



# Iowa's Evolving Drug Trends

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## Responding to Health & Safety Concerns

April 2023

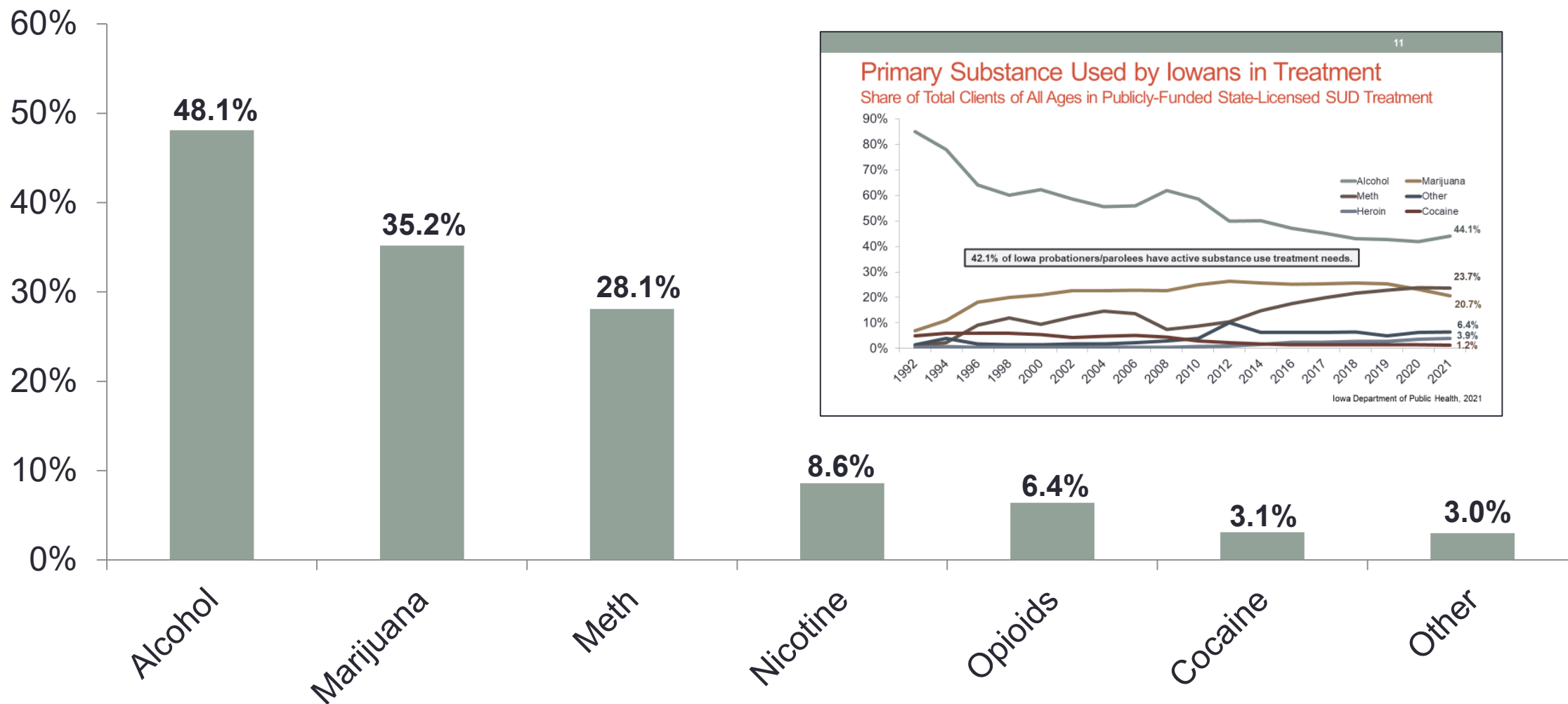
Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy

*Vision: Safe & healthy Iowans.*

*Mission: To coordinate substance use related criminal justice resourcing & policy development.*

# Substance Use by All Iowans Entering Treatment

Past 30-Day Use Cited by Those Admitted to Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment



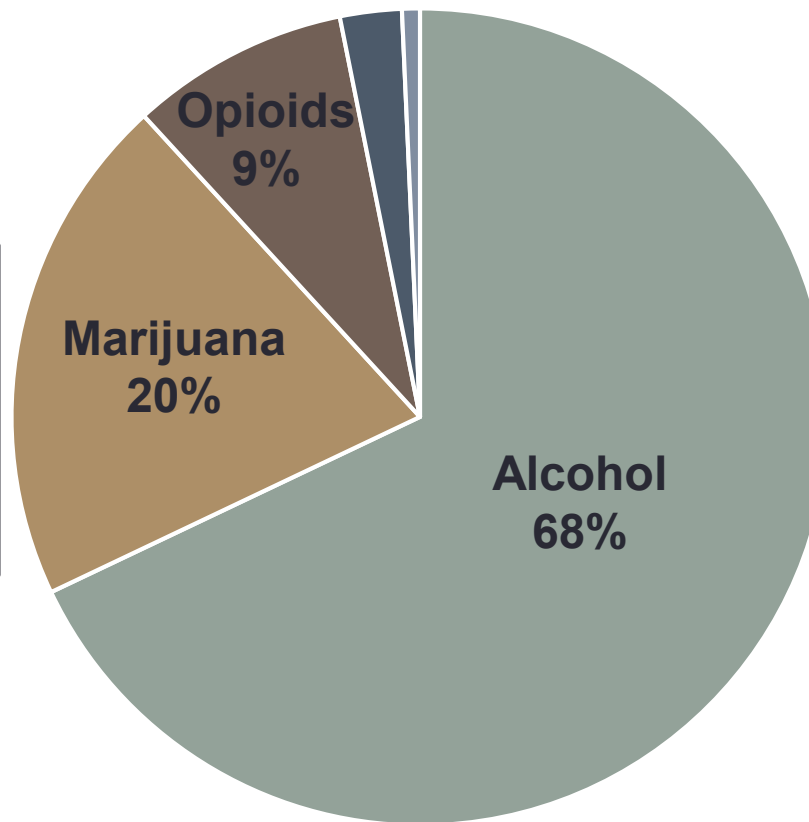
(IHHS reporting changed in 2022. Previous trend data showed declining use of alcohol, rising use of meth, & nearly steady use of other substances.)

# Iowa Substance-Related ED Visits & “Poison” Exposures

Some Emergency Department Patients may have Presented Due to Polysubstance Use

**Total Iowa substance-related hospital ED visits in 2021 = 32,120**  
(+10.5% overall, +58% for marijuana vs. 2016)

**3,054 U.S. children under age 6**  
accidentally consumed marijuana  
edibles in 2021, up 1,375% vs. 2017,  
with 22.7% needing hospitalization &  
8% requiring critical care.  
National Poison Data System, 2022

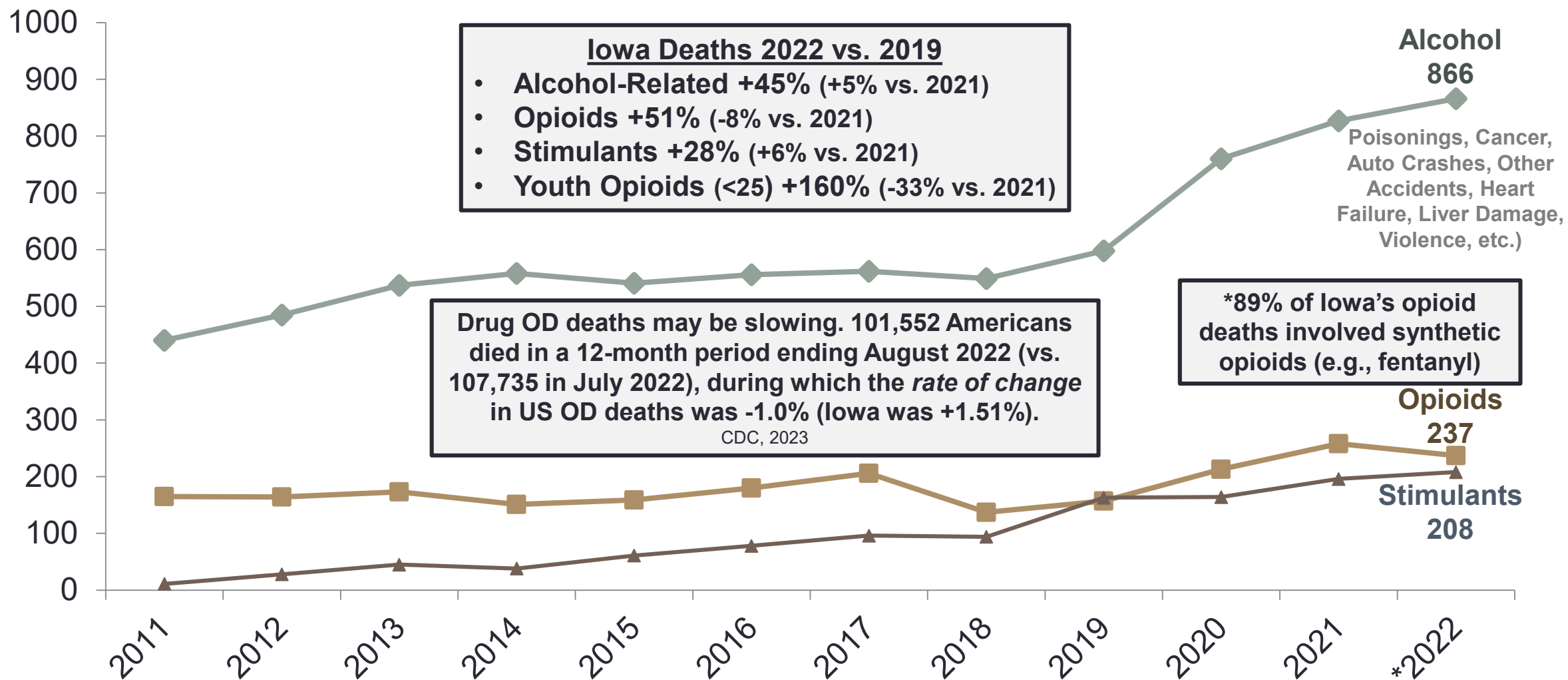


**Over 50% of Iowa poison exposure**  
calls involved Rx, OTC & herbal  
drugs, led by pain relievers at #1.  
Iowa Poison Control Center, 2022

