



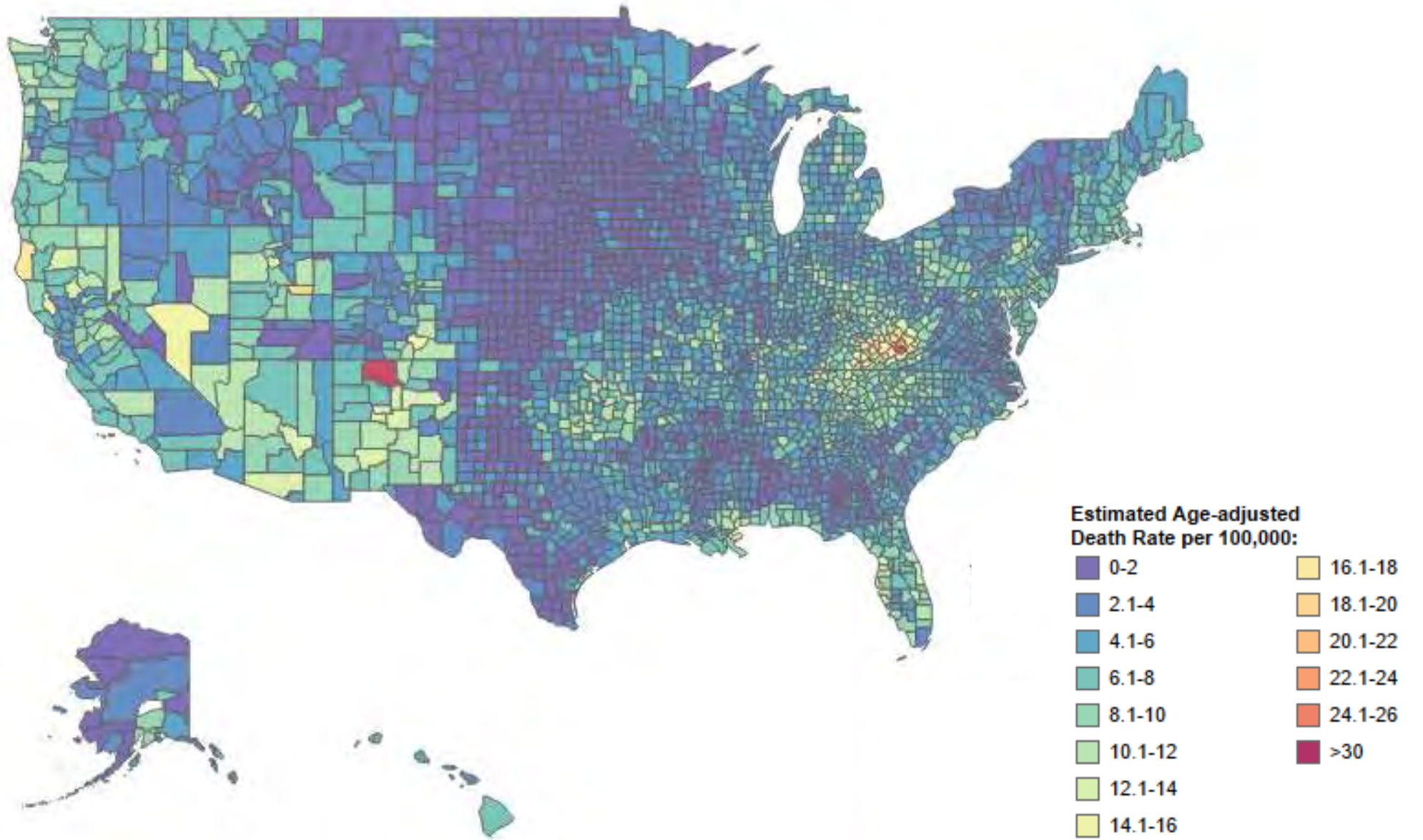
# Understanding the Opioid Crisis: What's at the Heart of the Matter?

