

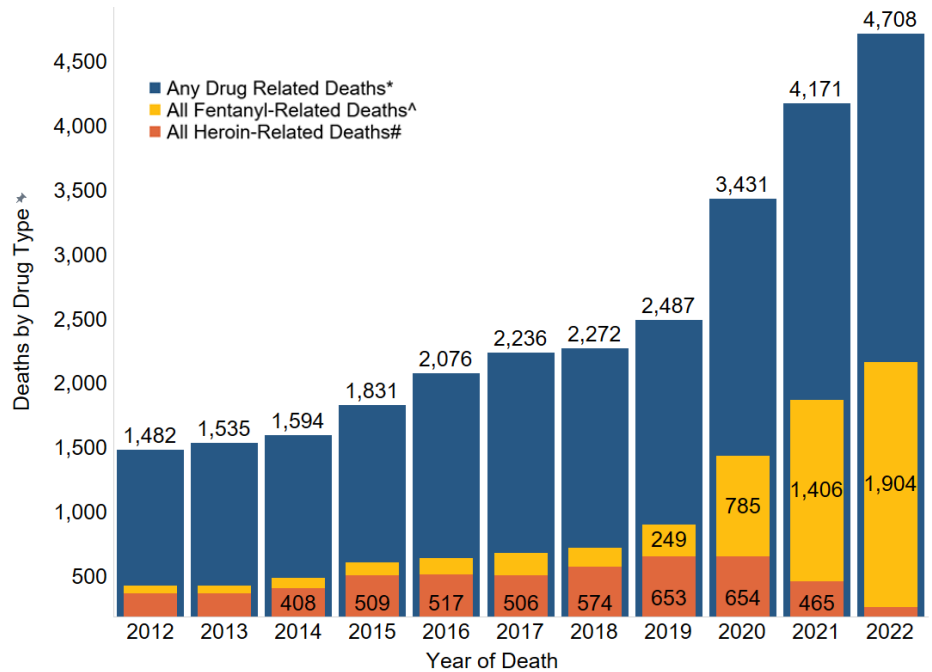
Heroin and Fentanyl Related Poisoning Deaths in Texas: A Decade of Change, 2012–2022

Between 2012 and 2022, fentanyl emerged as the leading driver of drug poisoning deaths in Texas, overtaking heroin in both death counts and rates.

In 2012, out of 1,482 drug-related deaths, 366 involved heroin (25%) and 64 involved fentanyl (4%). By 2022, out of 4,708 drug-related deaths, 1,904 involved fentanyl (40%) and 262 involved heroin (6%).

That means by 2022, fentanyl was involved in 2 out of every 5 drug-related deaths in the state of Texas.

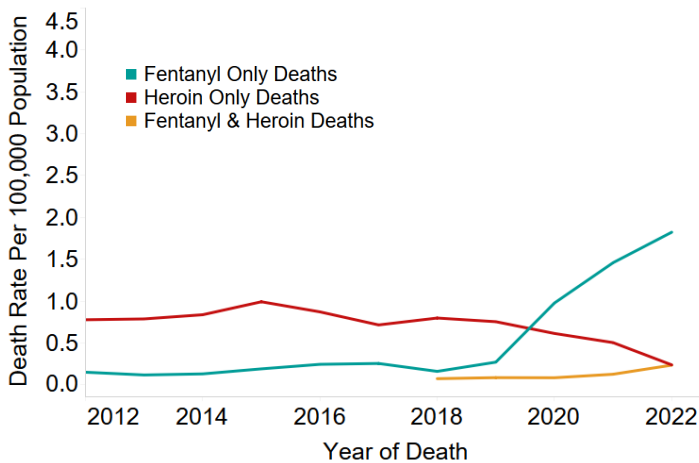
Number of Deaths by Drug Type (2012-2022)



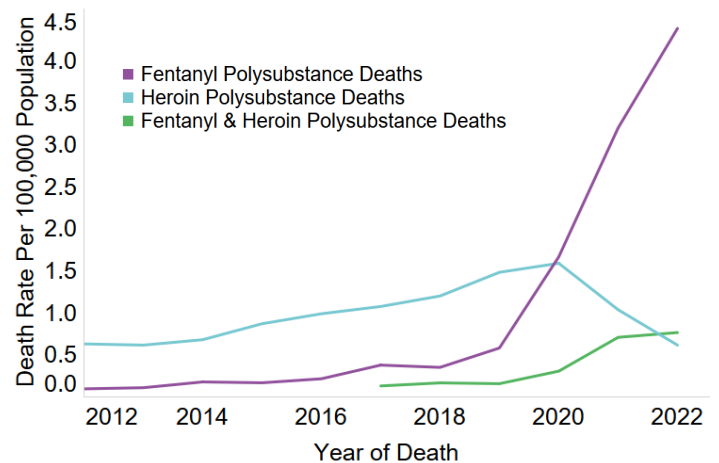
Note: Counts for all fentanyl related deaths in 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2018 are 64, 60, 83, 98, 128 and 147. Counts for all heroin related deaths in 2012, 2013 and 2022 are 366, 371 and 262. *Any drug-related deaths include one or more substances from opium, fentanyl, heroin, other opioids, methadone, other narcotics, tramadol, other synthetic opioids, cannabinoids, benzodiazepines, LSD or stimulants. ^All fentanyl-related deaths include single substance fentanyl deaths and fentanyl polysubstance deaths involving any drug listed under any drug-related deaths, excluding heroin. #All heroin-related deaths include single substance heroin deaths and heroin polysubstance deaths involving any drug listed under any drug-related deaths, excluding fentanyl.