■ Alcohol ■ Marijuana ■ Opioids ■ Cocaine ■ Amphetamines

# Substance-Involved Deaths in Iowa

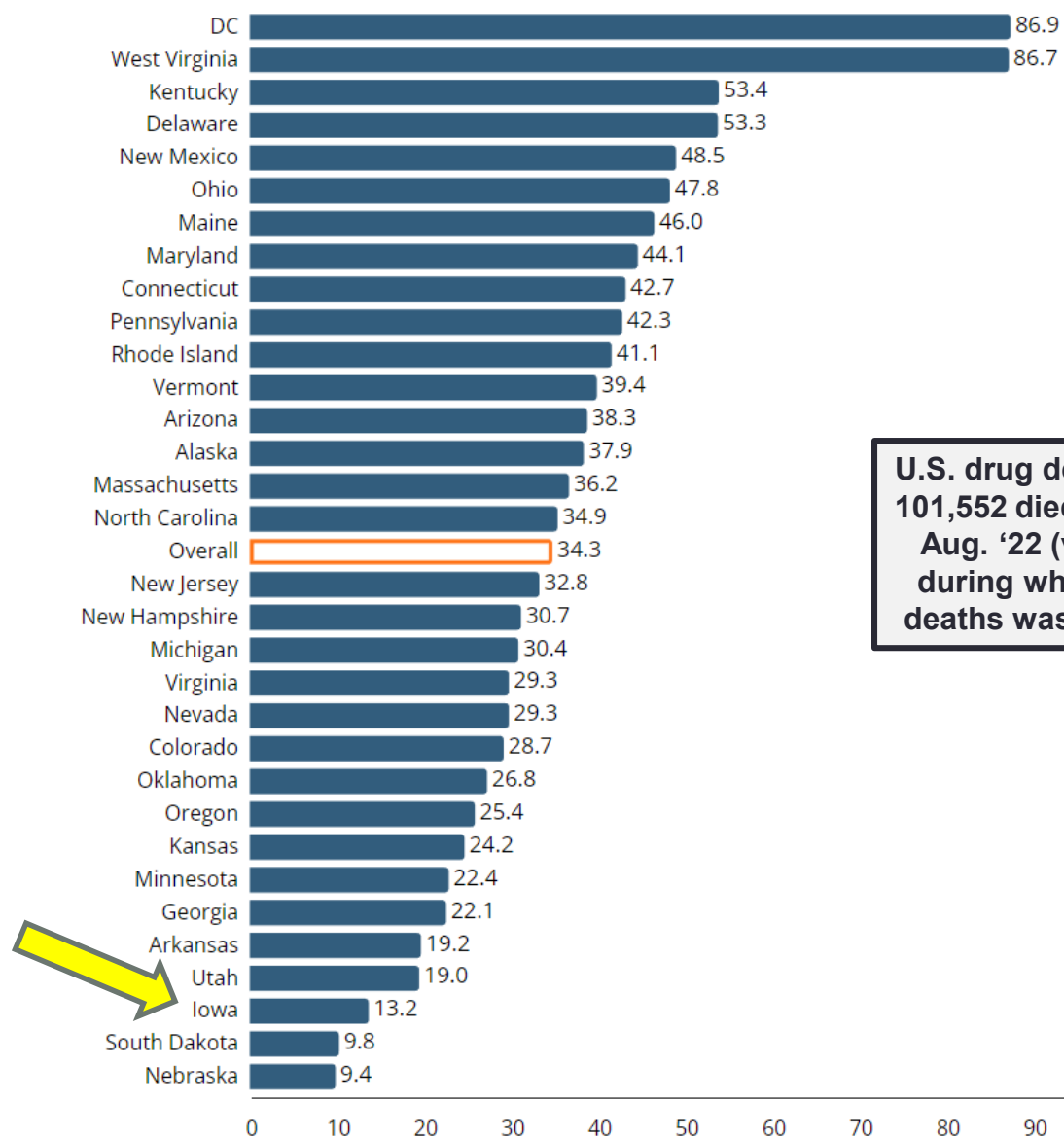
Alcohol, Opioids (including powerful combos) & Psychostimulants (e.g., Meth)



\*Preliminary 2022 Data through 2-28-23 (Note: ME reports may lag)

Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, 2023

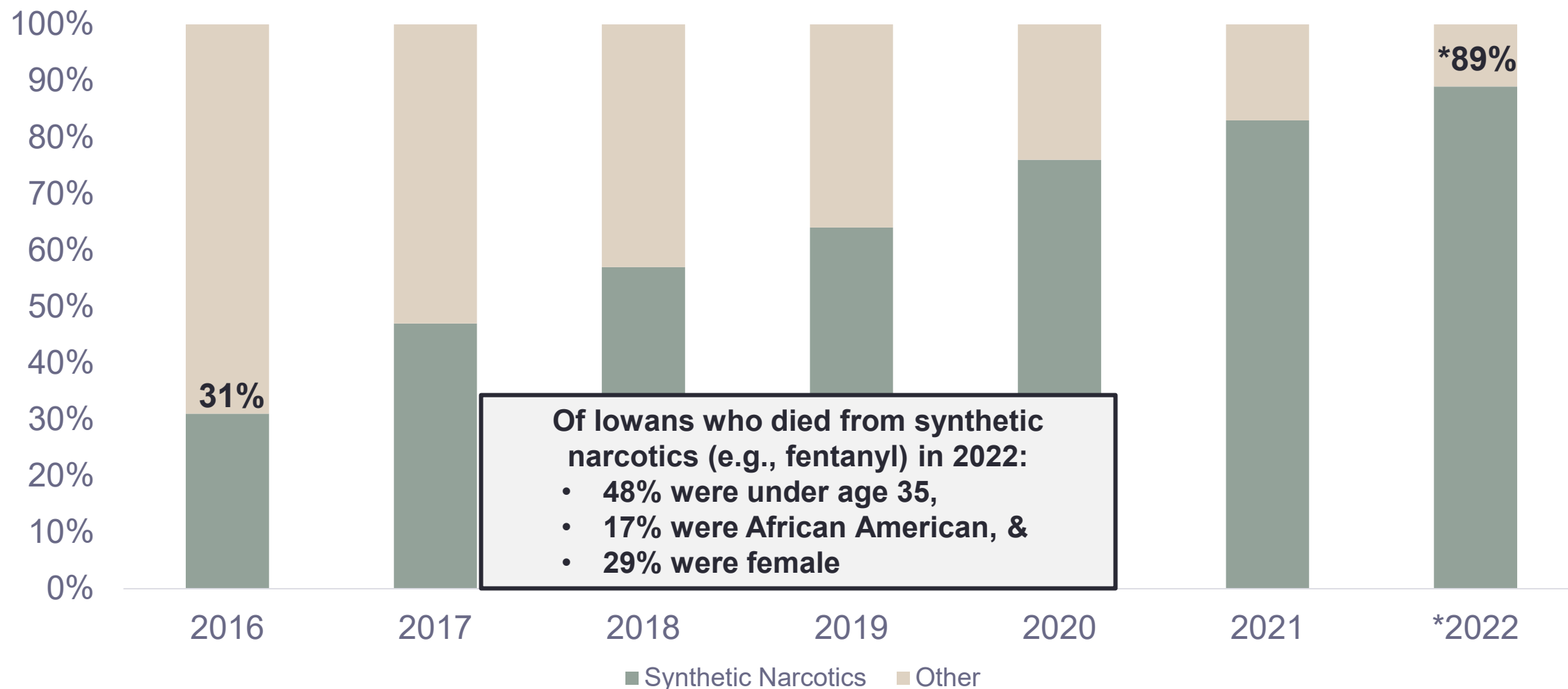
# 2021 Rate of Drug Deaths by States Reporting (All Drugs)



**U.S. drug deaths may be slowing. 101,552 died in 12-months ending Aug. '22 (vs. 107,735 July '22), during which *rate of change* in deaths was -1.0% (+1.51% Iowa).**

# Iowa Deaths Involving “Synthetic Narcotics” (e.g., Fentanyl)

% of All Yearly Opioid-Related Deaths 2016-2022



Of Iowans who died from synthetic narcotics (e.g., fentanyl) in 2022:

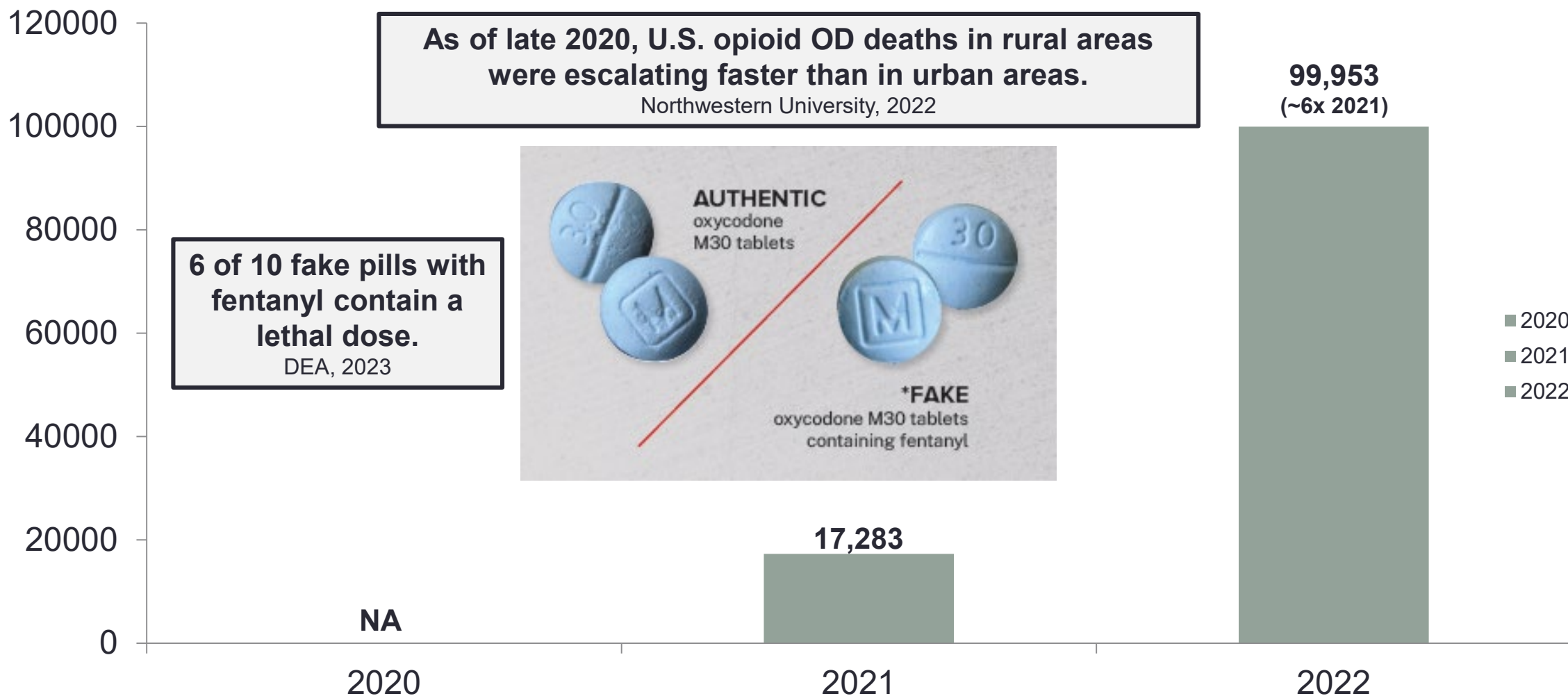
- 48% were under age 35,
- 17% were African American, &
- 29% were female

\*Preliminary 2022 Data (Note: ME reports may lag)

Iowa Department of Health & Human Services/Bureau of Health Statistics, 2023

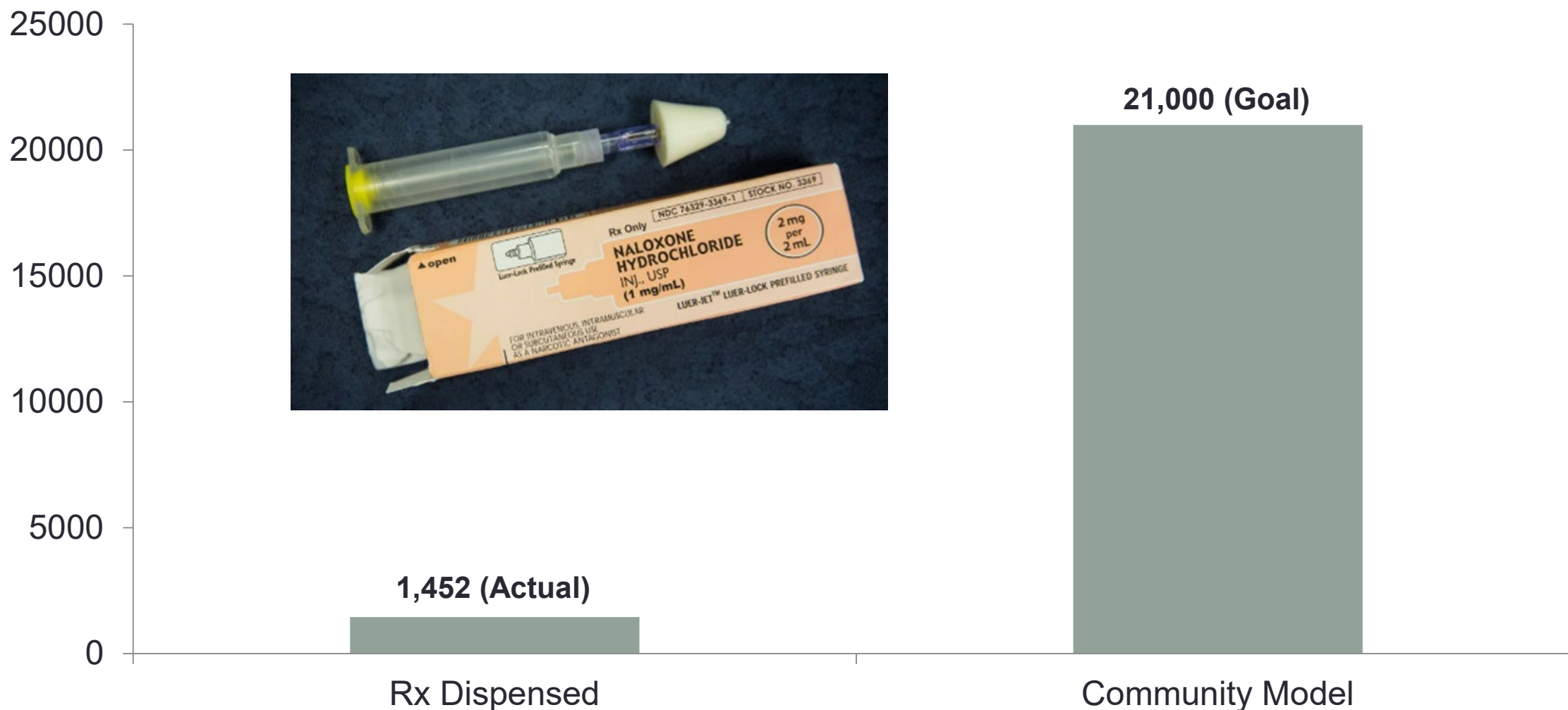
# Iowa Fake Pills Laced with Illicit Opioids (mostly Fentanyl)

