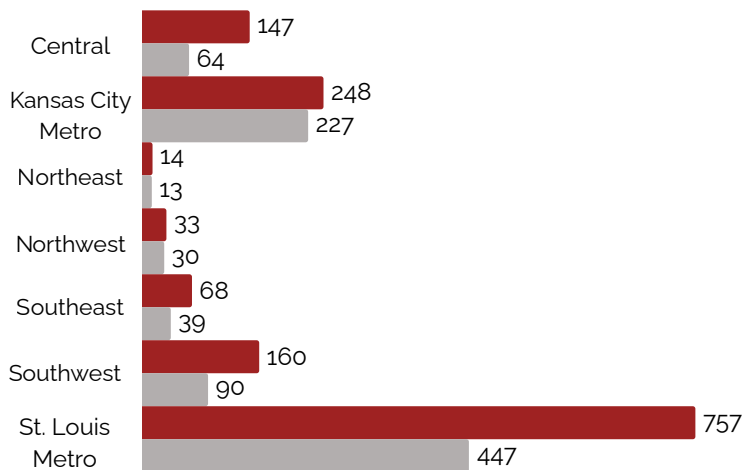
TYPES OF DRUGS INVOLVED IN OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION

- **No region of Missouri had an increase** in the number of drug overdoses involving opioids in 2024 compared to 2023. The Central Region demonstrated the largest decline, driven by a 57% decrease in opioid-involved overdoses
- **Fentanyl continues to be present in the majority** of all opioid overdose deaths across all regions.
- **The Kansas City Metro and Northwestern Regions were the only two regions** to experience increases in combination opioid and stimulant-involved deaths in 2024 in comparison to 2023.

Number of Overdose Deaths by Drug Type, 2023 vs 2024 (by Region)

