



# Opioids & Substance Use Data Assessment for Weld County

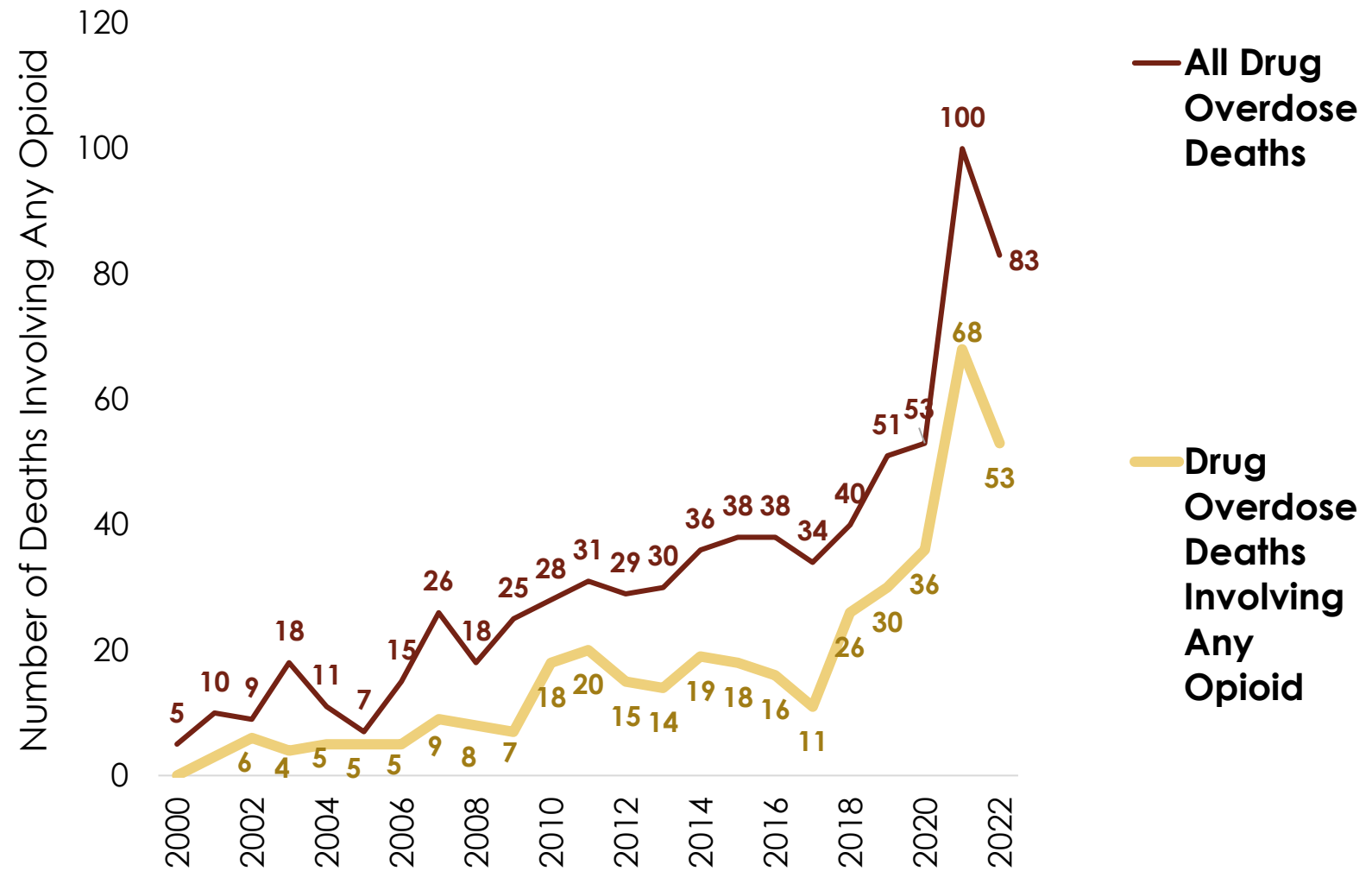
*Last Updated September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

