

# 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

## Deaths related to opioids and other drugs

### Berrien

*This report is in memory of those who lost their life or a loved one to substance use. These losses must motivate us all to prevent future deaths.*

#### A few notes...

- **Purpose:**

- This data was collected by the **Office of the Medical Examiner in the Department of Pathology at WMed**. Unless otherwise noted, data is from 2020 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.

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

- Health Factors, Mental Health Factors, Social Factors, Children and Substance Use History.

- **Sources:**

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

Please email Chloe Bielby for additional information or to set up a time to discuss your county's report: [chloe.bielby@med.wmich.edu](mailto:chloe.bielby@med.wmich.edu)

Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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All Drug-Related Deaths

Age	Race	Sex	Death Certificate: Substances Contributing to Death	Injury Zip Code
21	W	M	Pt. I: Methadone	49686
22	B	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl	49022
24	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, methamphetamine	49103
25	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, hydrocodone	49120
26	W	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl	49022
28	B	F	Pt. I: Methamphetamine	60409
29	W	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl, alprazolam, norbuprenorphine	49120
29	W	M	Pt. I: Acute and chronic ethanol use*	49127
29	W	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl, etizolam, cocaine	49085
30	W	F	Pt. I: Methamphetamine, fentanyl	49022
31	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, promethazine, diphenhydramine	49022
31	W	M	Pt. I: Ethanol, fentanyl	49047
32	W	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, ethanol, cocaethylene, fentanyl, morphine, amphetamine	49022
35	W	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl, ethanol, mitragynine, citalopram/escitalopram, clonazepam	49022
36	B	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, ethanol, and fentanyl	49022
37	W	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl	46241
38	B	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, ethanol, cocaethylene	49022
40	W	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, flualprazolam, isotonitazine	49892
40	W	M	Pt. I: Alprazolam, fentanyl, methamphetamine	49098
42	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl	49107
43	W	F	Pt. I: Methamphetamine	49120
45	W	M	Pt. II: Fentanyl, morphine*	49120
47	W	M	Pt. II: Methamphetamine*	49107
47	W	M	Pt. I: Methadone, diphenhydramine	49098
48	W	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, fentanyl, acetyl fentanyl, heroin	49085
49	W	F	Pt. I: Ethanol, alprazolam, zolpidem, gabapentin	49107
50	B	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl	49022
52	B	M	Pt. I: Cocaine, ethanol, cocaethylene, fentanyl	49022
53	B	F	Pt. I: Fentanyl	49022
54	W	F	Pt. I: Methamphetamine, chlordiazepoxide, lorazepam, 7-amino clonazepam, fentanyl, heroin	49120
58	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, methamphetamine, alprazolam	49022
59	W	M	Pt. I: Opiate, amphetamine	49120
60	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, diphenhydramine	49098
61	B	M	Pt. I: Cocaine	49022
63	W	M	Pt. I: Fentanyl, heroin, oxycodone, gabapentin, nordiazepam	49022
64	W	M	Pt. I: Heroin, methamphetamine, 7-amino clonazepam, fentanyl, gabapentin, zolpidem	49120
64	W	M	Pt. II: Cocaine*	49127
68	W	M	Pt. I: Acetaminophen, lorazepam, hydrocodone	49117

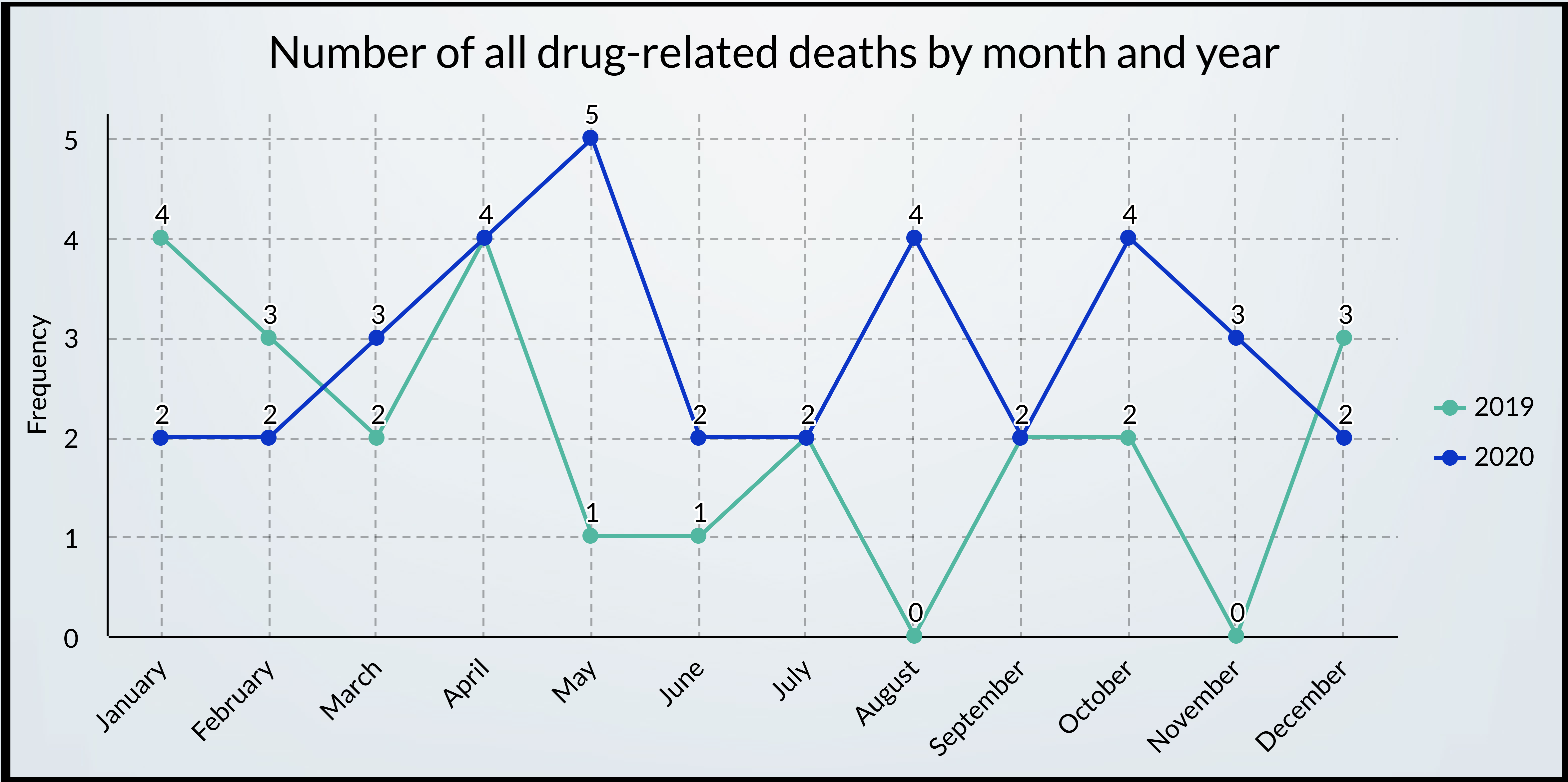
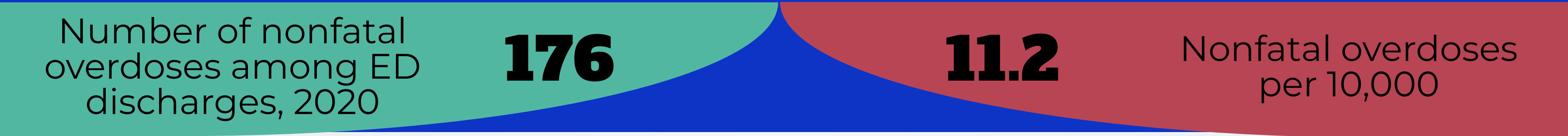
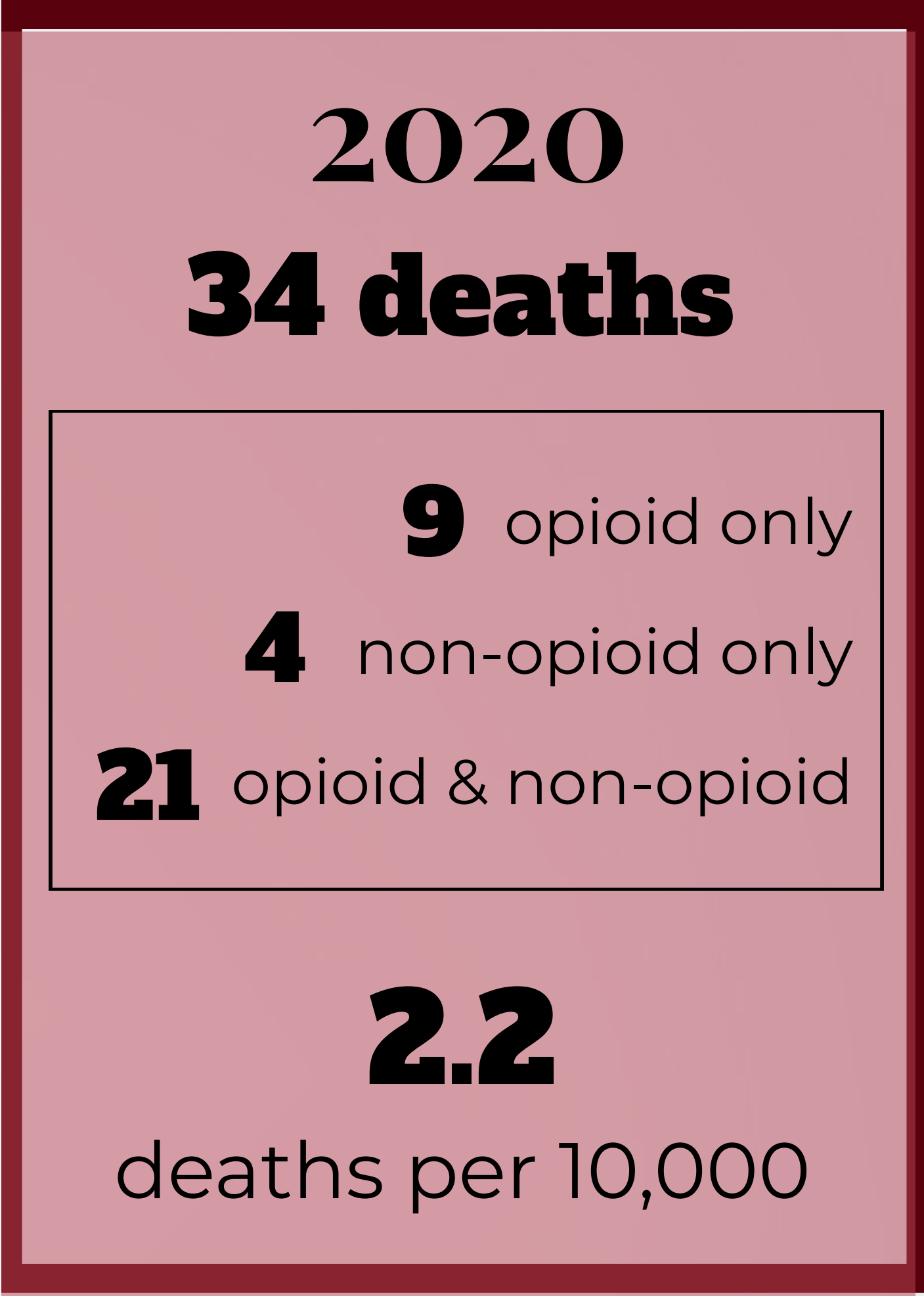
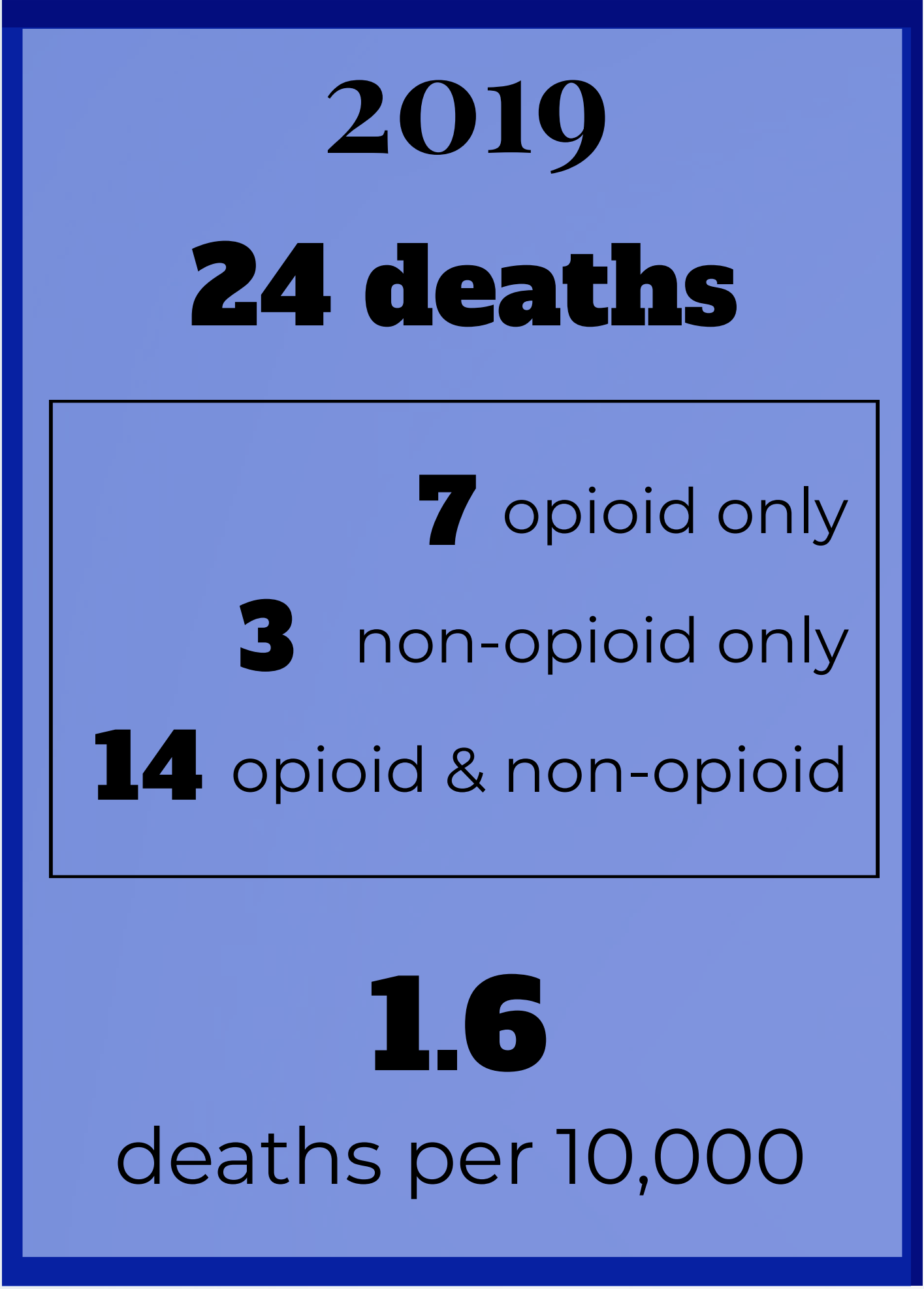
\* Case is not included in the following report



