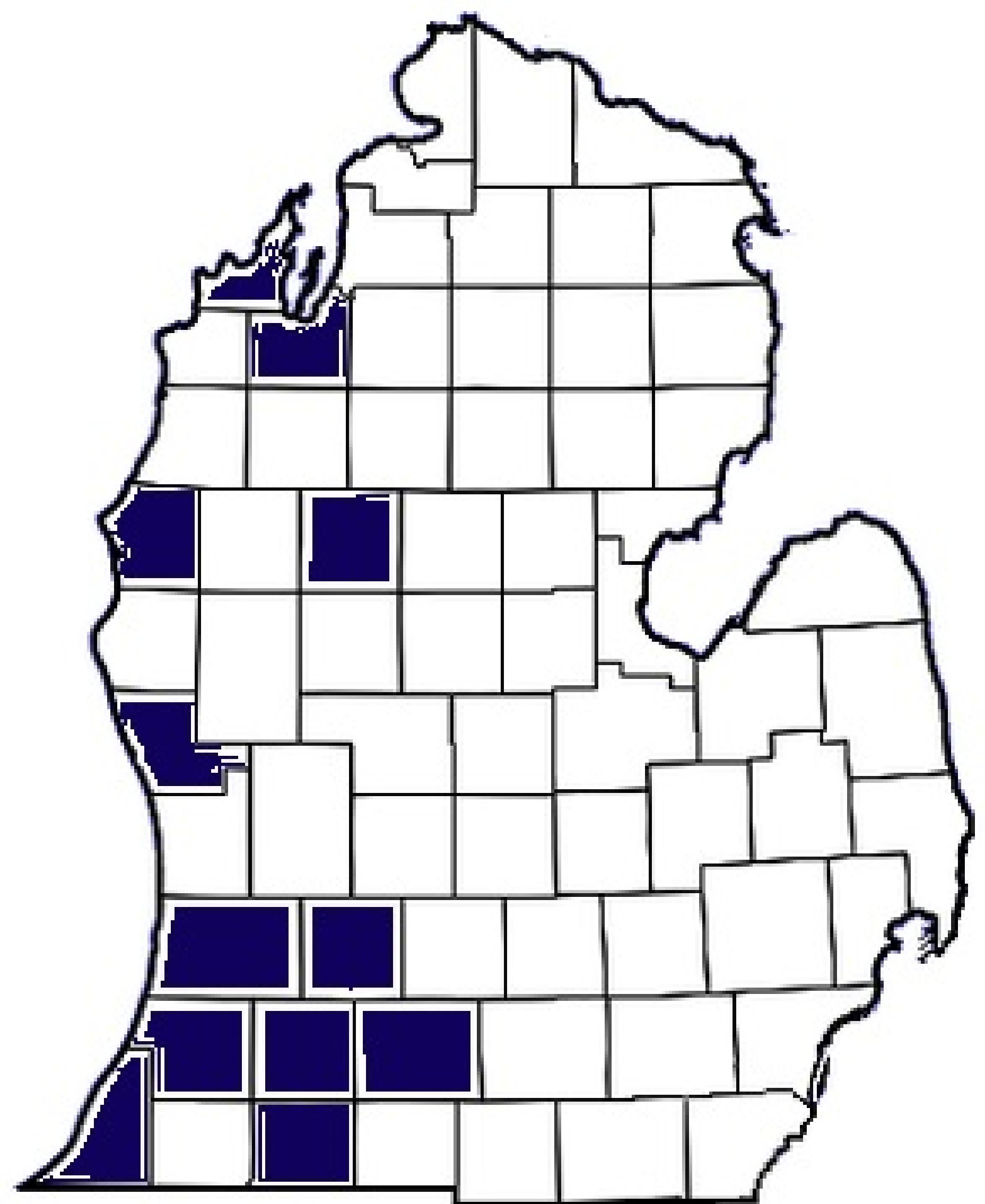


Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

Medical Examiner Office

Counties covered in this report:

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



Purpose:

This data was collected from 12 counties served by the Office of the Medical Examiner in the Department of Pathology at WMed. Data 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.

Sections with the following headings are approximations and frequencies may be higher than what is reported:

Health Factors, Mental Health Factors,
Social Factors, and Decedent Substance Use History.

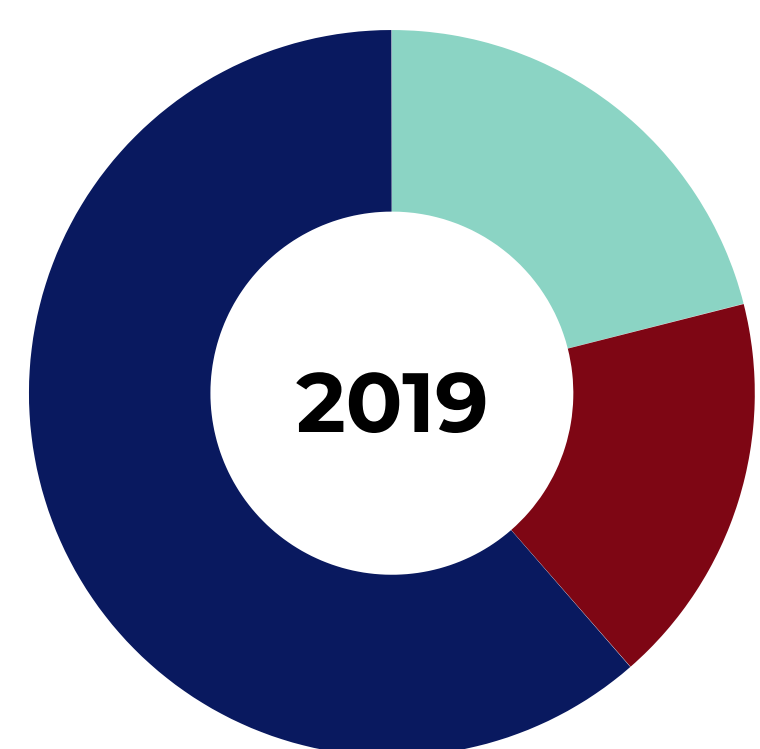
Sources: All data was extracted from a Medical Examiner database, law enforcement (LE) and EMS reports, death certificates, obituaries, STORM (Swift Toxicology of Overdose-Related Mortalities) results, toxicology reports, and autopsy reports.

Please contact Chloe Bielby for additional information at chloe.bielby@med.wmich.edu

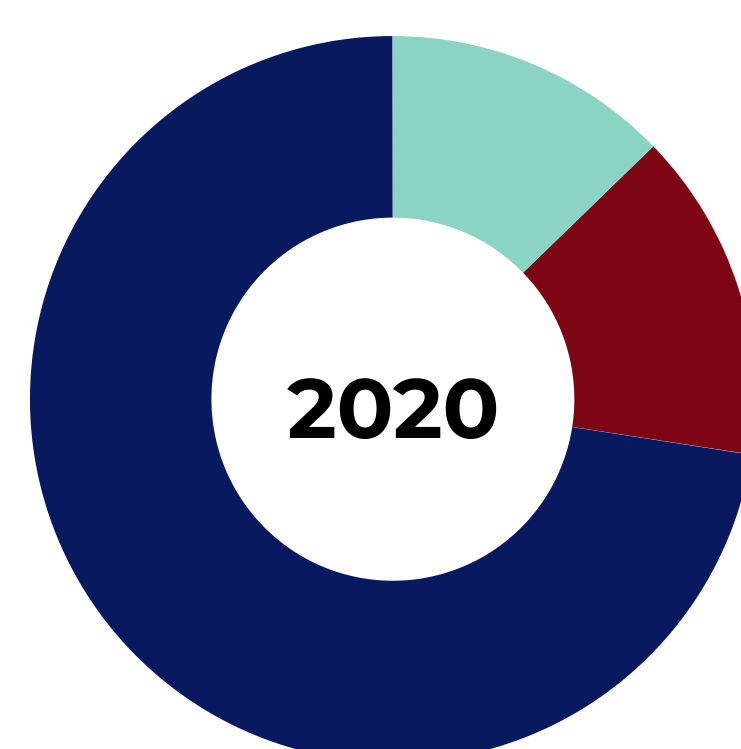
Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