Sara Patterson

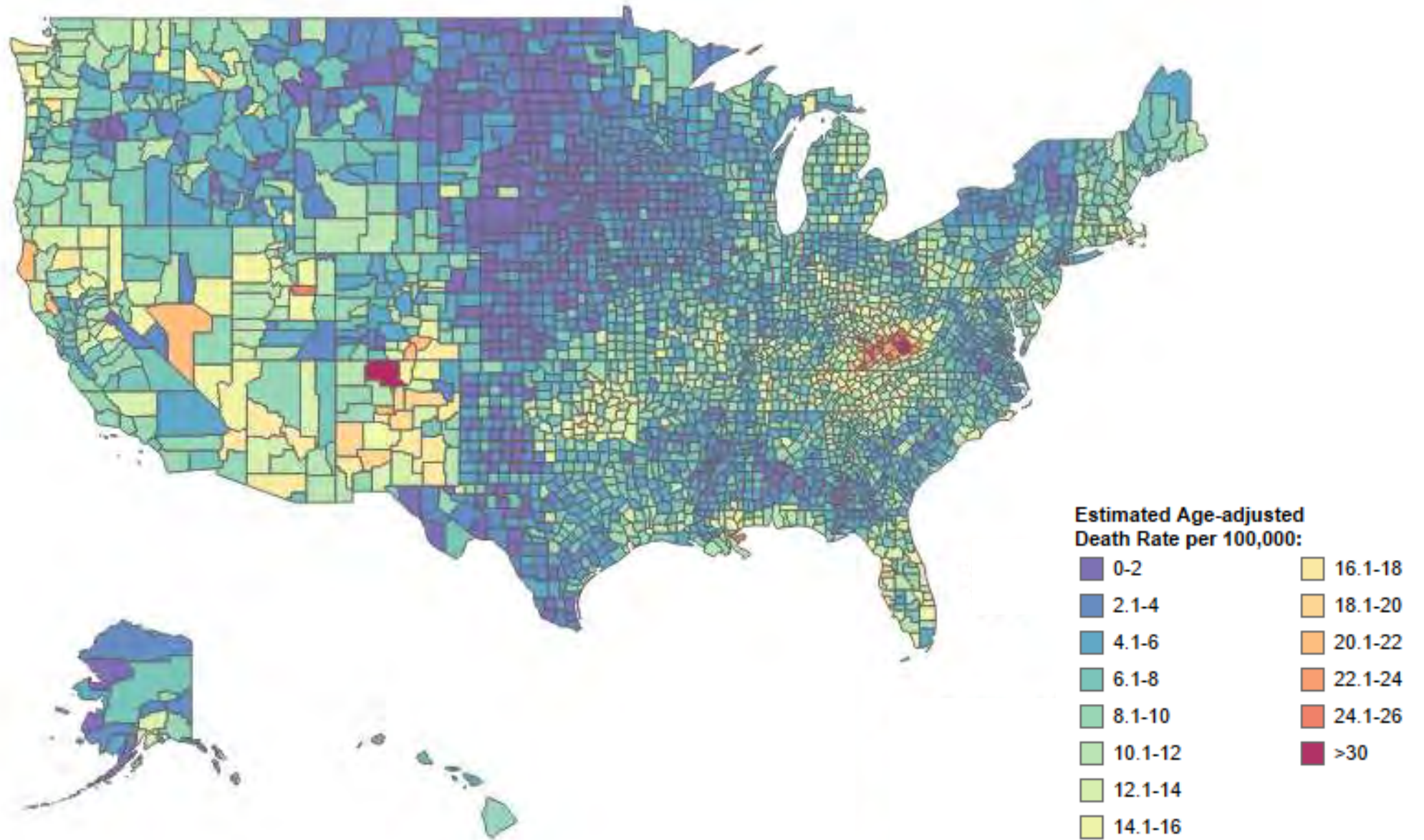
Associate Director for Policy

National Center for Injury Prevention and Control

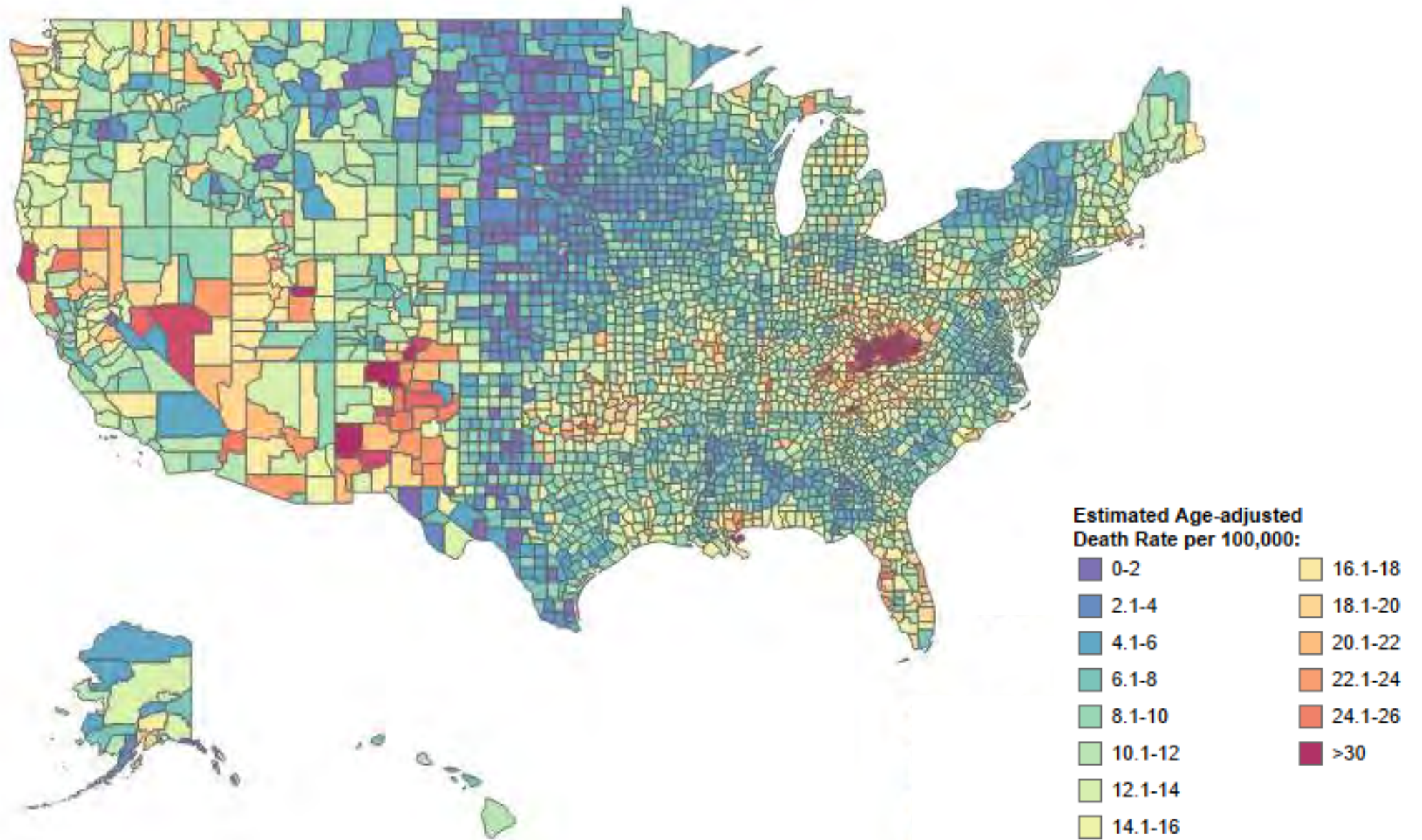