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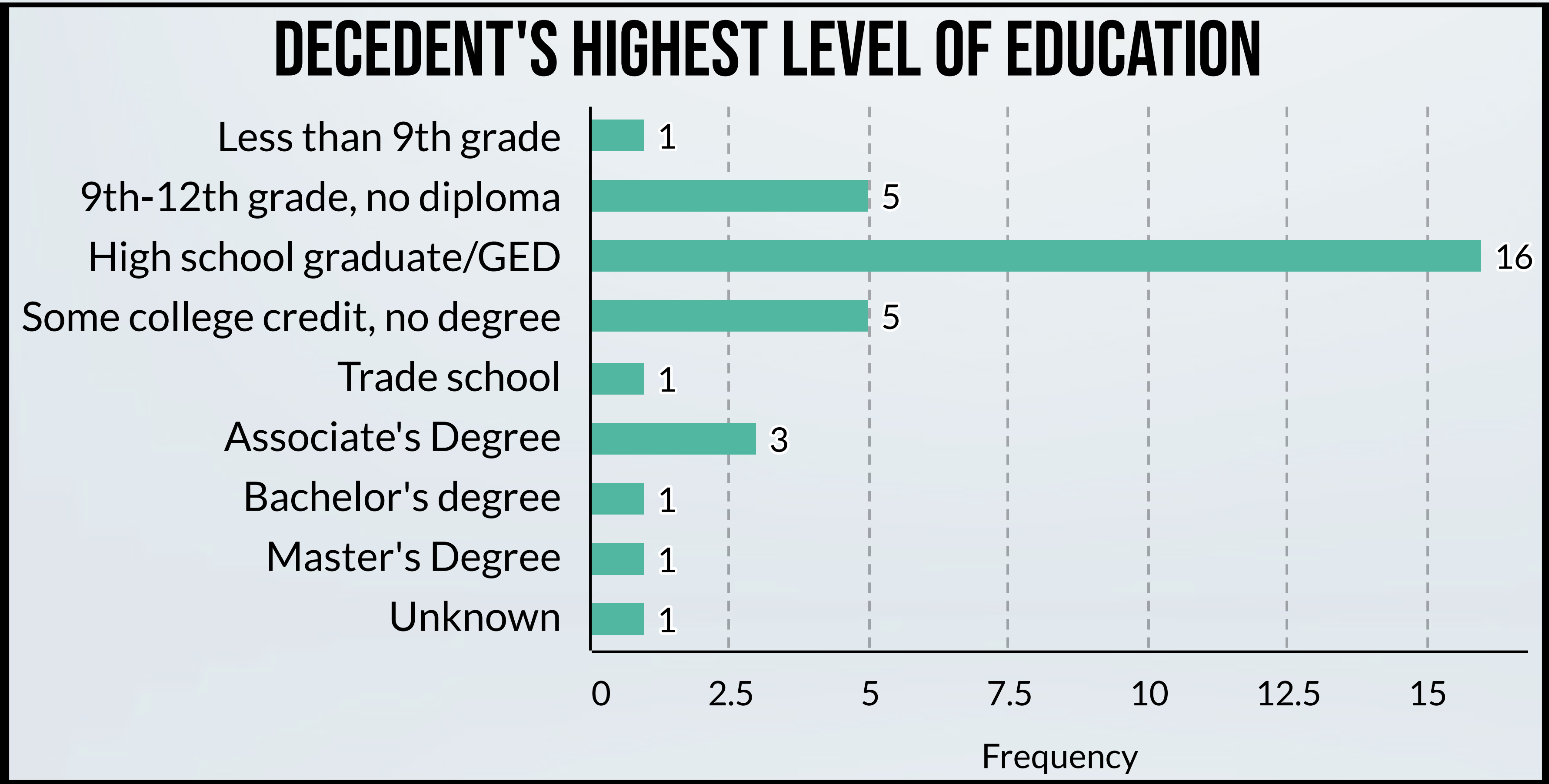
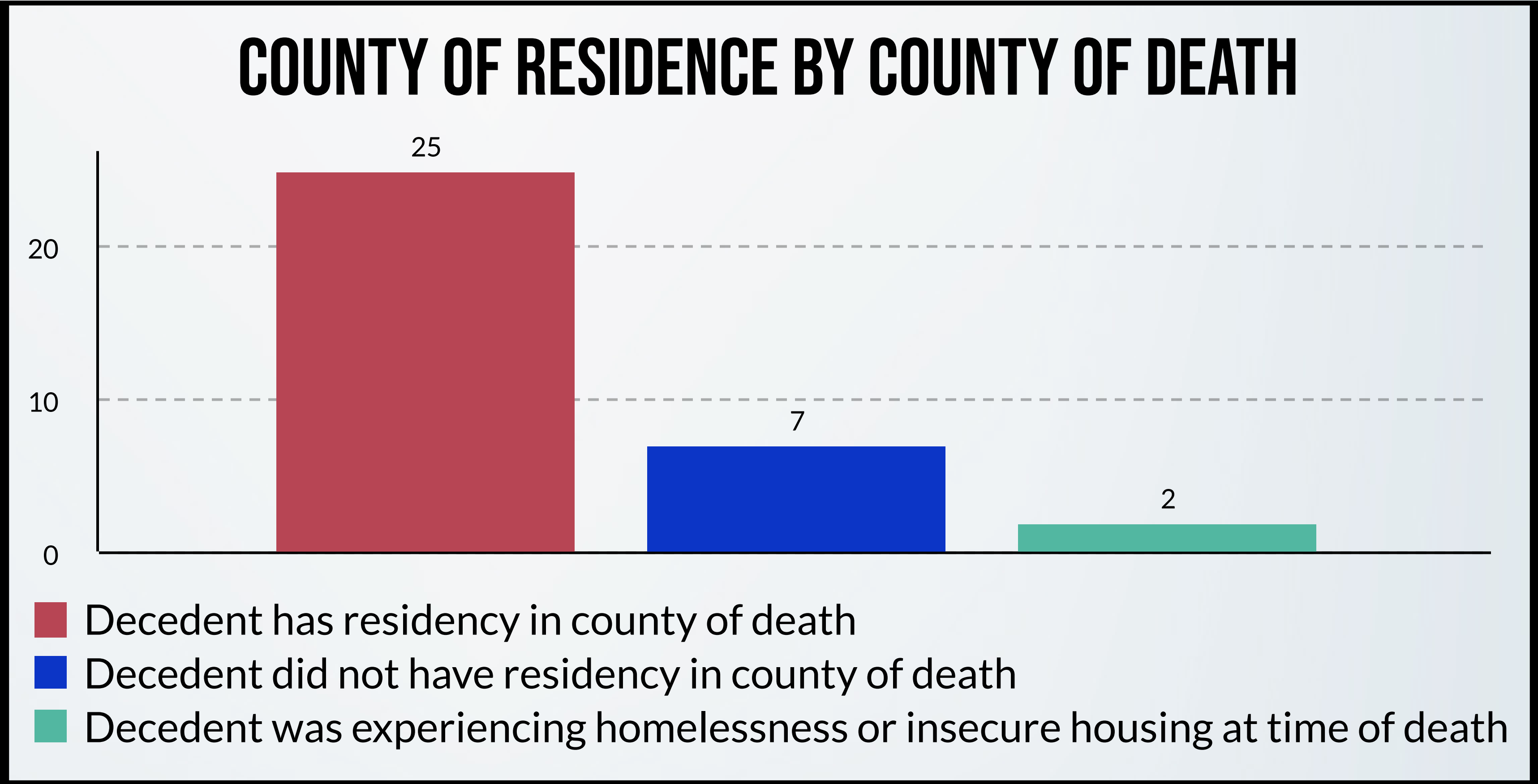
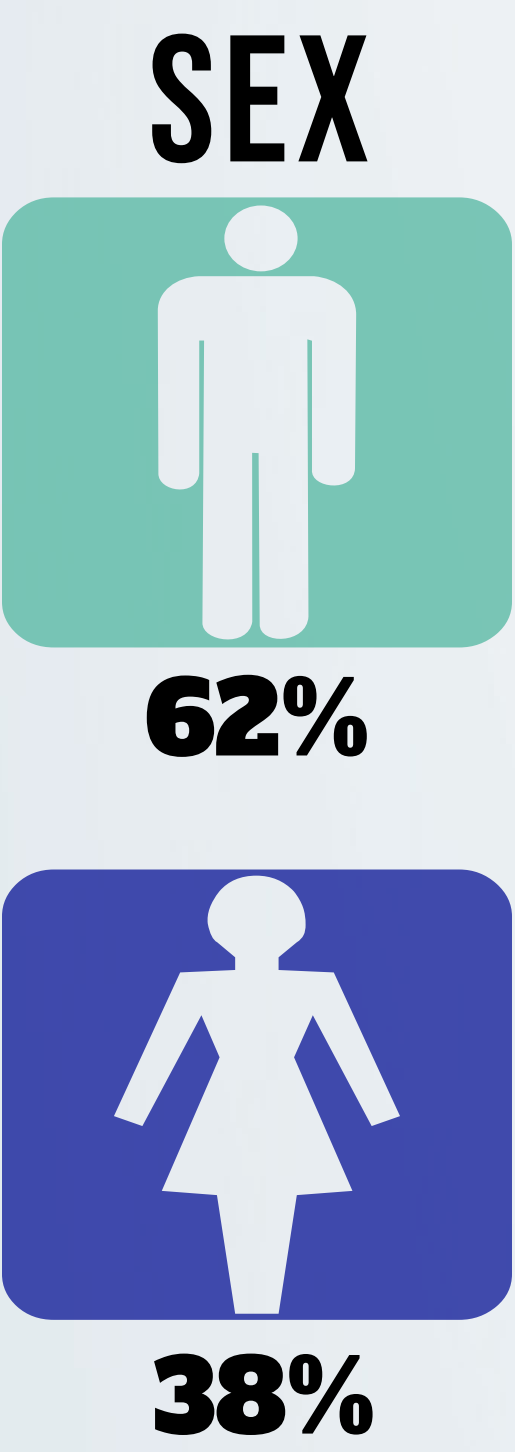
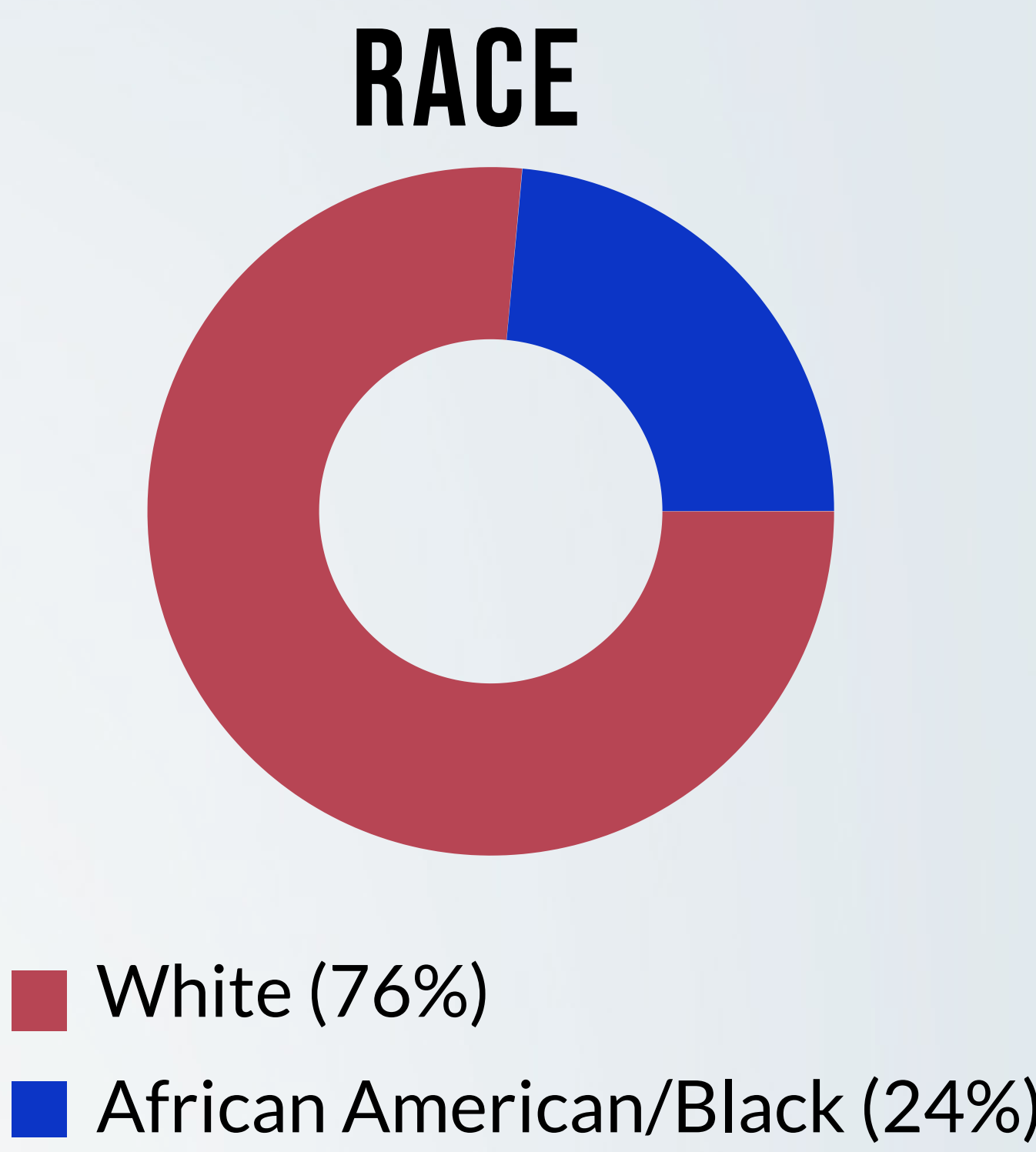
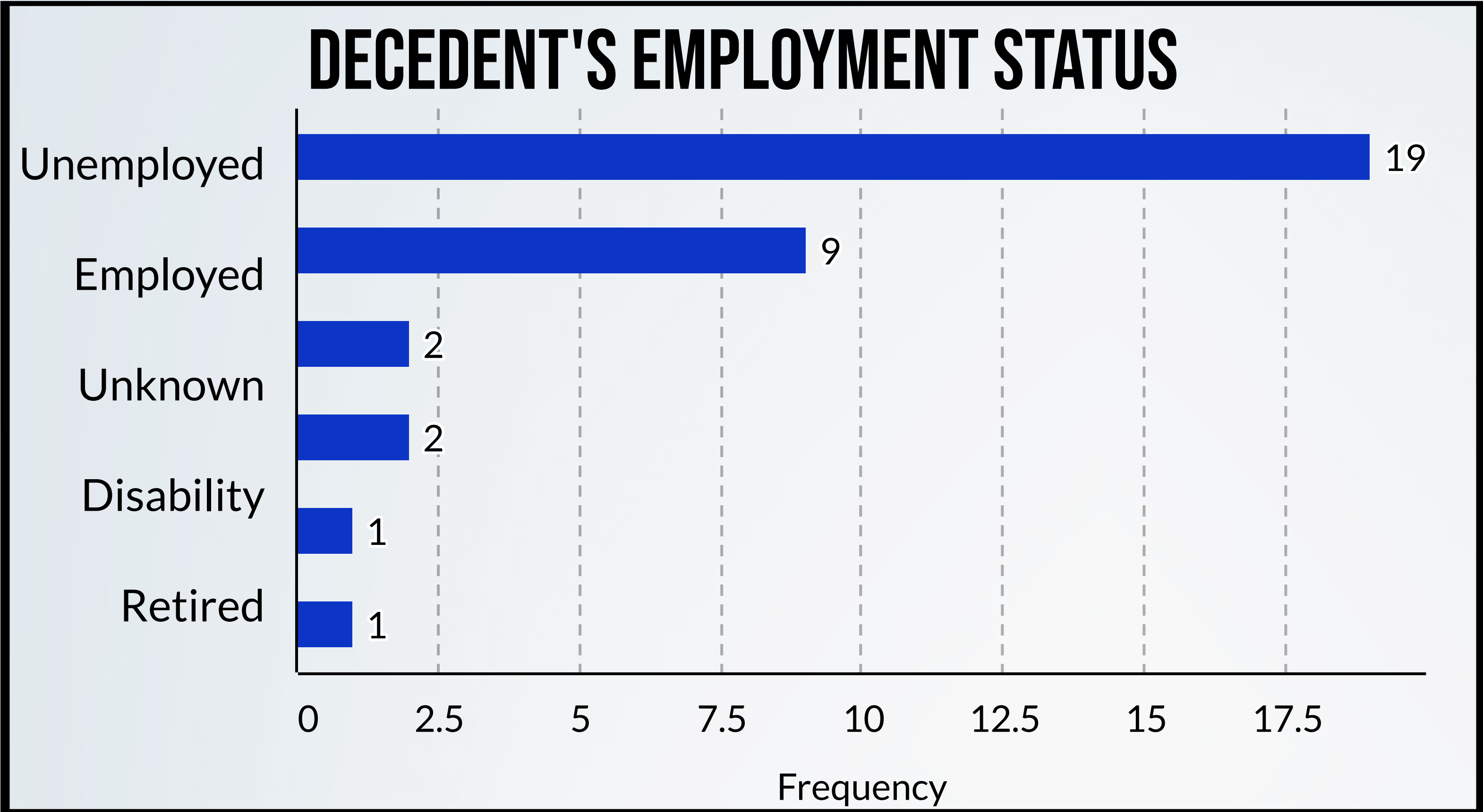
Total deaths due to drugs: 2019, 2020



# Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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## Demographics



Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

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Health Factors

MOST PREVALENT AILMENTS\*

Hypertension (24%)

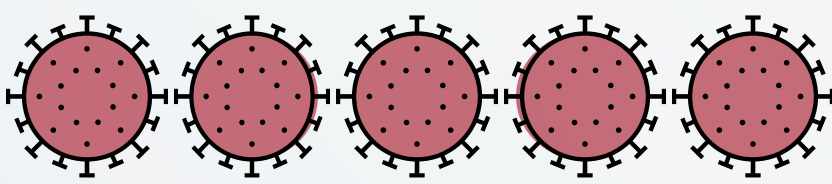
Chronic Pain (18%)

Heart\*\* (18%)

Lung (15%)

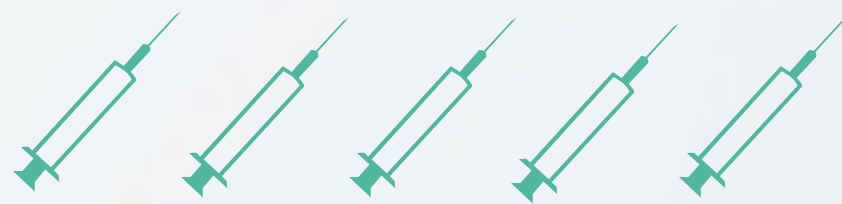
Diabetes (15%)

\*Decedents may be represented in more than one category. Only illnesses with official diagnosis are included.  
\*\*Heart includes MI, CABH, CAD, AFib, ACD, and heart failure



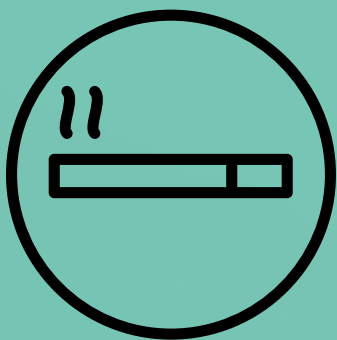
At least 5 decedents were  
Hepatitis C positive

4 of these decedents were known to use substances intravenously



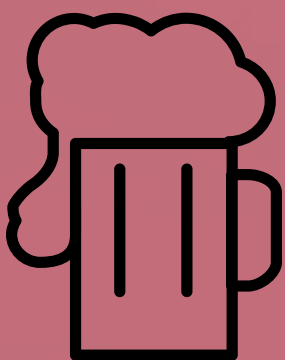
Decedent used tobacco

89%+



Decedent drank alcohol

62%+



Decedent had a PCP

32%



BODY MASS INDEX (BMI)