## Seized by Law Enforcement & Submitted to Crime Lab



# Iowa Naloxone Distributions

Actual 2021 by Pharmacies vs. SAMHSA 80% Opioid OD Death Reduction Model

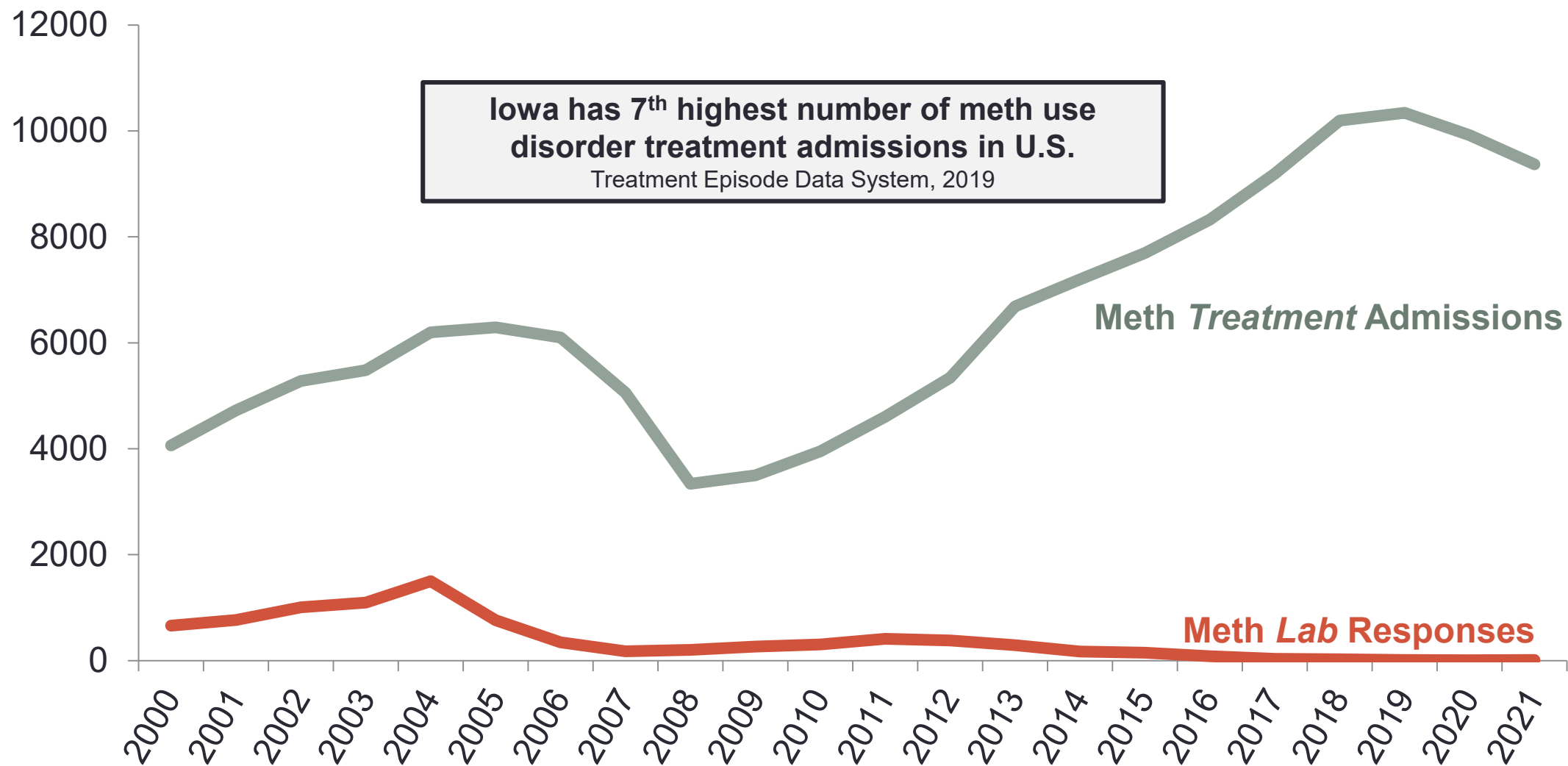


Additionally in 2021, IHHS distributed 4,528 naloxone kits to 1<sup>st</sup> responders, etc.