2000



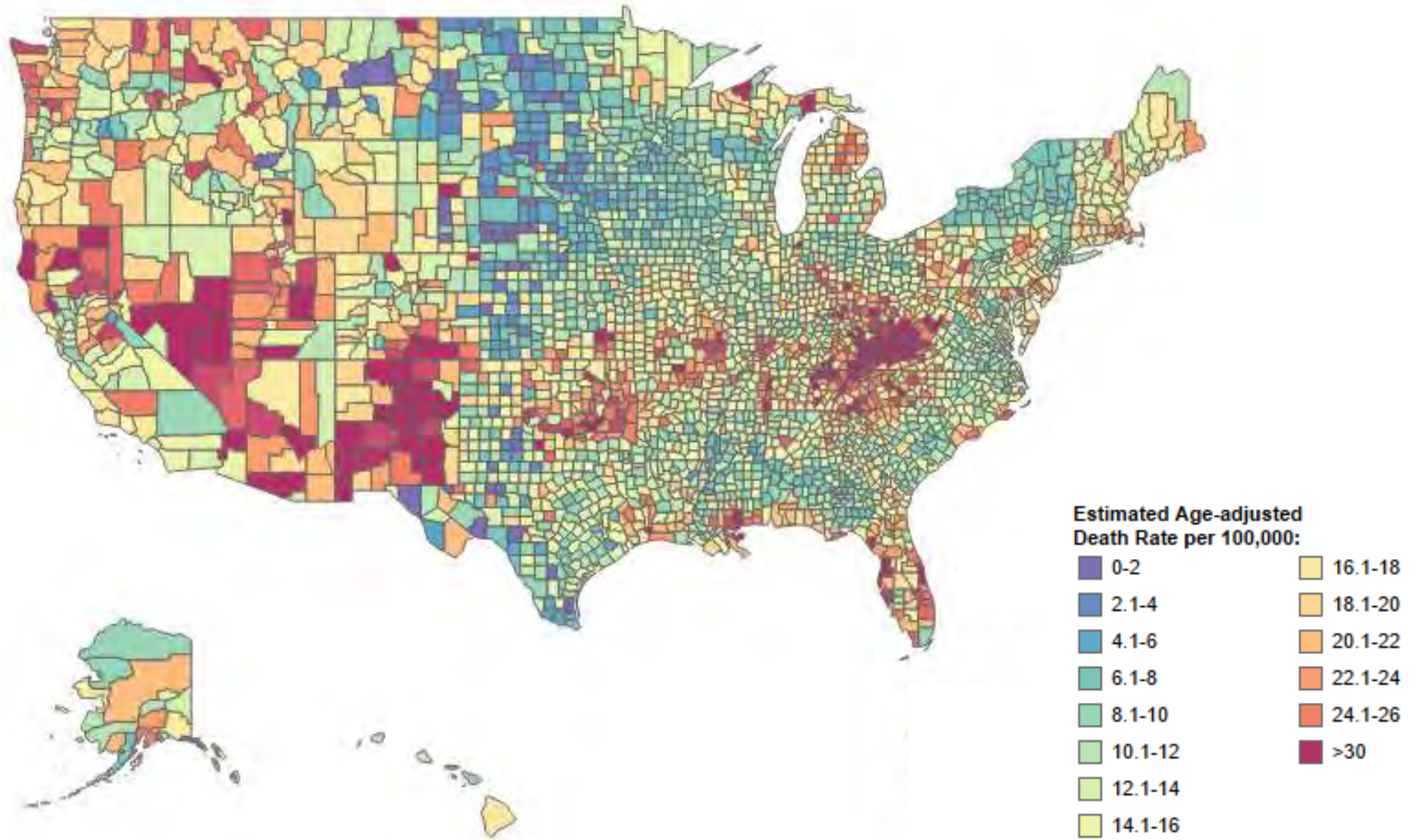
2005

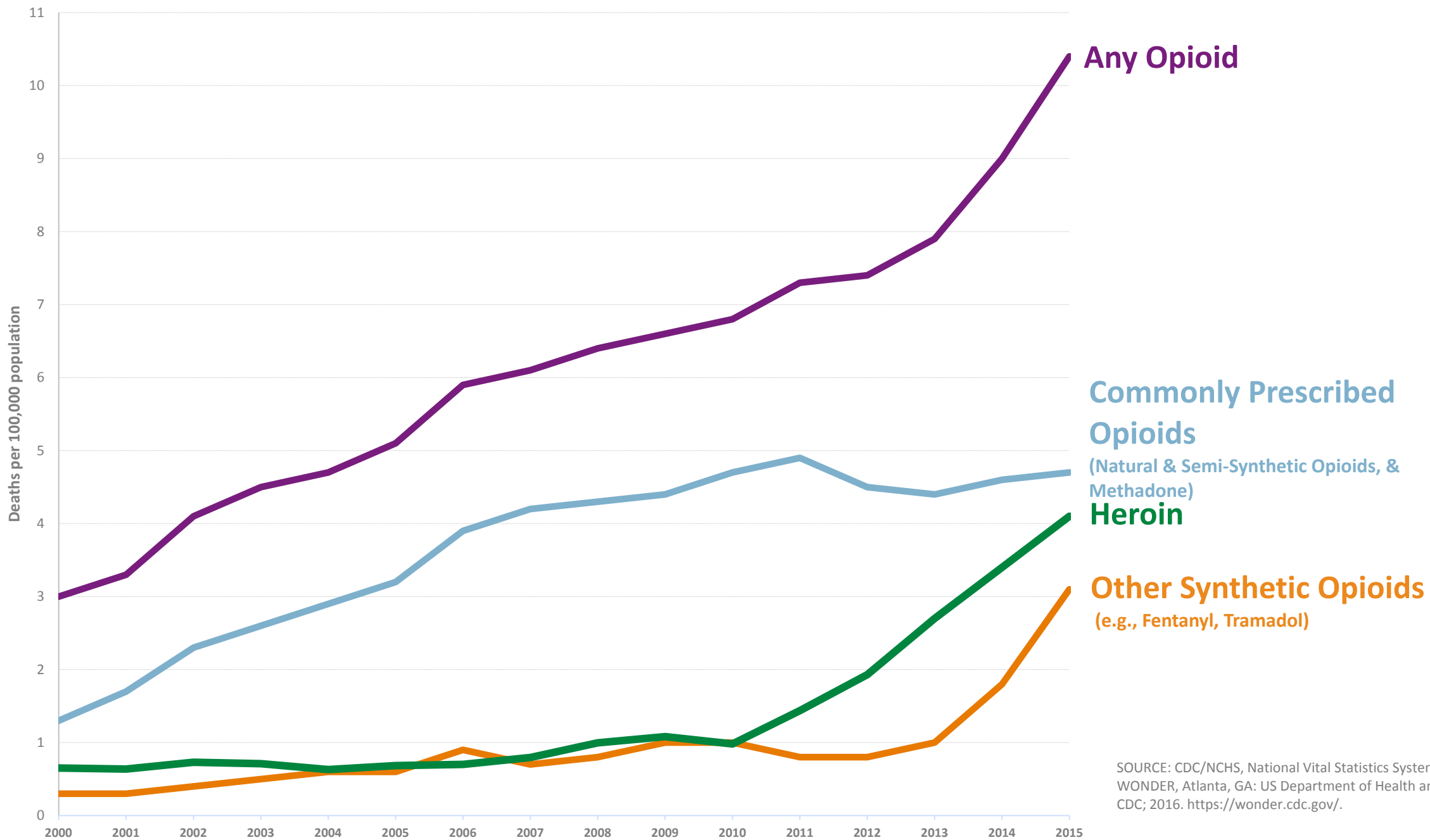


2010



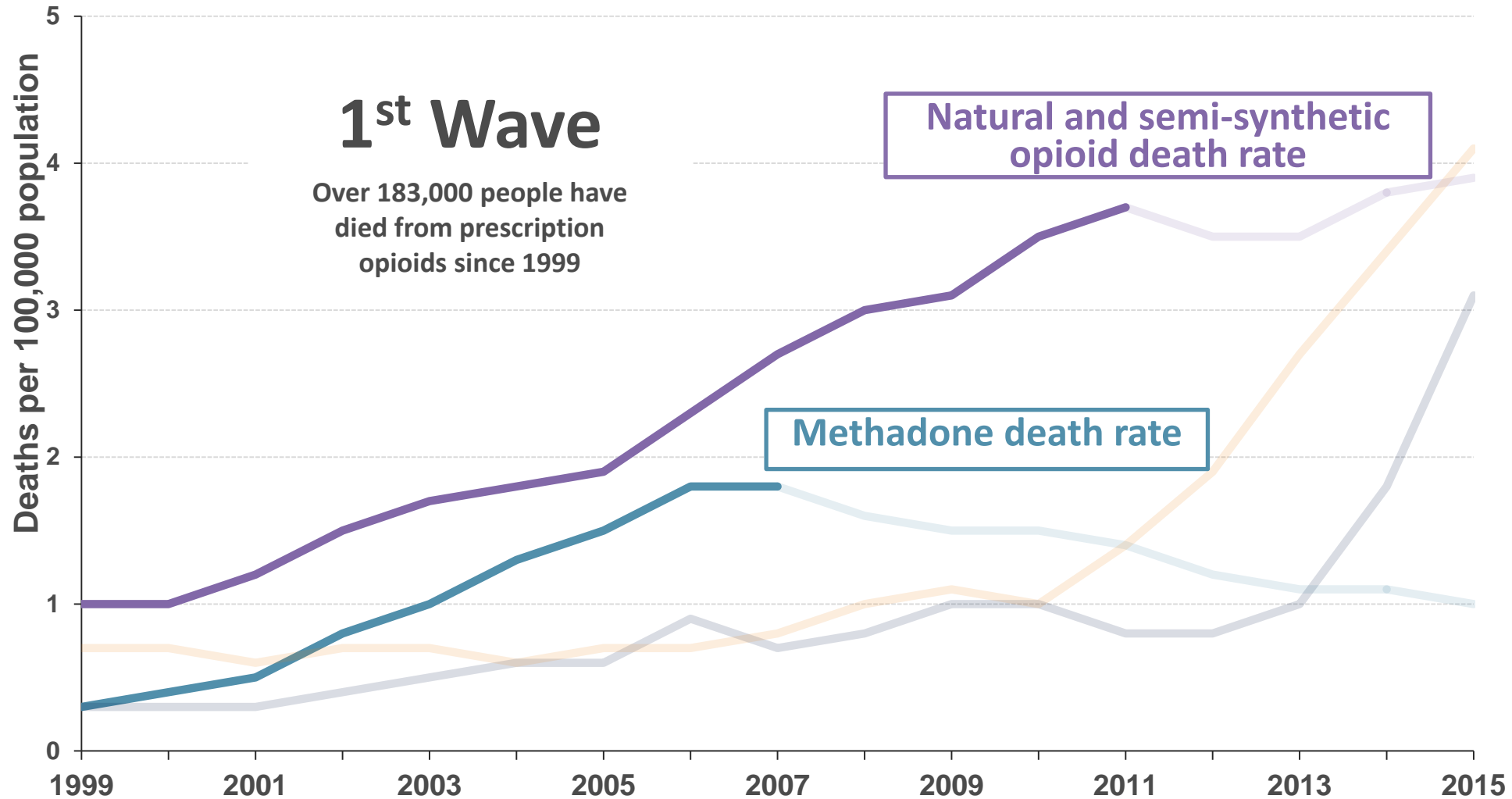
2015