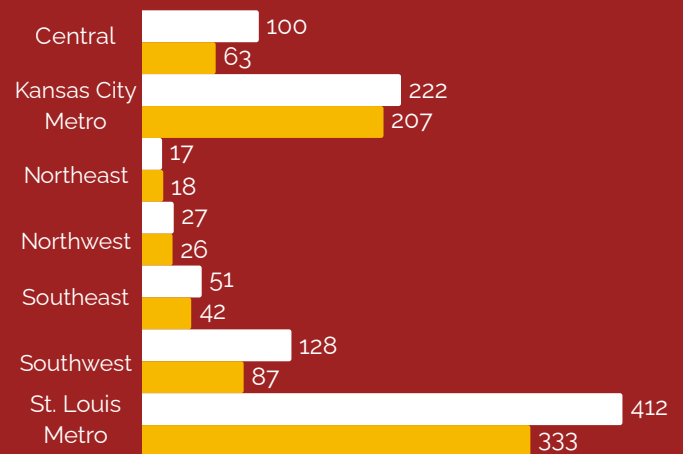
Opioid Overdose Deaths

● 2023 ● 2024



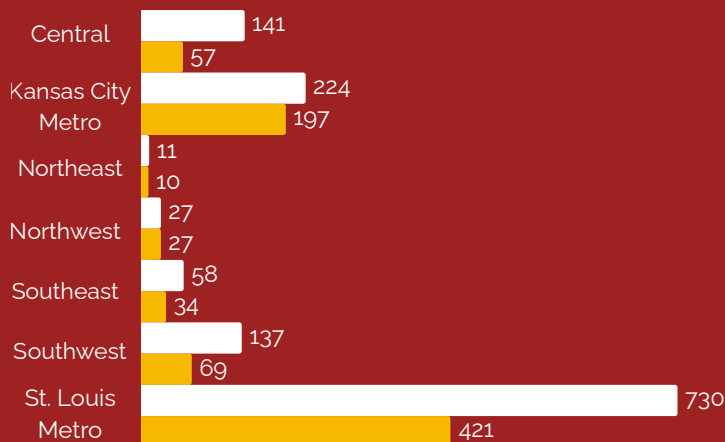
Stimulant-Involved Deaths

● 2023 ● 2024



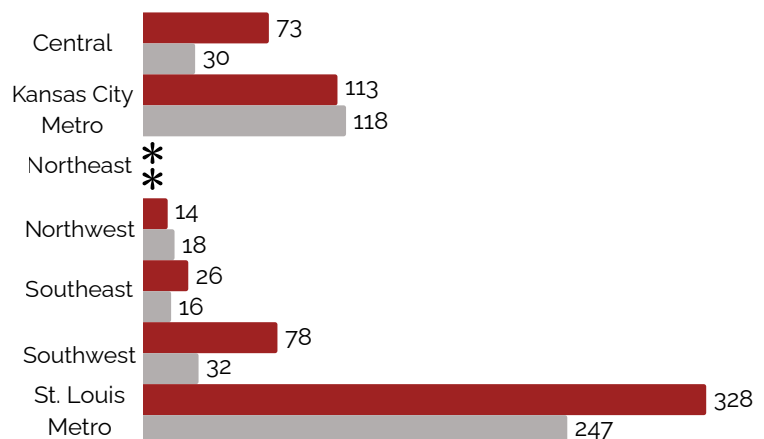
Fentanyl Overdose Deaths

● 2023 ● 2024



Opioid and Stimulant-Involved Deaths

● 2023 ● 2024



*Numbers less than 5 are not represented on graph

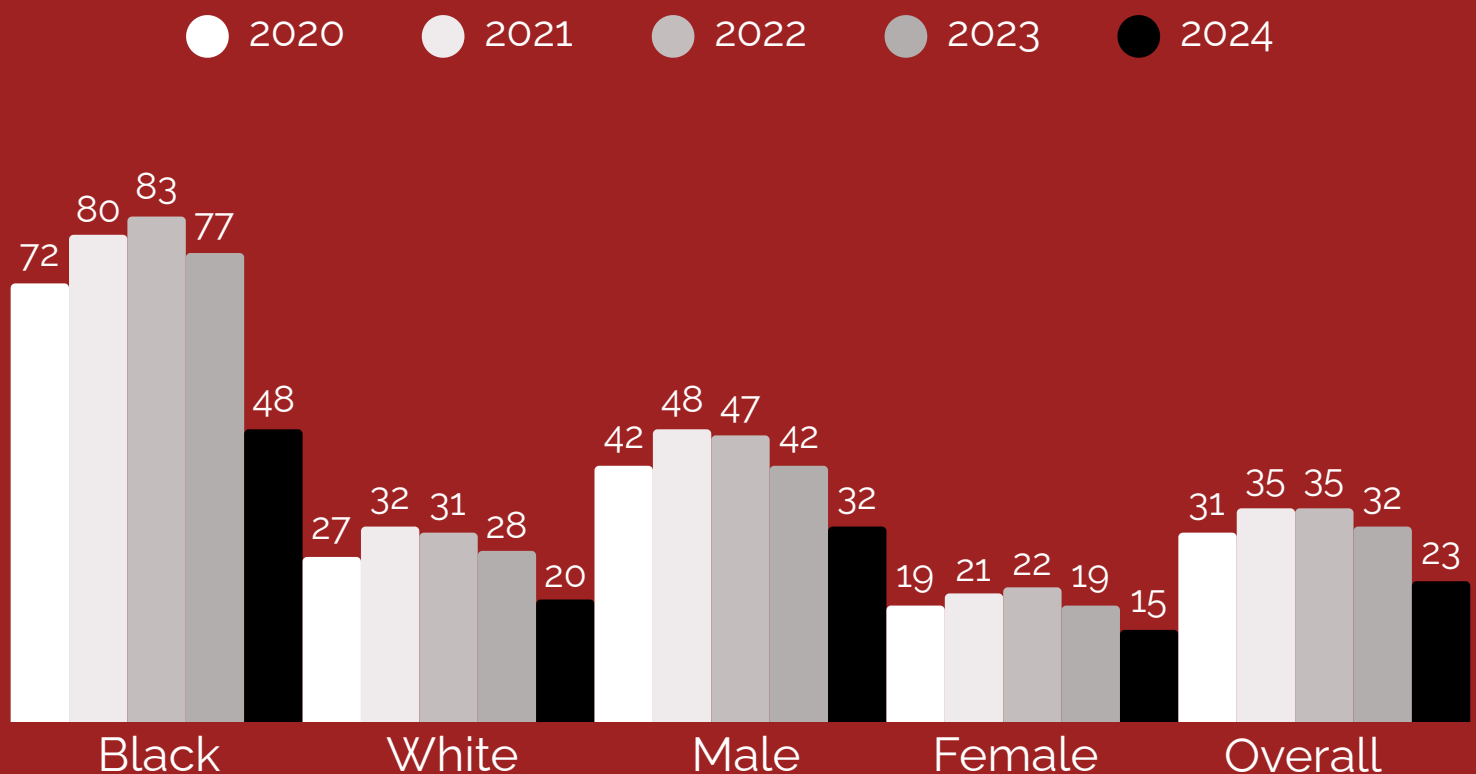
DRUG OVERDOSE MORTALITY RATES BY RACE AND SEX STATEWIDE

- Among Black and White males and females, **all demographic groups experienced mortality rate decreases in 2024 compared to 2023.**
- **Black individuals across Missouri continue to be disproportionately affected by overdose deaths**, with a mortality rate 2.4 times higher than White individuals in 2024.
- **Males continue to be more affected than females**, with a mortality rate 2.1 times higher than females in 2024.



Mortality rates provide an estimate of how often deaths occur in a population. This makes it easier to compare the outcomes of groups with different population sizes.

Drug Overdose Mortality Rates by Race and Sex per 100k people, 2020-2024 (Missouri Statewide)