# Opioid Overdose Fatality Data



The number of fatal opioid overdoses in Weld County **nearly doubled** between 2020 & 2021, but **decreased in 2022** following statewide trends

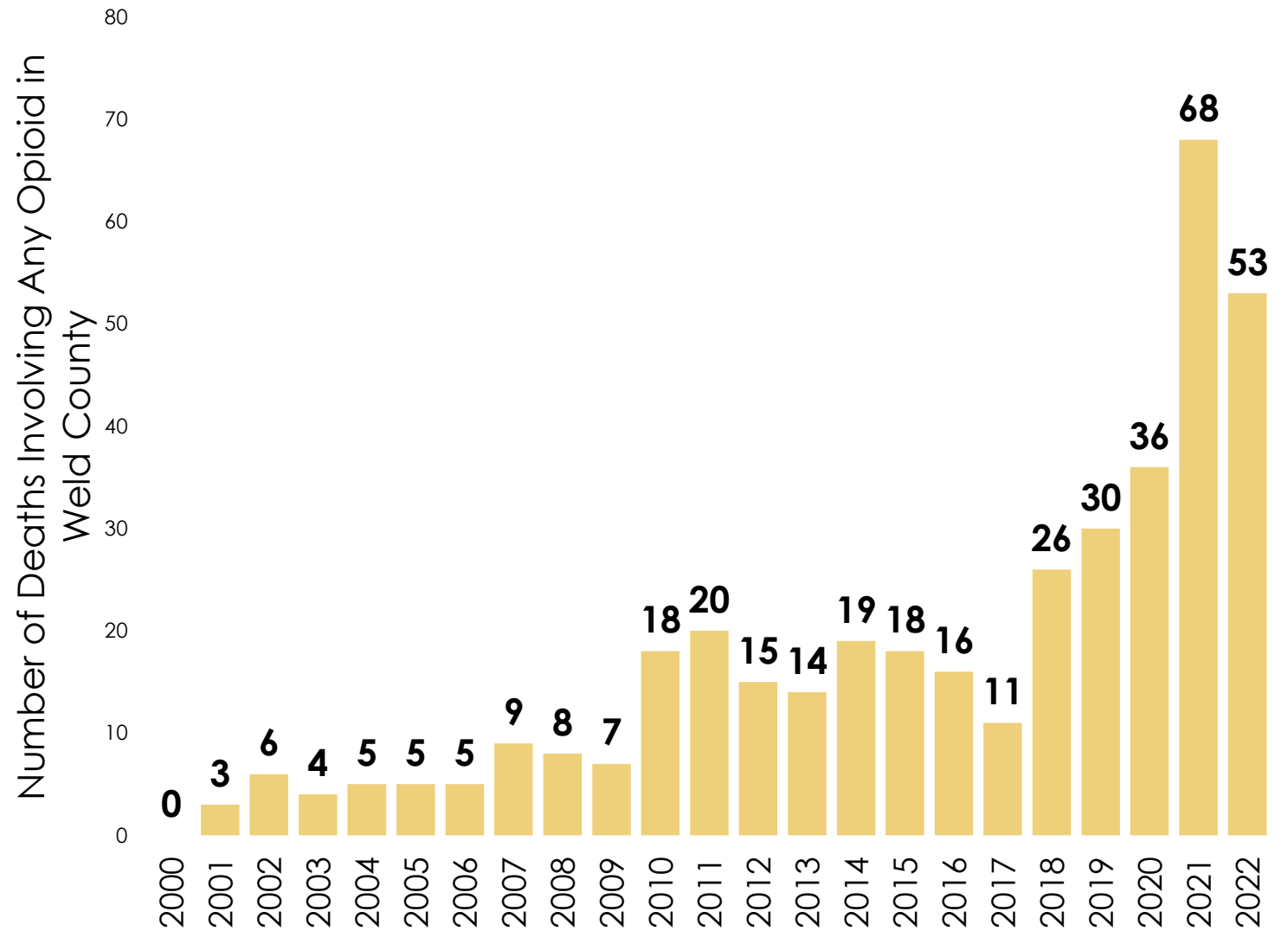
*Weld County opioid overdose deaths decreased 22% from 2021 while Colorado decreased about 8%*