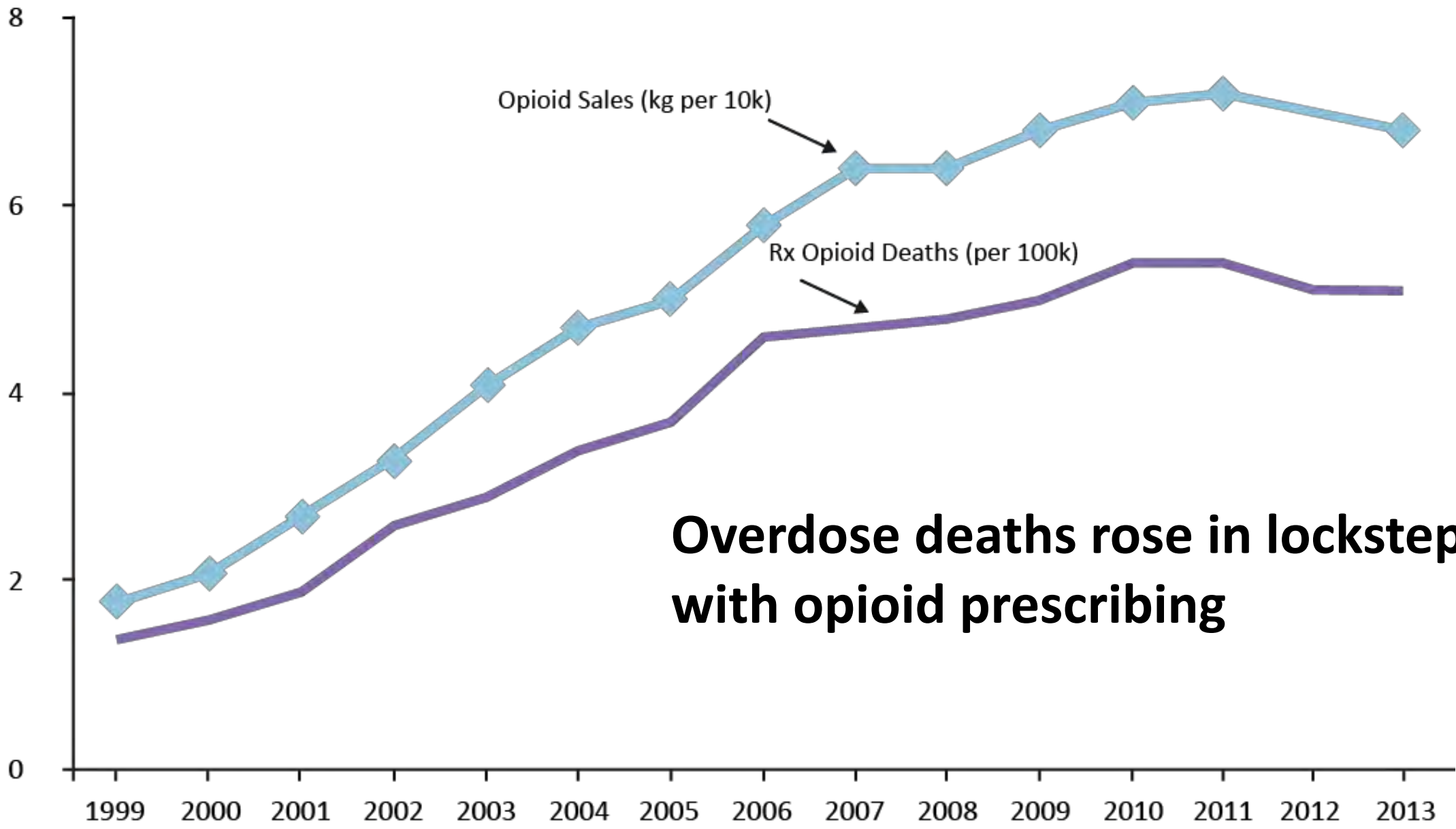


SOURCE: CDC/NCHS, National Vital Statistics System, Mortality. CDC WONDER, Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <https://wonder.cdc.gov/>.