Underweight

0



Normal weight

9



Overweight

10



Obese class 1

9



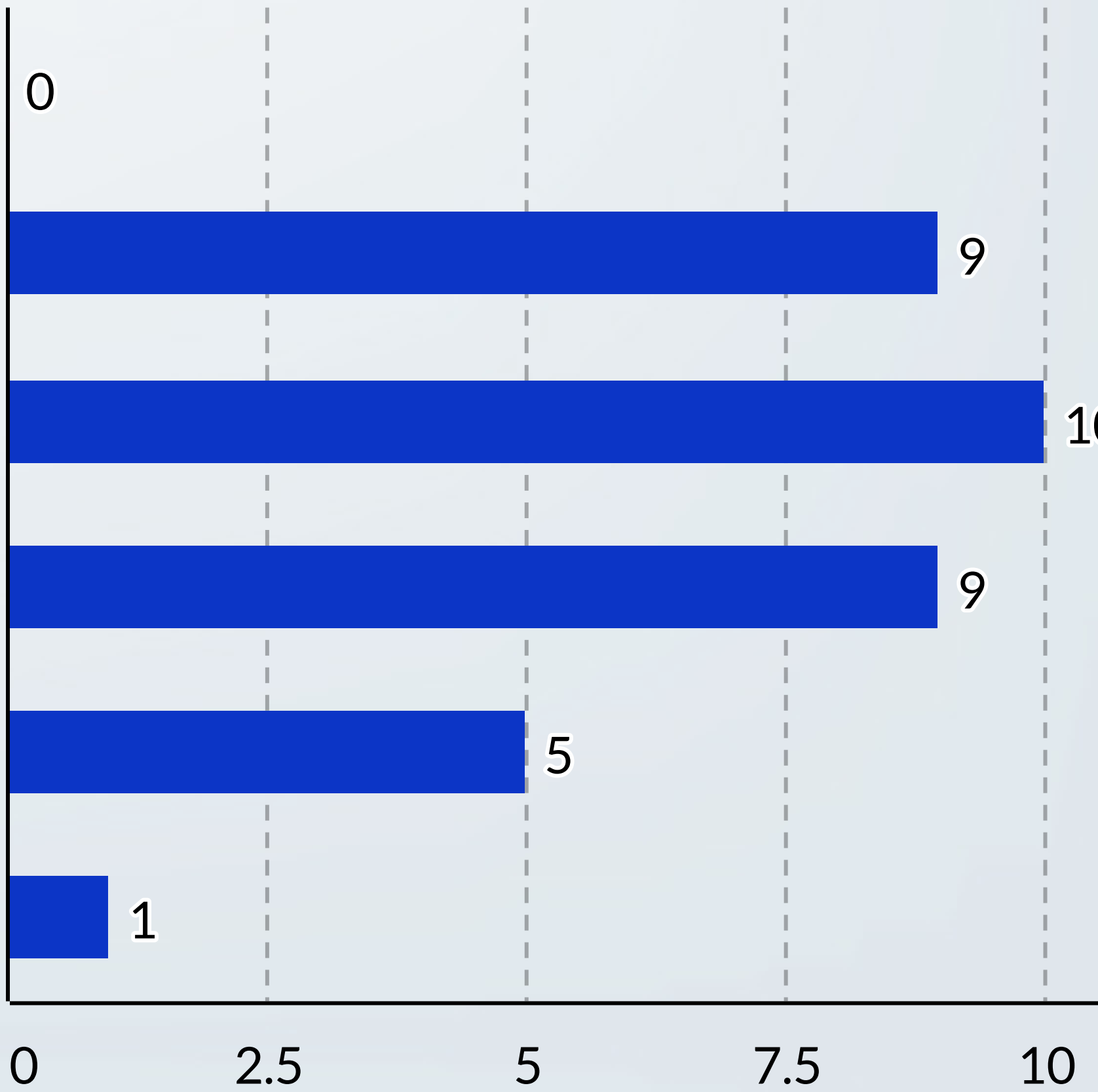
Obese class 2

5



Obese class 3

1



Frequency



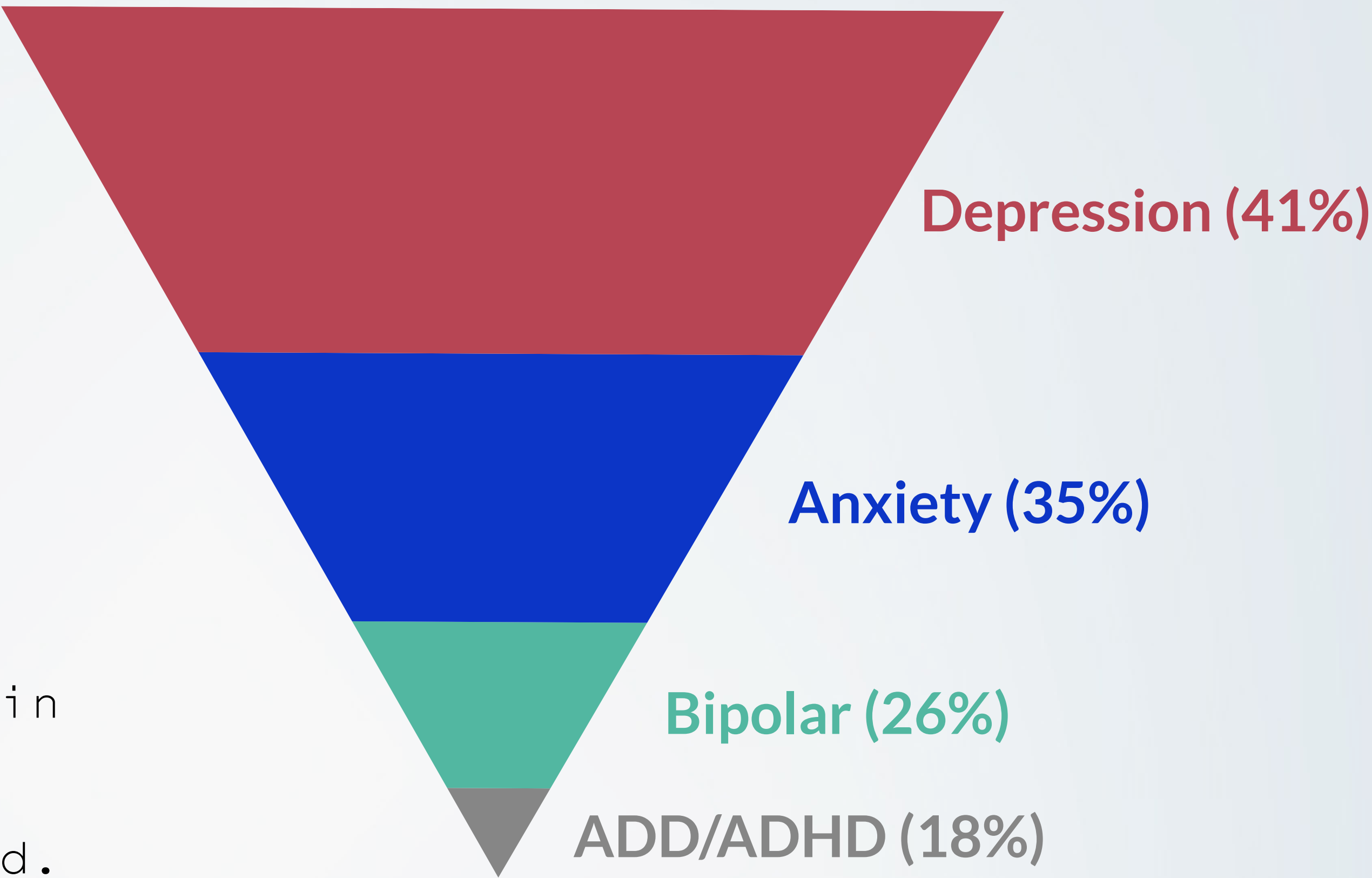
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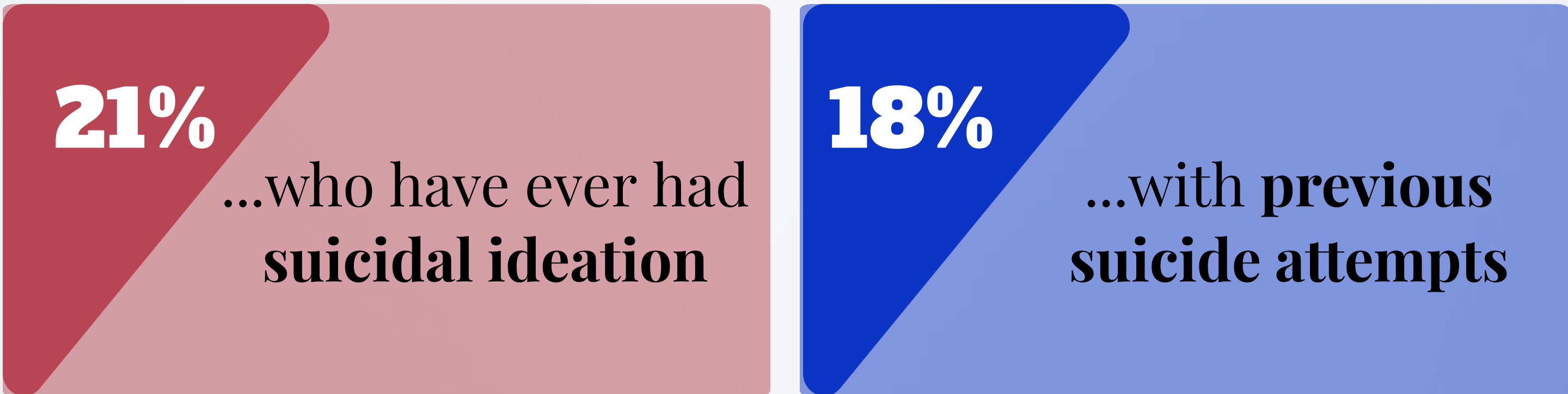
Mental Health Factors

MOST  
PREVALENT  
MENTAL ILLNESSES\*

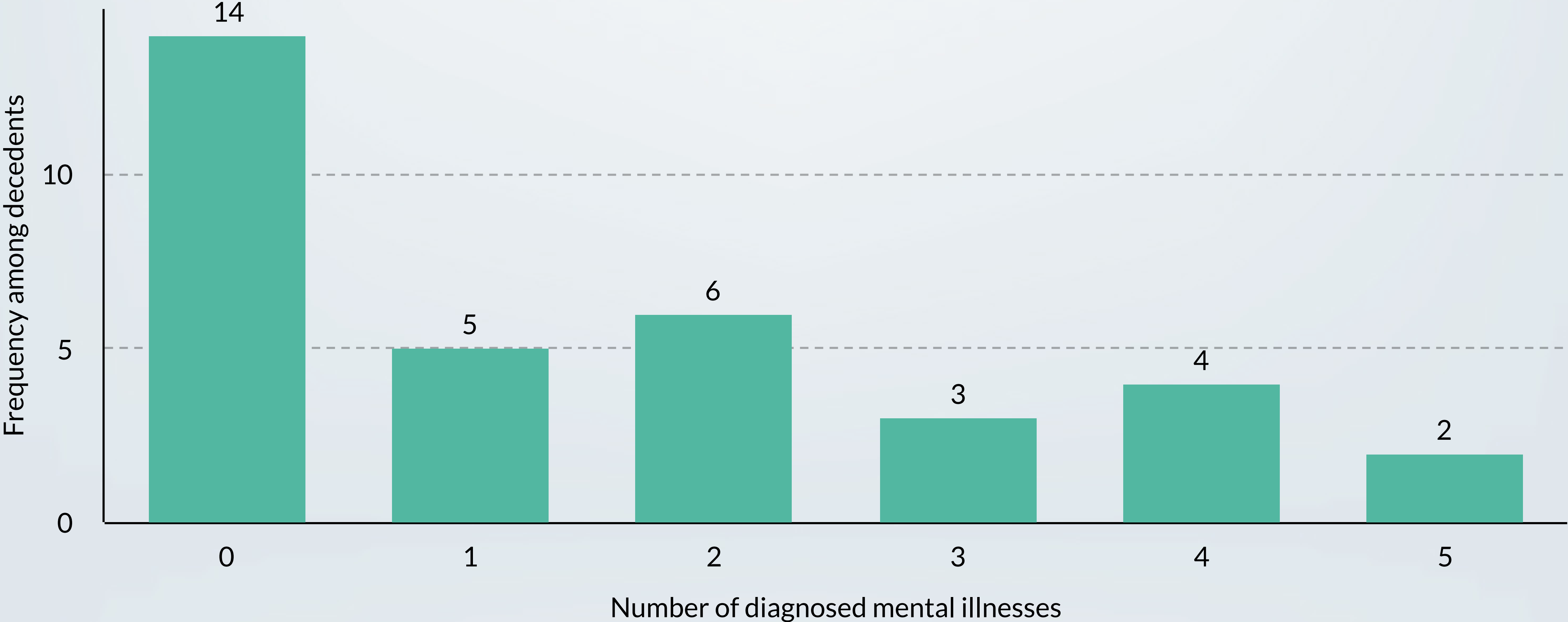
\*Decedents may be represented in more than one category. Only mental illnesses with official diagnosis are included.



PERCENTAGE OF DECEDENTS...