After 2019, fentanyl-related death rates rose sharply, while heroin-related rates declined.

Death Rates by Single Drug Category (2012-2022)



Death Rates by Polysubstance Drug Category (2012-2022)



Note: Death rates are suppressed for years with counts less than 21. Suppressed estimates are not displayed. Drug categories are mutually exclusive.

Data are based on death certificates¹, limited to accidental or undetermined deaths involving any drug, heroin and/or fentanyl, identified by drug indicators using International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10)² cause of death codes and free-text searches.

1. Texas Vital Event Data, 2012-2022. Texas Department of State Health Services, Center for Health Statistics, Austin, Texas. 2025.

2. CDC. ICD-10. Classification of Diseases, Functioning, and Disability. June 7, 2024. Accessed April 17, 2025. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/icd/icd-10/index.html#cdc_generic_section_4-resources

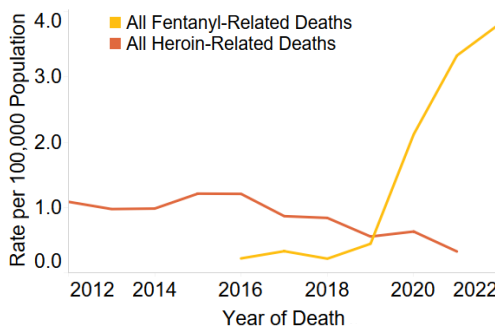
Heroin and Fentanyl Related Poisoning Deaths in Texas: Demographics and Substances, 2012–2022



Death Rates by TTOR Priority Population (2012-2022)

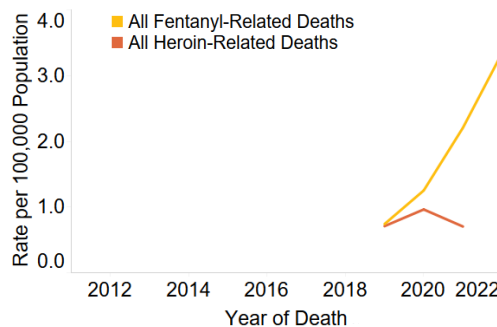
As part of the Texas Targeted Opioid Response (TTOR) initiative to address opioid-related harms, the infographic highlights two TTOR priority populations: Texans aged 25 years and younger and individuals residing in rural areas.

25 Years of Age & Younger



Note: Death rates are suppressed for years with counts less than 21. Suppressed estimates are not displayed.

Rural Population³



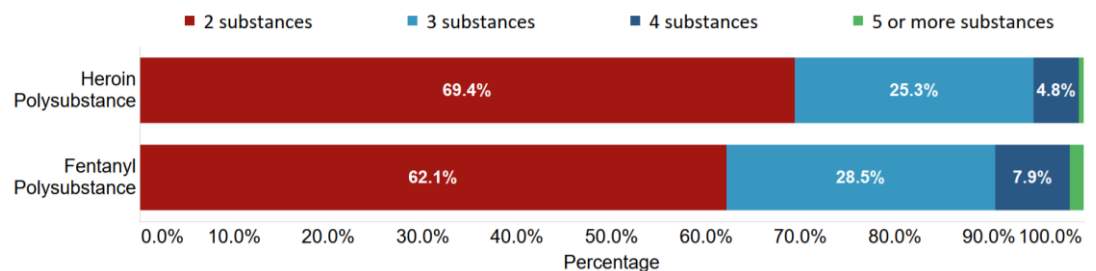
Note: The heroin-related death rate for rural populations was 0.8 per 100,000 in 2016. Death rates are suppressed for years with counts less than 21. Suppressed estimates are not displayed.

Since 2019, fentanyl-related death rates increased among those aged 25 and younger and in rural areas, while heroin-related death rates declined or remained low.

Substance Involvement (2012-2022)

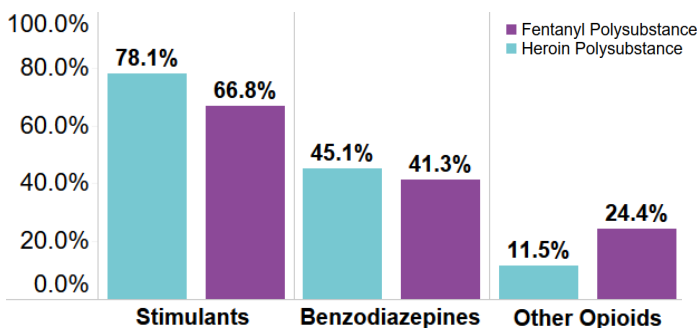
Number of Substances Listed on the Death Certificate[^] (2012-2022)

Three or more substances constituted a larger proportion of fentanyl polysubstance deaths compared to heroin polysubstance deaths.



Note: Percent of deaths involving five or more substances is 0.5% for heroin polysubstance and 1.4% for fentanyl polysubstance.
[^]Substances include heroin/fentanyl, opium, other opioids, methadone, other narcotics, tramadol, other synthetic opioids, cannabinoids, benzodiazepines, LSD and stimulant

Percentage of Top Three Co-Occurring Substances (2012-2022)



Stimulants were the most common co-occurring substance, with higher involvement in heroin polysubstance deaths. Benzodiazepines had similar involvement across both groups. Other opioids were more common in fentanyl polysubstance deaths.

**Other opioids include natural and semi-synthetic opioids.

3. Ingram D, Franco S, National Center for Health Statistics. 2013 NCHS Urban–Rural Classification Scheme for Counties. National Center for Health Statistics; 2014. https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/series/sr_02/sr02_166.pdf.