Rates calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Resident Population Estimates

NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY RACE AND SEX BY REGION

- While most regions saw decreases in overdose deaths among both Black and White populations, **Kansas City experienced an increase among Black individuals**, and the **Northeastern region saw an increase among White individuals**. Notably, the majority of the state's burden of Black overdose deaths is concentrated in **St. Louis**, which saw a meaningful **44% decrease**.

Number of Missouri Drug Overdose Deaths by **Race and Sex**, 2023 vs 2024 (*By Region*)

	Black			White			Male			Female		
	2023	2024	% Change	2023	2024	% Change	2023	2024	% Change	2023	2024	% Change
Central Region	33	14	-58%	157	106	-33%	130	82	-37%	64	40	-38%
Kansas City Metro	96	107	+11%	287	231	-20%	281	253	-10%	126	114	-10%
Northeastern Region	6	<5	*	28	30	+7%	29	21	-28%	7	13	+86%
Northwestern Region	<5	<5	*	51	42	-18%	29	34	+17%	26	11	-58%
Southeastern Region	11	11	0%	117	92	-21%	84	62	-26%	45	43	-4%
Southwestern Region	16	12	-25%	225	177	-21%	162	134	-17%	87	61	-30%
St. Louis Metro	371	206	-44%	485	357	-26%	615	385	-37%	263	191	-27%

