

# Drug-Involved Death Report: St. Louis City and County<sup>i</sup> January-December 2022 (Updated)

UMSL-MIMH Addiction Science Team  
August 2023

## Lives Lost in 2022

We recognize that the deaths highlighted in this report represent individuals who led full lives. They were peoples' children, parents, siblings, friends, coworkers, and loved ones. We mourn the loss of these members of our St. Louis community. This report includes counts of drug-involved deaths<sup>ii</sup> within St. Louis City and County in 2022. Though most deaths were among people who were residents of either the City or the County, many deaths were among non-residents.

## Summary

- Across St. Louis City and County, there was a 2% decrease in drug-involved deaths in 2022 compared to 2021.
  - St. Louis City saw an 8% increase and St. Louis County saw an 11% decrease.
- White men and women in the City saw the greatest increase in drug-involved deaths from 2021 to 2022 (+23%), while Black men and women in the County saw the largest decrease compared to 2021 (-19%).
- Black men in St. Louis City remain the group most affected by drug-involved deaths by count and population-adjusted rate.
- A combination of opioids and stimulants has become the most common contributor to death in 2022.

**Note:** The data in this report represents finalized cases as of July 2023, but data may be subject to change.

# Drug-Involved Deaths

## Drug-Involved Deaths

	Total			Opioid-Involved			Stimulant-Involved			Opioid and Stimulant-Involved			Fentanyl-Involved		
	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change	2021	2022	% change
St. Louis City	452	489	+8%	385	398	+3%	154	187	+21%	96	109	+14%	376	393	+5%
St. Louis County	501	448	-11%	354	293	-17%	255	242	-5%	193	173	-10%	335	280	-16%
<b>Total</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>937</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>739</b>	<b>691</b>	<b>-6%</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>429</b>	<b>5%</b>	<b>289</b>	<b>282</b>	<b>-2%</b>	<b>711</b>	<b>673</b>	<b>-5%</b>