# Rise in prescription opioid deaths in United States



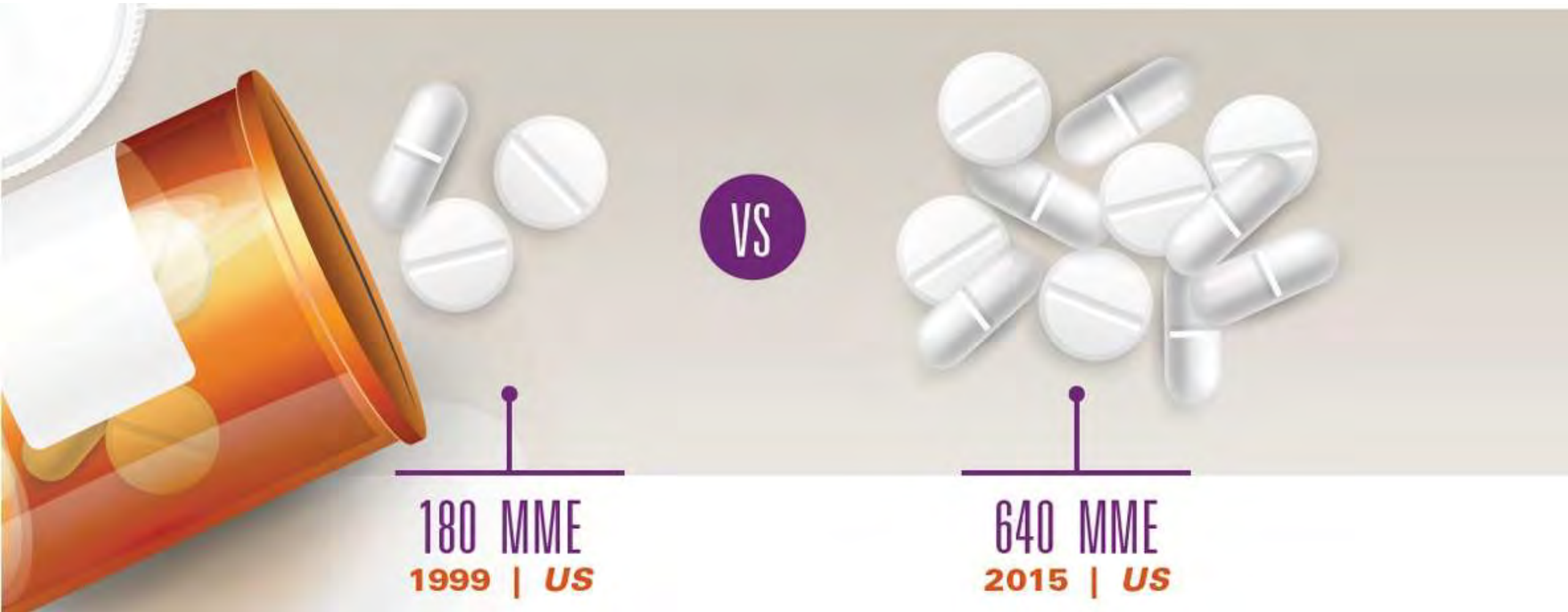
SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