* Numbers less than five are suppressed

OVERDOSE MORTALITY RATES BY RACE AND SEX BY REGION

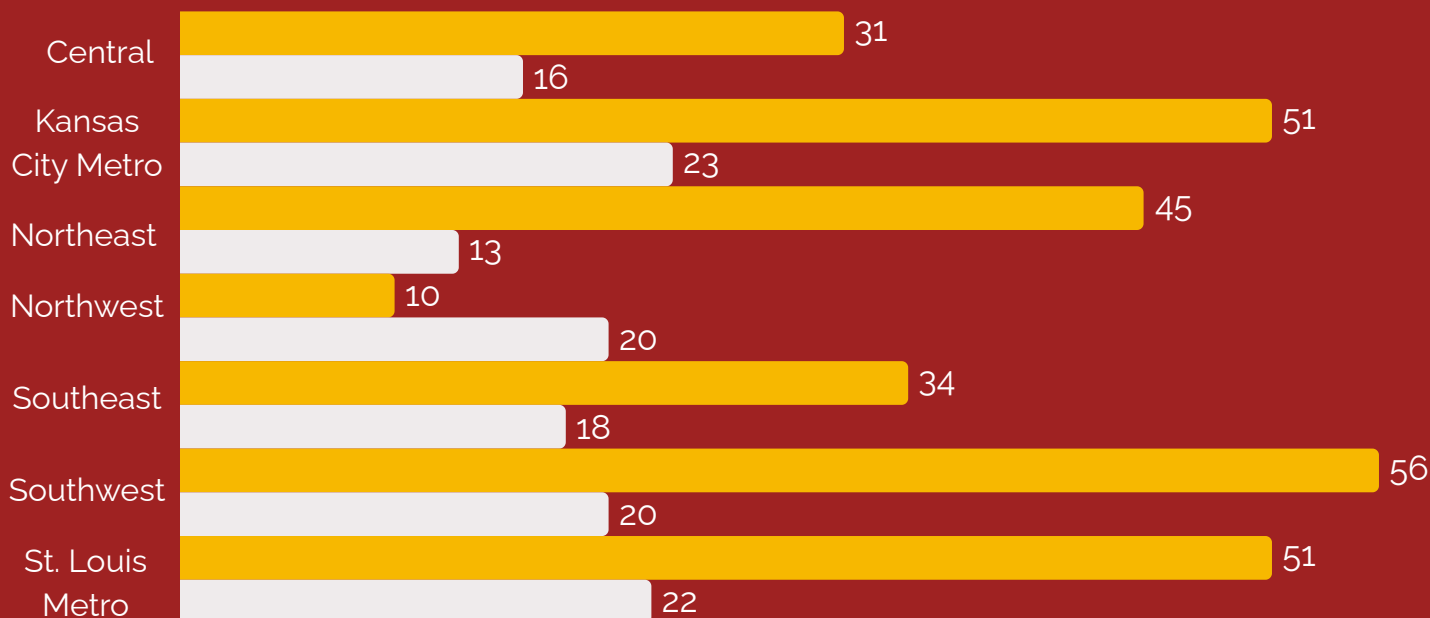
- The overall drug overdose mortality rate for Black individuals was higher than White individuals in every region of Missouri, except the Northwest region.
- The Southwest region had the highest mortality rate for Black Individuals at 56 per 100k overdose deaths, although the region only experienced 12 total deaths. The St. Louis Metro had the next highest mortality rate for Black individuals at 51 per 100k people with 206 drug overdose deaths.
- The Kansas City Metro Region had the highest mortality rate (23 per 100k people) among White individuals in 2024 of all Missouri's regions, slightly higher than the rate in the St. Louis City Metro Region (22 per 100k people).



Mortality rates provide an estimate of how often deaths occur in a population. This makes it easier to compare the outcomes of groups with different population sizes.

Drug Overdose Mortality Rates by Race per 100k people 2024 (By Region)