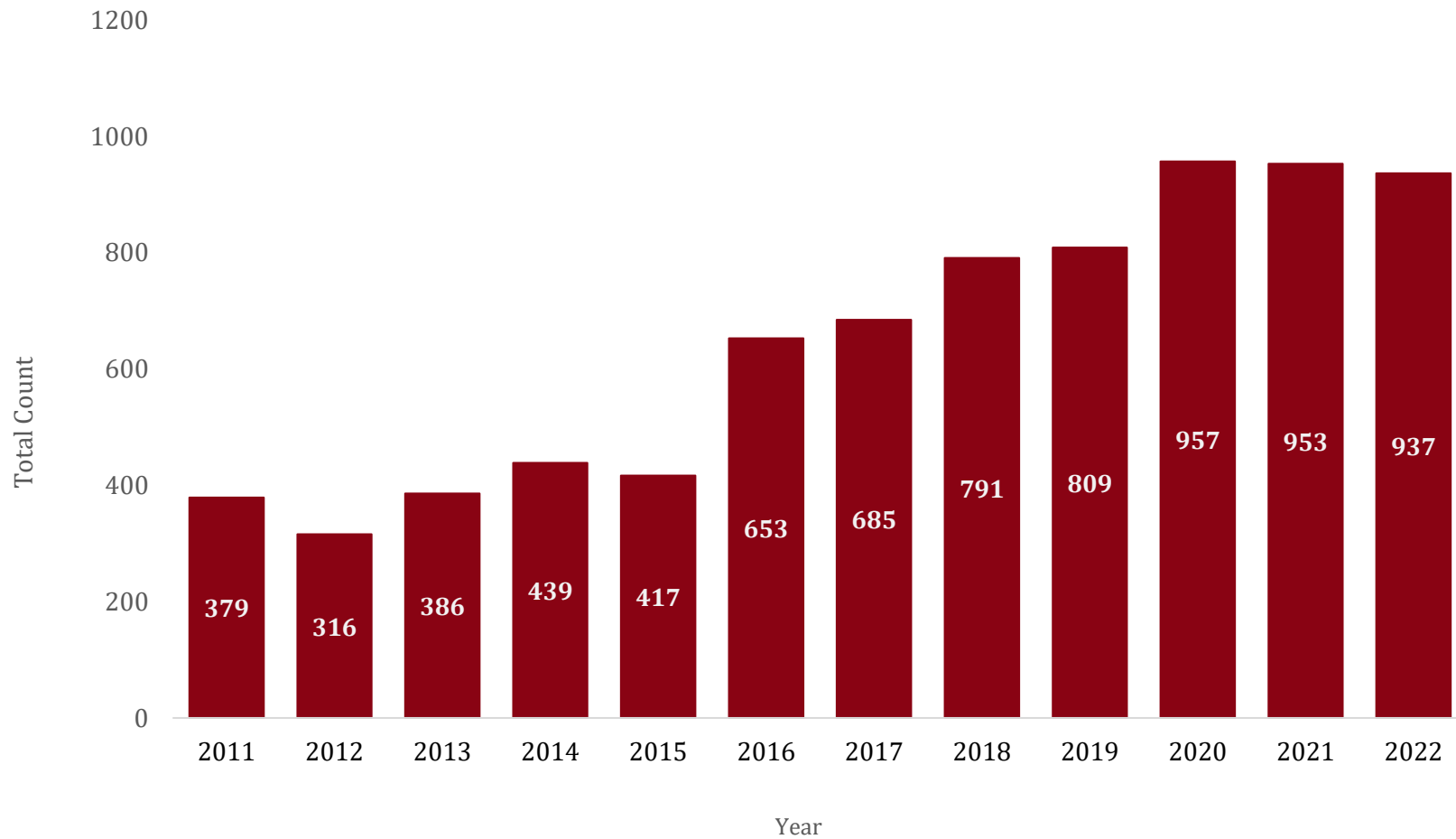
### In 2022

- In St. Louis City and County combined
  - All drug-involved deaths decreased by 2% compared to 2021.
  - Opioids continue to be present in the majority (74%) of all drug-involved deaths.
    - Fentanyl was present in 97% of all opioid-involved deaths.
  - Deaths involving a combination of opioids and stimulants made up 30% of all drug-involved deaths (same as in 2021).
- In St. Louis City
  - There was an 8% increase in total drug-involved deaths compared to 2021.
- In St. Louis County
  - There was an 11% decrease in total drug-involved deaths compared to 2021.

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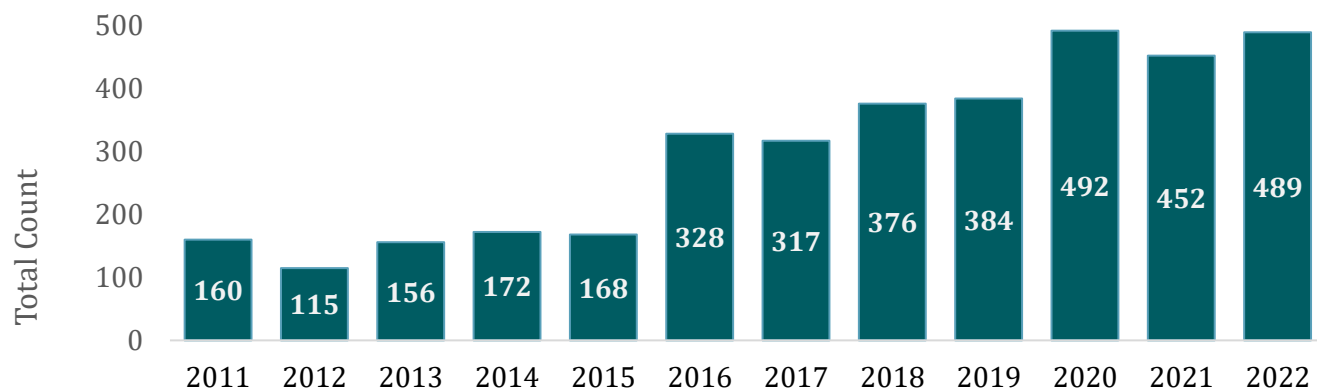
## St. Louis City and County Combined – Number of Drug-Involved Deaths

The overall number of drug-involved deaths has trended upward in St. Louis City and County from 2011 to 2020 when it reached its peak. Since 2020, the number of drug-involved deaths has declined slightly but remained over 900 each year.