Total Drug-Related Deaths

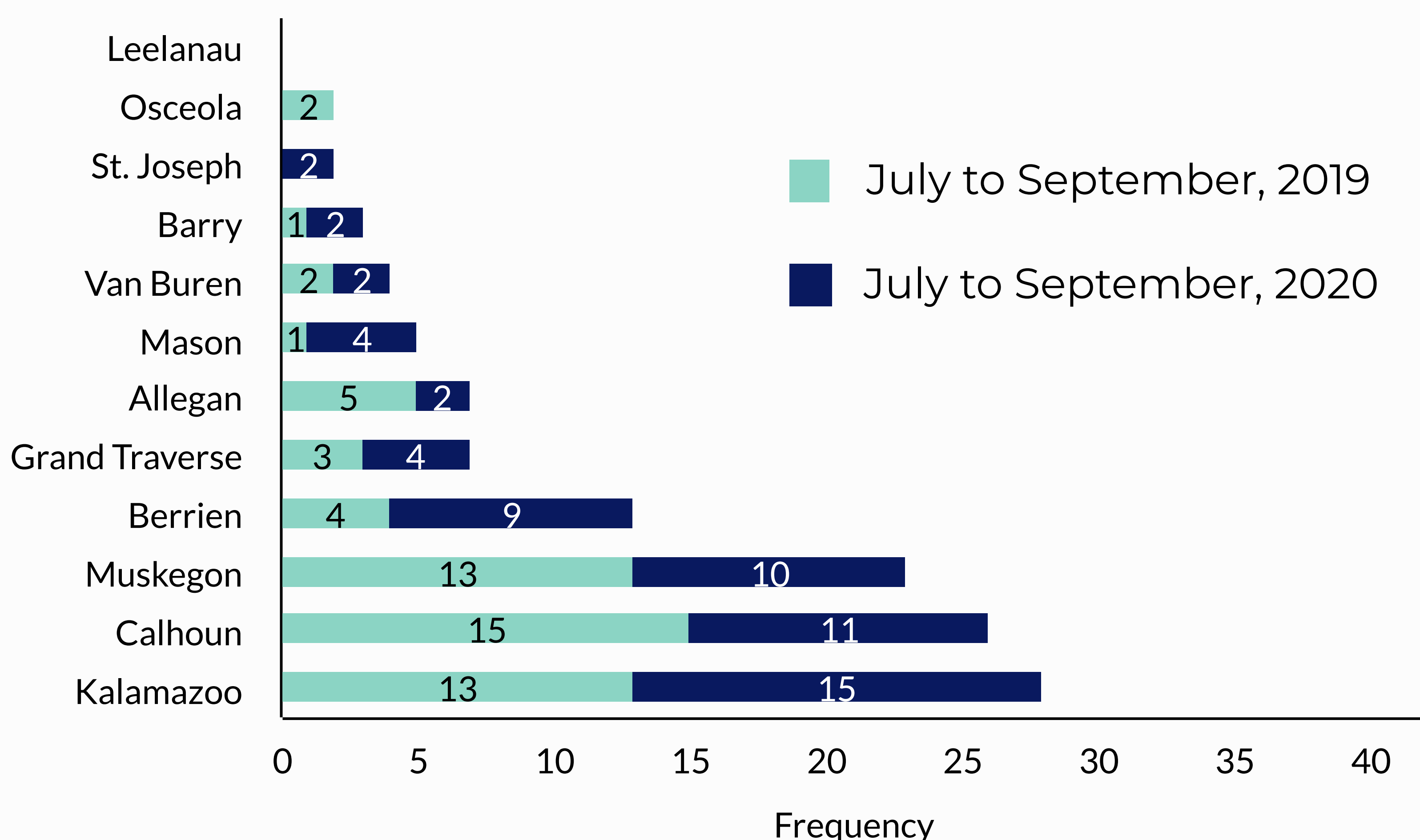


- ➔ 31 opioid and non-opioid
- ➔ 5 opioid only
- ➔ 23 non-opioid only



- ➔ 40 opioid and non-opioid
- ➔ 12 opioid only
- ➔ 9 non-opioid only

County of Death

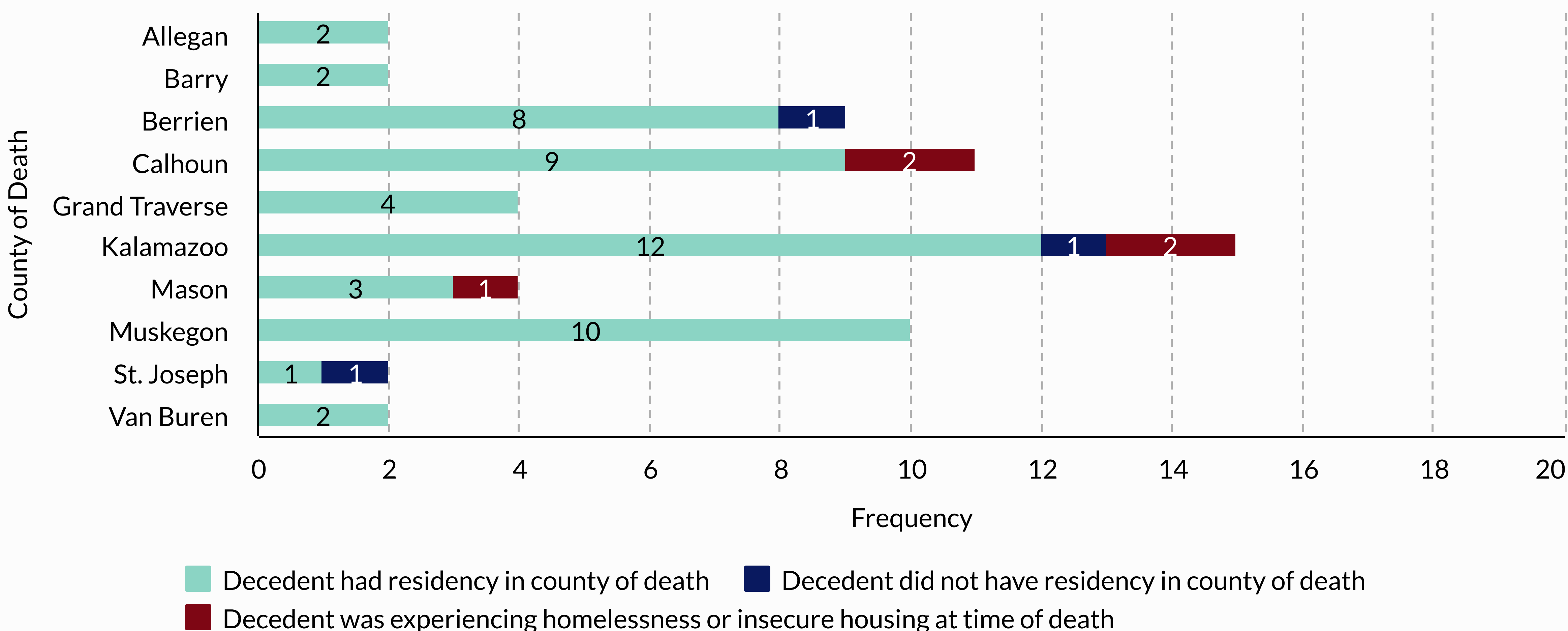


July to September, 2019
59 deaths

July to September, 2020
61 deaths

Drug-related deaths increased 3.3% from 2019 to 2020

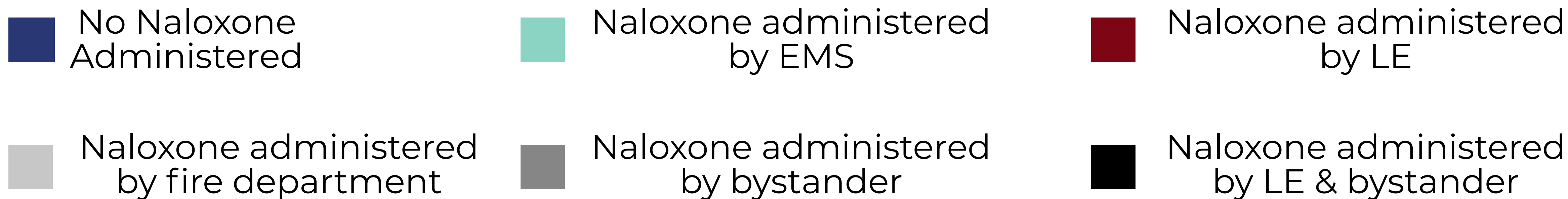
County of Residence by County of Death



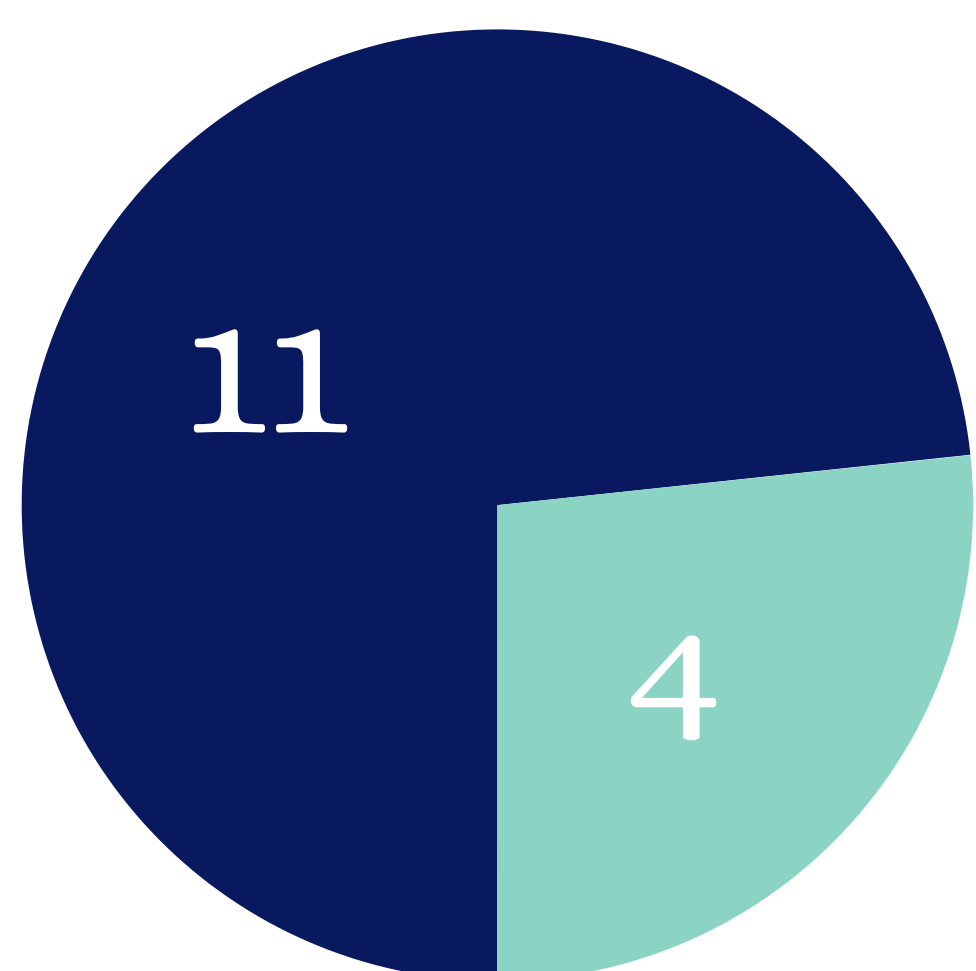
Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

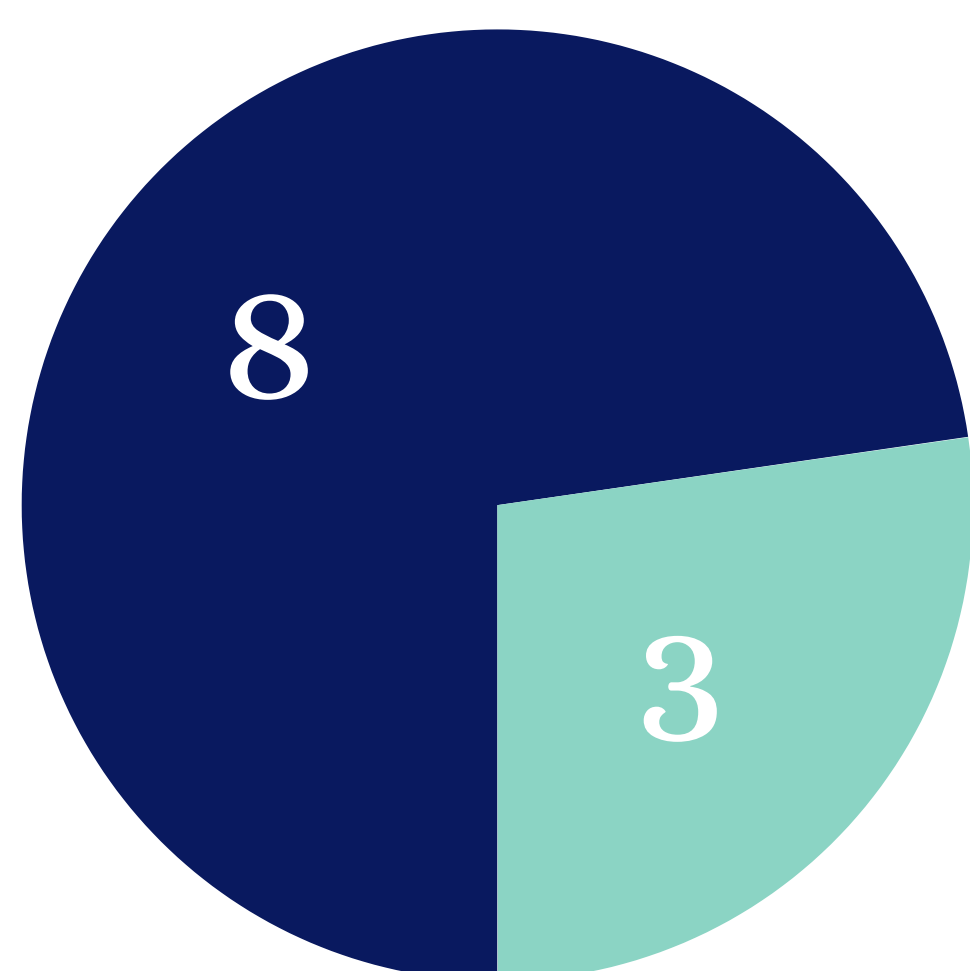
Naloxone Administration



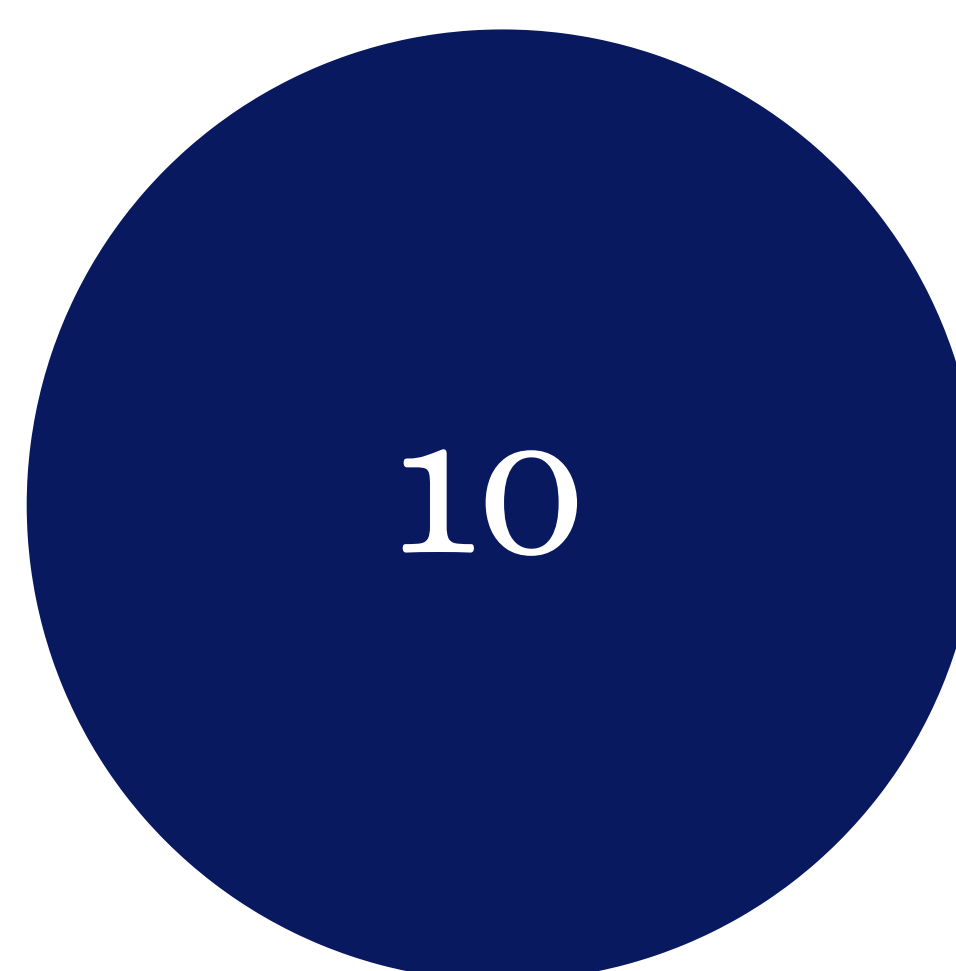
Kalamazoo (n=15)



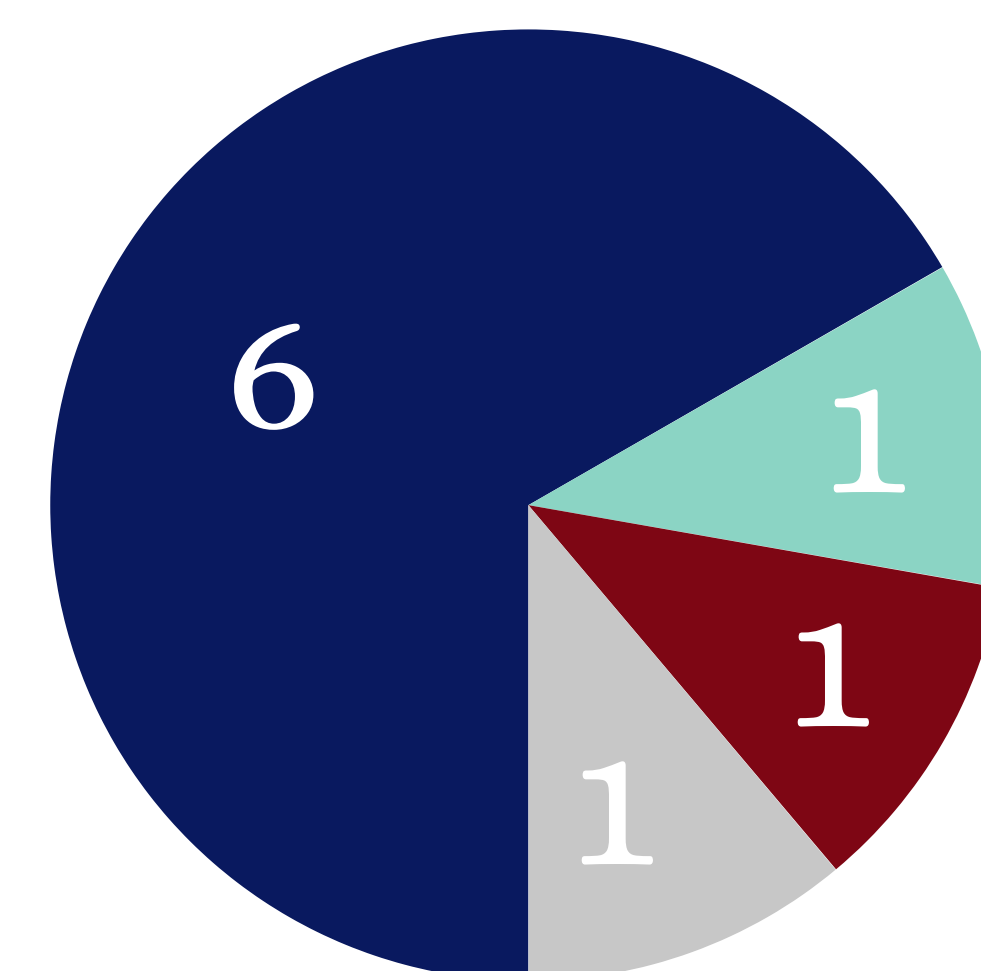
Calhoun (n=11)



