

2021 Missouri Drug Overdose Deaths Report (January – December)

Key Takeaways

1. **Overall, drug overdose deaths continued to rise and increased 13% in 2021 compared to 2020.**
 - a. Deaths among **males increased 15%** and deaths among **females increased 11%**.
 - b. Deaths among **Black individuals increased 8%** compared to an increase of **15% among White individuals**.
2. **The Northeastern Region had the greatest proportional increase (+48%)** in total drug overdose deaths in 2021, followed by the **Southwestern Region (+37%)**, the **Kansas City Metro Region (+35%)**, and the **Northwestern Region (+34%)**.
3. While the **St. Louis Metro Region** showed little change in the total number of drug overdose deaths in 2021 compared to 2020, it still accounted for **48% of all drug overdose deaths in Missouri in 2021** (compared to 54% the year prior).
 - a. The **St. Louis Metro Region accounted for 79% of all drug overdose deaths among Black individuals** in Missouri compared to 82% the year prior.
4. **Opioid-involved overdose deaths represented the majority (73%) of overdose deaths in Missouri in 2021.**
 - a. **Opioid-involved** overdose deaths **increased 13%** in 2021 compared to 2020.
5. **Stimulant-involved** overdose deaths continued to rise in 2021 and **increased 24%** compared to 2020.
6. Overdose deaths involving a **combination of opioids and stimulants increased 26%** in 2021 compared to 2020.
7. While the **St. Louis Metro Region continued to have the highest drug overdose death rate**, there was very little change between 2020-2021.
 - a. The **Southwestern and Kansas City Metro Regions showed the largest increases** in overdose death rates in 2021 compared to 2020.

TABLE 1: ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION, SEX, AND RACE

ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS 2021 (January – December)															
	Total			Male			Female			Black			White		
Region	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change
	(N)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(N)	(%)
Central Region	183	211	15%	115	138	20%	68	73	7%	23	19	-17%	159	189	19%
Kansas City Metro	268	362	35%	176	235	34%	92	127	38%	50	75	50%	208	273	31%
Northeastern Region	31	46	48%	15	28	87%	16	18	13%	*sup	*sup	--	31	44	42%
Northwestern Region	38	51	34%	22	36	64%	16	15	-6%	*sup	*sup	--	36	48	33%
Southeastern Region	134	149	11%	81	101	25%	53	48	-9%	9	9	0%	124	137	11%
Southwestern Region	203	277	37%	134	188	40%	69	89	29%	8	6	-25%	192	267	39%
St. Louis Metro	1021	1030	1%	730	730	0%	291	300	3%	411	431	5%	599	590	-2%
MISSOURI TOTAL	1878	2128	13%	1273	1458	15%	605	670	11%	503	545	8%	1349	1550	15%

*sup=Number suppressed, cell count less than 5; Other races (not Black or White) are included in the Totals but are suppressed in cells due to low counts

TABLE 2: OPIOID AND STIMULANT OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION

DRUG SPECIFIC OVERDOSE DEATHS 2021 (January – December)									
	Opioid-Involved			Stimulant-Involved			Opioid and Stimulant-Involved		
Region	2020 (N)	2021 (N)	Change (%)	2020 (N)	2021 (N)	Change (%)	2020 (N)	2021 (N)	Change (%)
Central Region	131	141	8%	83	88	6%	59	55	-7%
Kansas City Metro	145	199	37%	120	173	44%	45	72	60%
Northeastern Region	13	30	131%	15	25	67%	5	17	240%
Northwestern Region	24	29	21%	16	25	56%	9	14	56%
Southeastern Region	61	81	33%	47	52	11%	23	24	4%
Southwestern Region	104	160	54%	95	137	44%	46	78	70%
St. Louis Metro	897	907	1%	362	414	14%	284	334	18%
MISSOURI TOTAL	1375	1549	13%	738	914	24%	471	594	26%