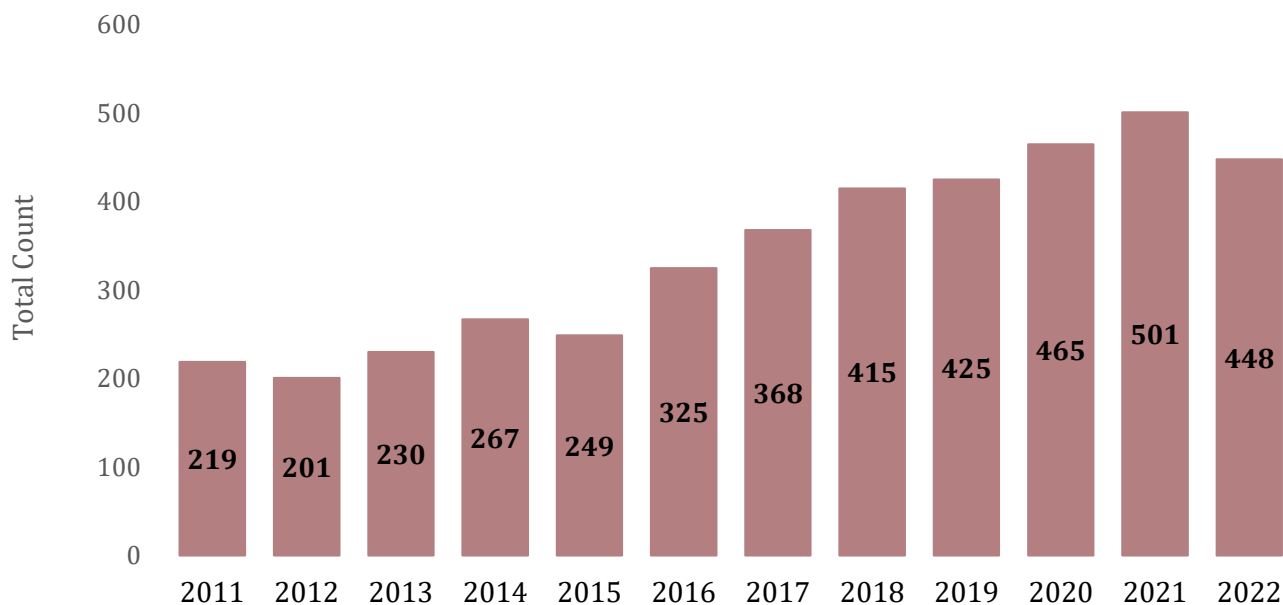
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## St. Louis City – Number of Drug-Involved Deaths



St. Louis City drug-involved deaths **increased by 8%** in 2022 but remained slightly lower than the number of deaths in 2020.

## St. Louis County – Number of Drug-Involved Deaths



St. Louis County drug-involved deaths **decreased by 11%** in 2022 and represent fewer deaths than 2020, but more deaths than 2019.

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## Drug-Involved Deaths by Race and Sex