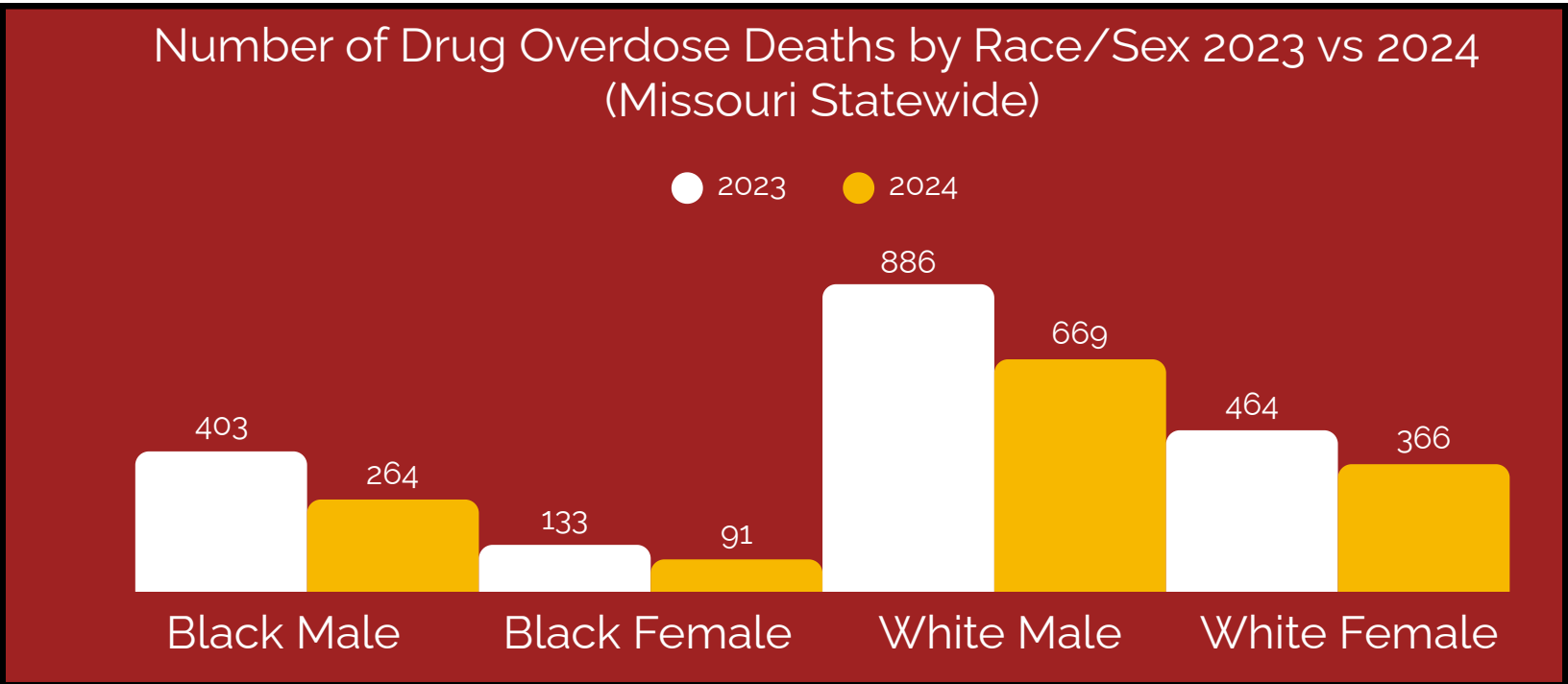
● Black ● White



Rates calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Resident Population Estimates

NUMBER OF DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY RACE AND SEX STATEWIDE

- Among Black and White males and females, **all demographics experienced a decrease in the total number of drug overdose deaths in 2024** compared to 2023.
- **Black males (-34%) and Black females (-32%) showed the largest decreases**, followed by White males (-24%) and White females (-21%).



Number of Drug Overdose Deaths by **Race and Sex (separately)**, 2023 vs 2024 (Missouri Statewide)

	Black	White	Male	Female
2023	536	1350	1330	618
2024	355	1035	971	473
Percent Change	-34%	-23%	-27%	-23%