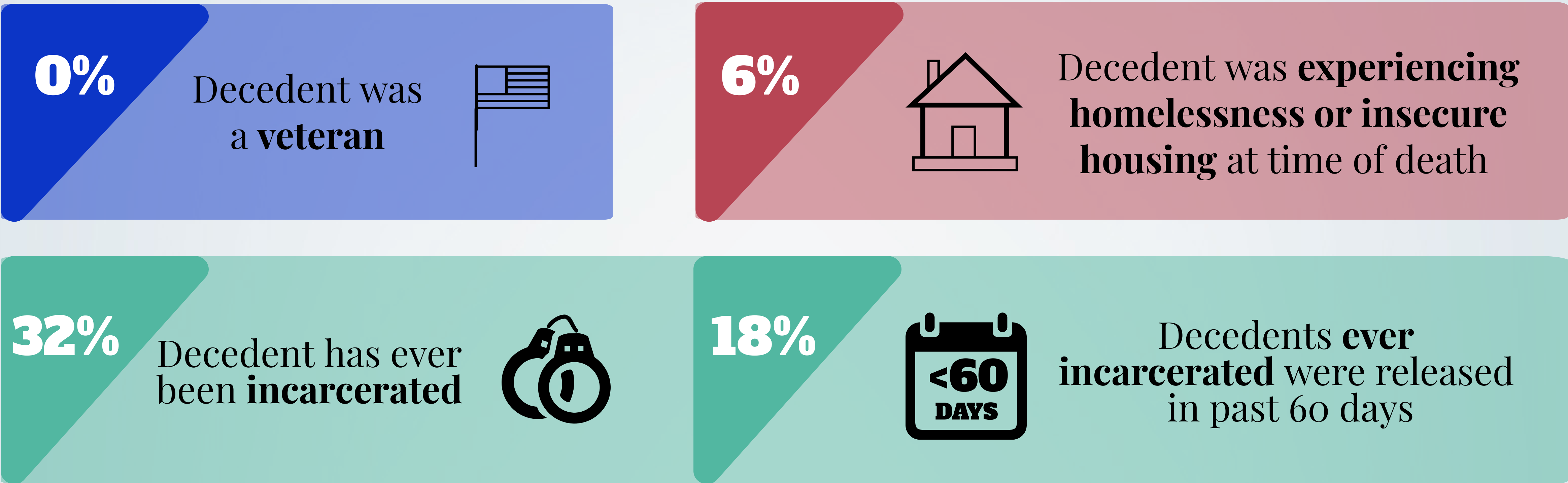
NUMBER DIAGNOSED MENTAL ILLNESSES AMONG DECEDENTS



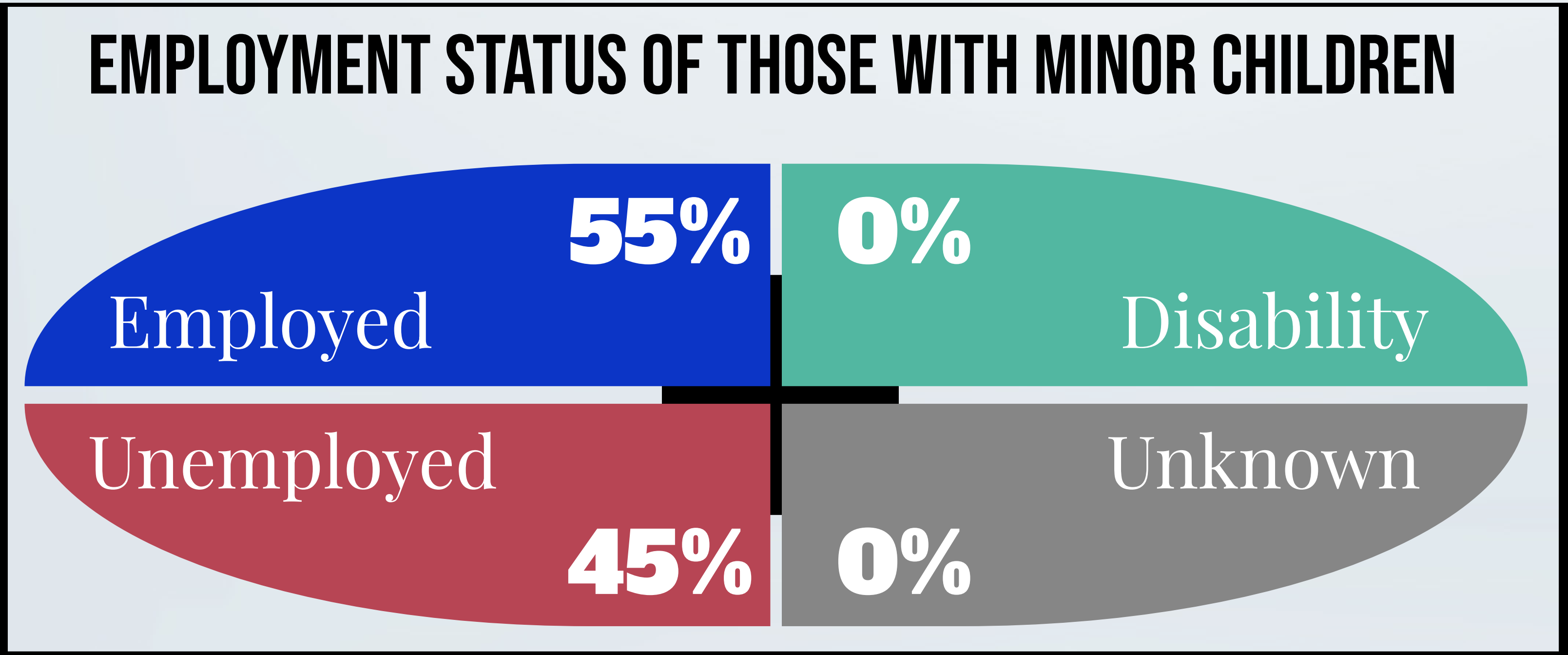
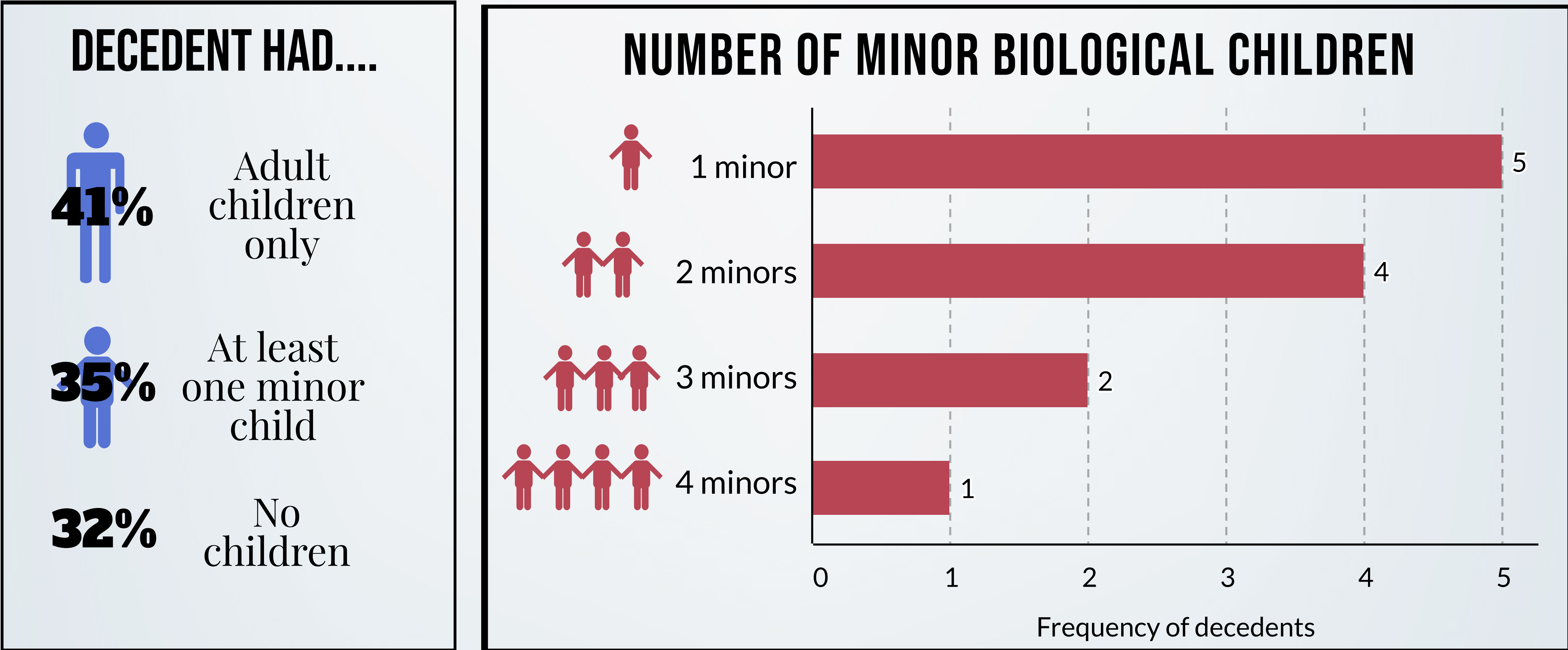
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Social Factors



Children



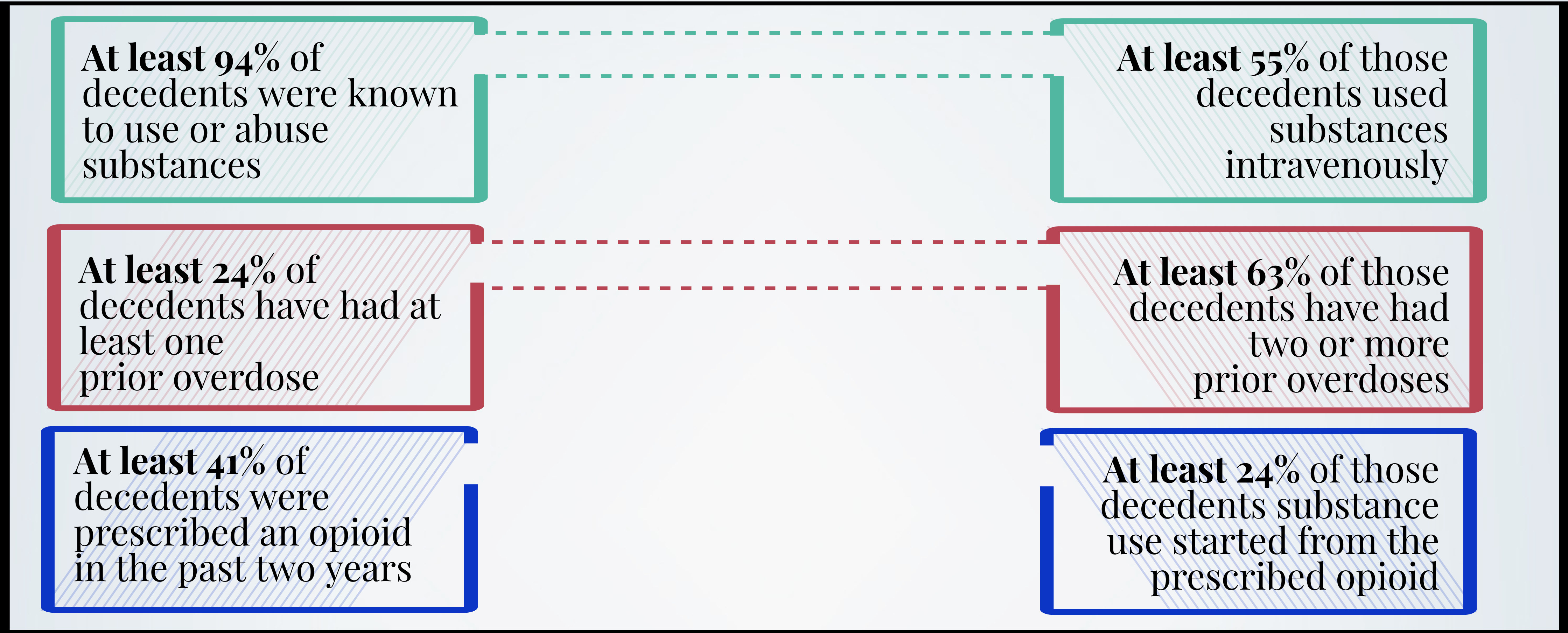
5 decedents lived with their minor child(ren) at time of death



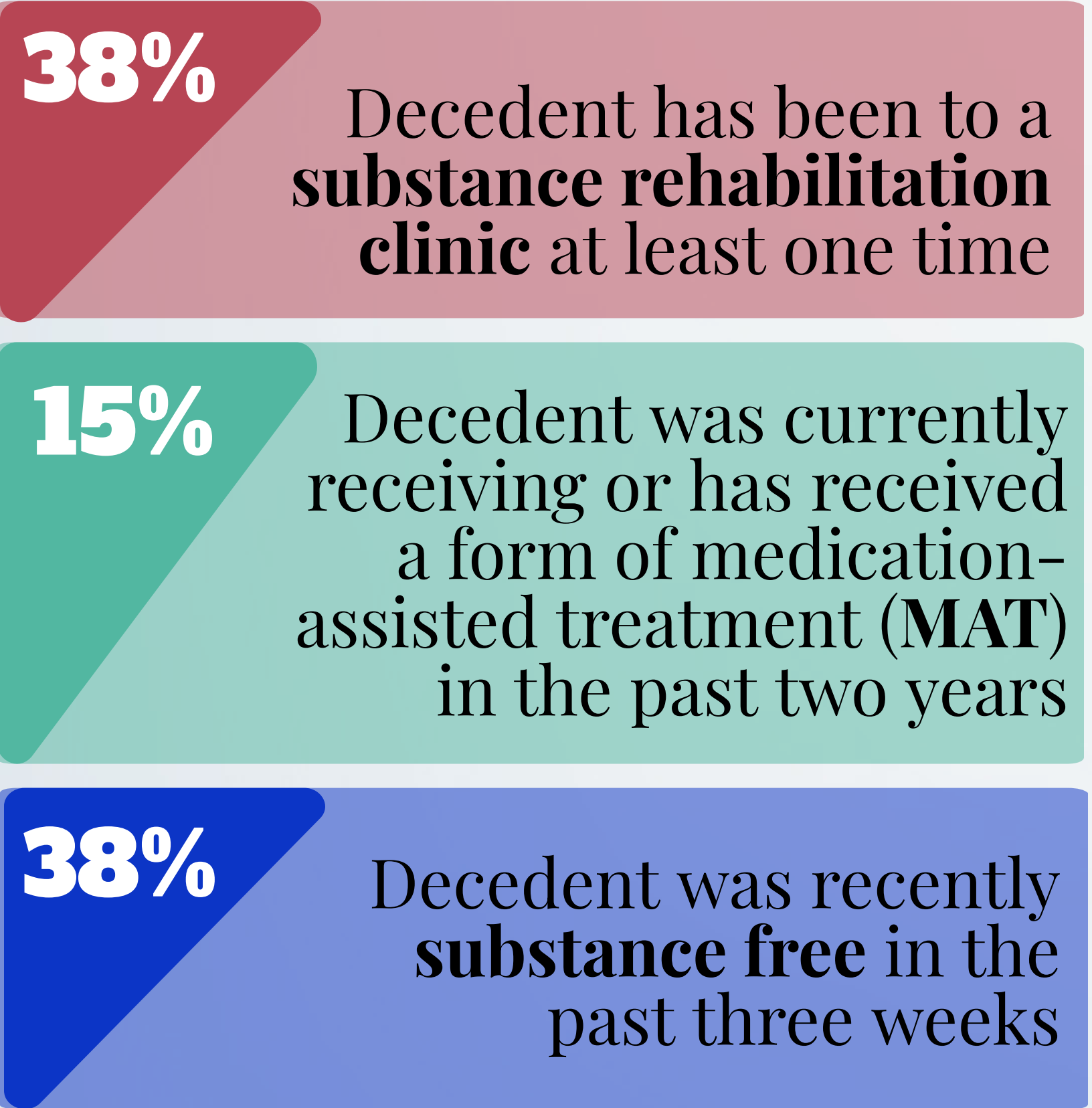
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Substance Use History



