

# Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Leelanau, Mason, Muskegon, Osceola, St. Joseph, Van Buren

**This data was collected from the 12 counties the Office of the Medical Examiner at WMed serves and includes deaths where drugs were the immediate cause of death. This report is meant to provide up to date statistics to those involved in efforts to reduce the number of drug related deaths.**

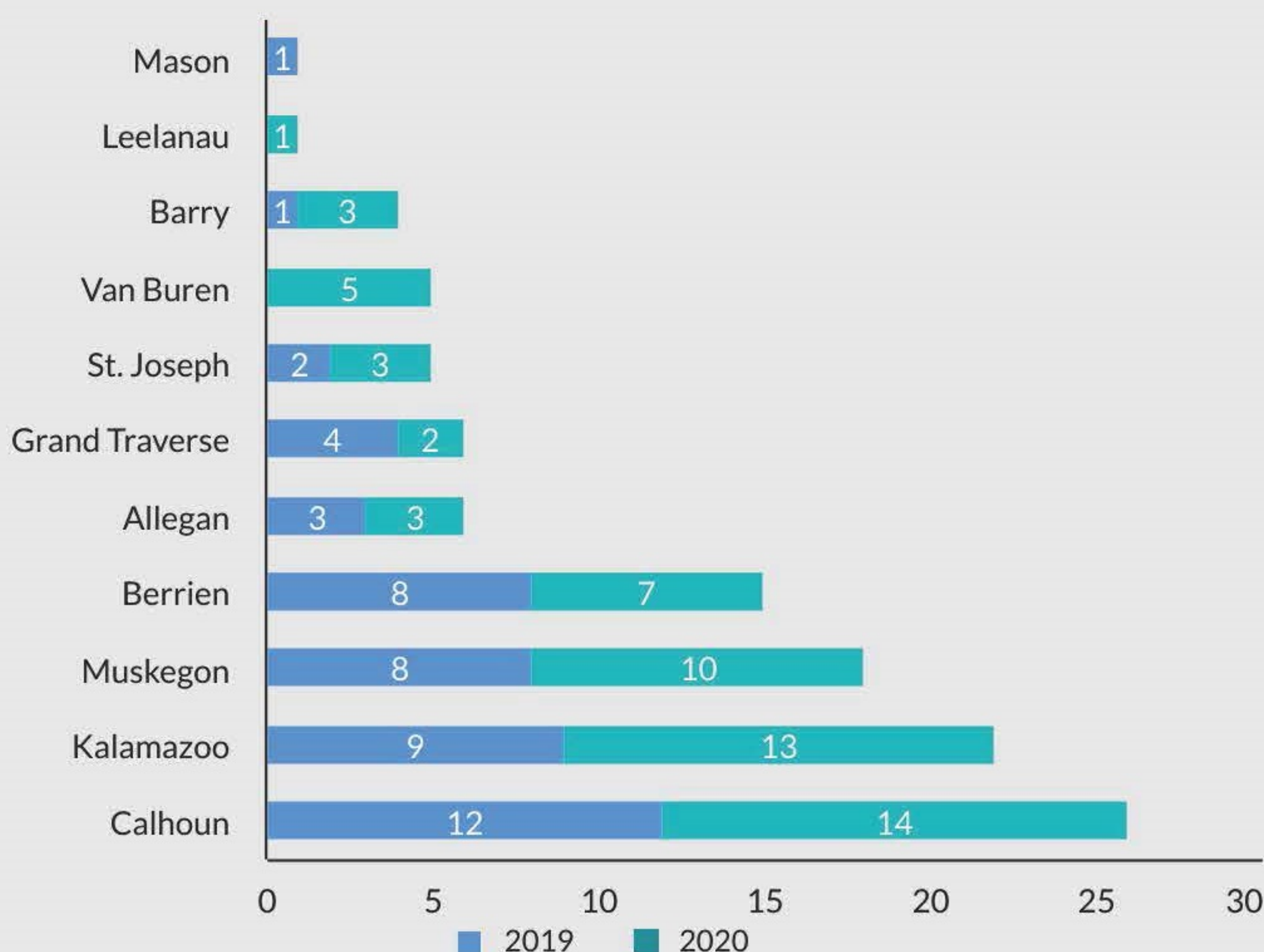
*All data was found in MDI (Mediolegal Death Investigation) log, law enforcement and EMS reports, Lieber phone screens (brain donation organization), death certificates, obituaries, STORM (Swift Toxicology of Overdose-Related Mortalities) results, NMS (National Medical Services), toxicology reports, autopsy reports, and medical records*