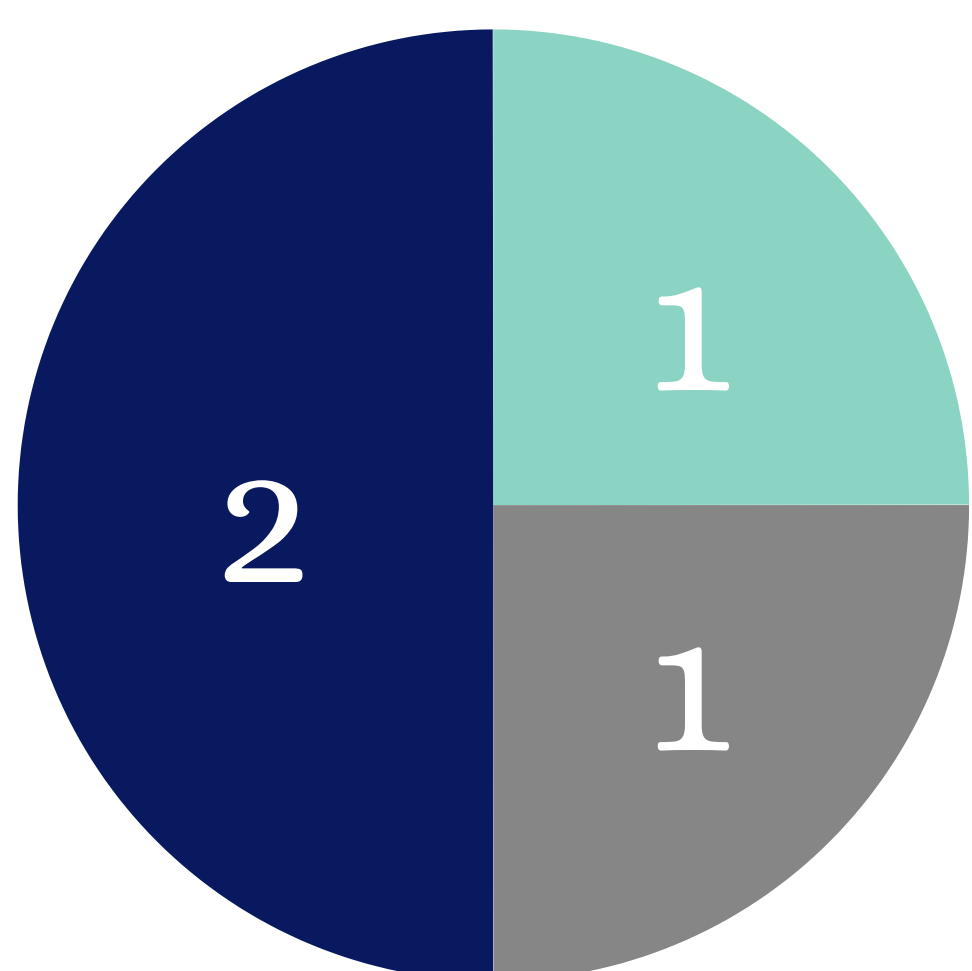
Muskegon (n=10)



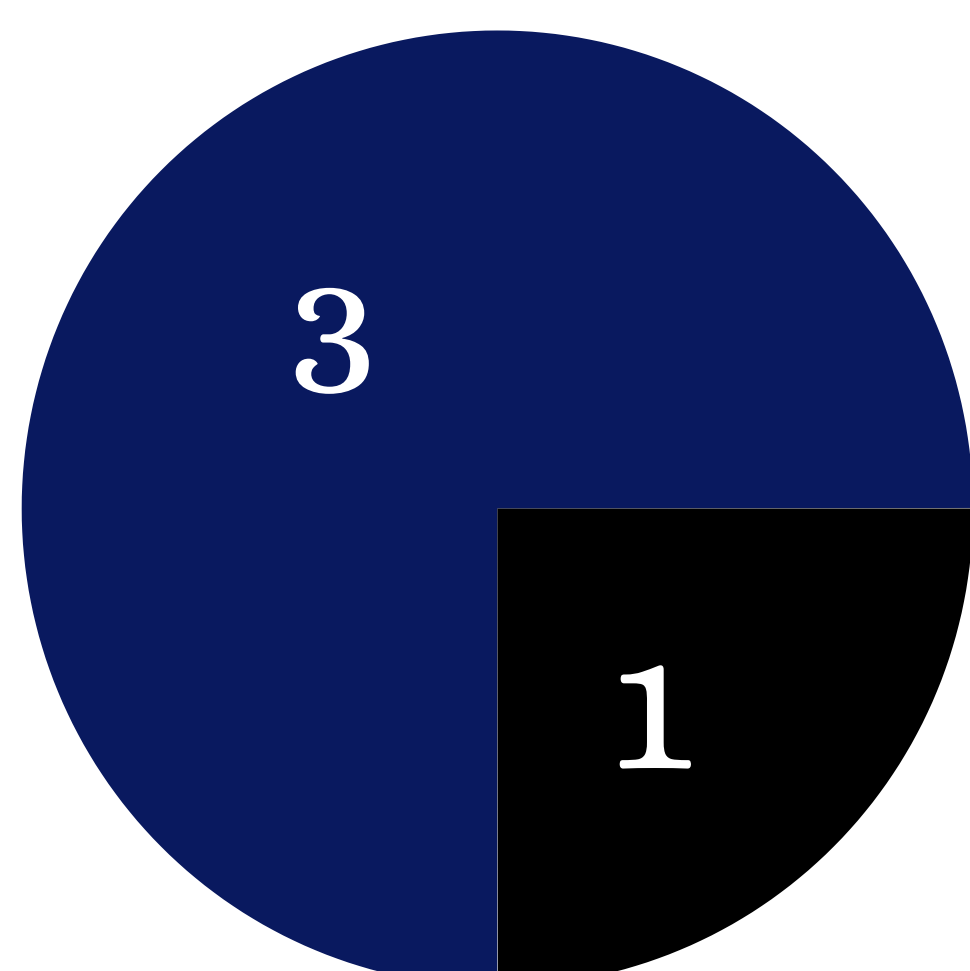
Berrien (n=9)



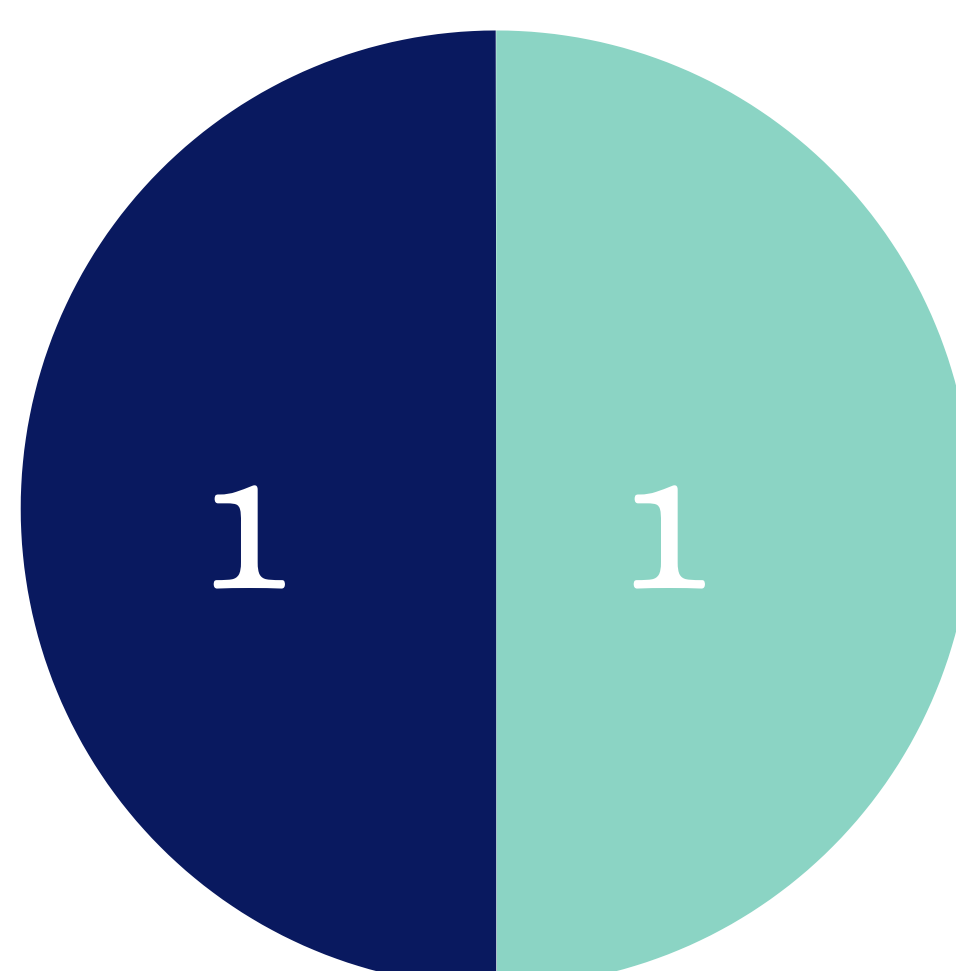
Grand Traverse (n=4)



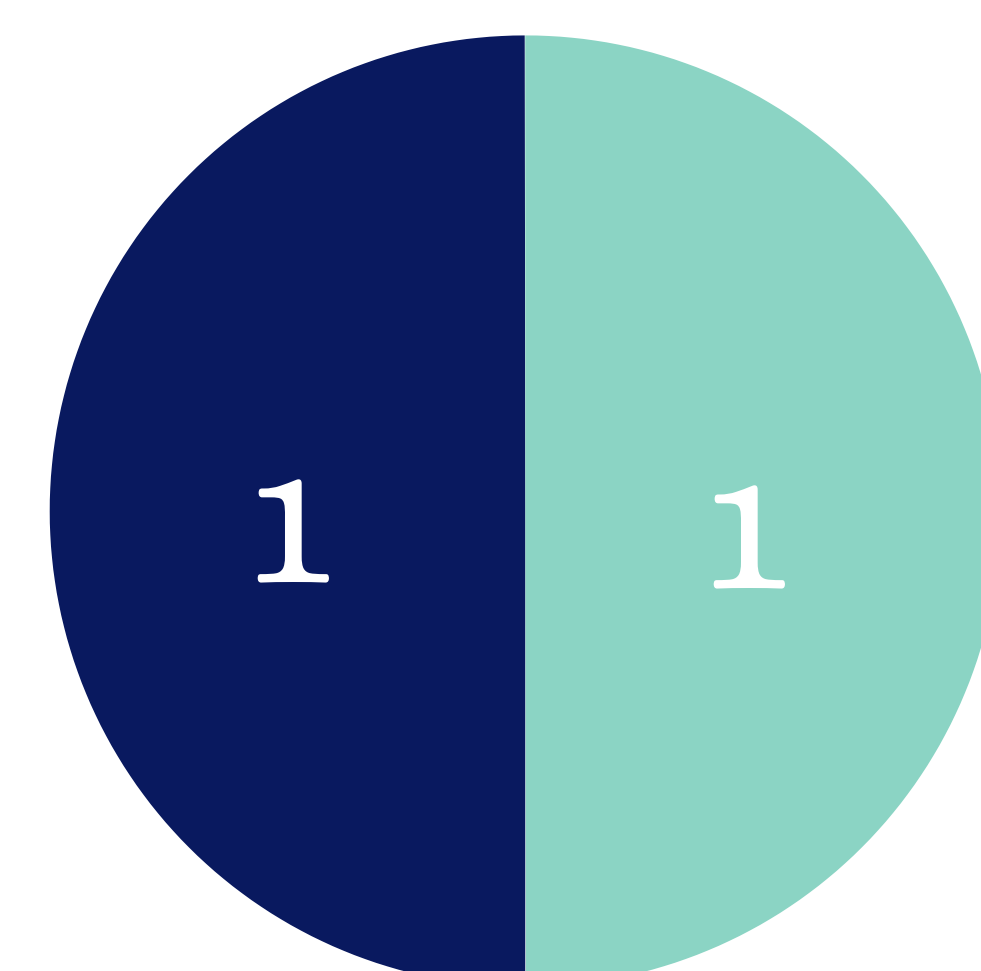
Mason (n=4)



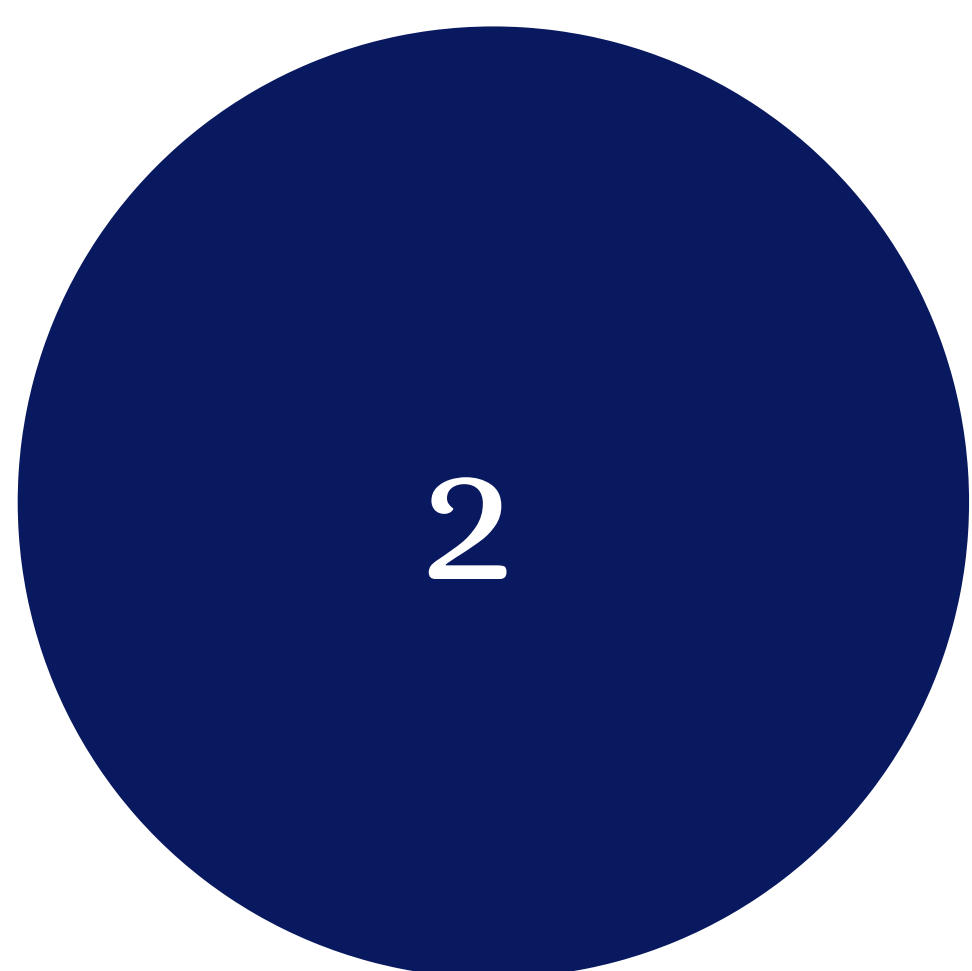
Barry (n=2)