Source: CDPHE CoHID Database

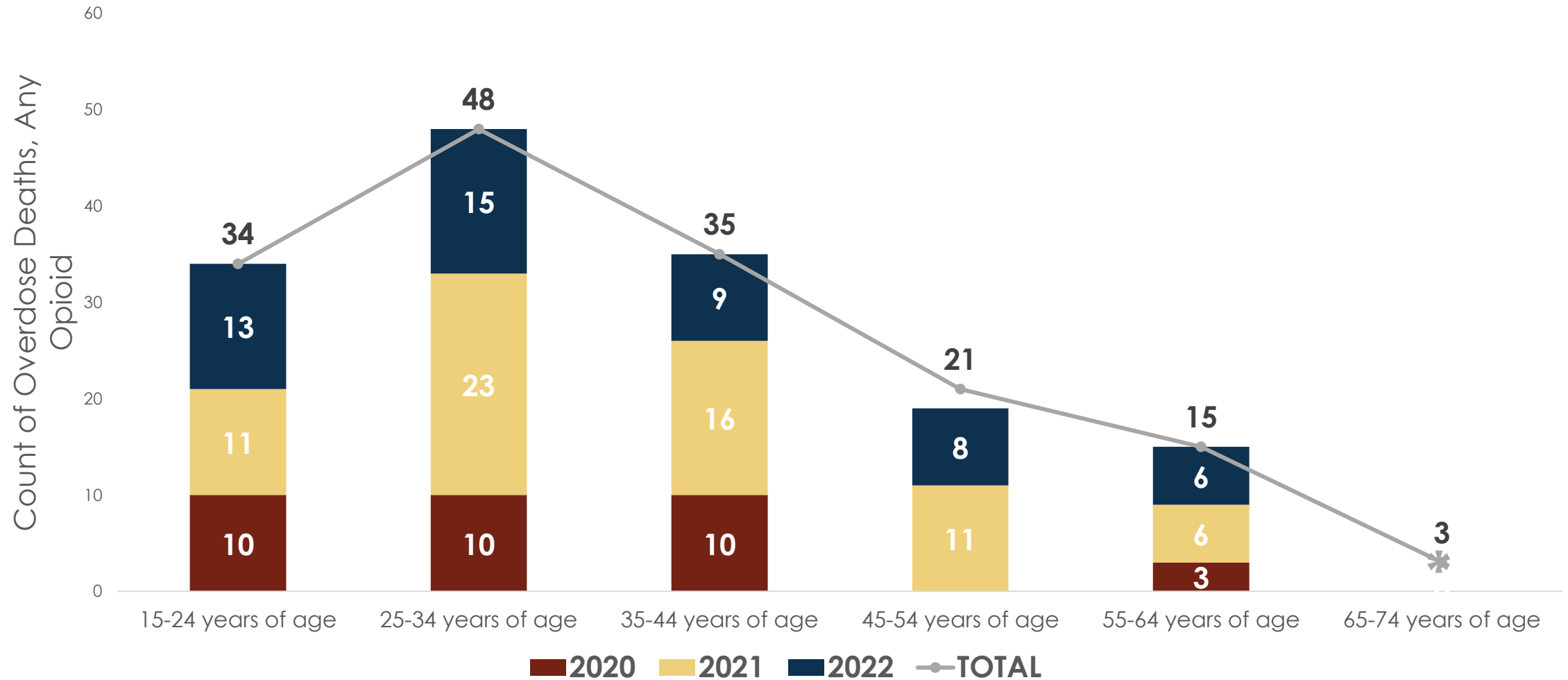
**53** residents  
across Weld  
County died in  
2022 from a drug  
overdose  
involving any  
opioid (illicit or  
prescription) a  
**22% decrease**  
from 2021

(Colorado is down 8%  
from 2021)