## Total Drug-Related Deaths



- ➔ 34 opioid and non-opioid
- ➔ 16 opioid only
- ➔ 11 non-opioid only

### County of Death



January to March, 2019

48

January to March, 2020

61

**Drug-related deaths increased**



27%

from 2019 to 2020



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## Demographics

Sex



Male (68.9%)  
Female (31.2%)

Age

**Minimum Age**

18 years

**Maximum Age**

85 years

**Average Age**

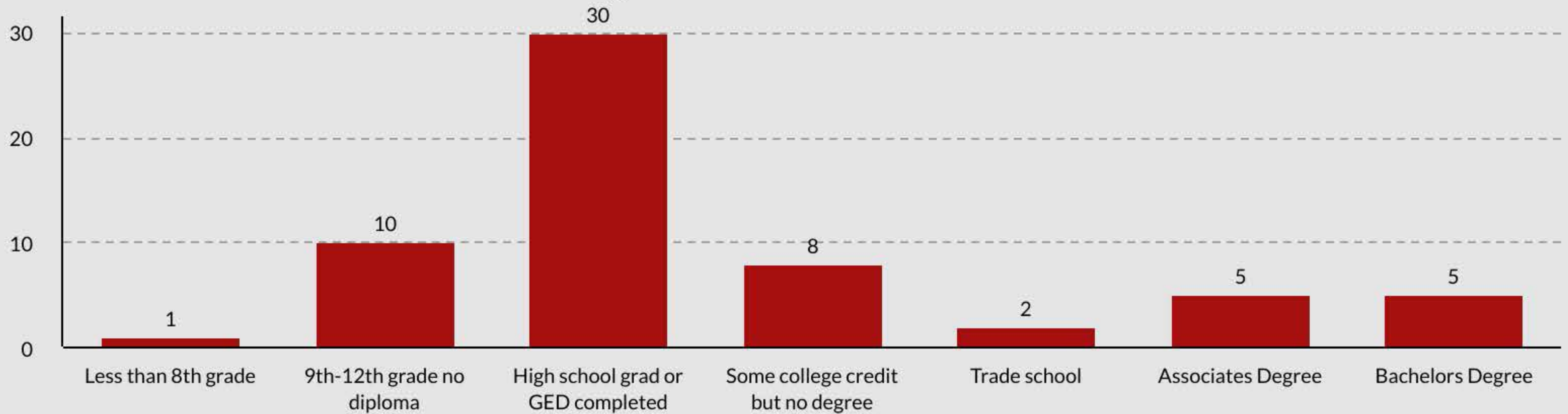
46 years

Race



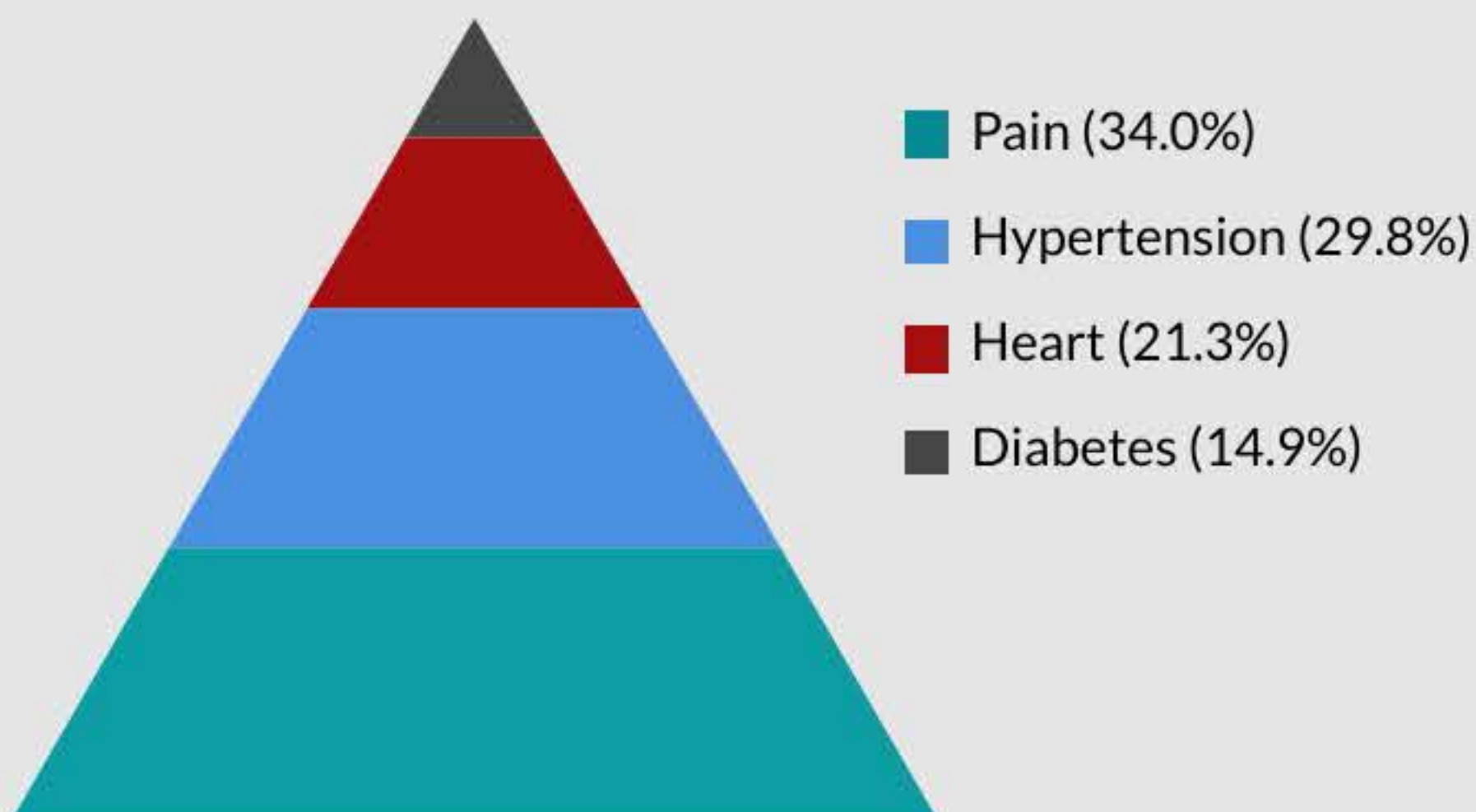
White (85.3%)  
African American/Black (14.8%)