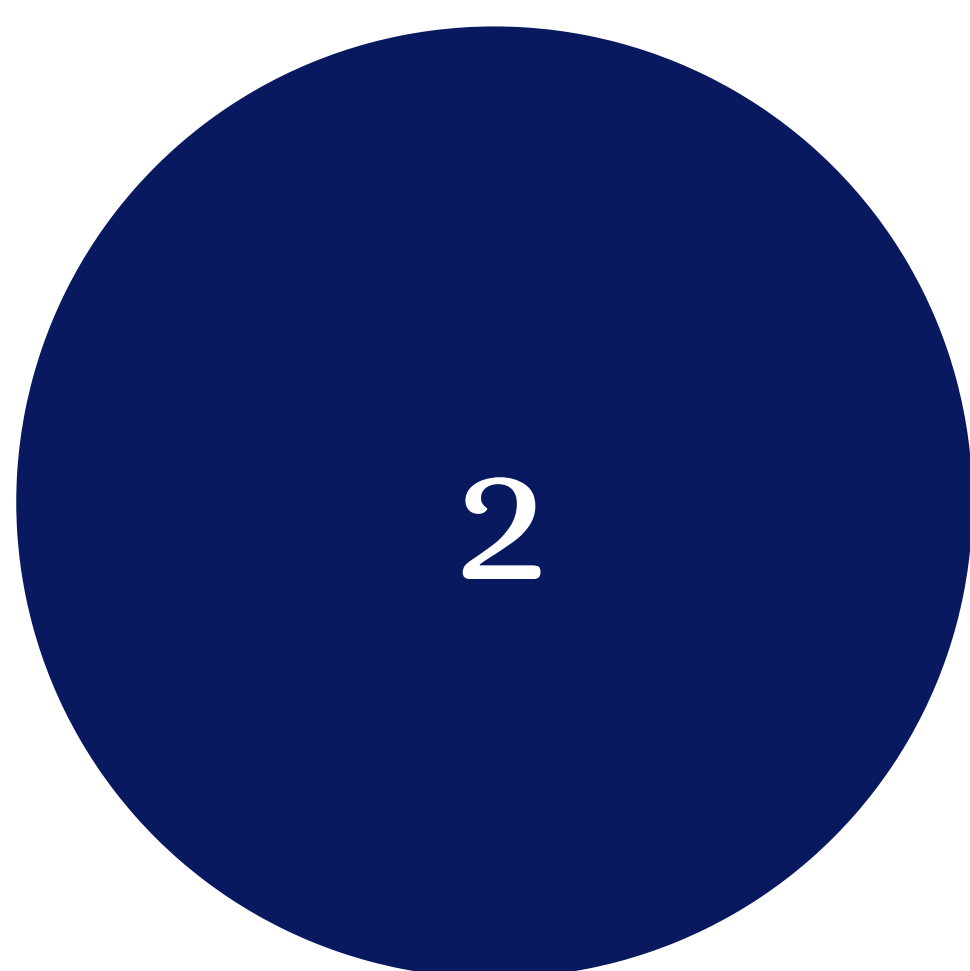
St. Joseph (n=2)



Allegan (n=2)



Van Buren (n=2)



Leelanau (n=0)



Osceola (n=0)



Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

Demographics

Sex

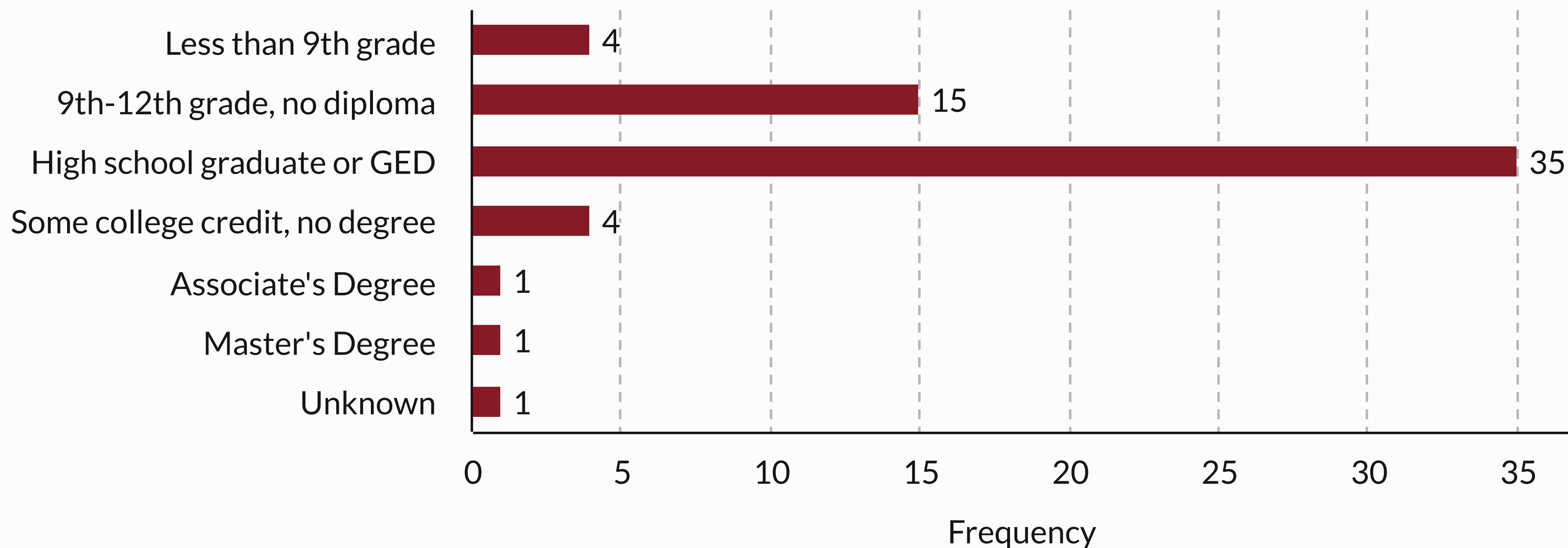


72%

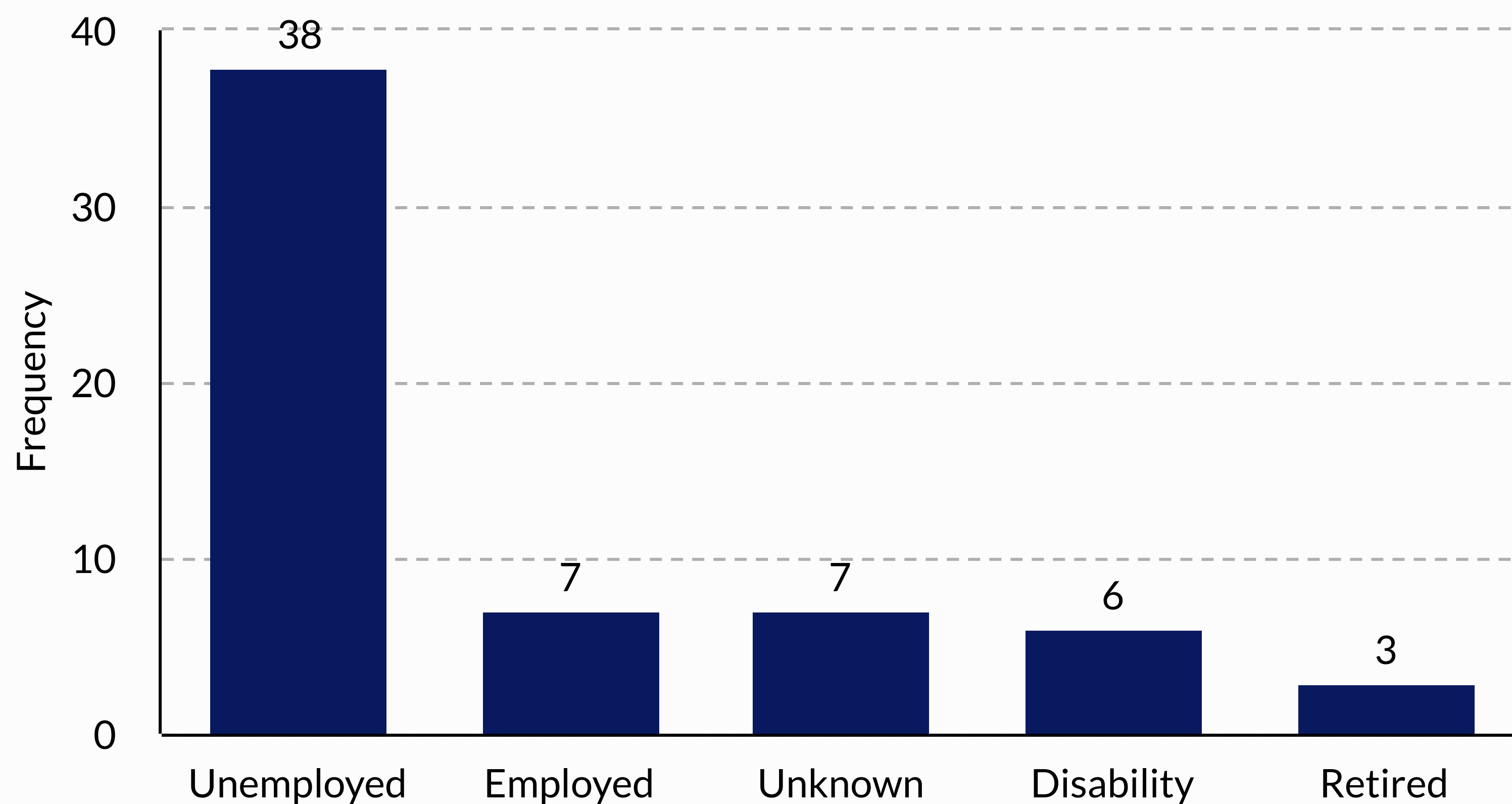


28%

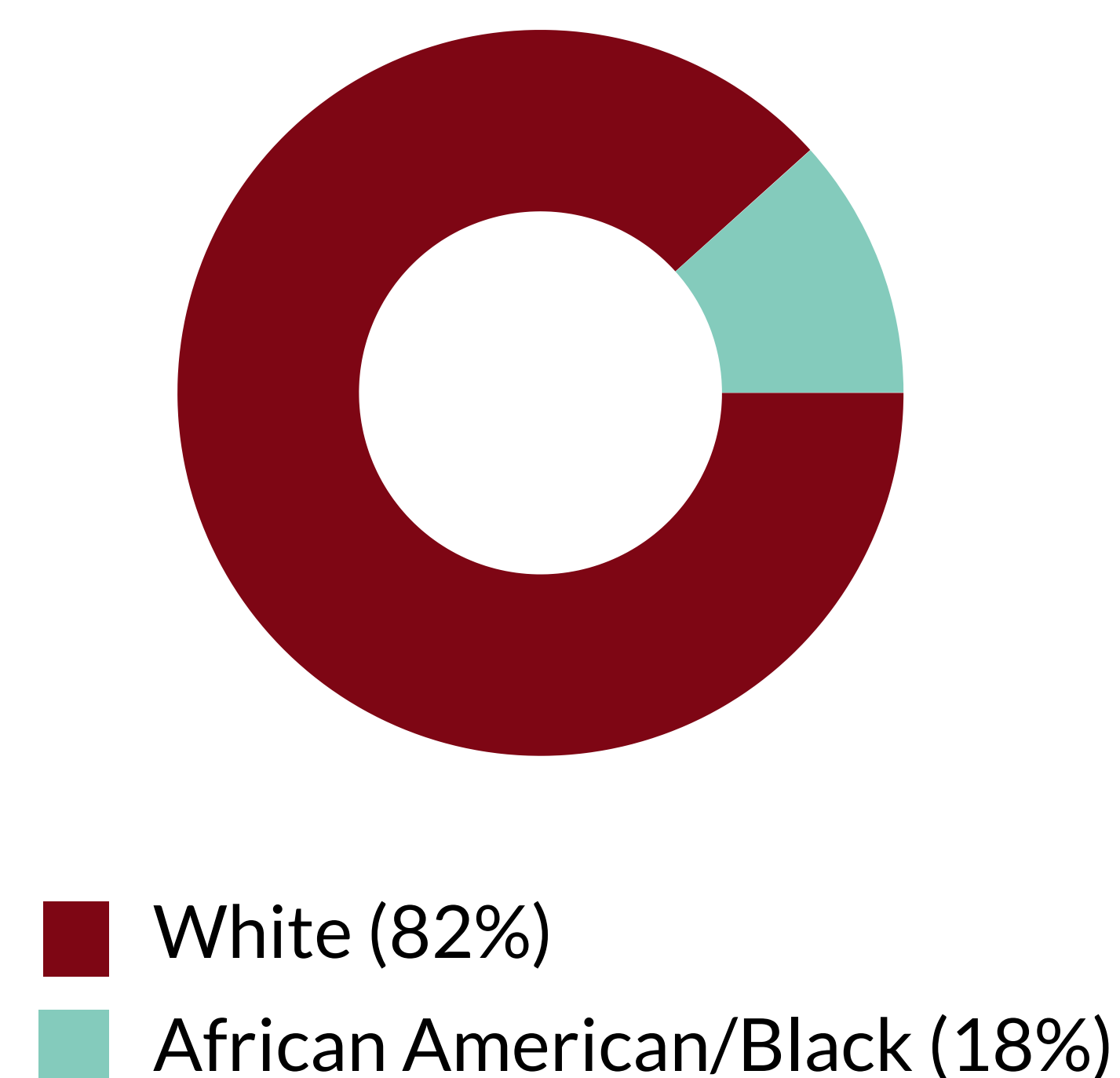
Decedent's Highest Level of Education



Decedent's Employment Status



Race



Age

Minimum Age

18 years

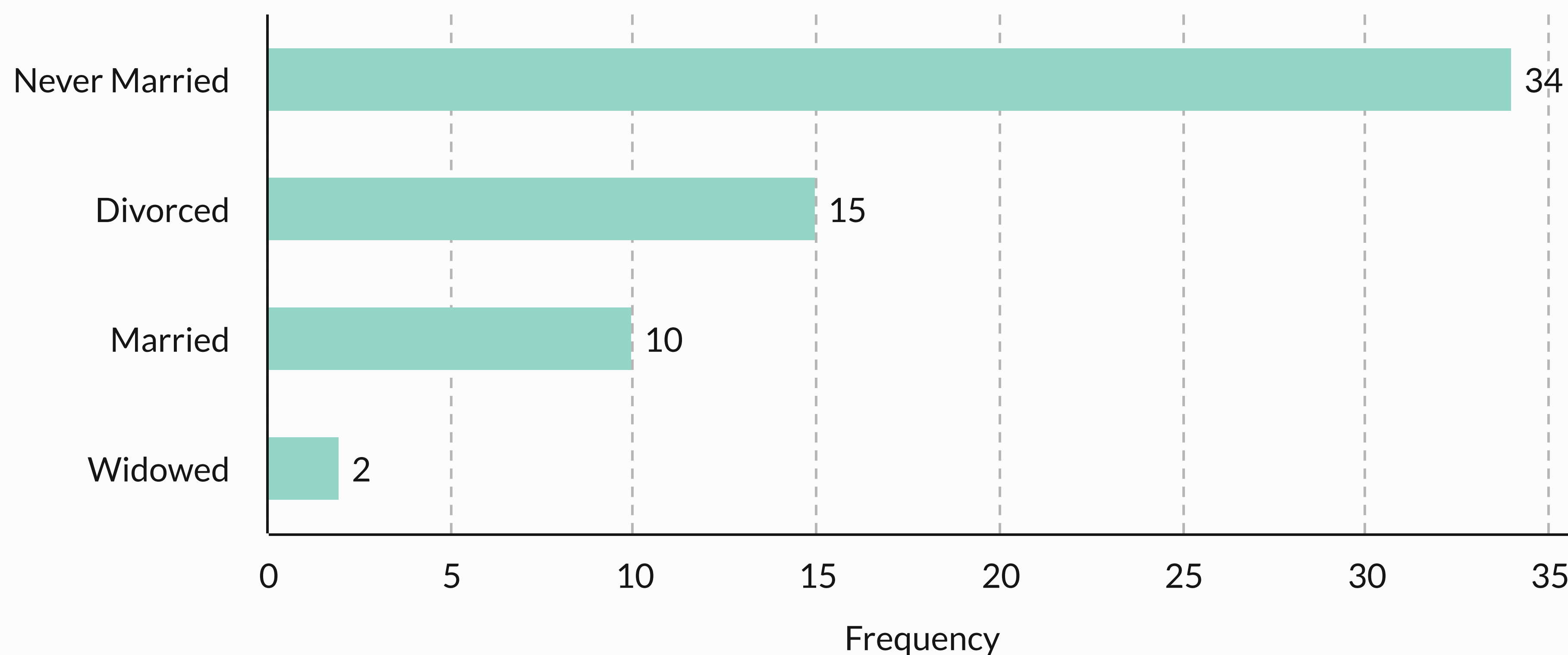
Maximum Age

88 years

Average Age

46 years

Decedent's Marital Status

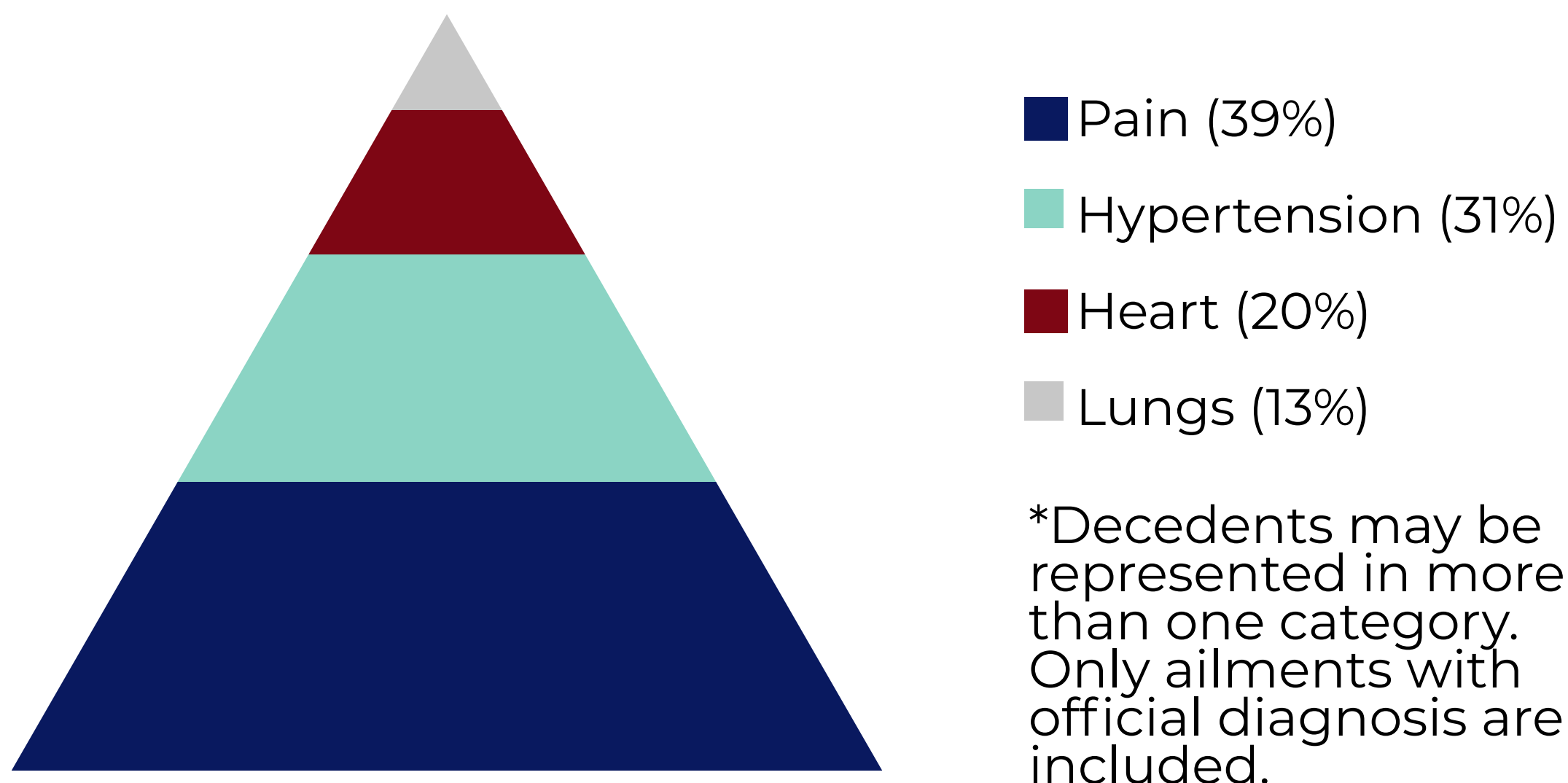


Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

Health Factors

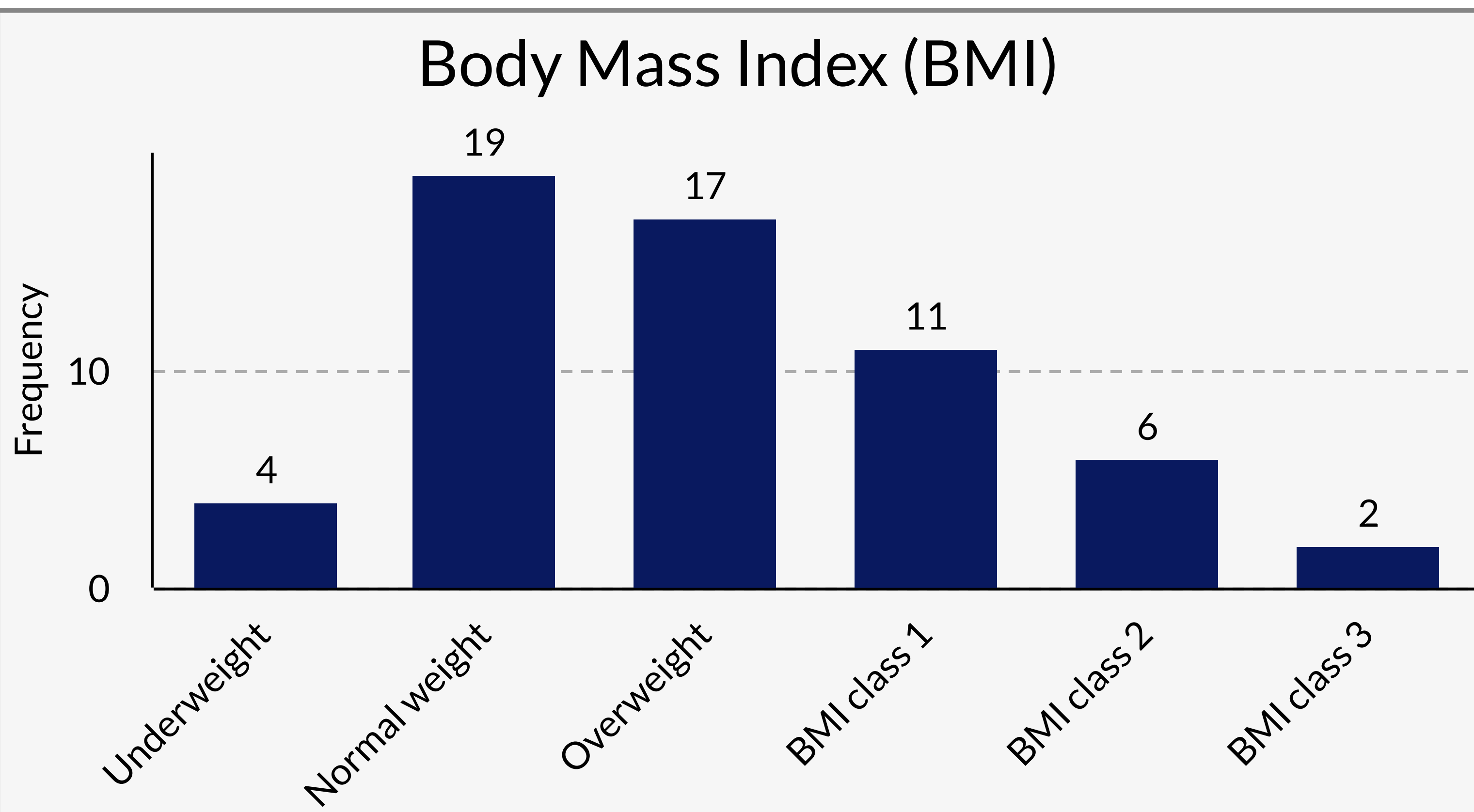
Most common ailments*