Iowa Department of Health & Human Services, 2022

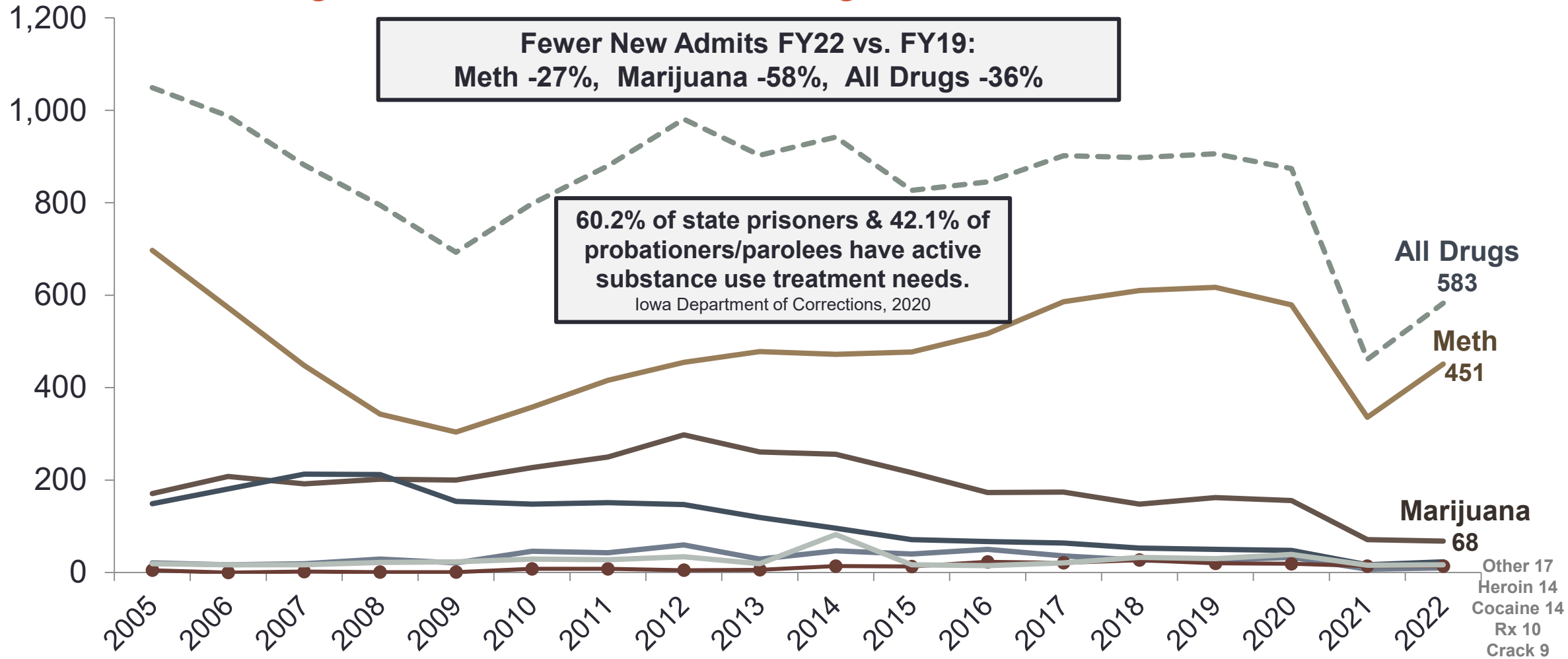


# Iowa Meth Trends: Use vs. Production



# Iowa “Drug-Related” Prison Admissions

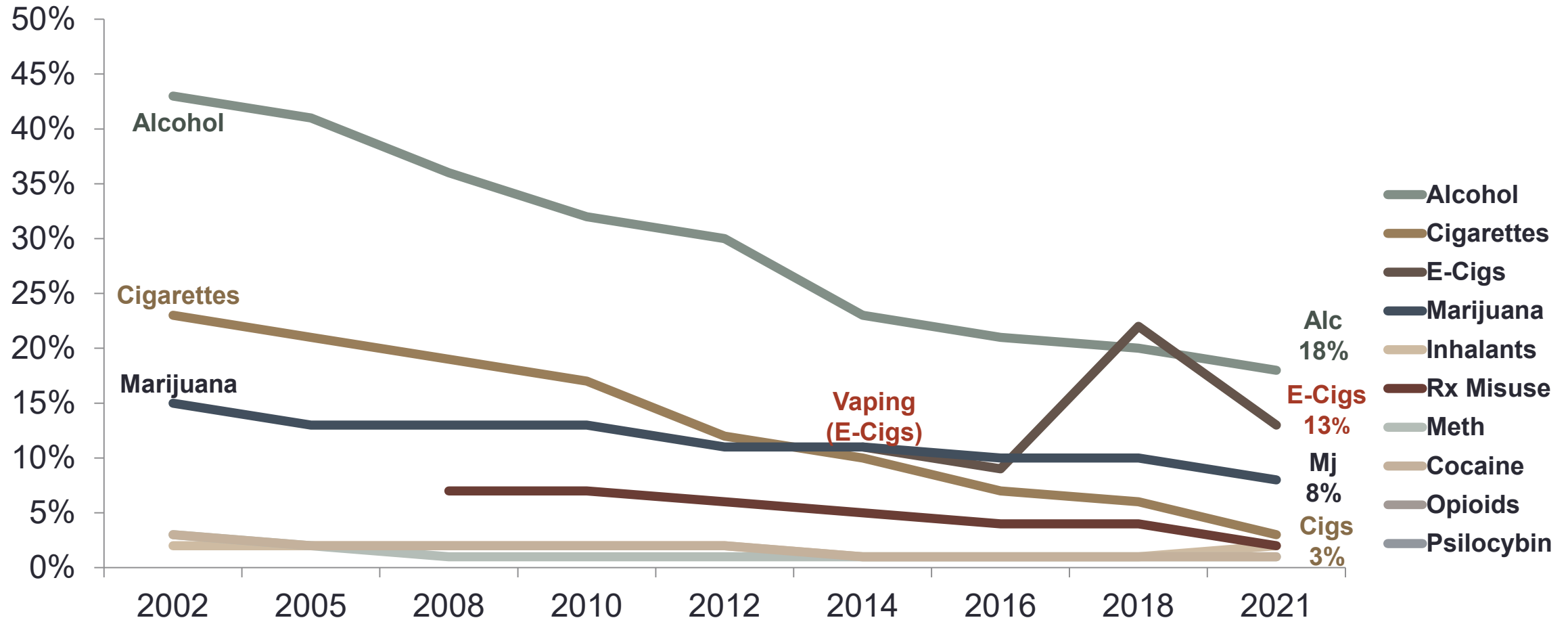
Most Serious Drug Involved in New Admits through SFY 2022