Highest Level of Education

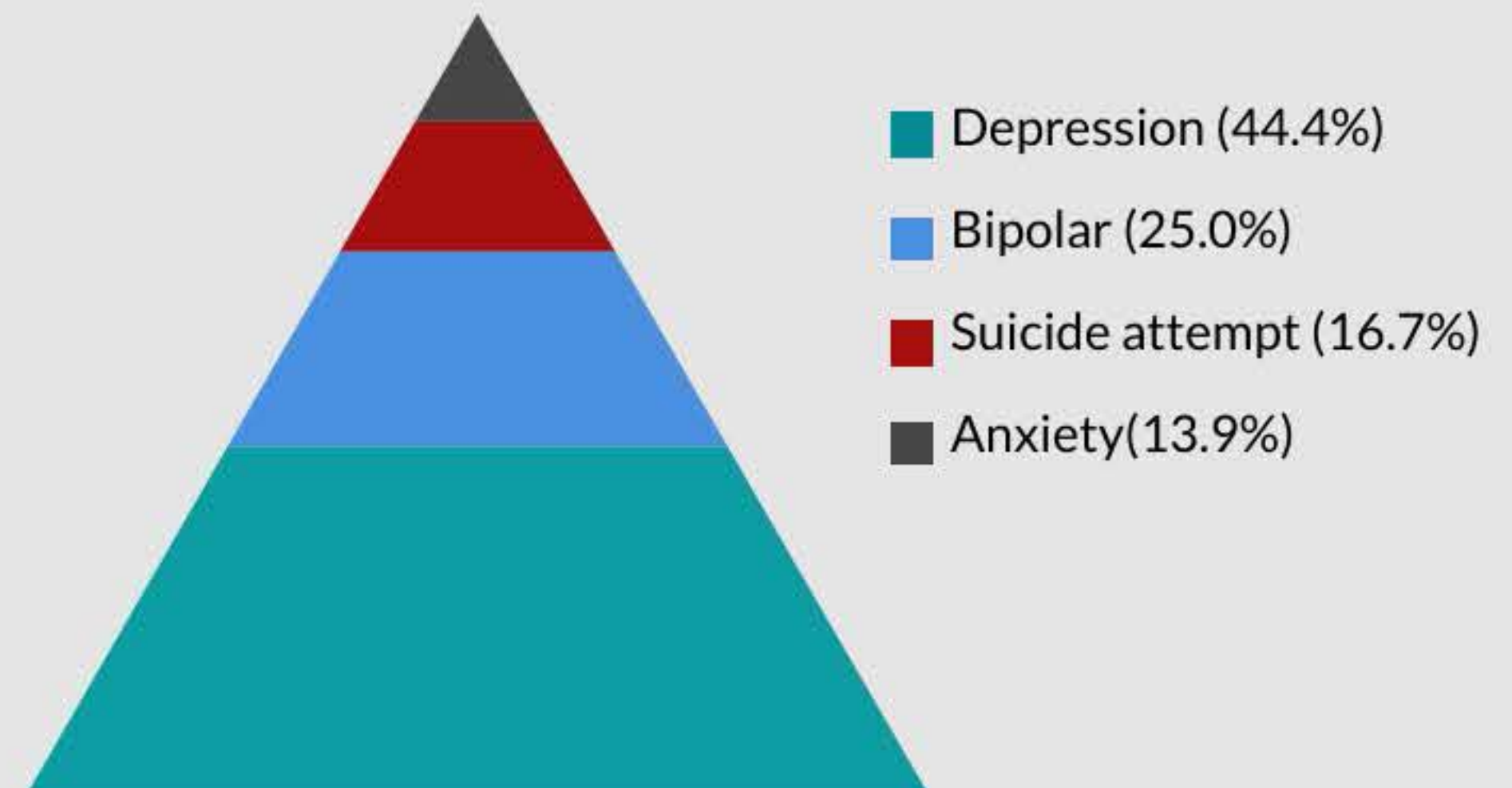


## Health Factors

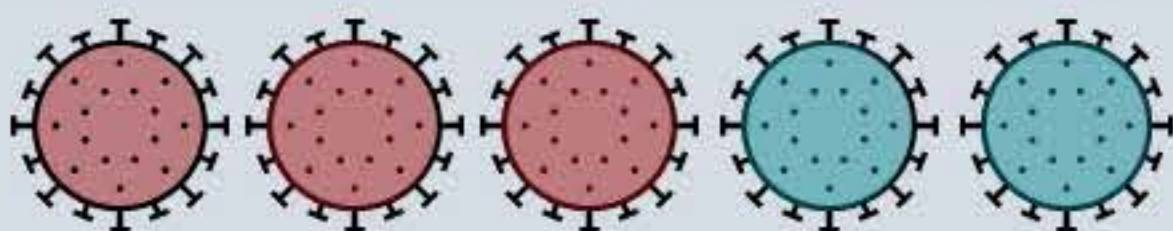
Most common ailments\*



Most common mental illnesses\*



\*A decedent may be represented in more than one category



**5 decedents were Hepatitis C positive, at least three had **untreated** Hepatitis C**



**4 of these decedents were known to use drugs intravenously**



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## Social Factors



Decedent was experiencing homelessness at time of death (7%)





Decedent was a veteran (7%)





Decedent has been incarcerated (30%)