At least 11 decedents were Hepatitis C positive

8 of these decedents were known to use drugs intravenously

At least 10 decedents had untreated Hepatitis C



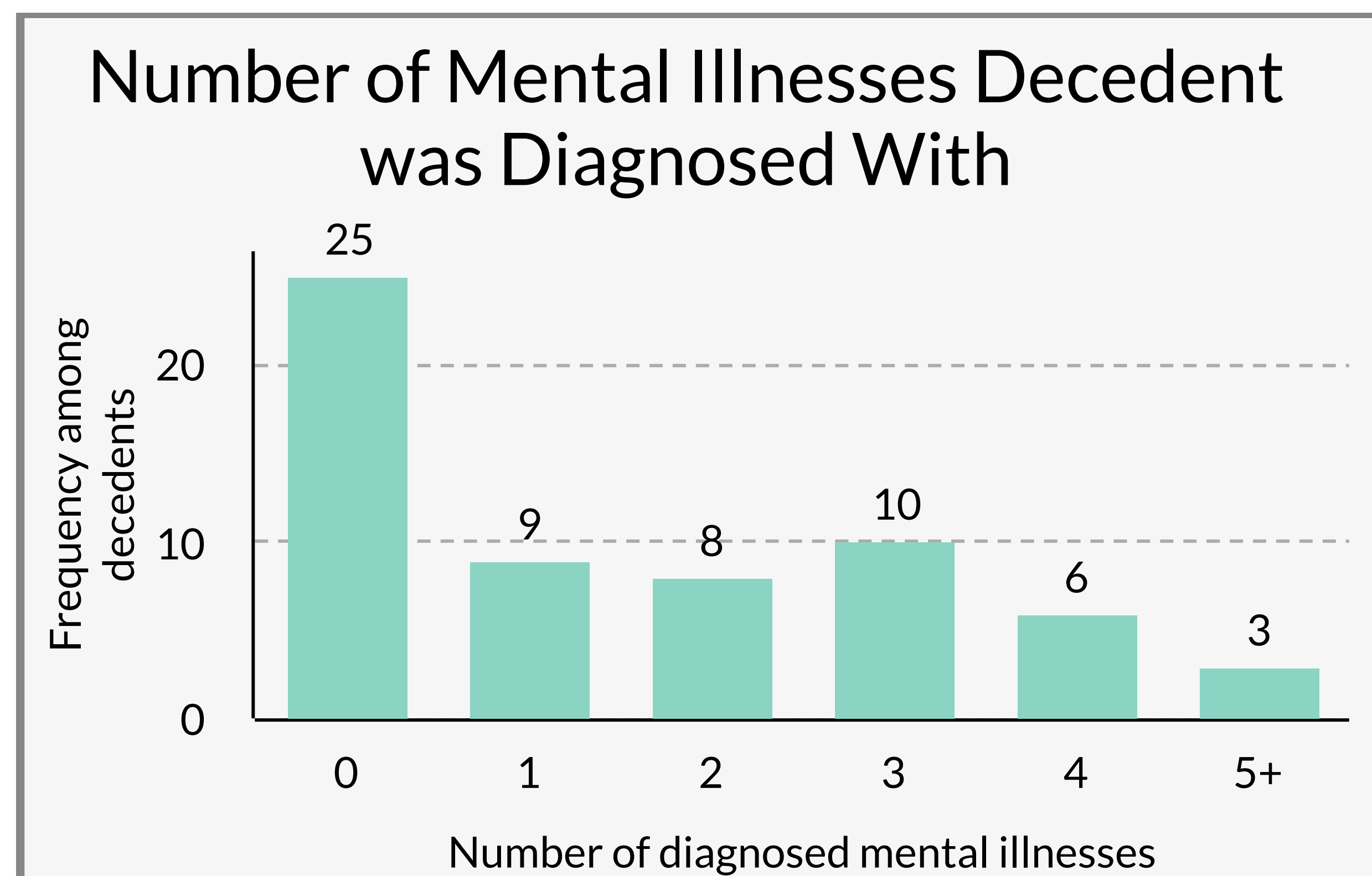
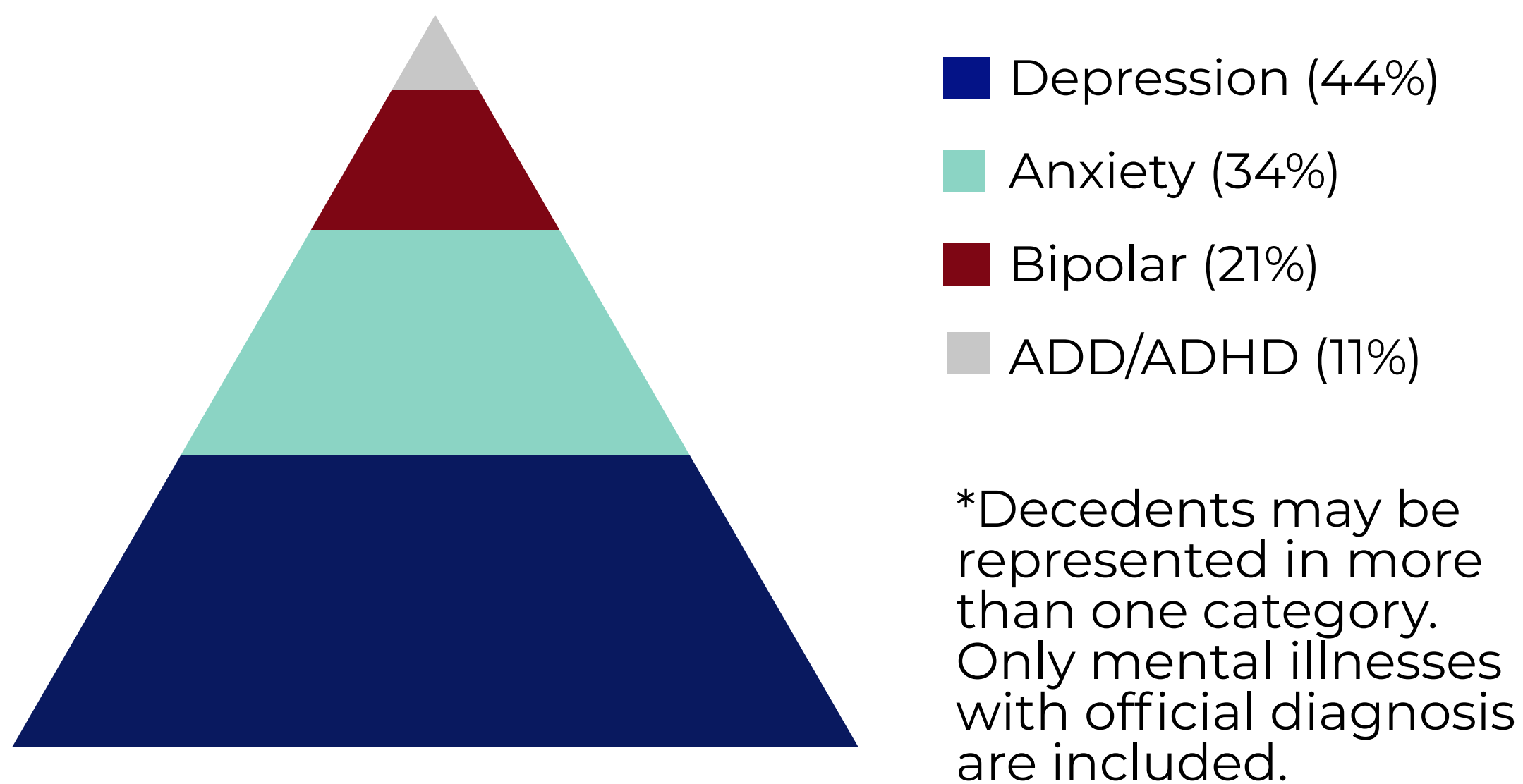
Decedent used tobacco **75%+**

Decedent drank alcohol **44%+**

Decedent had a PCP **56%**

Mental Health Factors

Most common mental illnesses*



Percentage of decedents who have ever had **suicidal ideation** **10%**

Percentage of decedents with **previous suicide attempts** **8%**

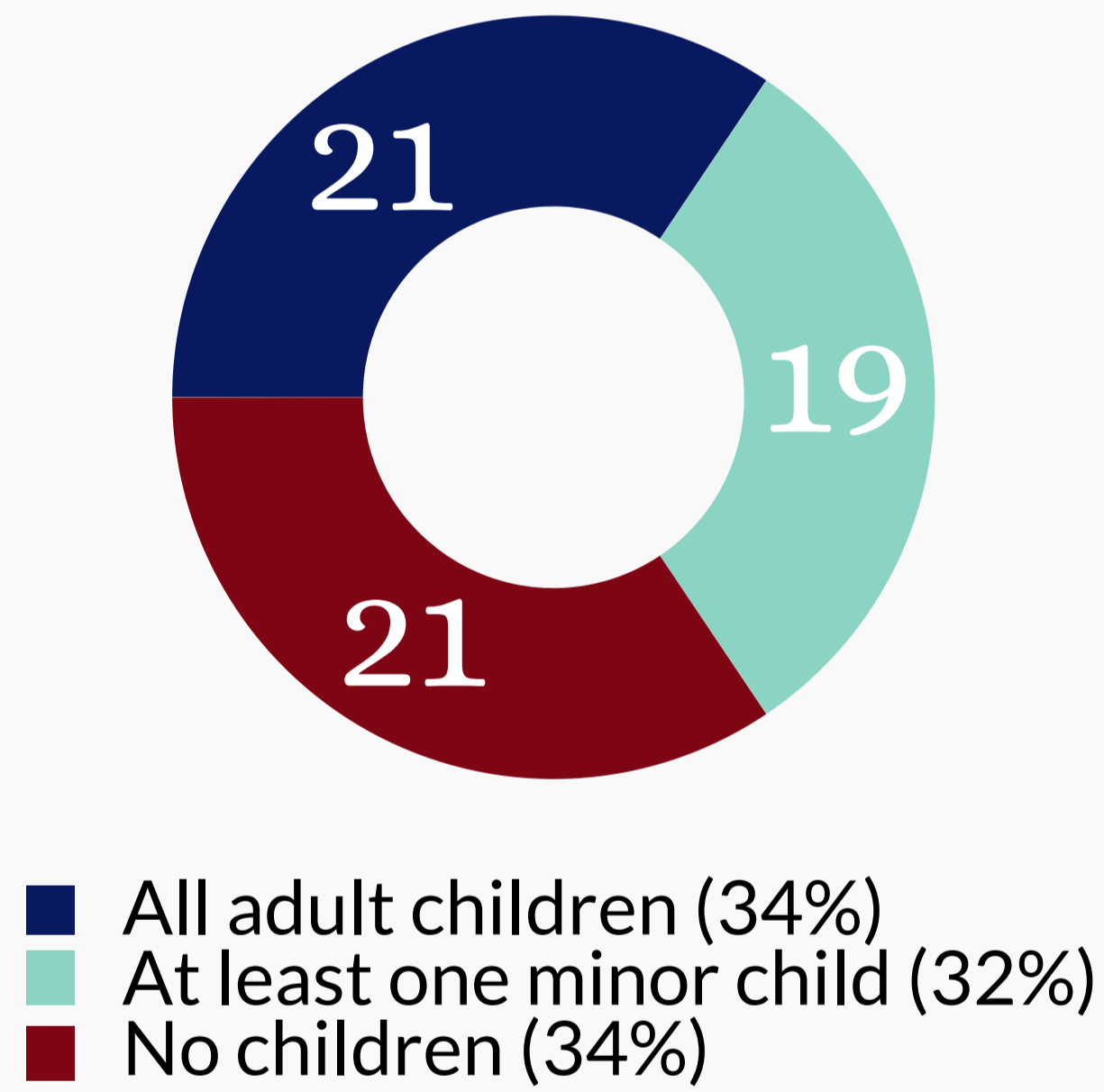
Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