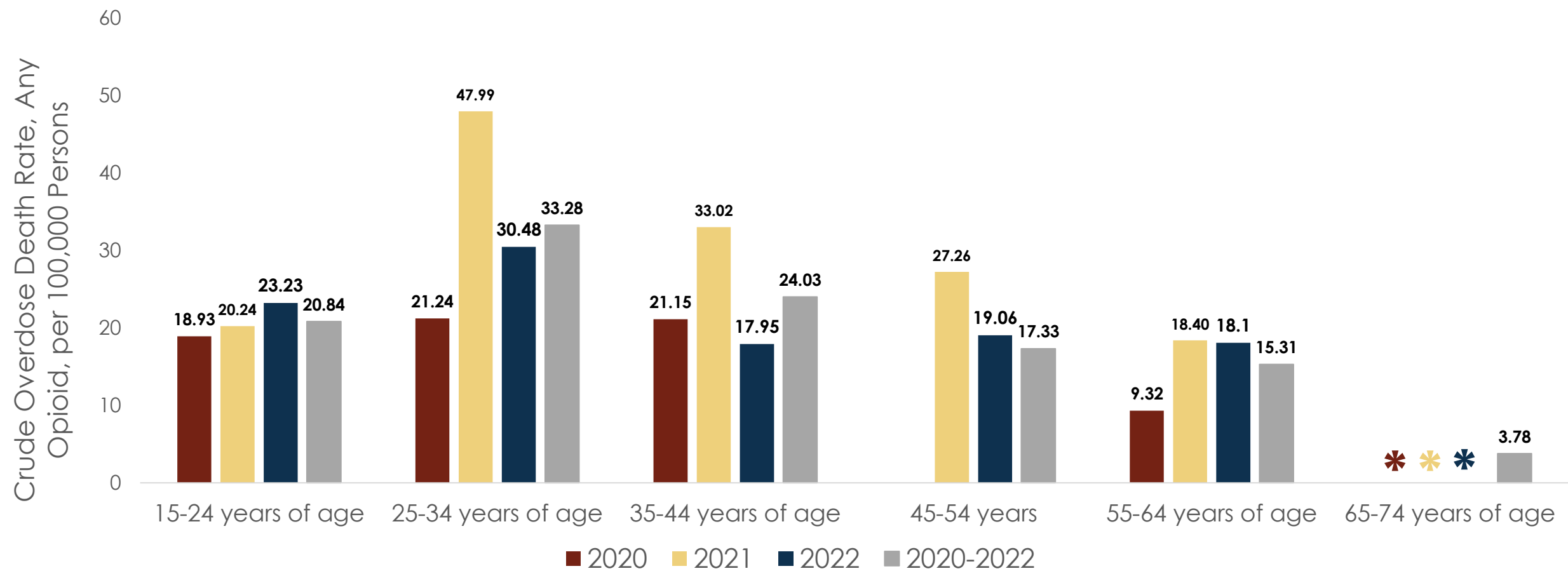
Source: CDPHE CoHID Database

# Opioid overdose death counts vary by age group



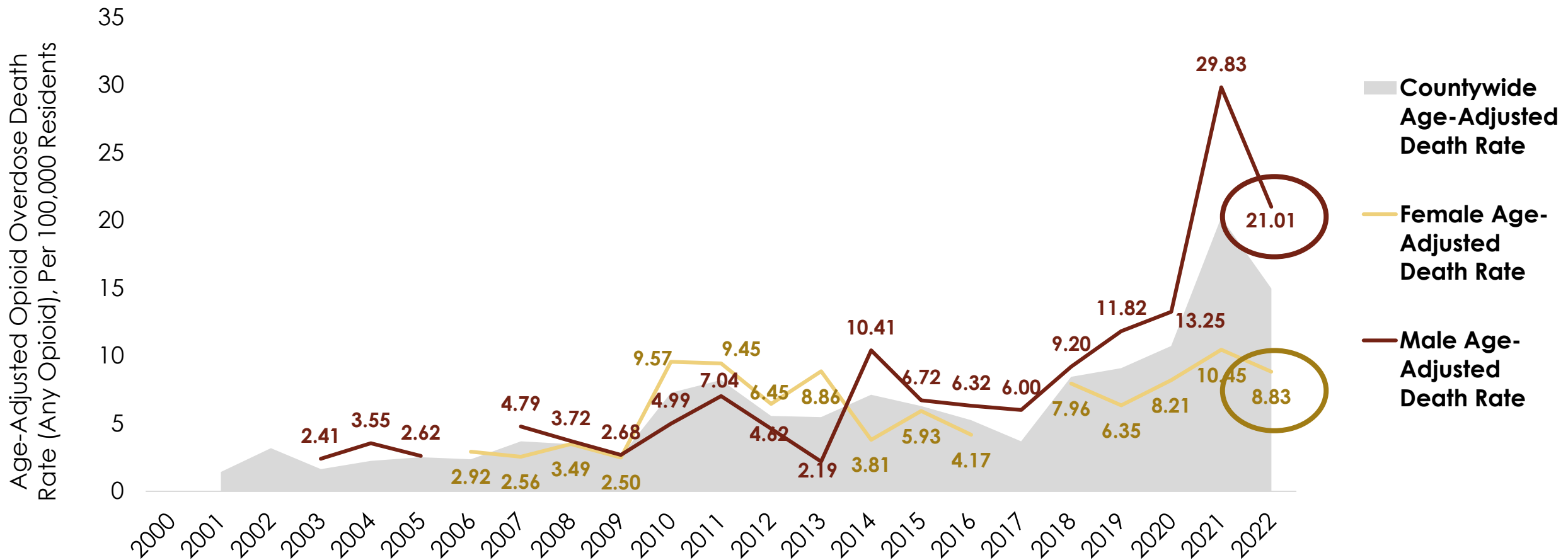
Source: CDPHE CoHID Database; \* indicates some data are suppressed for individual years due to small counts

# There are **no significant differences** among age groups when examining the crude rate of overdose deaths 2020-2022



Source: CDPHE CoHID Database; \* indicates some data are suppressed for individual years due to small counts

# The age-adjusted death rate for Weld County in 2022 was over **2x higher among male residents** compared to female residents



Source: CDPHE CoHID Database

In 2022, the age-adjusted opioid overdose death rate **increased** among **Hispanic/Latina/o residents** in **Weld County**