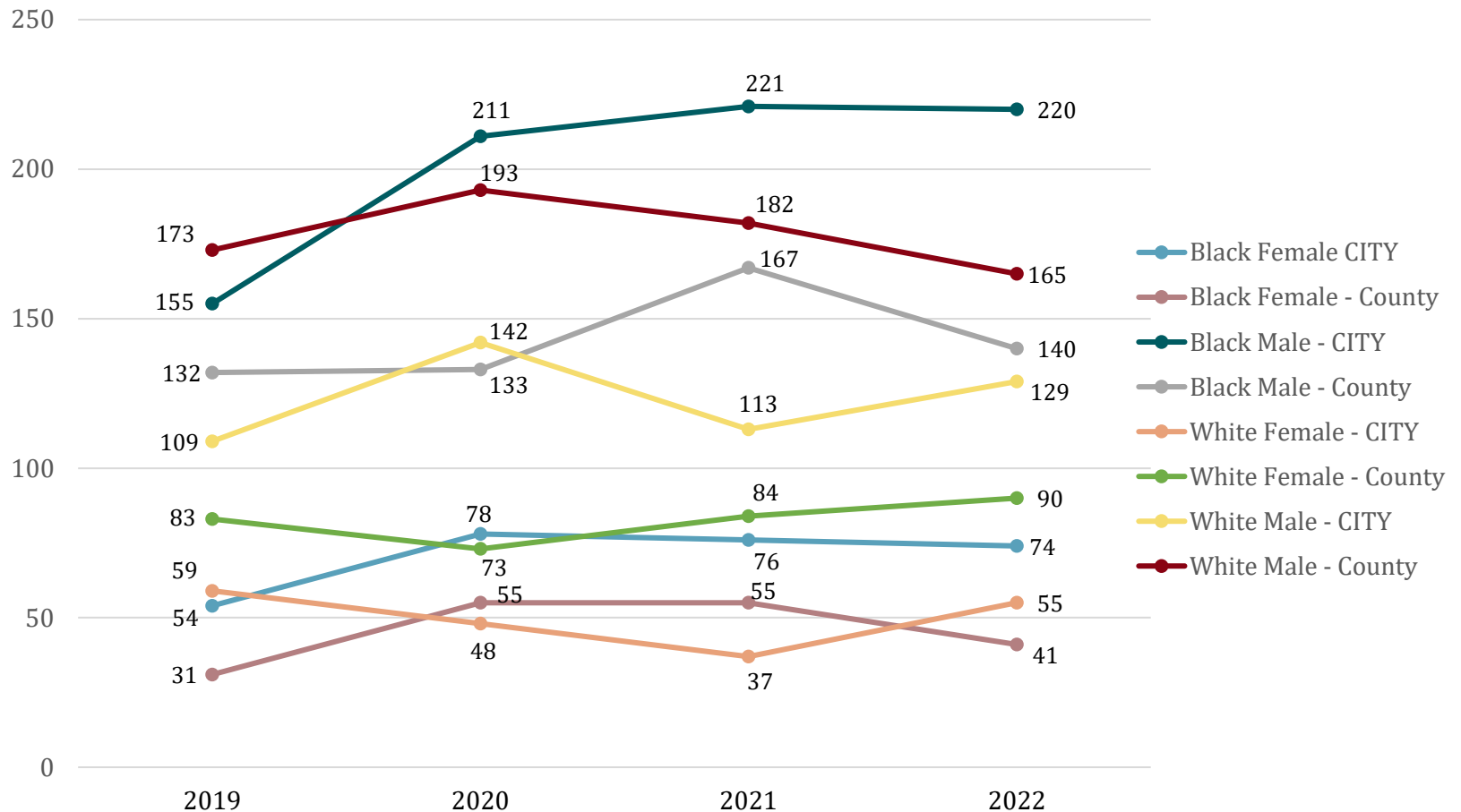
### St. Louis City and County – Number of Drug-Involved Deaths by Race/Sex

Differences in All Drug-Involved Deaths				
	2021	2022	% Change	% Change by Race
<b>St. Louis City</b>				
Black Female	76	74	-2.6%	-1.0%
Black Male	221	220	-0.5%	
White Female	37	55	+48.6%	+22.7%
White Male	113	129	+14.2%	
<b>St. Louis County</b>				
Black Female	55	41	-25.5%	-18.5%
Black Male	167	140	-16.2%	
White Female	84	90	+7.1%	-4.1%
White Male	182	165	-9.3%	
<b>St. Louis City and County Combined</b>				
Black Female	131	115	-12.2%	-8.5%
Black Male	388	360	-7.2%	
White Female	121	145	+19.8%	+5.5%
White Male	295	294	-0.3%	

- Black individuals experienced an 8% decrease in drug-involved deaths within *St. Louis City and County combined* in 2022 compared to 2021, with the highest decrease evident within the *County*.
- White individuals experienced an increase within *St. Louis City* but a decrease within the *County* in drug-involved deaths in 2022 compared to 2021.