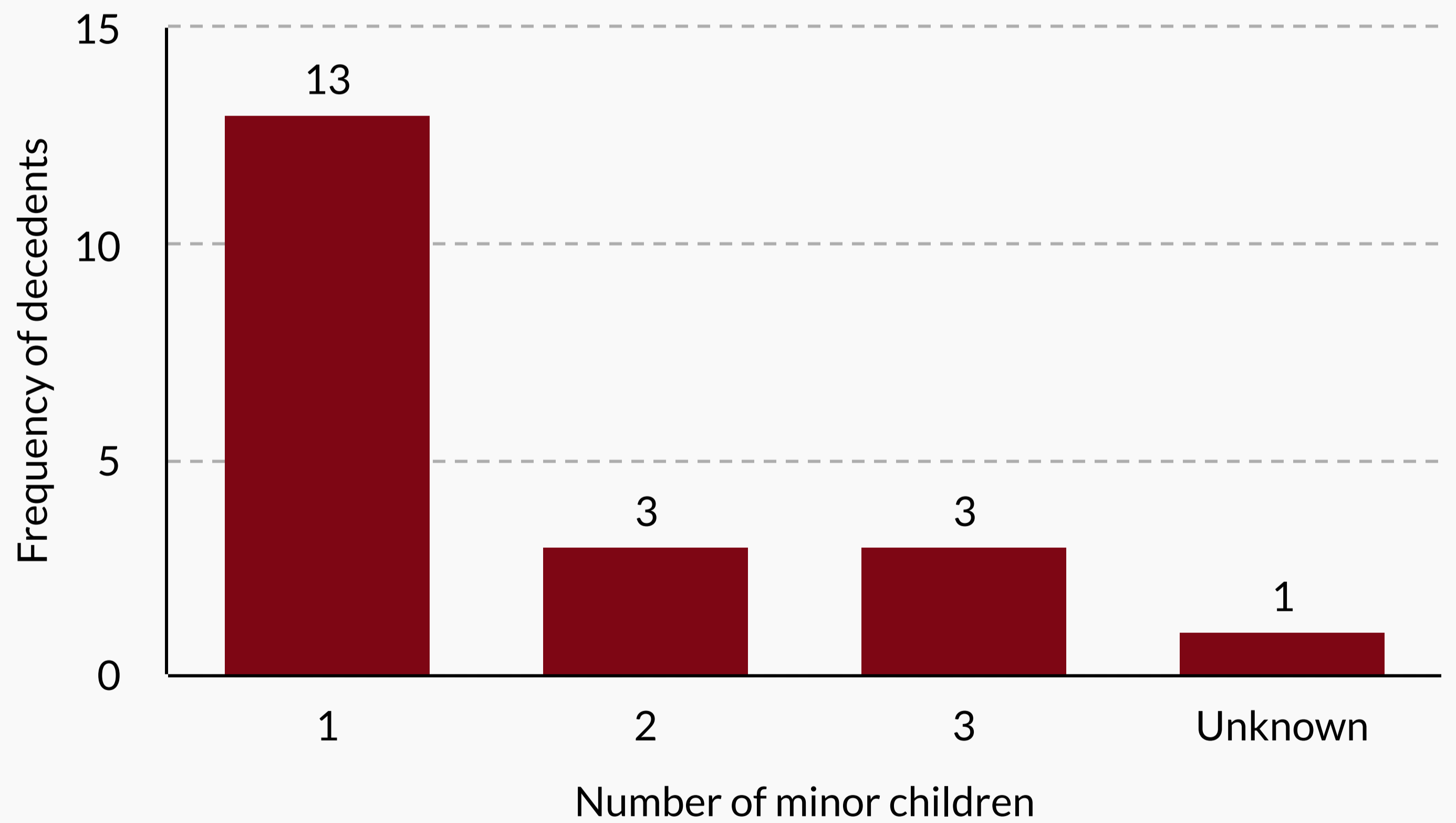
Social Factors



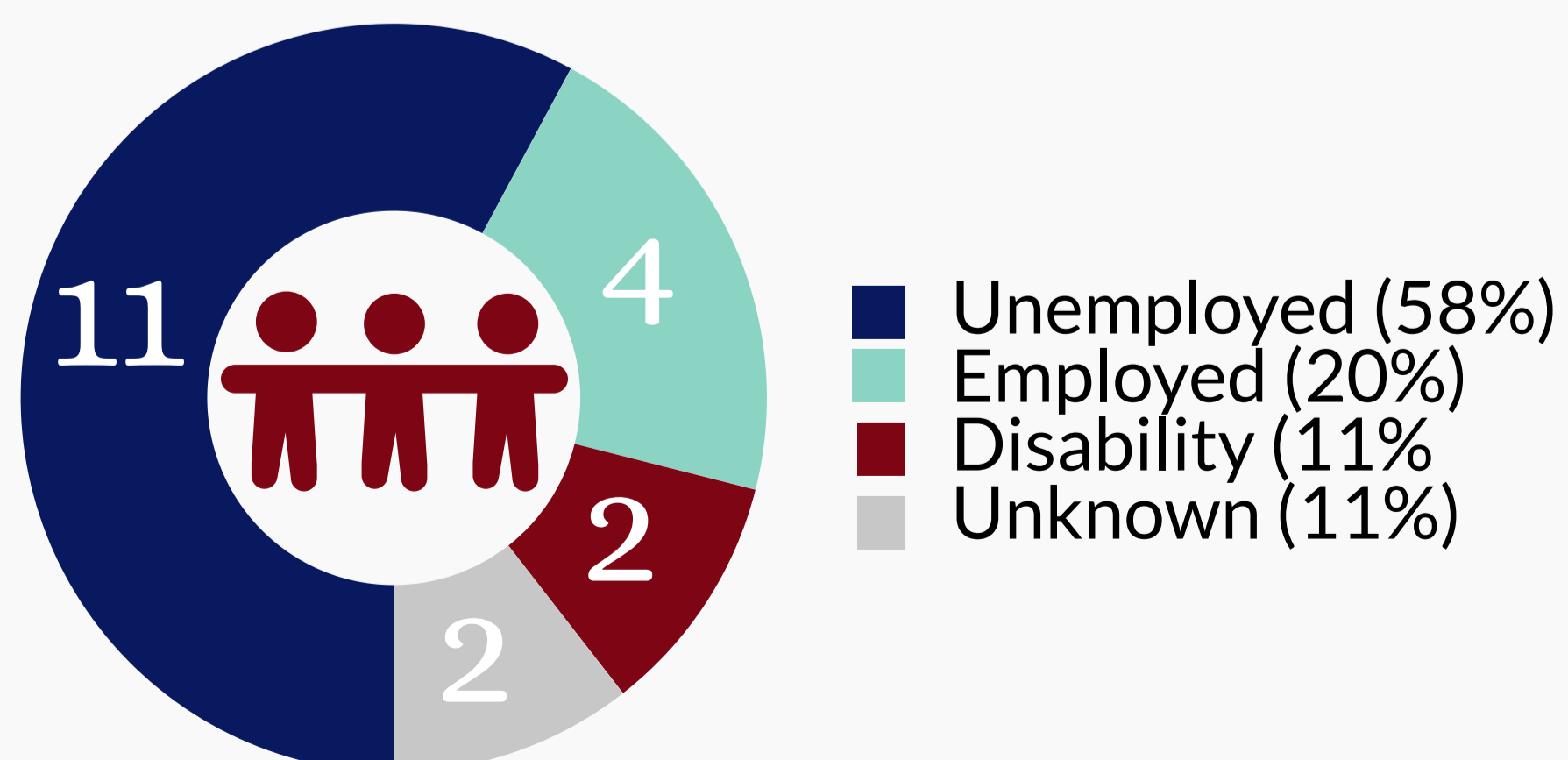
Decedent's Child Status



Number of Minor Children



Employment Status of those with Minor Children



7 decedents lived with their minor child(ren) at time of death




Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

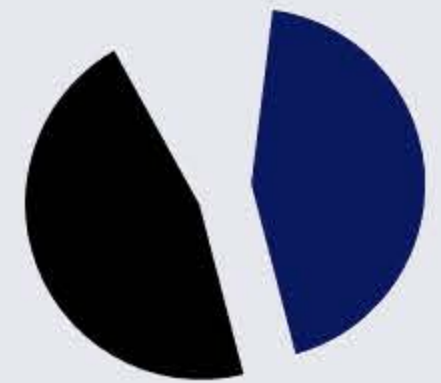
Allegan, Barry, Berrien, Calhoun, Grand Traverse, Kalamazoo, Leelanau, Mason, Muskegon, Osceola, St. Joseph, Van Buren

Decedent's Substance Use History


At least 90% of decedents were known to use or abuse substances



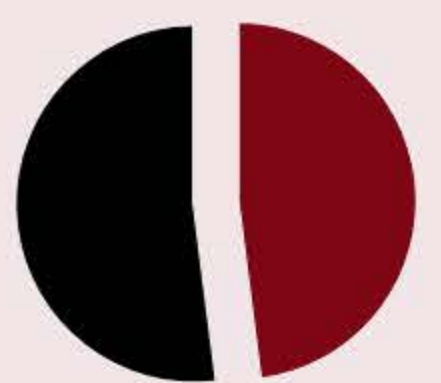
→



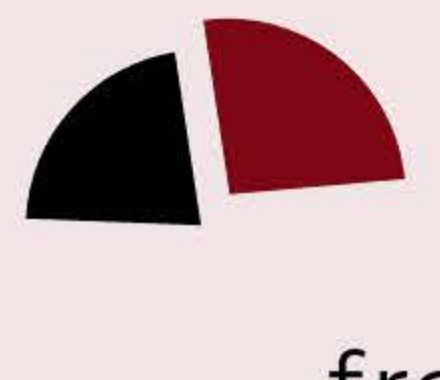
At least 49% of those decedents used substances intravenously



Rx **At least 48%** of decedents were prescribed an opioid in the past 2 years




→




At least 55% of those decedents substance use started from the prescribed opioid


At least 21% of decedents have had at least one overdose before their fatal overdose



→



At least 77% of those decedents have had 2 or more overdoses before their fatal overdose



Decedent's typical substance of choice

48%	34%	33%
HEROIN	COCAINE	METHAMPHETAMINE

Drugs found in toxicology results[†]

74%	36%
Fentanyl	METHAMPHETAMINE
26%	13%
HEROIN	COCAINE

[†] Decedent may have had more than one drug of choice and more than one drug in their toxicology result

Recently sober in the past month

36%

Suspected reasons for relapse*

45%	14%	41%
Left jail/rehab	Life stress**	Unknown

*These factors were mentioned by those close to decedent (with past substance use) for why they may have begun to use substances again after a period of sobriety ranging from a few months to years.
 **Life stress includes a recent fight with a significant other or learning upsetting news.

Decedent has been to a substance rehabilitation clinic at least one time 26%

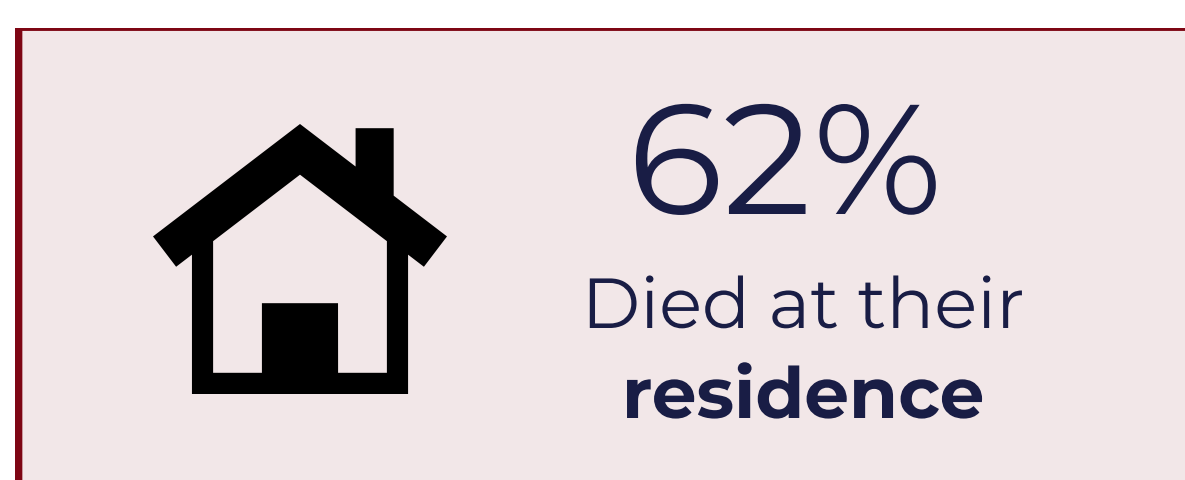
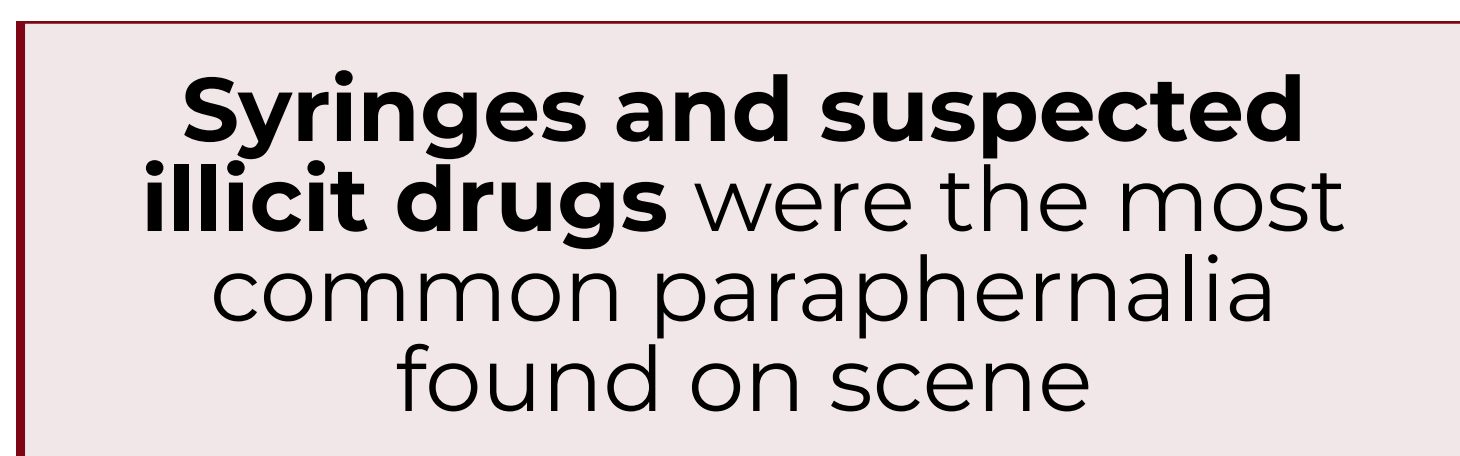
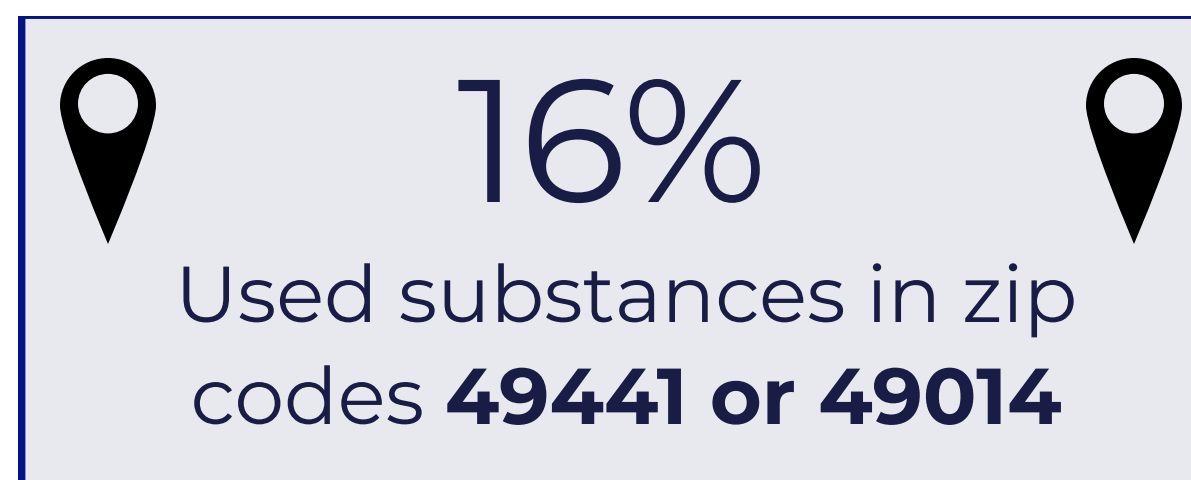
Decedent had someone close to them die from an overdose 2%