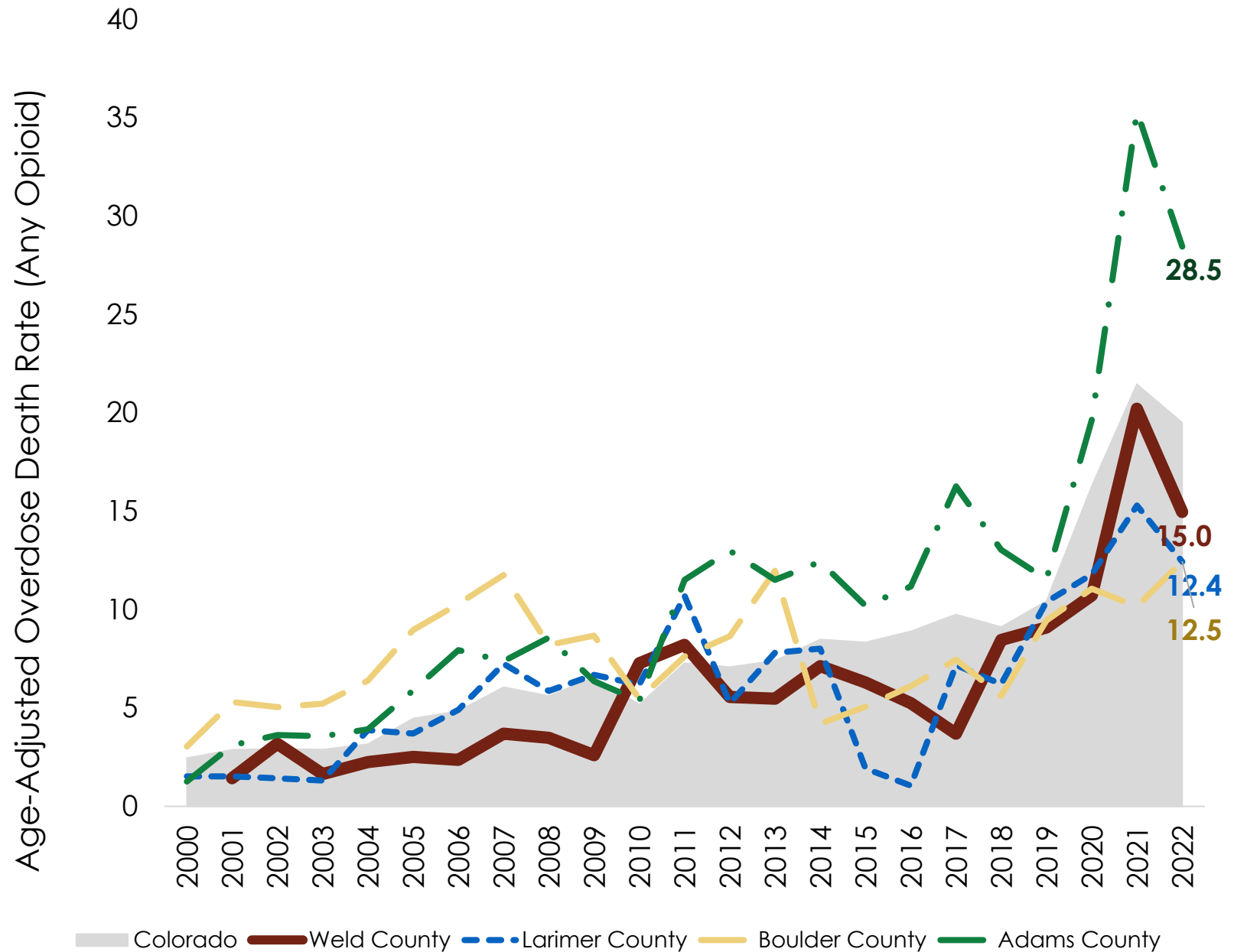
While the age-adjusted opioid overdose death rate grew the most among non-Hispanic and male residents between 2020 and 2021, the rate of overdose deaths decreased among non-Hispanic, male and female residents in 2022

Age-Adjusted Opioid Overdose Death Rate (Any Opioid) by Gender, Ethnicity and Year for Weld County

	2020	2021	2022	% change 2020-2021	% change 2021-2022
Hispanic	14.5	16.4	20.4	13.6%	23.3%
Non-Hispanic	8.9	21.2	11.4	138.1%	-46.2%
Male	13.2	29.8	21.0	125.1%	-29.4%
Female	8.2	10.5	8.8	27.2%	-16.0%