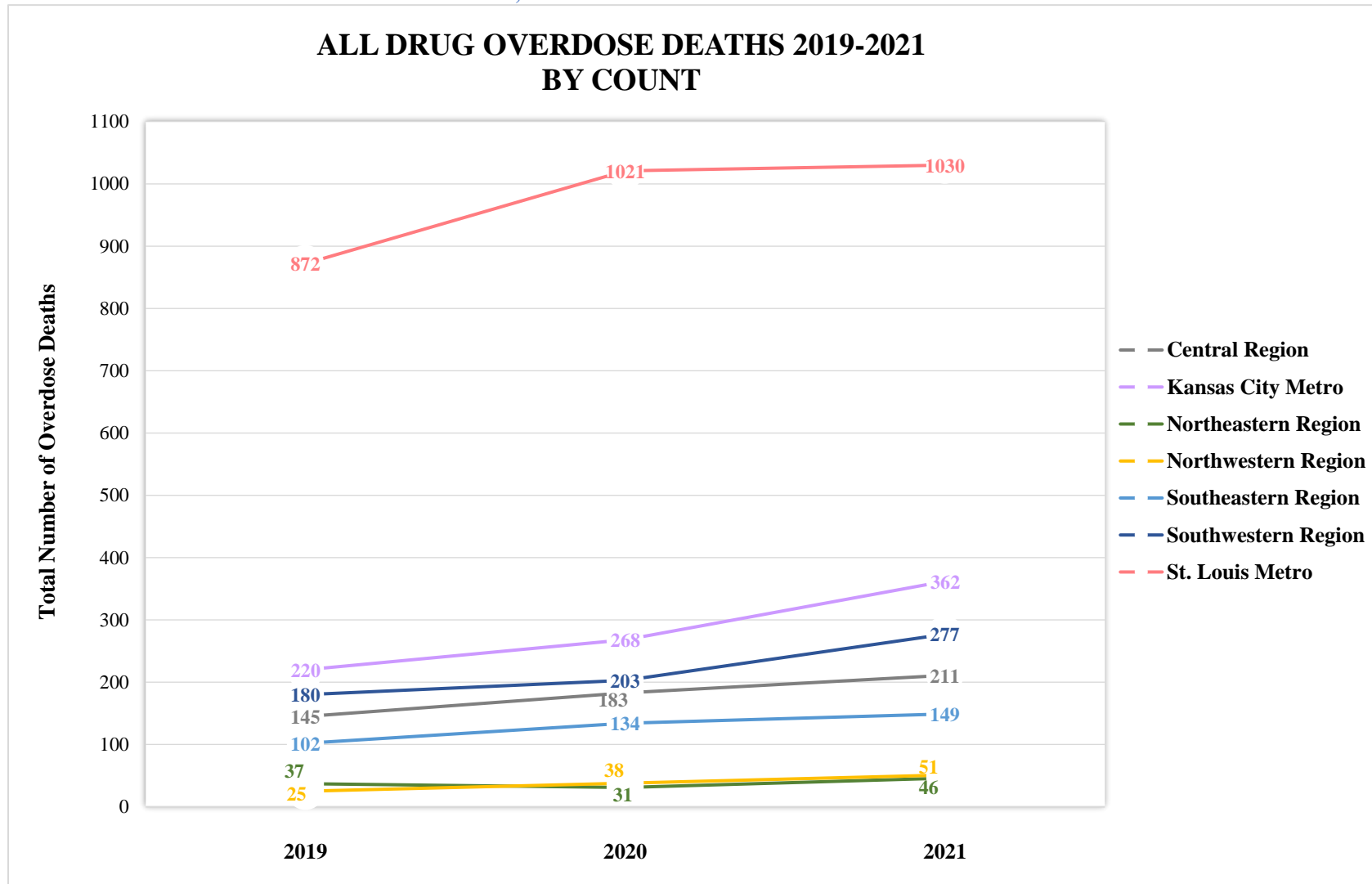
*opioid-involved and stimulant-involved are not mutually exclusive

TABLE 3: ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION, COUNT, AND RATE

ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS 2019-2021 BY COUNT AND RATE (January – December)						
Region	2019 Count	2019 Rate (Per 100,000)	2020 Count	2020 Rate (Per 100,000)	2021 Count	2021 Rate (Per 100,000)
Central Region	145	20.0	183	25.2	211	29.1
Kansas City Metro	220	17.5	268	21.3	362	28.8
Northeastern Region	37	14.9	31	12.5	46	18.5
Northwestern Region	25	10.5	38	16.0	51	21.5
Southeastern Region	102	18.0	134	23.6	149	26.2
Southwestern Region	180	19.1	203	21.5	277	29.3
St. Louis Metro	872	40.7	1021	47.6	1030	48.0
MISSOURI TOTAL	1581	25.8	1878	30.7	2128	34.7