Decedent was receiving a form of MAT 11%

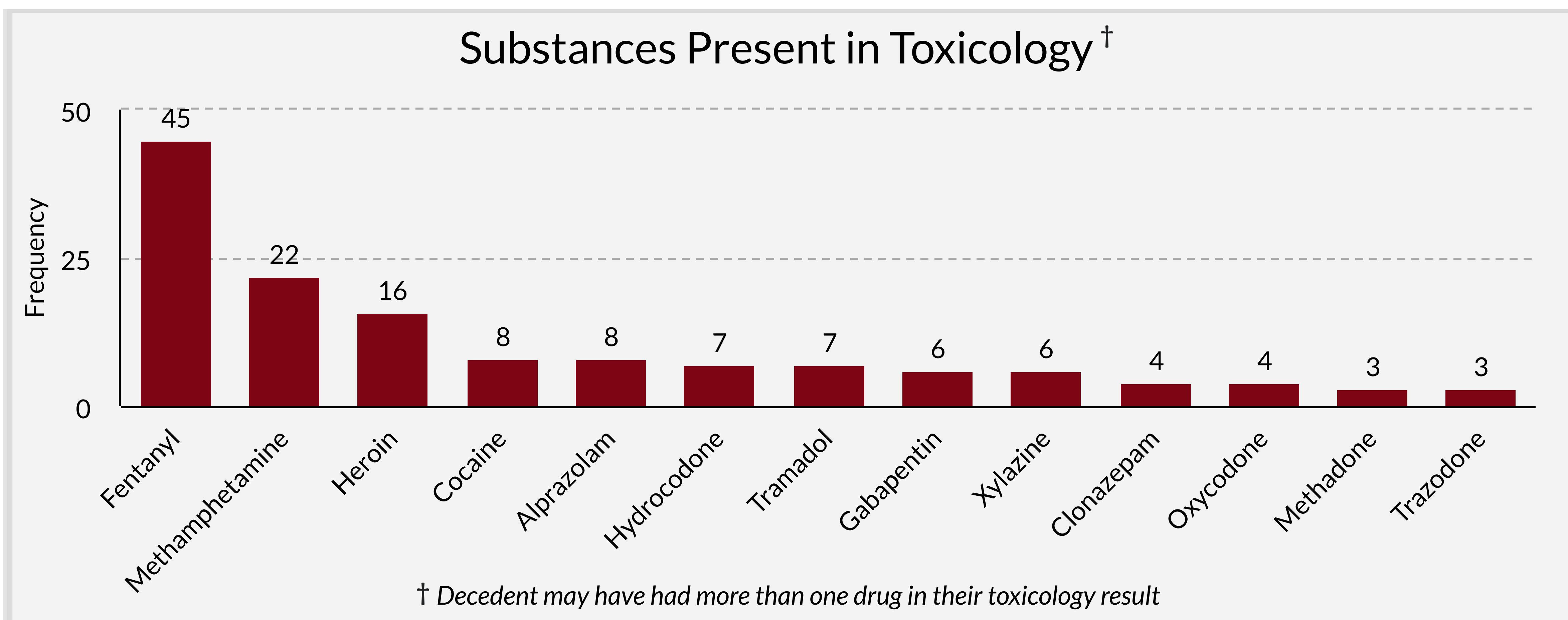
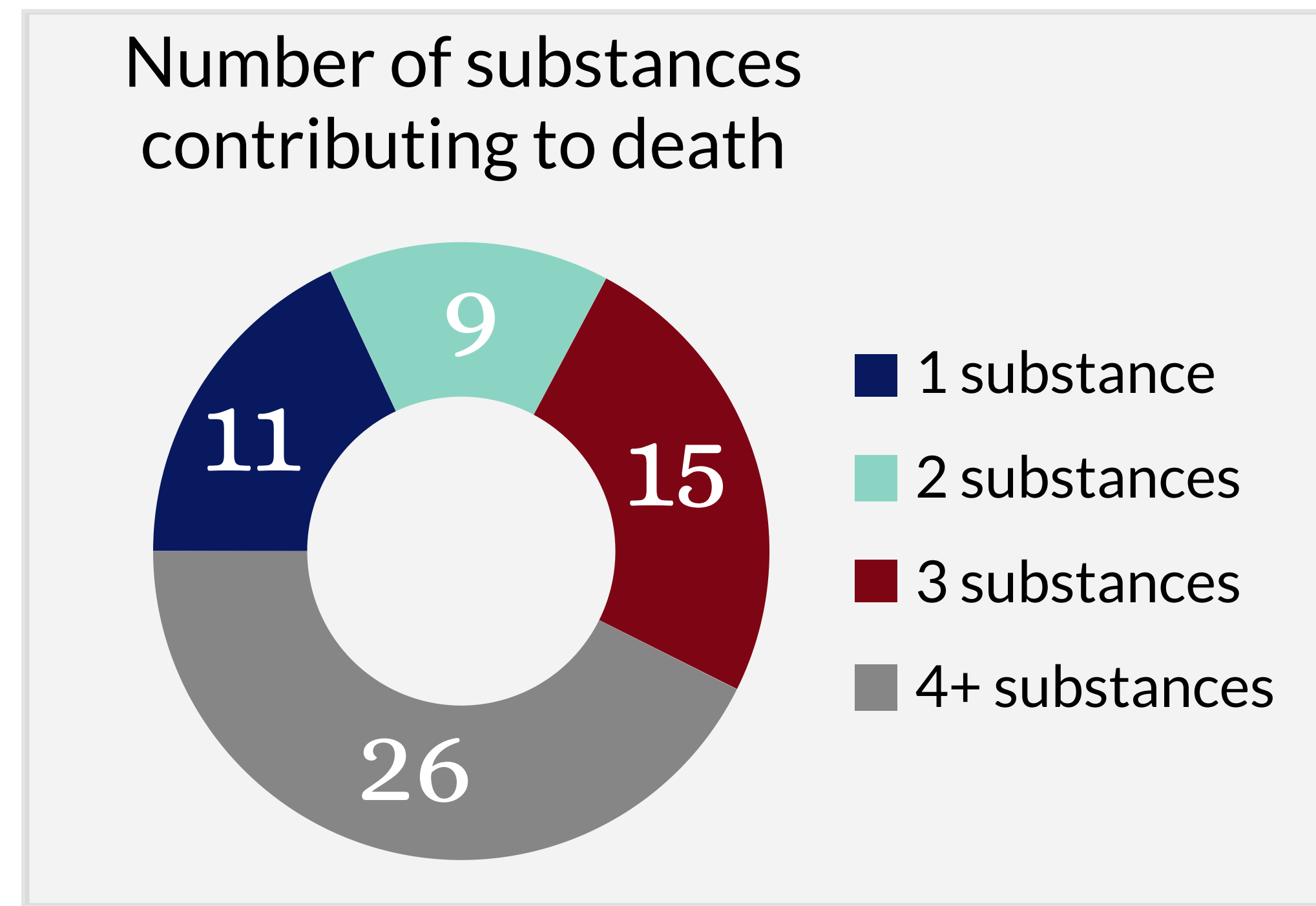
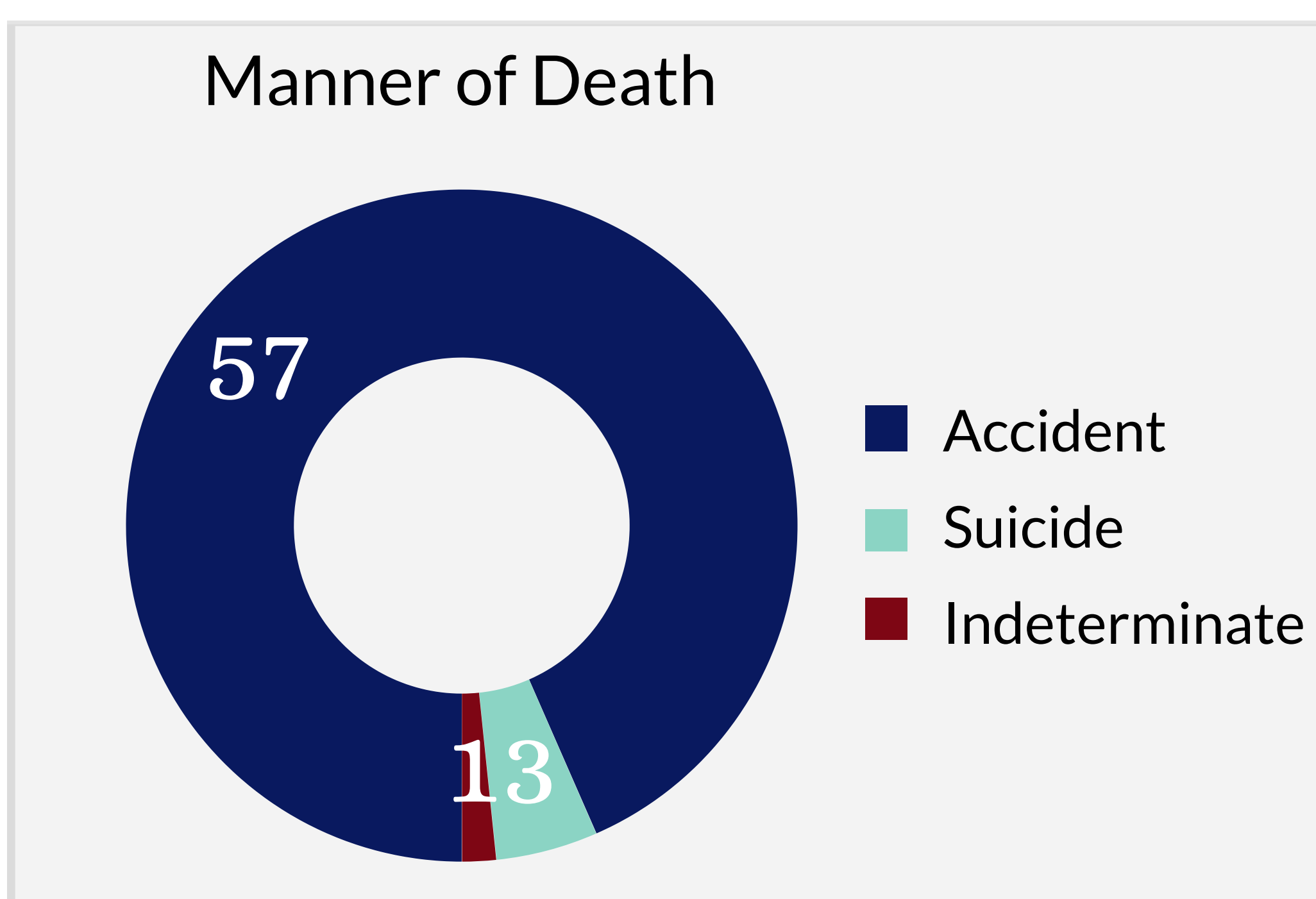
Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

Death Scene Findings



Autopsy and Toxicology Results

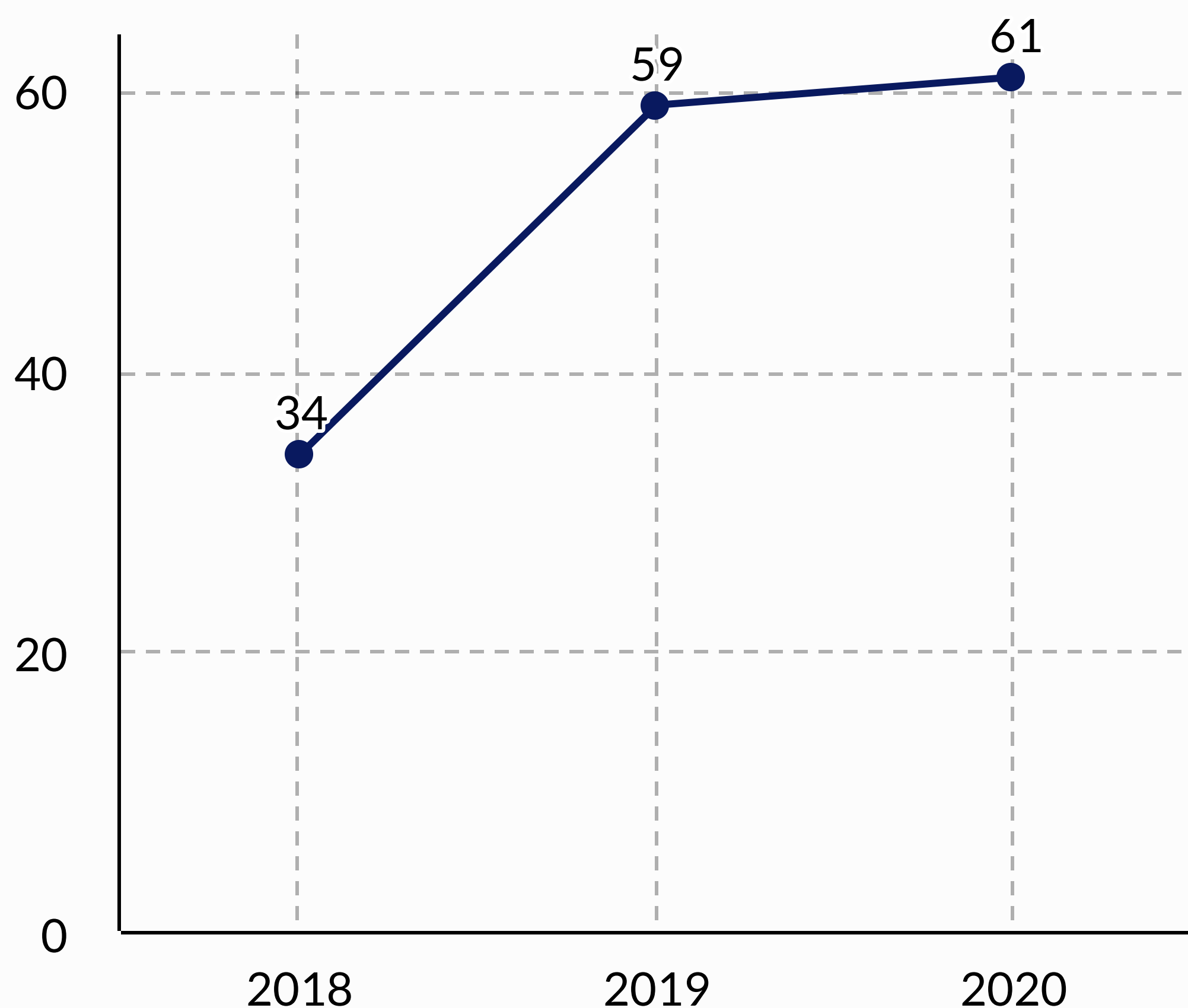


Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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

Highlights

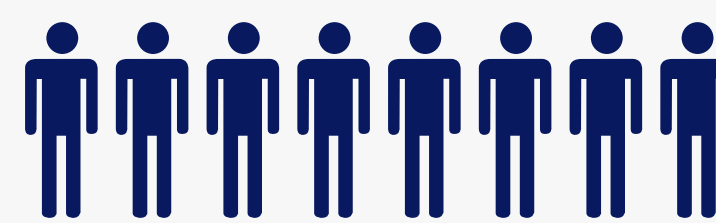
Number of drug-related fatalities by year, July to September



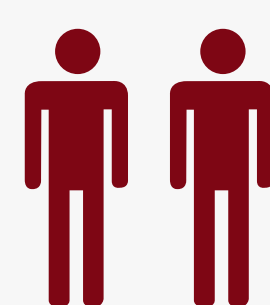
Additional Naloxone Information



1 dose of Naloxone (2 mg)



2 doses of Naloxone (2 mg)



3 doses of Naloxone (2 mg)

Two decedents were given extensive resuscitative efforts (CPR, epinephrine, AED shock) but were **not given Naloxone.**

Positional Asphyxia:

36% (19 of 52) of decedents who died of a combination of opioid and non-opioid substances were originally found in a **potentially airway asphyxiating position**

These positions include decedent drowning or decedent found face down on the floor, their bed, or on another surface

11% (1 of 9) of decedents who died of non-opioid substance(s) were originally found in a **potentially airway asphyxiating position**

Novel drug: **Brorphine**

- Novel opioid similar to fentanyl
- Death occurred in September in Van Buren
- Likely snorted indicated by straws found around the scene
- Decedent had no known substance use history

Substance combinations

Heroin & Fentanyl

Heroin contributed to 16 deaths, 15 of these deaths also had fentanyl present

Methamphetamine & Opioids

8 decedents had methamphetamine and heroin in their toxicology report

16 decedents had methamphetamine and opioid(s) (including heroin) in their toxicology report

Xylazine & Fentanyl

Xylazine contributed to 6 deaths, all 6 of these deaths also had fentanyl present