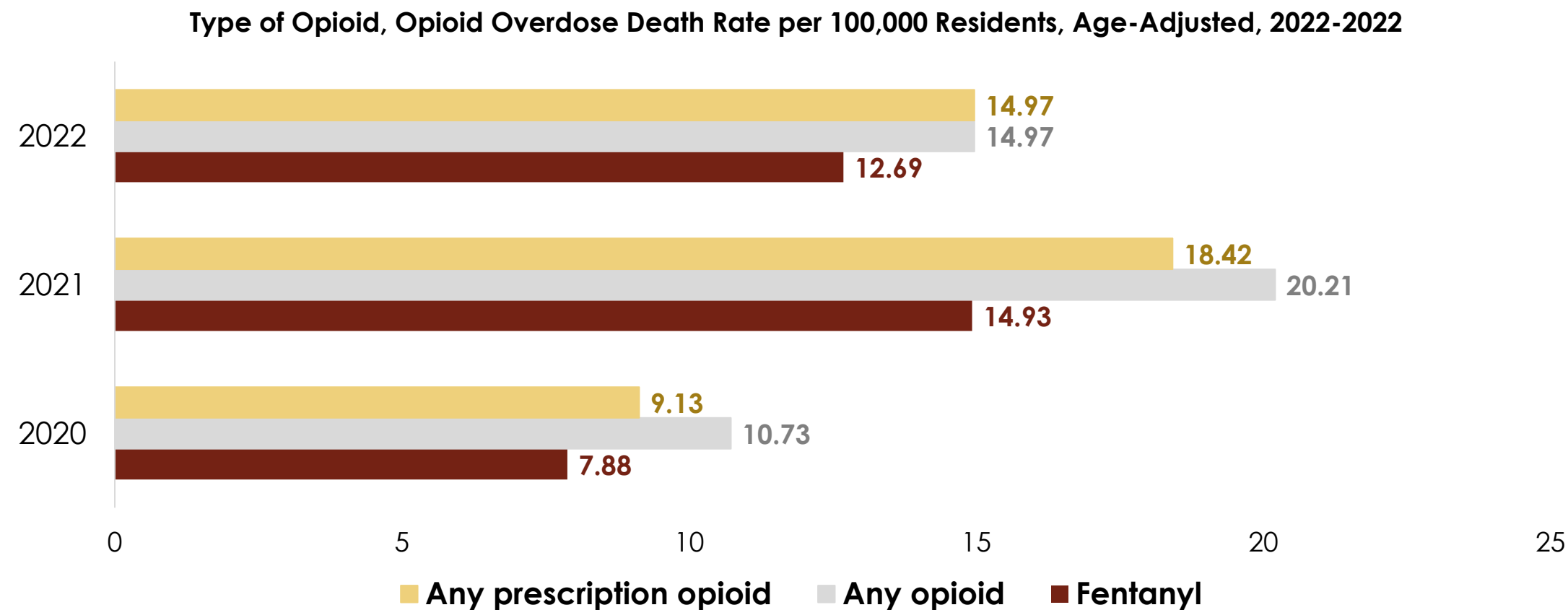


The age-adjusted opioid overdose rate in Weld County is **lower** than the statewide rate and Adams County, but **higher** than nearby Larimer and Boulder counties



Source: CDPHE CoHID Database

# Prescription opioids (whether obtained legally or not) are the main type of opioid driving the opioid overdose death rate in Weld County



Source: CDPHE CoHID Database

# Special Analysis: Hospital Syndromic Surveillance Program Data

Emergency Department (ED) visits  
2022

*\*General overview due to data privacy concerns\**



# 2022 Weld Resident Syndromic Surveillance Program Data Overview\*

- In 2022, we saw **over 60 residents** visit an emergency department (ED) for an opioid-related drug overdose, according to data from participating hospitals
  - Most opioid-related ED visits occurred among working age adults, 18-44 years of age
  - Generally, there were more hospitalizations of older female adults, and more hospitalizations of younger male adults
  - Youth make up a very small proportion of ED visits for Weld County residents
  - Many of these residents visited hospitals outside of Weld County, including Boulder, Larimer, Adams, Denver, and Jefferson counties (location of overdose is NOT known)
  - Most patients were discharged from the ED within a couple hours

# Special Analysis: ODMAP Geographic Location Data

Data reported by 12 different law enforcement agencies

1/1/2023 – 8/9/2023

*\*General overview due to data privacy concerns\**



**ODMAP** is a tool  
that WCDPHE was  
recently  
onboarded to →  
it provides near  
real time data  
and locations of  
suspected  
overdose cases\*

- **12** law enforcement agencies in Weld County participate in ODMAP and submit data
  - Dacono Police Department
  - Evans Fire Protection District
  - Evans Police Department
  - Firestone Police Department
  - Frederick Police Department
  - Greeley Police Department
  - Hudson Police Department
  - Johnstown Police Department
  - LaSalle Police Department
  - Lochbuie Police Department
  - Mead Police Department
  - University of Northern Colorado Police Department
- *There are some limitations of these data*
- WCDPHE will use these data to help inform where SUD activities should focus and monitor for clusters of suspected opioid overdose cases