RECOVERY HISTORY (N=32\*)



SUSPECTED REASONS FOR RELAPSE\*\*

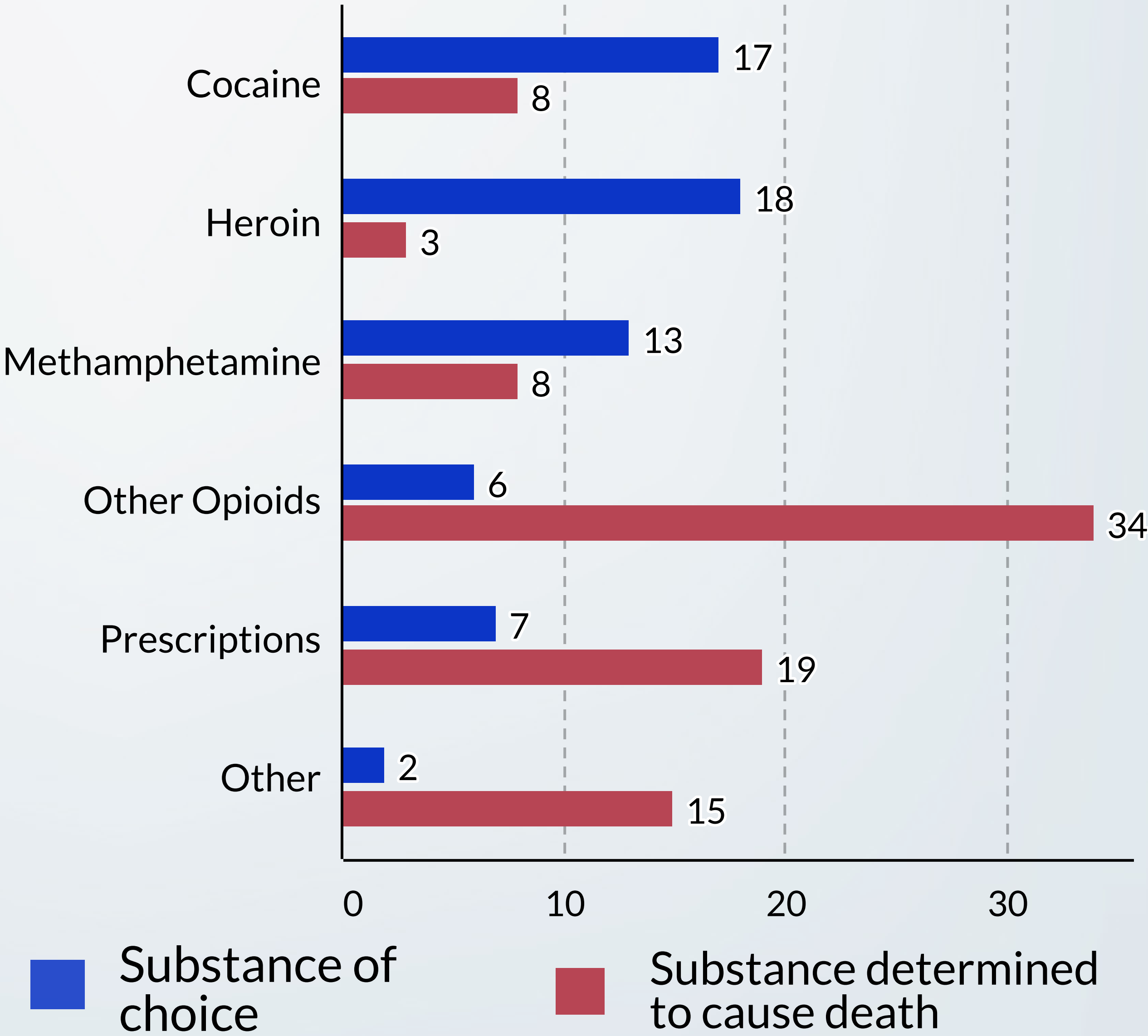


\*ONLY decedents known to use substances are included.

\*\*These factors were mentioned by those close to decedent for why they may have begun to use substances again after a few months to years of living substance free.

\*\*\*Life stress includes fight with a S/O, job loss, and social circle influence.

DECEDENT'S SUBSTANCE OF CHOICE VS. WHAT WAS DETERMINED TO CAUSE DEATH\*



\*Decedent may have had more than one substance of choice and in their toxicology.

NOTE: 2 decedents would use any substance available and 2 were not known to use substances.

Prescriptions do not include opioids.

Other includes acetaminophen, cocaethylene, diphenhydramine, ethanol, flualprazolam, ketamine, mitragynine, and inhalants.

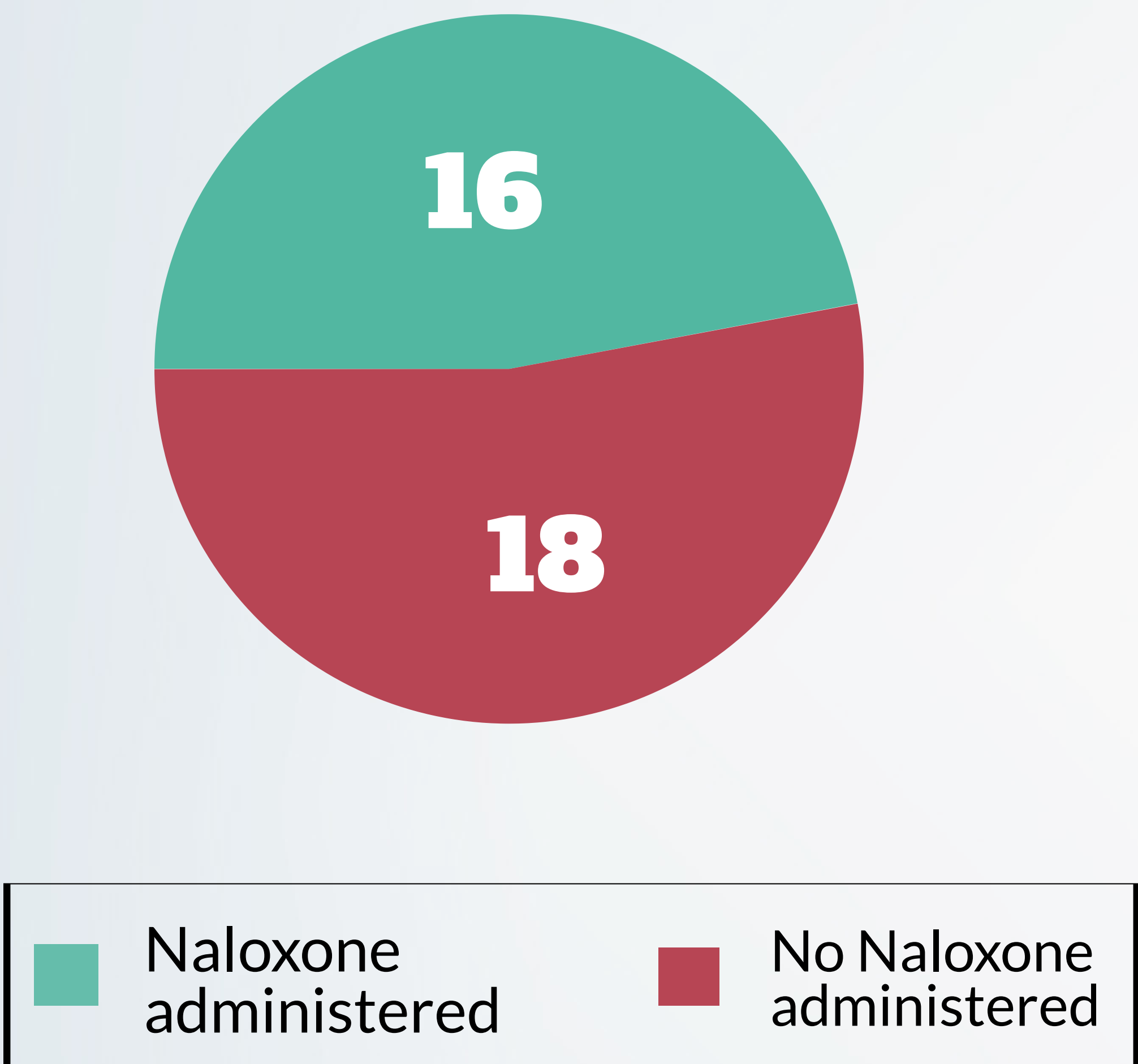


Deaths Related to Opioids and Other Drugs

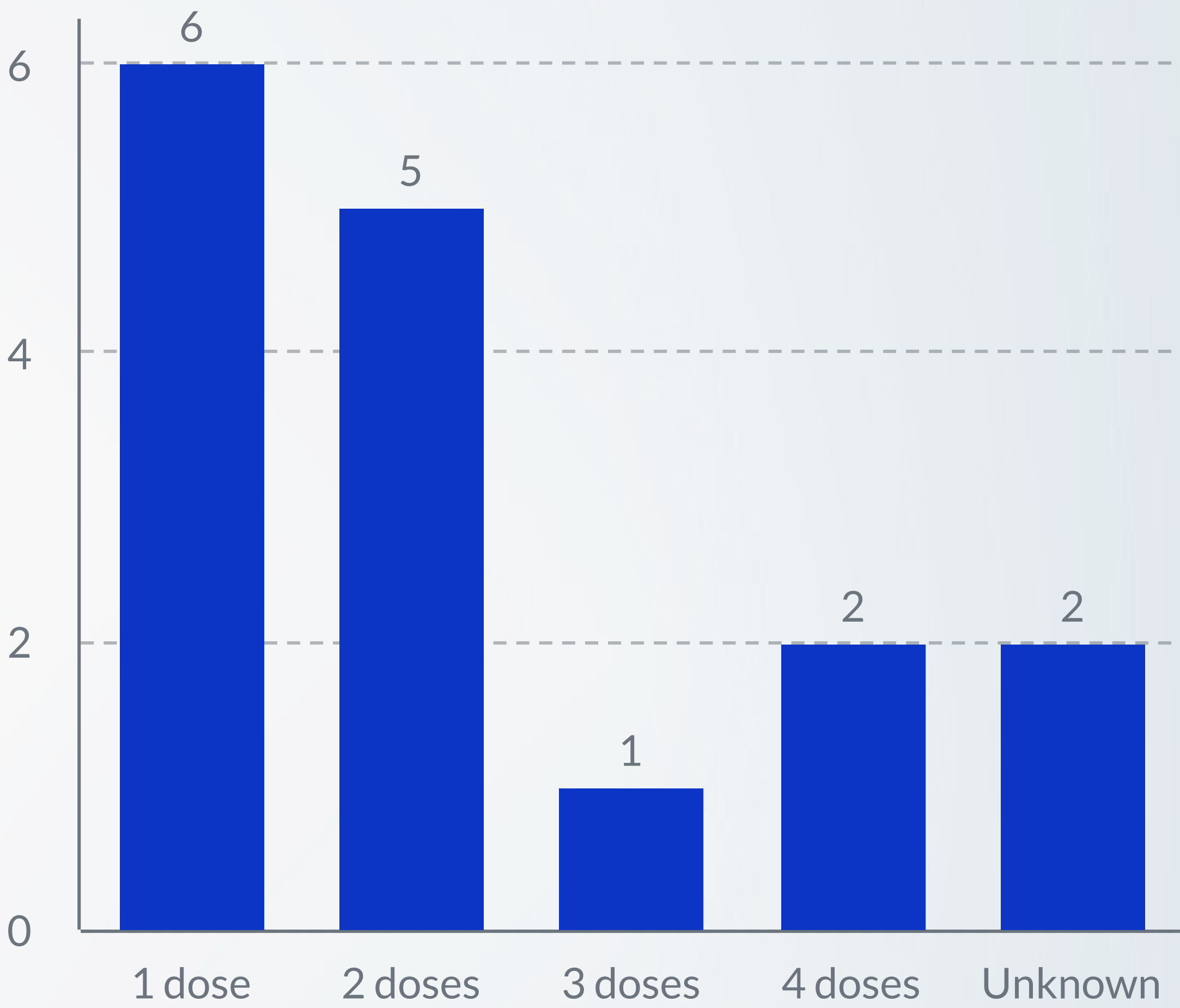
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Naloxone Administration