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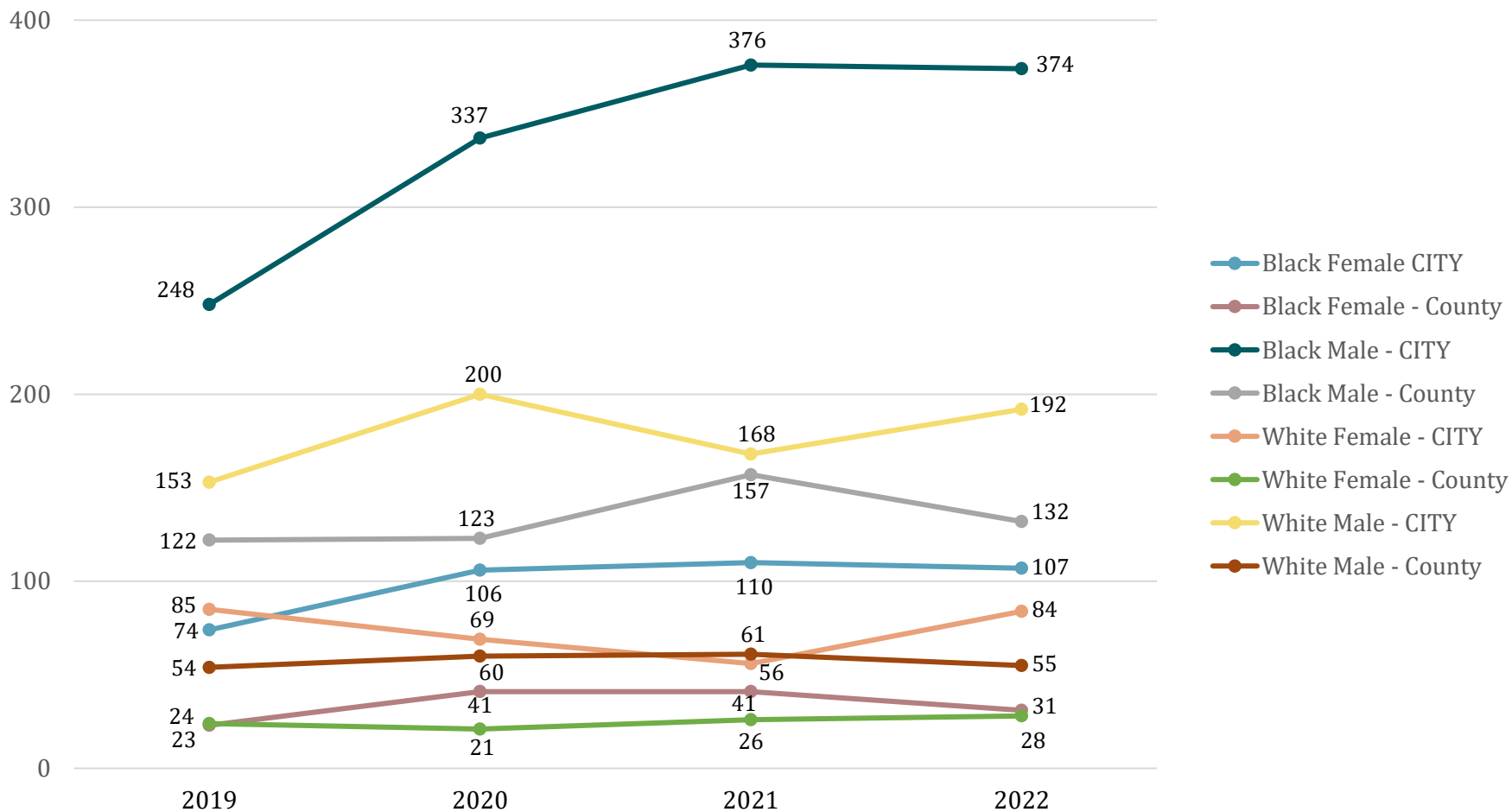
## St. Louis City and County – Number of Drug-Involved Deaths by Race/Sex



- Black males in *St. Louis City* have experienced the highest number of drug-involved deaths in the City since 2019, followed by White males.
- White males in *St. Louis County* have experienced the highest number of drug-involved deaths in the County since 2019, followed by Black males.