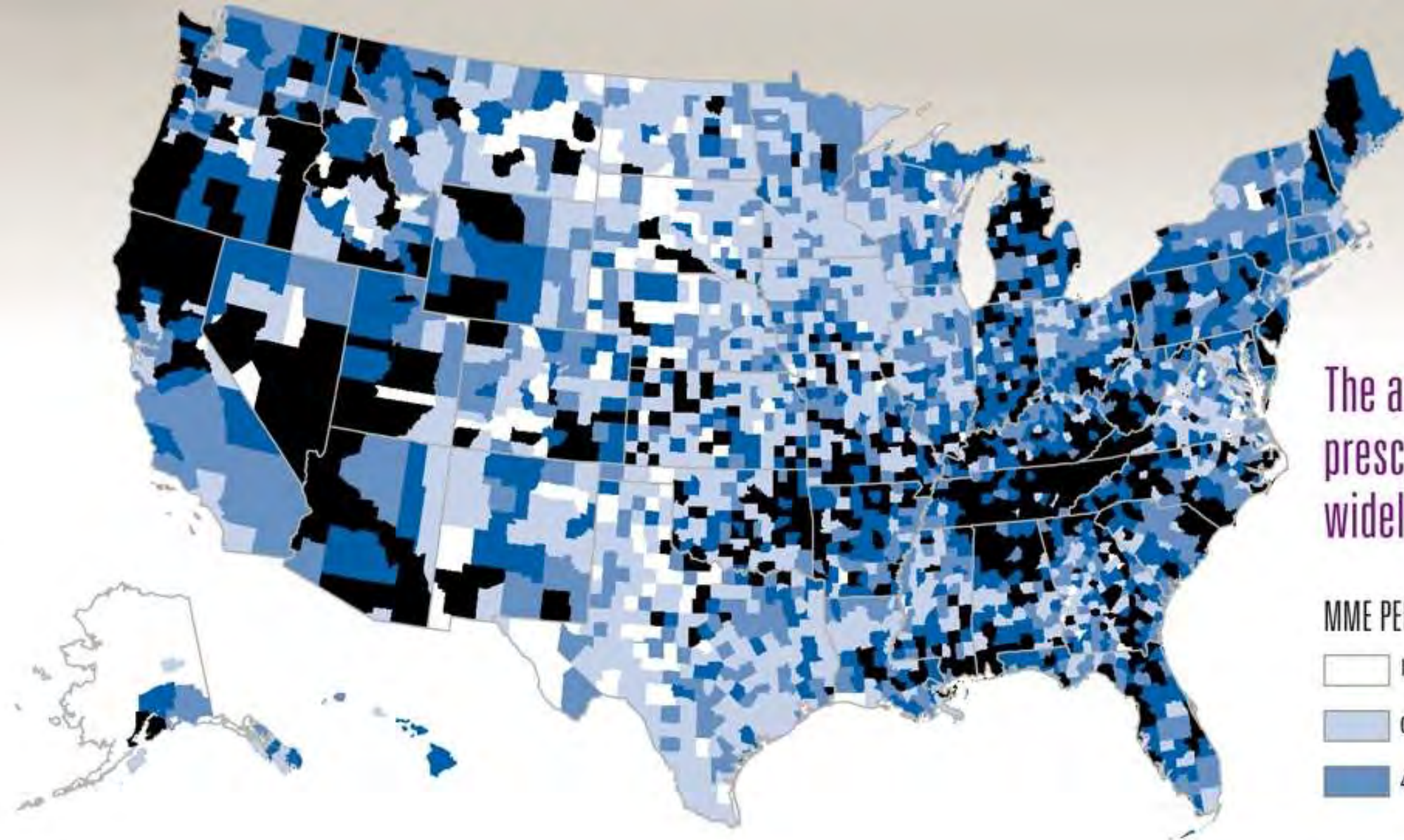


**Overdose deaths rose in lockstep with opioid prescribing**



# Despite recent declines, opioid prescribing still high and inconsistent



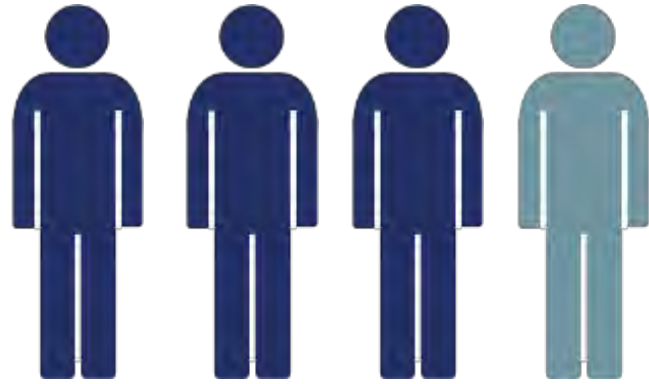


The amount of opioids prescribed per person varied widely among counties in 2015.

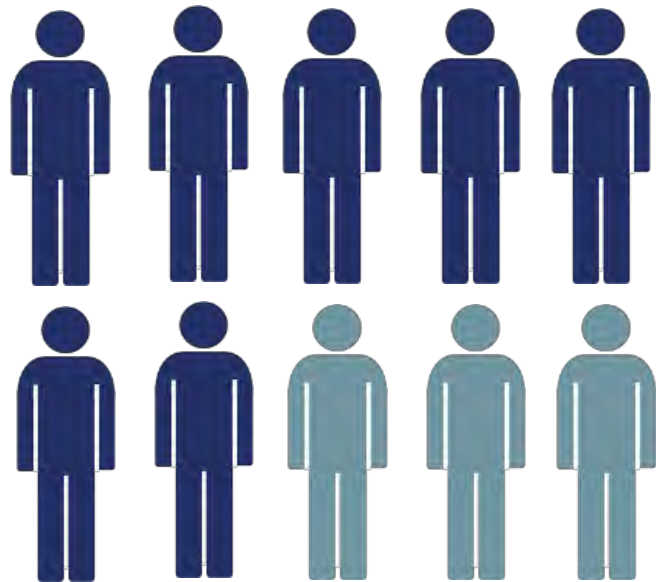


“The amount of opioids prescribed in the U.S. is still too high, with **too many opioid prescriptions for too many days at too high a dosage.**”