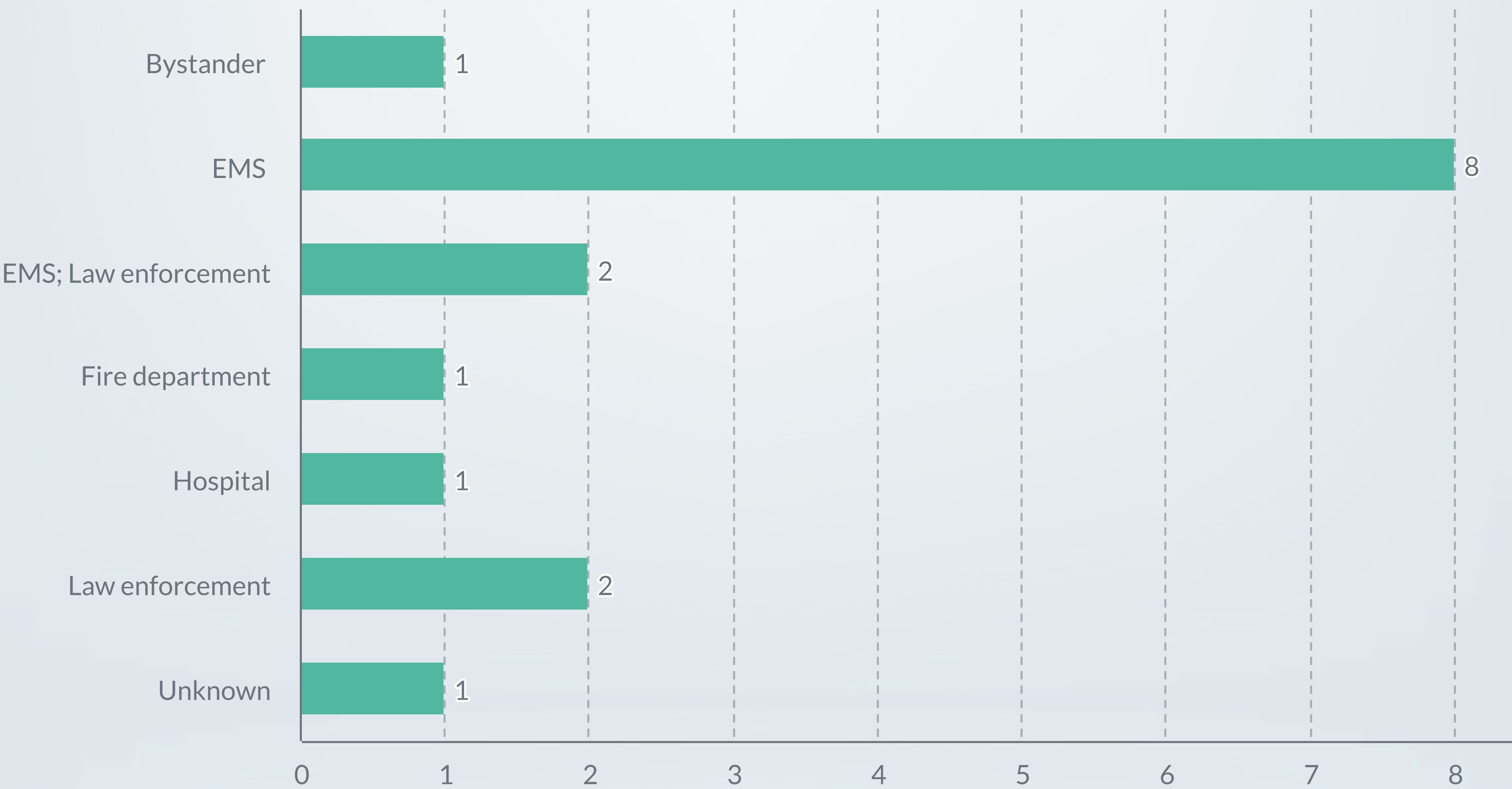
NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION STATUS



HOW MANY DOSES (2 MG) OF NALOXONE WERE ADMINISTERED



WHO ADMINISTERED NALOXONE?



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Death Scene Findings



35%  
Were found  
by family



50%  
Died at their  
residence



6%  
Were found  
by a minor



89%  
Used the fatal  
substance(s)  
alone



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



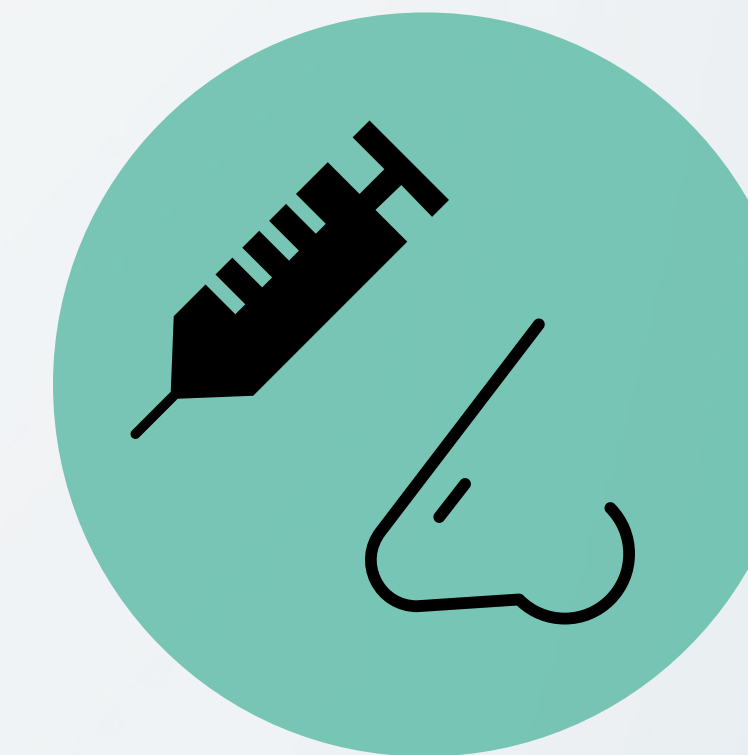
9%  
Had Narcan on  
scene and/or  
were prescribed  
Narcan