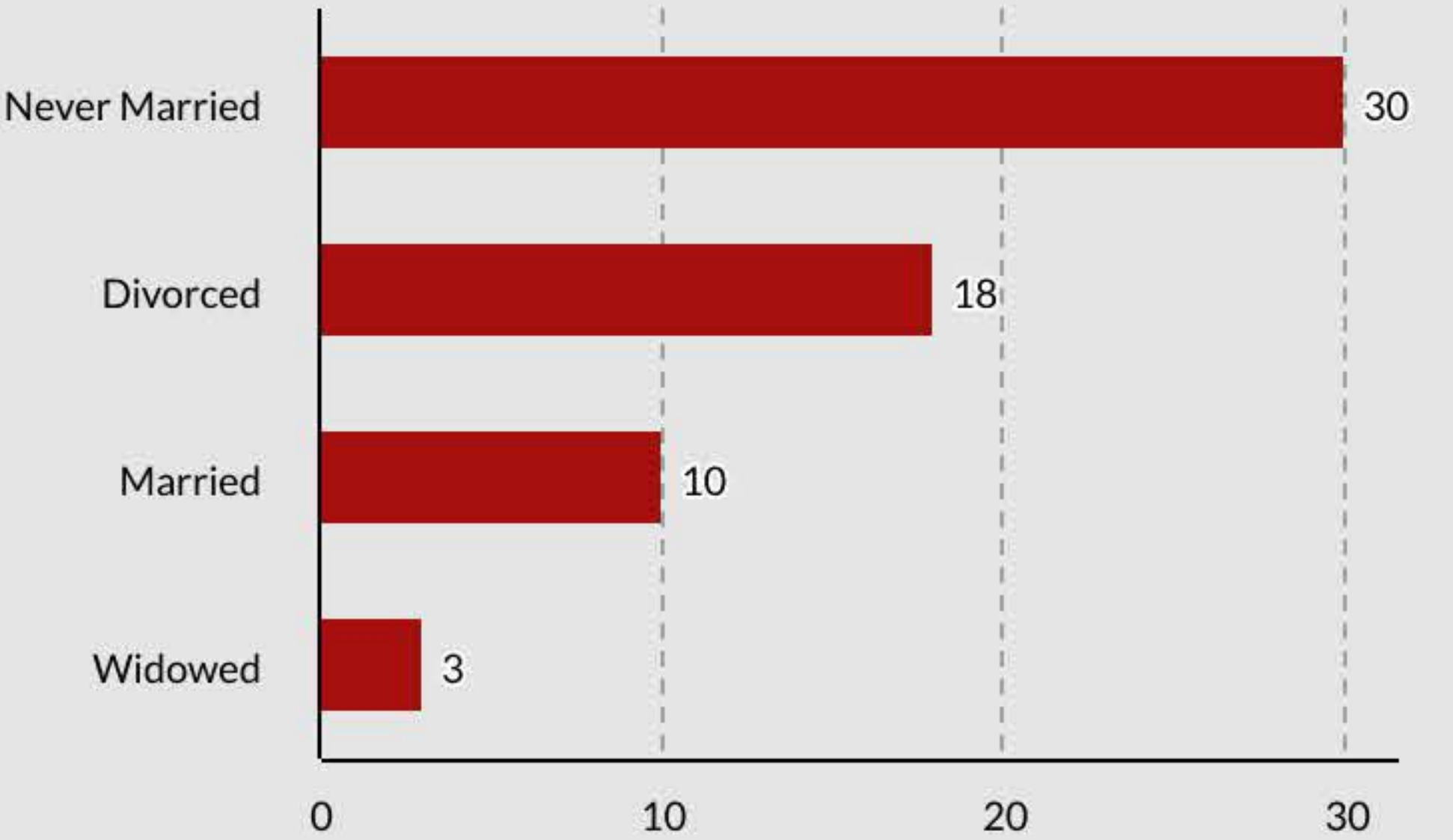




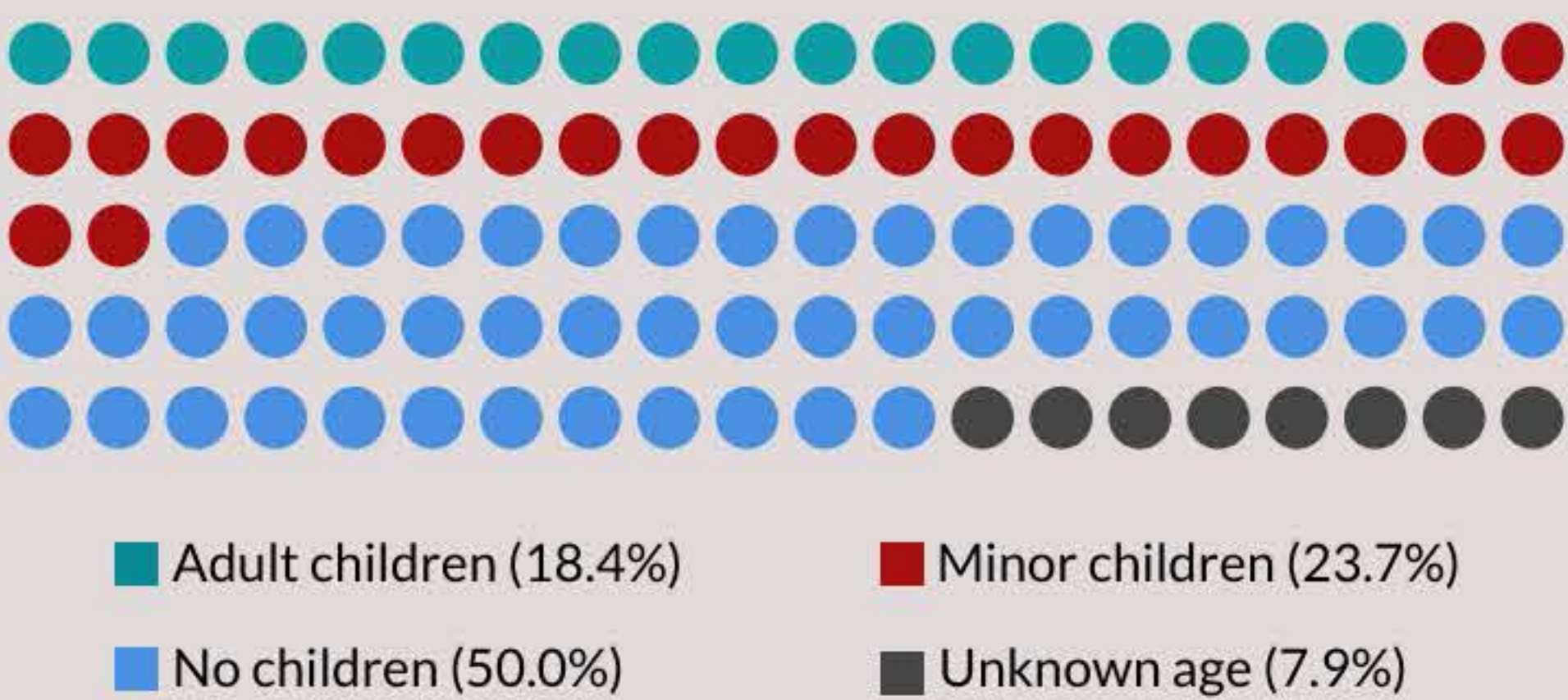
Incarcerated decedents were released in past 2 months (28%)