**58% of state prisoners & 63% of jail inmates used drugs vs. 5% of general population.**  
USDOJ, Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2017

# Iowa Youth Substance Use

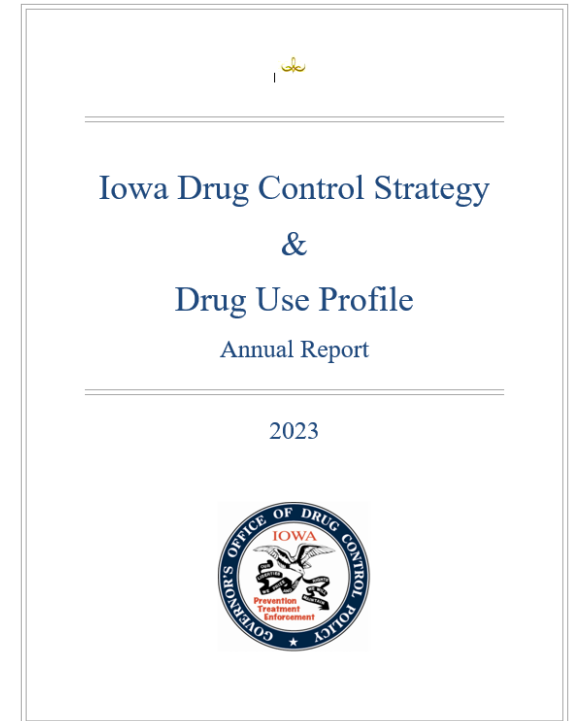
11<sup>th</sup> Grade Users, Last 30-Days



# 2023 Iowa Drug Control Strategy

## Comprehensive Blueprint for Prevention, Treatment & Enforcement

- Reduce substance-related injuries & deaths.
- Reduce youth use of alcohol, nicotine & marijuana (THC).
- Increase timely access to substance use disorder (SUD) services.
- Increase employment & quality of life for those in or completing SUD treatment.
- Increase accountable alternatives to incarceration for eligible drug-related offenses, & reduce the disproportionate # of minorities referred to the justice system.



# Iowa's Evolving Response to Substance Use

## Innovative & Promising Approaches in Action



### Make *Prevention* a Priority

- Increase Awareness & Engagement. Empower Parents & Key Influencers.

### Expand Interventions & Access to *Treatment*

- Pre-Charge Deflection/Diversion & Access Center Handoffs.
- OD Interventions (naloxone & Good Samaritans).
- Post-Overdose Outreach (MAT & peer recovery).
- Co-Response (law enforcement & human service).
- Treatment Capacity Expansion (telehealth, etc.).
- 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, plus YourLifelowa.org.

### Interrupt Illicit Drug Supplies via *Enforcement*

- Data Sharing & Drug Trafficking Interdiction (in & beyond Iowa).

### Technological Advancements:

- Fentanyl Vaccine; P6AS Treatment Antidote (Meth & Fentanyl); Smartphone Drug Test; etc.?

**...to truly change lives requires a pathway to treatment, not a revolving door to drug use.**  
Rosenthal Center for Addiction Studies, 2022

**“A disaster in drug OD & alcohol deaths (109,000 + 101,000).  
Cause: Normalization of drug use.”**  
Former ONDCP Director Gen. Barry McCaffrey, 2022

# STAY SAFE!

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Iowa Governor's Office of Drug Control Policy  
For More Info Go To: <https://odcp.iowa.gov>

Get Help 24/7 at: [YourLifelowa.org](http://YourLifelowa.org)