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## St. Louis City and County – Rate of Drug-Involved Deaths by Race/Sex

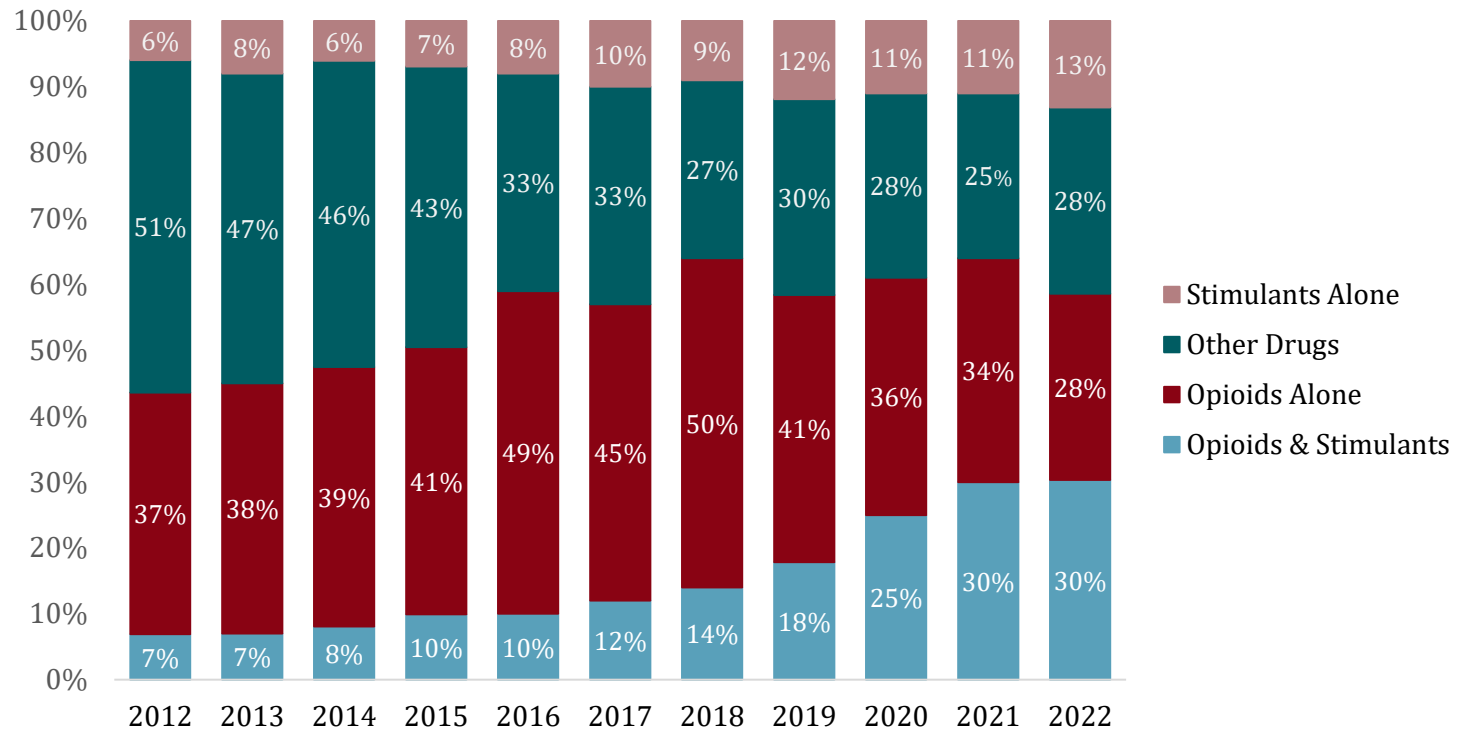


- Black males in *St. Louis City* continue to have the highest rates of drug-involved deaths, followed by White males in the *City*.
- White and Black females in *St. Louis County* continue to have the lowest rates of drug-involved deaths.

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# Types of Drugs Involved

## St. Louis City and County Combined – Changes in Drugs Involved in Deaths



\*Other Drugs represent non-opioid and non-stimulant substances including alcohol, antipsychotics, benzodiazepines, and sedatives.

- Drug-involved deaths that involve opioids alone were the most prevalent type of drug-involved death between 2012-2021.
- In 2022, deaths involving a combination of opioids and stimulants became the most prevalent. This combination was involved in 30% of all deaths compared to deaths from opioids alone (28%).