53%  
Were dead  
upon EMS  
arrival



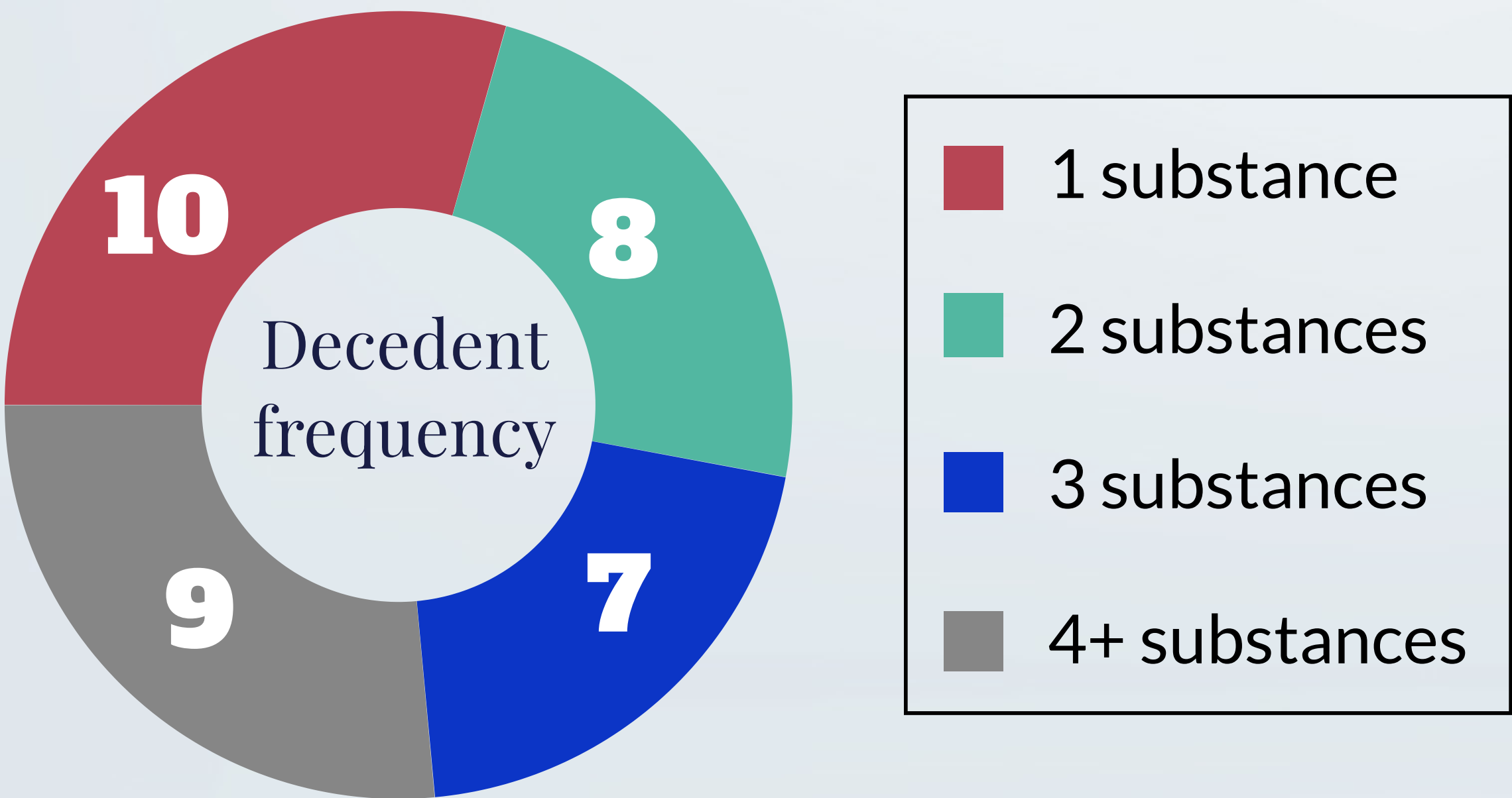
21%  
Died at the  
hospital



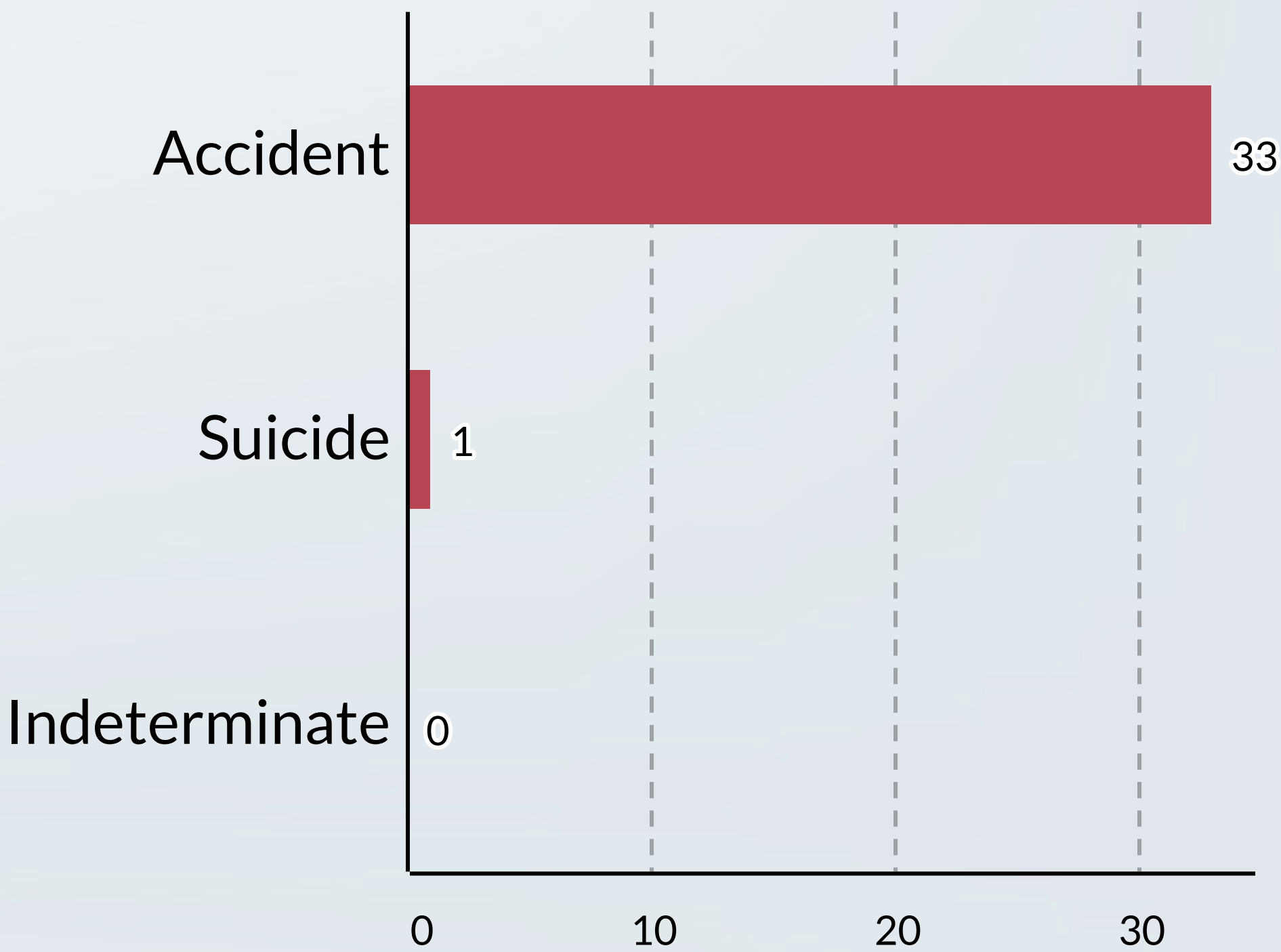
47%  
Were given  
Narcan

Autopsy and Toxicology Results

NUMBER OF SUBSTANCES  
CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH



MANNER OF DEATH

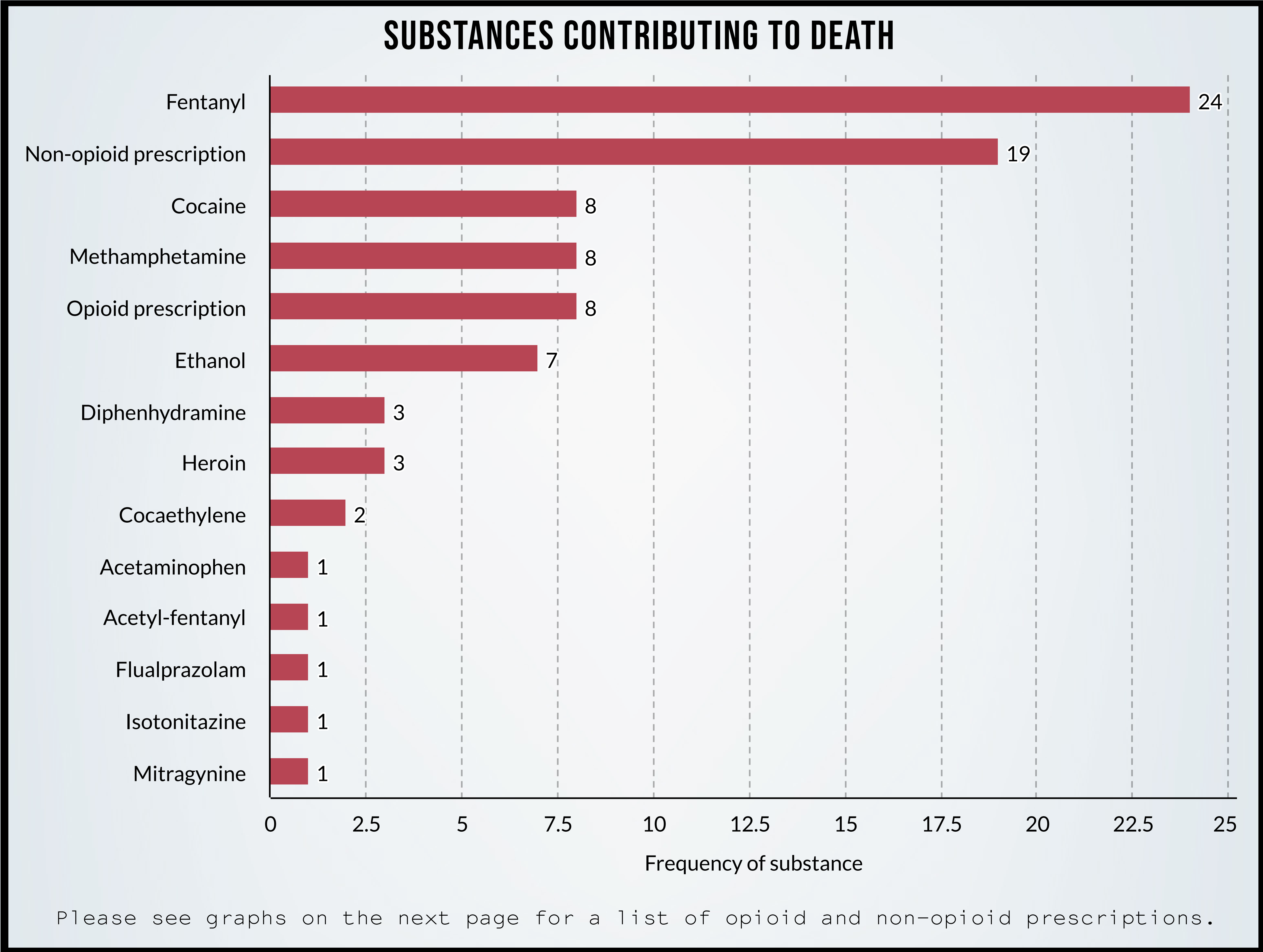




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Substance Breakdown



HEROIN & FENTANYL

- 3 decedents had heroin in their toxicology
- All 3 of these decedents also had fentanyl in their toxicology

XYLAZINE & FENTANYL

- 0 decedents had xylazine in their toxicology
- 0 of these decedents also had fentanyl in their toxicology

BENZODIAZEPINES & OPIOIDS

- 10 decedents had a benzodiazepine and an opioid in their toxicology
- 2 decedents were prescribed that opioid and benzodiazepine

METHAMPHETAMINE & OPIOIDS

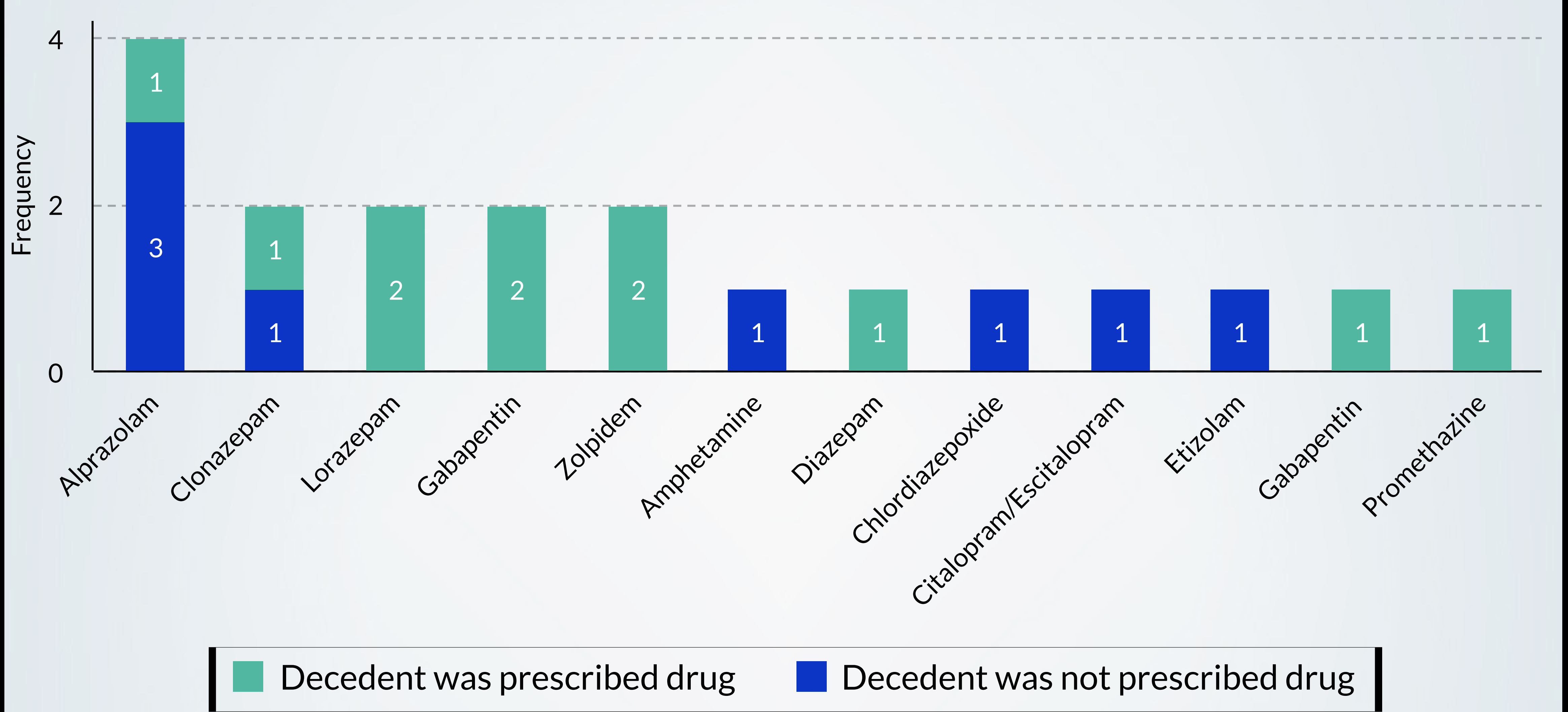
- 6 decedents had methamphetamine and opioid(s) in their toxicology
- 1 decedent had methamphetamine and heroin in their toxicology

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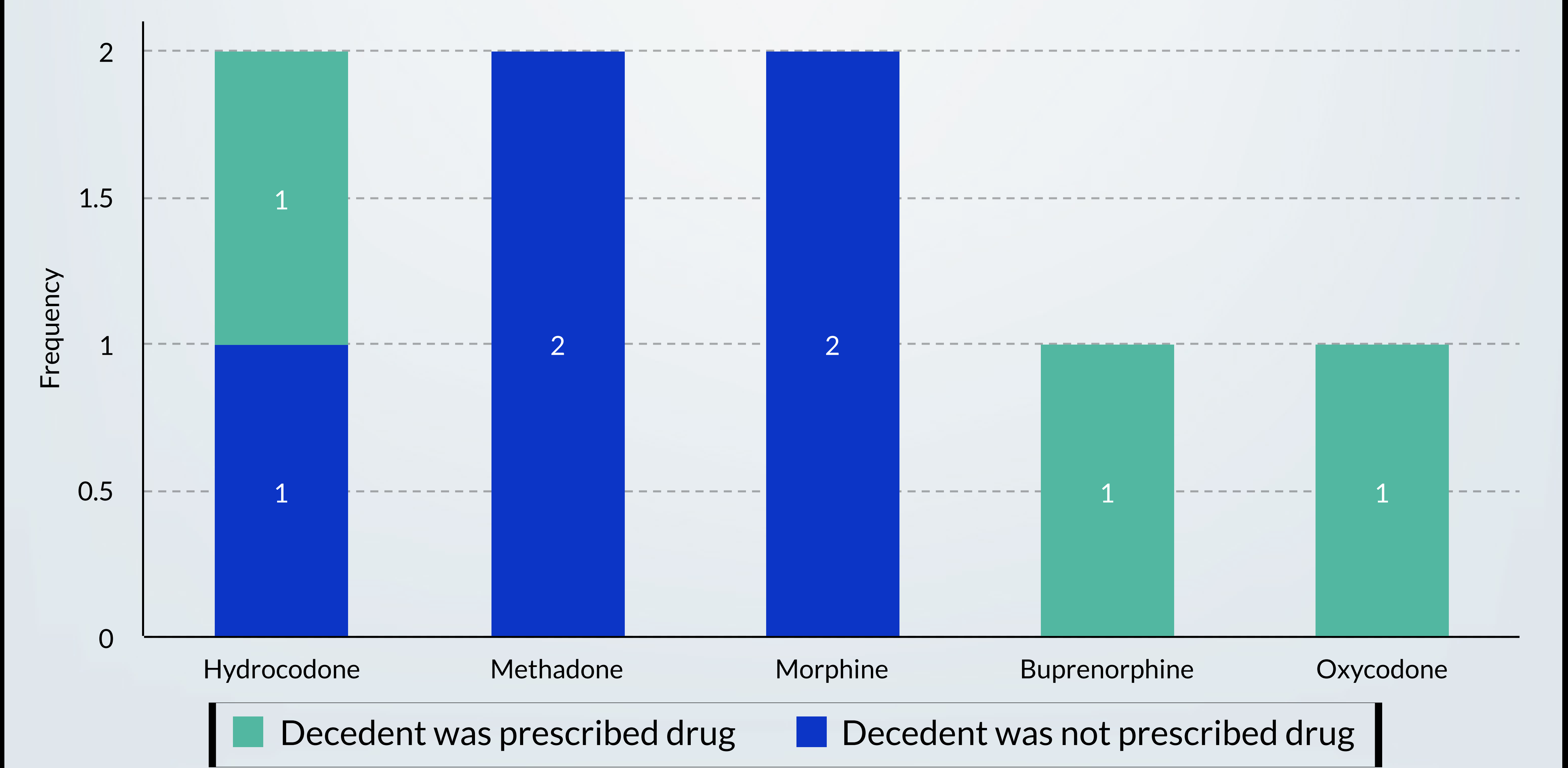
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Autopsy and Toxicology Results, cont.

NON-OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS PRESENT IN TOXICOLOGY



OPIOID PRESCRIPTIONS PRESENT IN TOXICOLOGY



Note: Of the 24 decedents with fentanyl present in their toxicology, 0 were prescribed fentanyl