Source: ODMAP

*\*General overview due to data privacy concerns\**

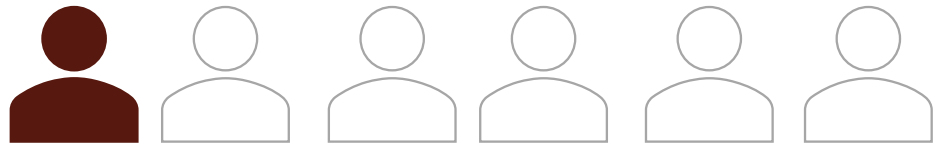
# Youth Substance Use Data

2019 Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) data

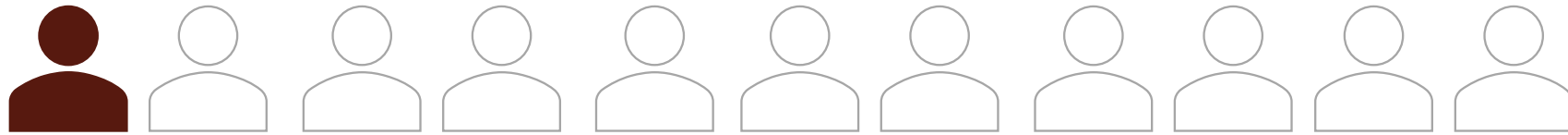


# A Note on Youth Self-Reported Data: 2019 Weld County HKCS Data

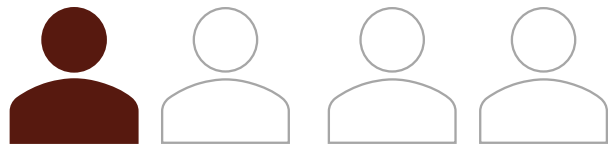
- Healthy Kids Colorado Survey (HKCS) is administered every two years to schools around Colorado and covers a variety of health topics, including substance use
- In 2019 (most recent data available for Weld County) Healthy Kids Colorado Survey data indicated that:



**16.0%** of Weld County high schoolers reported ever taking pain medications without a doctor's permission



**8.6%** took prescription pain medications without a doctor's permission in the past 30 days



**26.1%** think it is easy to get prescription pain medications without a prescription



**88.3%** think it is wrong to use prescription pain medications improperly



# Key Informant Interviews

2023 WCDPHE Key Informant Partner and Community Member Interviews



# Key Informant Interview Key Themes

## Partners

Key work being done	Effective strategies	Challenges	Thoughts for WCDPHE
Harm reduction	Harm reduction	Stigma	Increasing visibility
Narcan distribution	Promoting access to treatment	Barriers to implementing harm reduction	Prevention and treatment work
Behavioral health or counseling services	Increasing access to peer support specialists	Immediate access to treatment	Stigma reduction
Fentanyl test strips	Providing MAT	Conservative community	Support syringe access
MAT	Fostering relationships	Raising support for programs	Partnership building
Education	Building trust	Special populations	Media campaigns
Detox			Liaison role

Harm-reduction related themes / Education themes / Prevention themes / Stigma themes

## People with Lived Experiences

What would've helped you seek treatment?	What would've helped you not use?	Barriers to seeking treatment
Access to resources for recovery	Increased access to MAT, including cost	Access to treatment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waiting lists</li> <li>• Limited beds</li> <li>• Only when in crisis</li> <li>• Cost</li> <li>• Transportation</li> </ul>
Reduce stigma for treatment	Need for mentors and trusted adults	Access to MAT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited hours</li> <li>• In jail</li> <li>• Cost</li> </ul>
Access to treatment	More resources in medical system	Stigma, including in medical care setting
Family knowledge of SUD	Limiting access to Rx drugs	Lack of support groups for loved ones with SUD
Services for mental health	Youth prevention programs	Lack of syringe exchange program
Job pathways		Prevention/education services in the first place
Early prevention		

# Data Resources

## **2021 Health Determinants Report for Weld County:**

<https://www.weld.gov/Government/Departments/Health-and-Environment/Data-and-Reports/Other-Reports>

## **2022 CHA Data and Reports:**

<https://www.weld.gov/Government/Departments/Health-and-Environment/Data-and-Reports/Community-Health-Surveys/2022-Community-Health-Survey>

**CDPHE Mortality & Opioid Dashboards:** [CoHID | Department of Public Health & Environment \(colorado.gov\)](#)

**Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Data:** [Healthy Kids Colorado Survey Dashboard | Department of Public Health & Environment](#)

**CDC WONDER database:** [CDC WONDER](#)