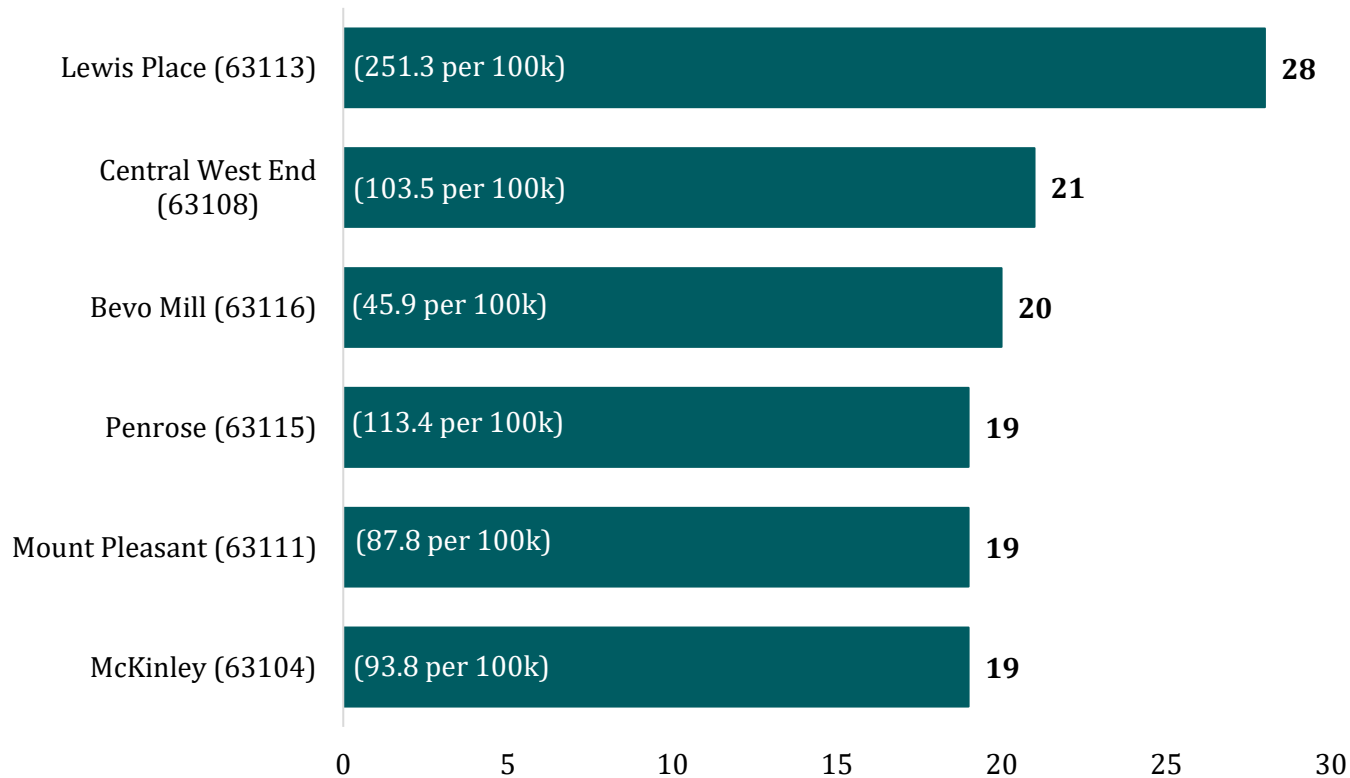
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# Opioid-Involved Deaths by Zip Code