– Anne Schuchat, MD, Deputy Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

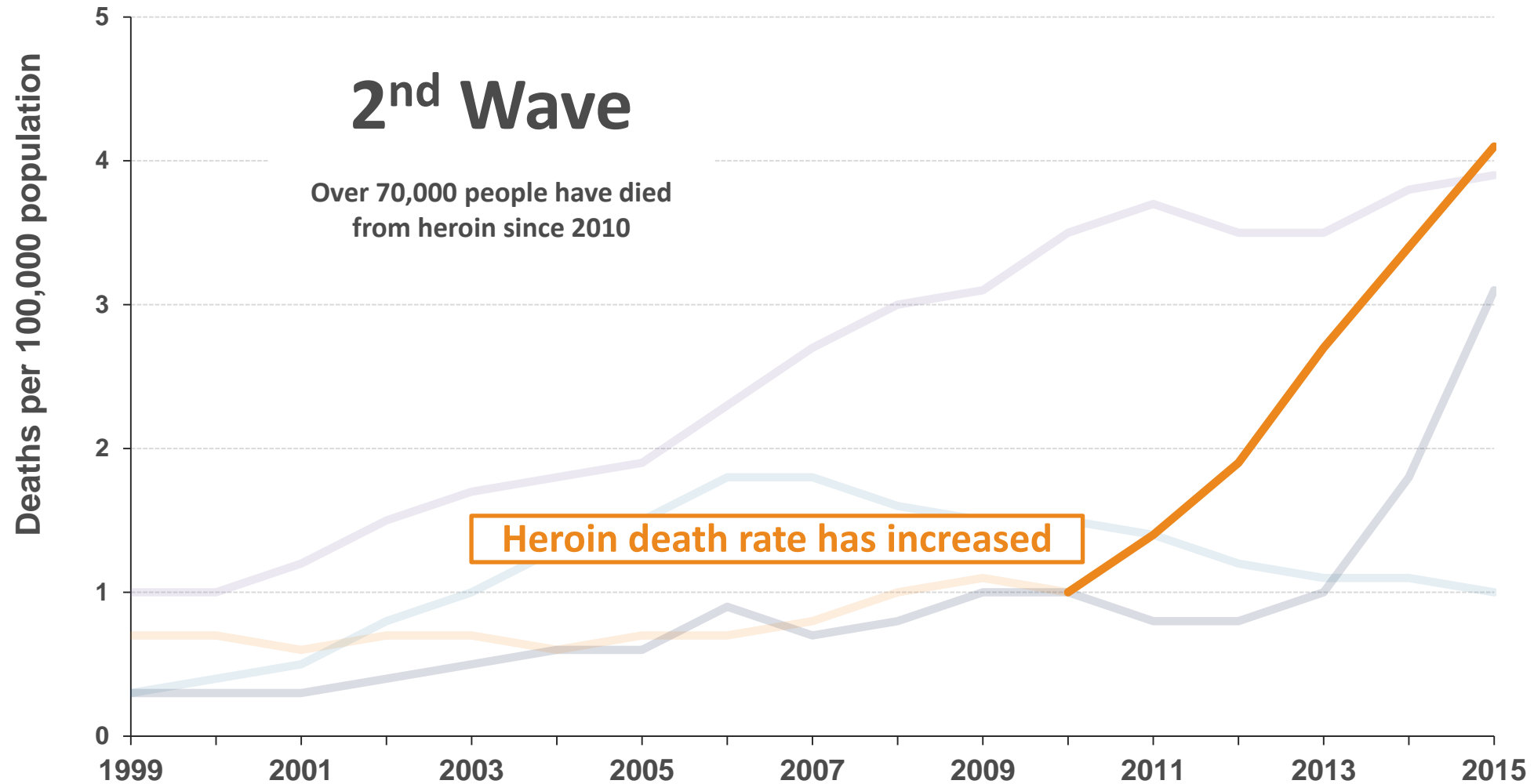


**3 out of 4 people** who used heroin in the past year misused opioids first



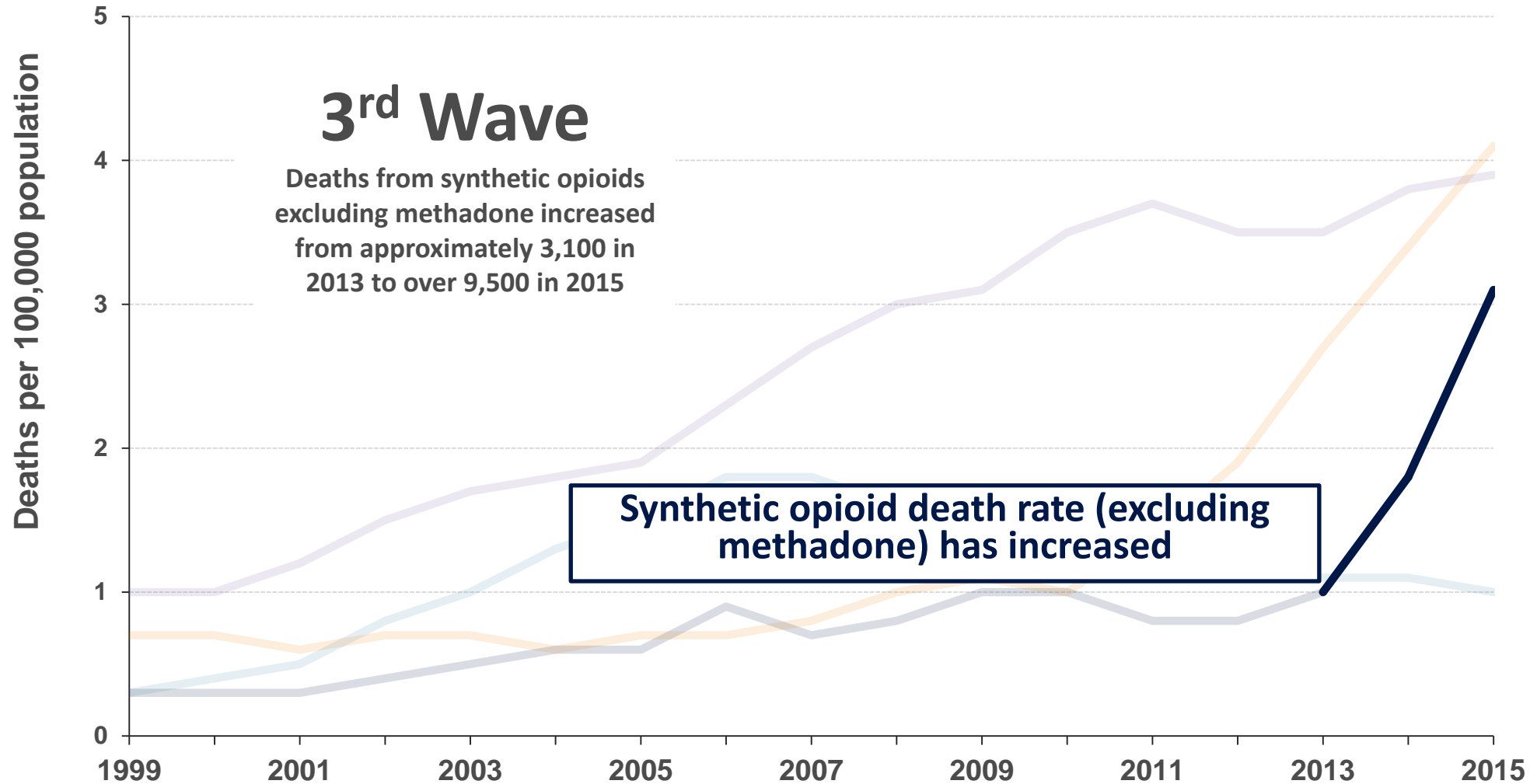
**7 out of 10 people** who used heroin in the past year also misused opioids in the past year