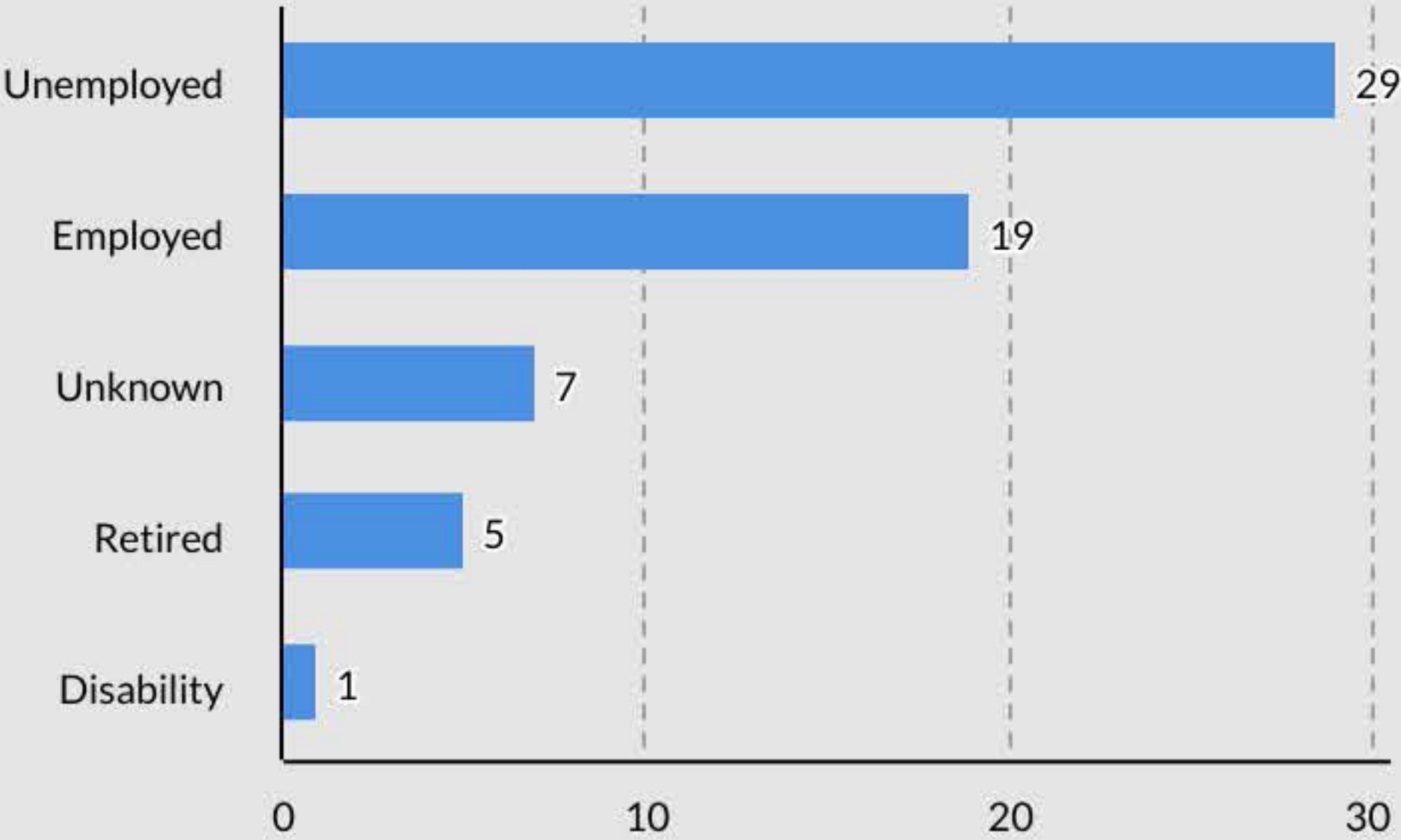
Decedent's marital status



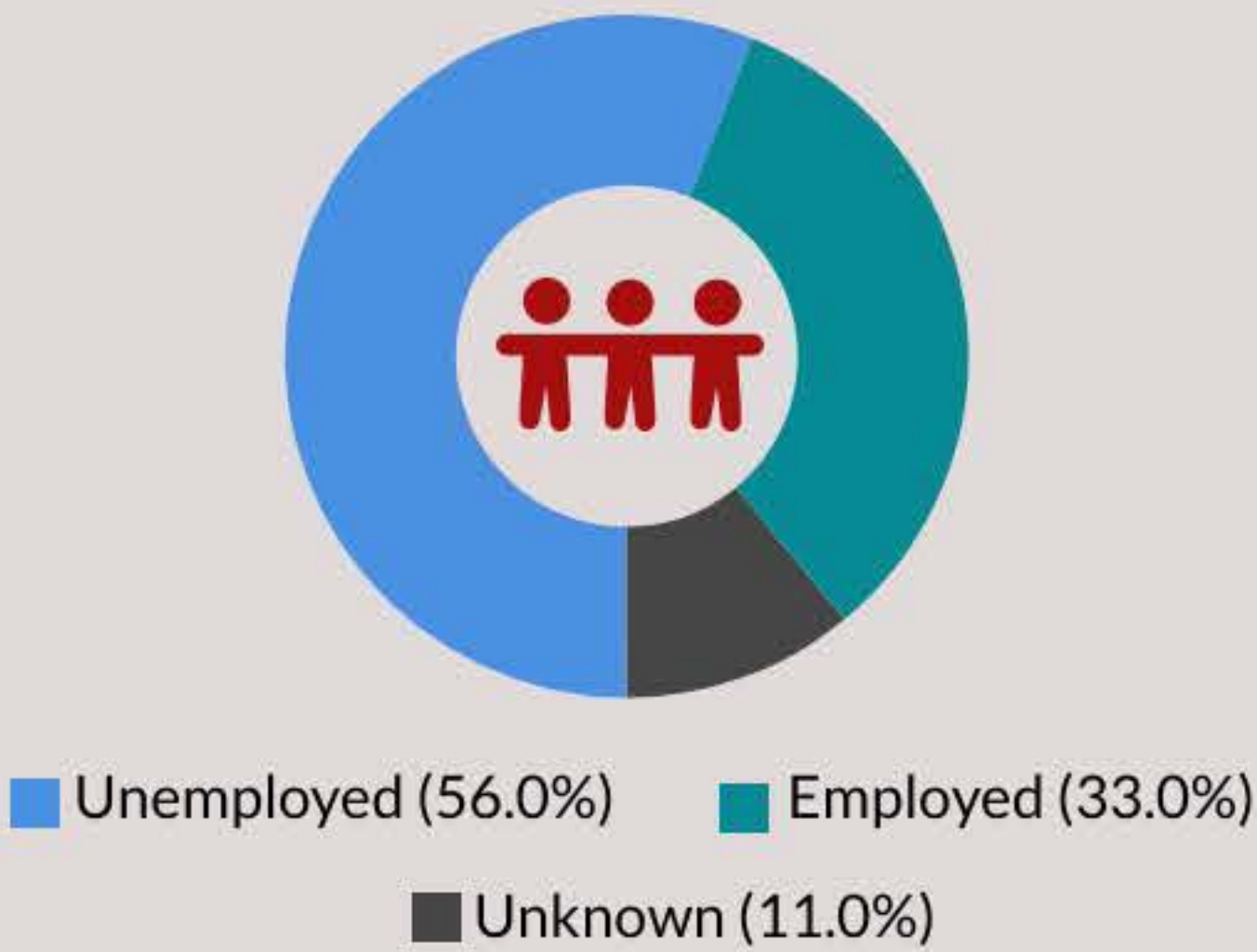
Decedent's child status



Decedent's employment status



Employment status of those with minor children



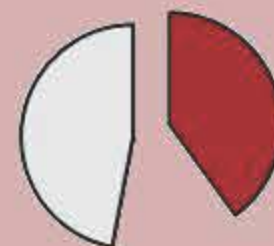


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## Decedent's Drug History

**At least 87%** of decedents were known to use or abuse drugs



**At least 46%** of those decedents used their drugs intravenously



**R<sub>x</sub>**

**At least 38%** of decedents were prescribed an opioid in the past 2 years



**At least 33%** of those decedent's drug use started from the prescribed opioid

**At least 26%** of decedents have had at least one overdose before their fatal overdose



**At least 69%** of those decedents have had 2 or more overdoses before their fatal overdose



Decedent's typical drug of choice:

**44%**

HEROIN

**18%**

COCAINE

**16%**

METHAMPHETAMINE

Been to a rehabilitation clinic at least one time

**33%**

Recently sober in the past 6 months

**39%**



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## Death Scene Findings



64%

Died at their residence



28%

Died in their bed



44%

Died on the floor



62%

were dead upon EMS arrival



85%

Used the fatal drug alone



**Syringes and suspected illicit drugs** were the most common paraphernalia found on scene



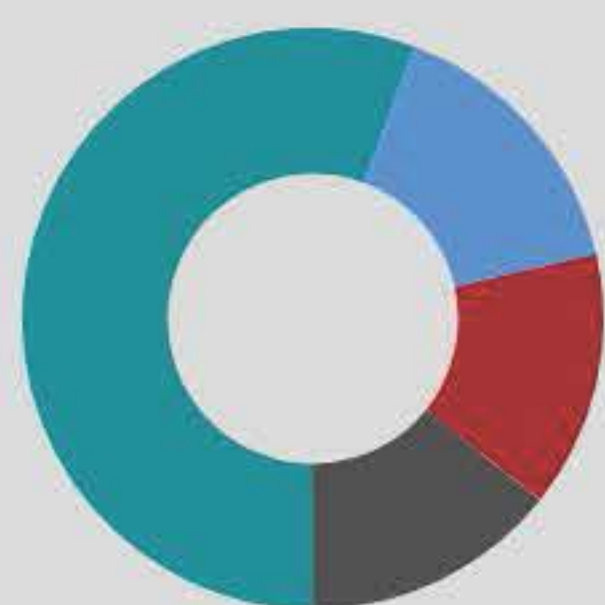
28%

Were given Narcan



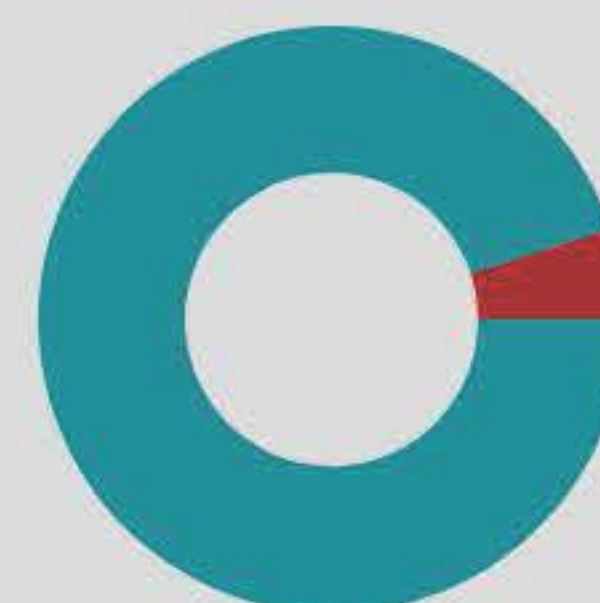
## Autopsy and Toxicology Results

### Drugs Found in Toxicology Results



Fentanyl (55.7%) Cocaine (15.7%)  
Methamphetamine (14.3%) Heroin (14.3%)

### Manner of Death



Accident (95.0%) Suicide (5.0%)

## Highlights

4-ANPP is a metabolite of fentanyl that most commonly shows up in toxicology screenings when the fentanyl is manufactured illegally. It can also show up with legally manufactured fentanyl if the blood has had a long enough drug exposure.

4-ANPP showed up in 28 toxicology results of decedents who used fentanyl



This indicates that approximately 28 decedents used fentanyl illegally manufactured



4-ANPP did not show up in 11 toxicology results of decedents who used fentanyl



This indicates that approximately 11 decedents used fentanyl legally manufactured

Decedents who were recently sober and relapse may be more likely to overdose because



They purchased drugs from a new dealer who may not be testing their product for unwanted drugs such as fentanyl<sup>1</sup>

They have a lower drug tolerance<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Brinkley-Rubinstein, L., Macmadu, A., Marshall, B. D., Heise, A., Ranapurwala, S. I., Rich, J. D., & Green, T. C. (2018). Risk of fentanyl-involved overdose among those with past year incarceration: findings from a recent outbreak in 2014 and 2015. *Drug and alcohol dependence*, 185, 189-191.  
<sup>2</sup>Binswanger, I. A., Nowels, C., Corsi, K. F., Glanz, J., Long, J., Booth, R. E., & Steiner, J. F. (2012). Return to drug use and overdose after release from prison: a qualitative study of risk and protective factors. *Addiction science & clinical practice*, 7(1), 3.