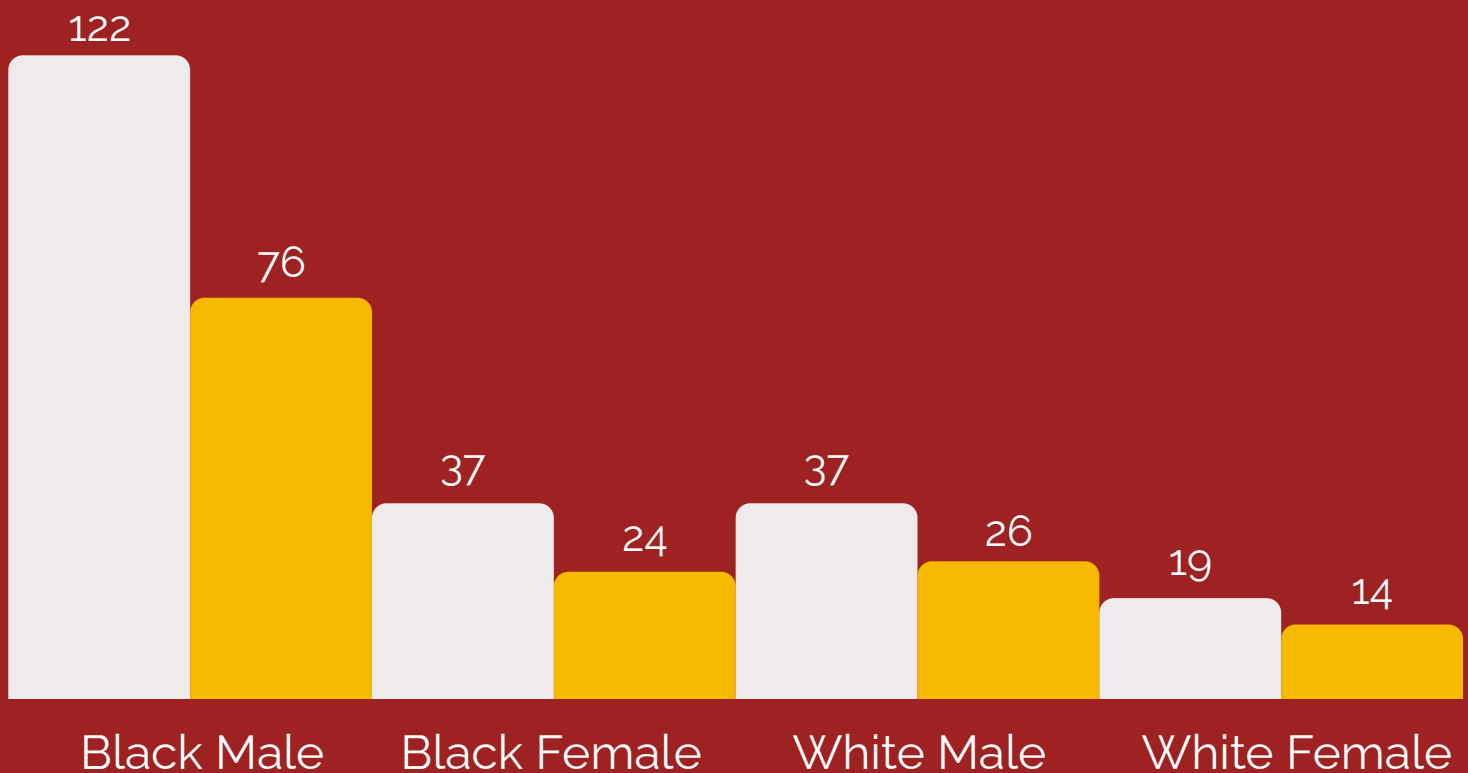
DRUG OVERDOSE MORTALITY RATES BY RACE/SEX STATEWIDE

- Among Black and White males and females, **all demographic groups experienced decreases in the mortality rate** in 2024 compared to 2023.
- **Still**, Black males continue to be disproportionately affected by overdose deaths, with a mortality rate **2.9 times higher** than that of White males, **3.2 times higher** than Black females, and over **5 times higher** than White females.



Mortality rates provide an estimate of how often deaths occur in a population. This makes it easier to compare the outcomes of groups with different population sizes.

Drug Overdose Mortality Rates by Race/Sex per 100k people, 2023-2024 (Missouri Statewide)



Rates calculated using the U.S. Census Bureau Vintage 2024 Resident Population Estimates

Thank You

For information on how to get naloxone visit: getmissourinaloxone.com

Check out naloxone distribution efforts for FY24:
[Missouri's Annual Naloxone Report FY25](#)

To find linkage to substance use disorder treatment visit:
<https://www.nomodeaths.org/get-treatment>

To see previous overdose reports visit:
<https://www.mimhaddisci.org/missouri-overdose-data-2>

Through the funding and collaboration of the Missouri Department of Mental Health and the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services, thanks to the tireless work of first responders, nurses, outreach workers, community leaders, naloxone distributors, educators, passionate public health advocates, and the countless others dedicated to saving lives—we are making strides toward a safer, healthier Missouri.

From Kansas City to Kirksville, Joplin to Jefferson City, and St. Louis to Sedalia, communities across the state are united in the shared goal of putting an end to overdose deaths in the Show Me State.