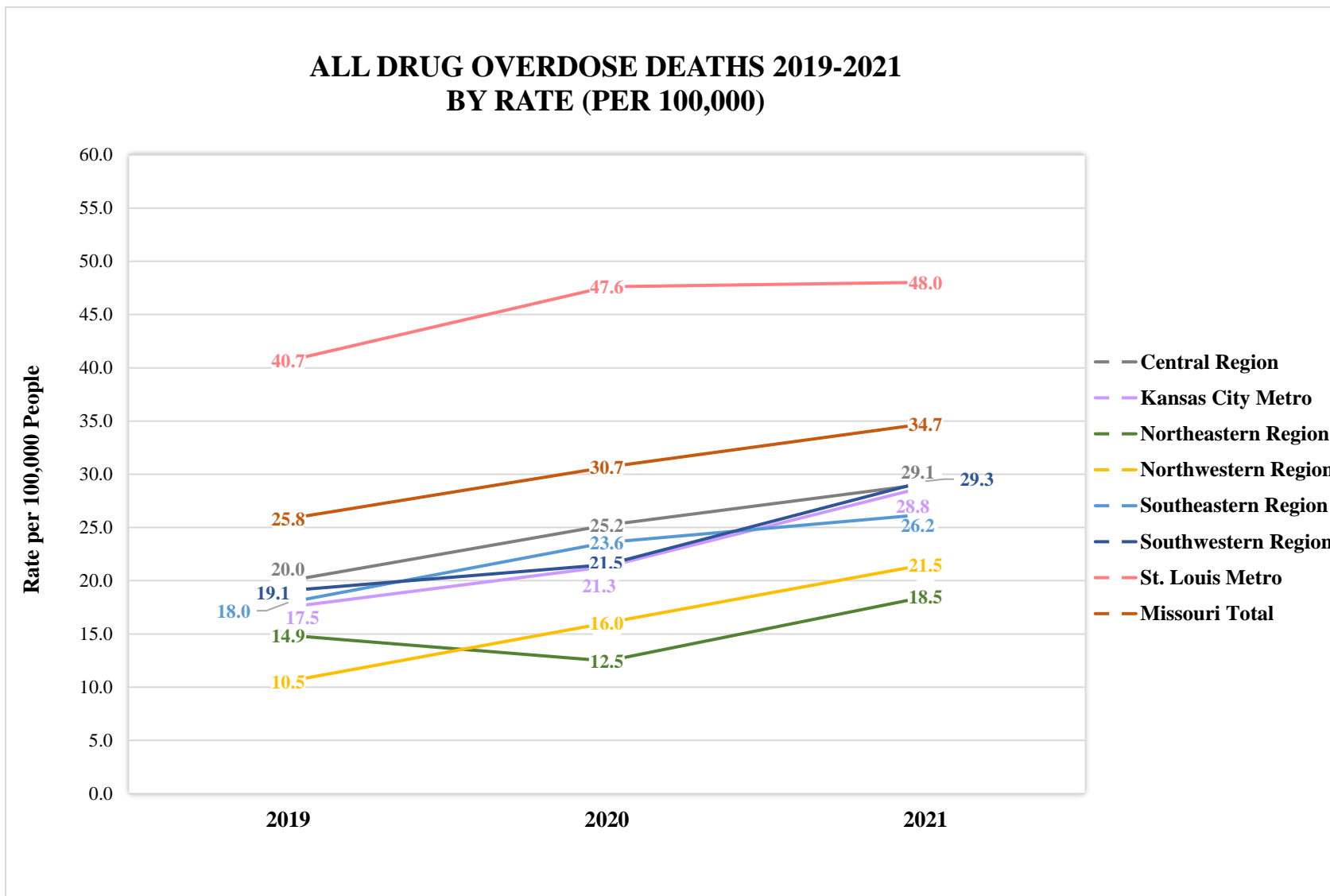
University of Missouri, St. Louis-Missouri Institute of Mental Health Addiction Science Team, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services. (2022). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles. (2020). 2021 Missouri Drug Overdose Deaths Report (January-December) (2019-2021). Retrieved from <https://www.mimhaddisci.org/missouri-overdose-data>

FIGURE 1: ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION, BY COUNT



University of Missouri, St. Louis-Missouri Institute of Mental Health Addiction Science Team, Missouri Department of Health & Senior Services. (2022). American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates Data Profiles. (2020). 2021 Missouri Drug Overdose Deaths Report (January-December) (2019-2021). Retrieved from <https://www.mimhaddisci.org/missouri-overdose-data>

FIGURE 2: ALL DRUG OVERDOSE DEATHS BY REGION, BY RATE



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