# Rise in heroin deaths in United States



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

# Rise in synthetic opioid deaths in United States – Likely illicit fentanyl



SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

# Who's at risk for overdose?



- Demographics

- Men
- 35-54 year olds
- Whites
- American Indians / Alaska Natives

- Socioeconomics & Geography

- Medicaid
- Rural

- Risk Factors

- Patients receiving opioids from multiple prescribers and/or pharmacies
- Patients taking high daily doses of opioids
- Depression, substance use disorder, and prior overdose

# The epidemic impacts our families...

- Increase in babies exposed to opioids during pregnancy (born with neonatal abstinence syndrome)
- Increase in children entering foster care
- Greater risk for outbreaks of HIV and Hepatitis C among injection drug users





## ...And our economy

**\$78.5 billion**

Cost of prescription opioid dependence, abuse, and overdose in the United States in 2013

**25%**

Percentage of worker's compensation prescription drug claims that were for opioids in 2011

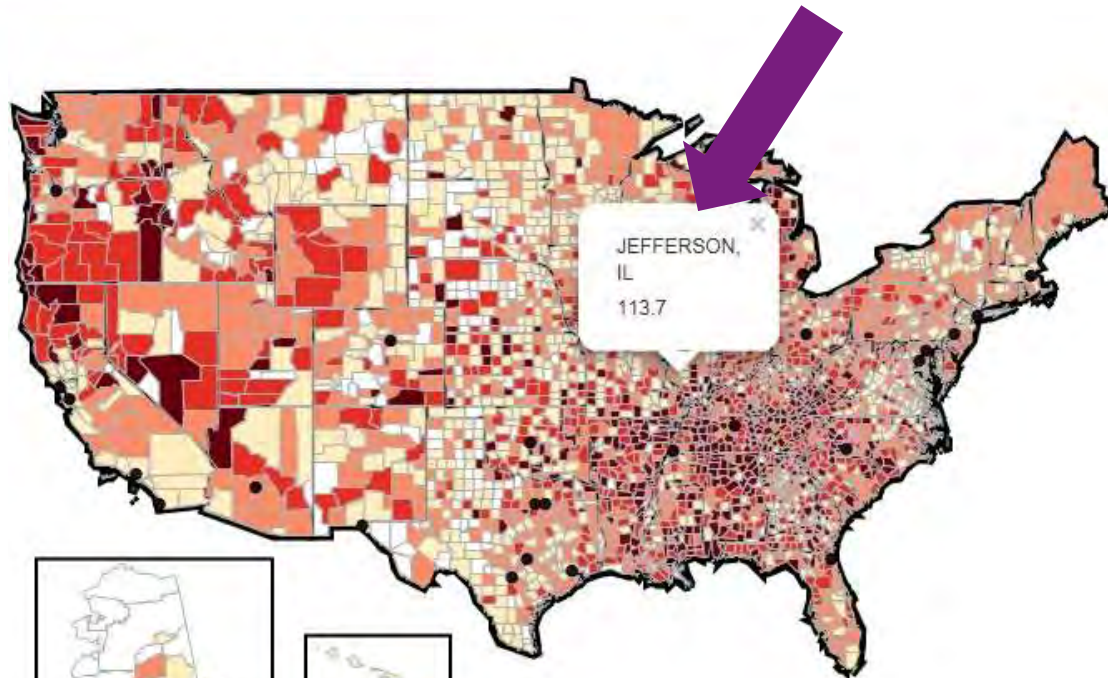


# Knowledge is power!

- **Download** the latest Vital Signs infographic on opioid prescribing
  - [www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioids](http://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/opioids)
- **Embed** our Opioid Overdose Prevention microsite into your website
  - [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/microsite](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/microsite)
- **Access** state and county-level data and maps
  - [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data)
  - [www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars](http://www.cdc.gov/injury/wisqars)

POLK,  
OR  
51.9

- Cities
- 2016 Rate per 100 persons
- < 57.2
- 57.2 - 82.3
- 82.4 - 112.5
- > 112.5
- Missing Data
- States
- Inset boxes



JEFFERSON,  
IL  
113.7

- Cities
- 2016 Rate per 100 persons
- < 57.2
- 57.2 - 82.3
- 82.4 - 112.5
- > 112.5
- Missing Data
- States
- Inset boxes

# Let's continue the conversation

- Email us at [InjuryCenter@cdc.gov](mailto:InjuryCenter@cdc.gov)
- Join the next webinar
  - Successes from CDC-funded prevention programs in states and communities across the country
  - Ways faith-based and community organizations can plug in



 [InjuryCenter@CDC.gov](mailto:InjuryCenter@CDC.gov)

 [@CDCInjury](https://twitter.com/CDCInjury)

For more information, contact CDC  
1-800-CDC-INFO (232-4636)  
TTY: 1-888-232-6348  
[www.cdc.gov/injury](http://www.cdc.gov/injury)

*The findings and conclusions in this report are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.*