## St. Louis City

### Zip Codes and Primary Neighborhoods with the Highest Number and Rate<sup>iii</sup> of Opioid-Involved Deaths in 2022

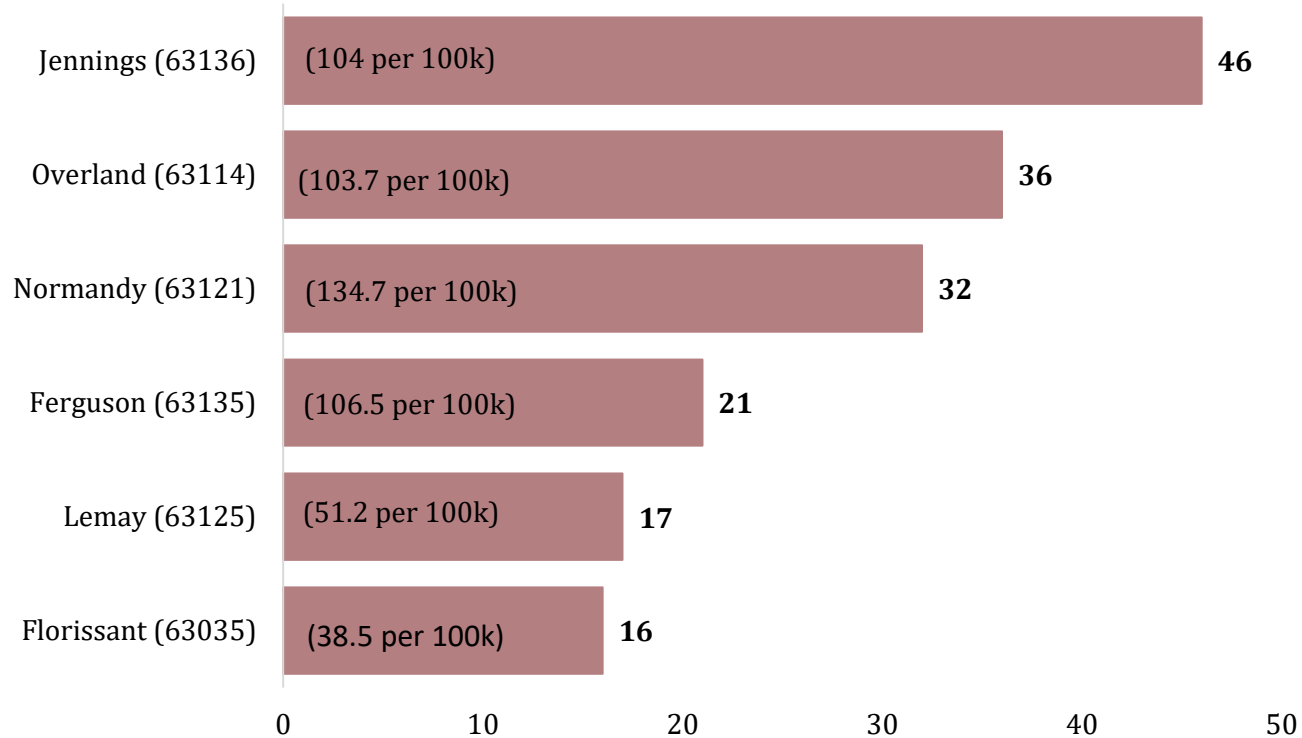


Note--Per 100k rates provide a standardized way to compare geographic regions with different population sizes. These rates represent the number of deaths per 100,000 people.

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## St. Louis County

### Zip Codes and Primary Neighborhoods with the Highest Number and Rate<sup>iii</sup> of Opioid-Involved Deaths in 2022



Note--Per 100k rates provide a standardized way to compare geographic regions with different population sizes. These rates represent the number of deaths per 100,000 people

**Note:** The data in this report represents finalized cases as of July 2023, but data may be subject to change.

## Notes

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<sup>i</sup> **TO CITE:** University of Missouri, St. Louis-Missouri Institute of Mental Health Addiction Science Team, St. Louis City and St. Louis County Medical Examiners. (2023). Drug Involved Death Report: St. Louis City and County (Jan-Dec 2022 Updated) (Aug. 2023). Retrieved from <https://www.mimhaddisci.org/missouri-overdose-data>

<sup>ii</sup> Drug-involved deaths include opioid and other drug poisonings (i.e., “overdoses”). The medical examiners determined that drugs were present in the decedent’s system at a high enough level to have *contributed* to their death (for example, a vehicular accident or drowning where opioids were present). This is why this report is titled “Drug-Involved Death Report” as opposed to “Overdose Report.”

<sup>iii</sup> Per 100,000 rates are calculated by dividing the number of drug-involved deaths by the regional population (by zip code), then multiplying the result by 100,000.