

Policy Evaluation During the Opioid Epidemic

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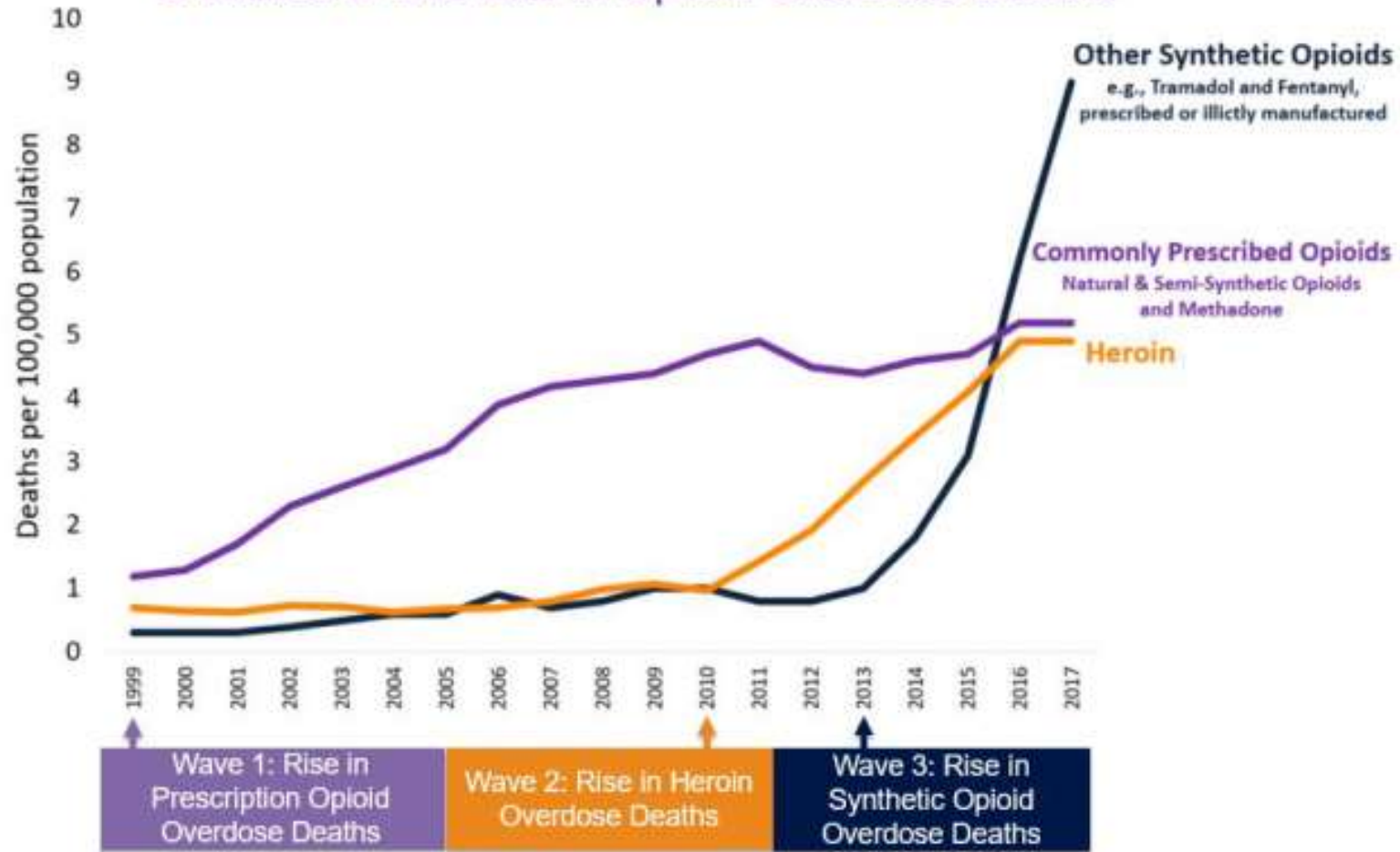
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The Opioid Epidemic

- 130 people die of opioid overdose every day in the U.S.
- 2.2 million children affected (through 2017)
 - \$117.5 billion in costs during childhood
 - By 2030: 4.3 million children and \$400 billion

CDC, 2018; Brundage et al., 2019

3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



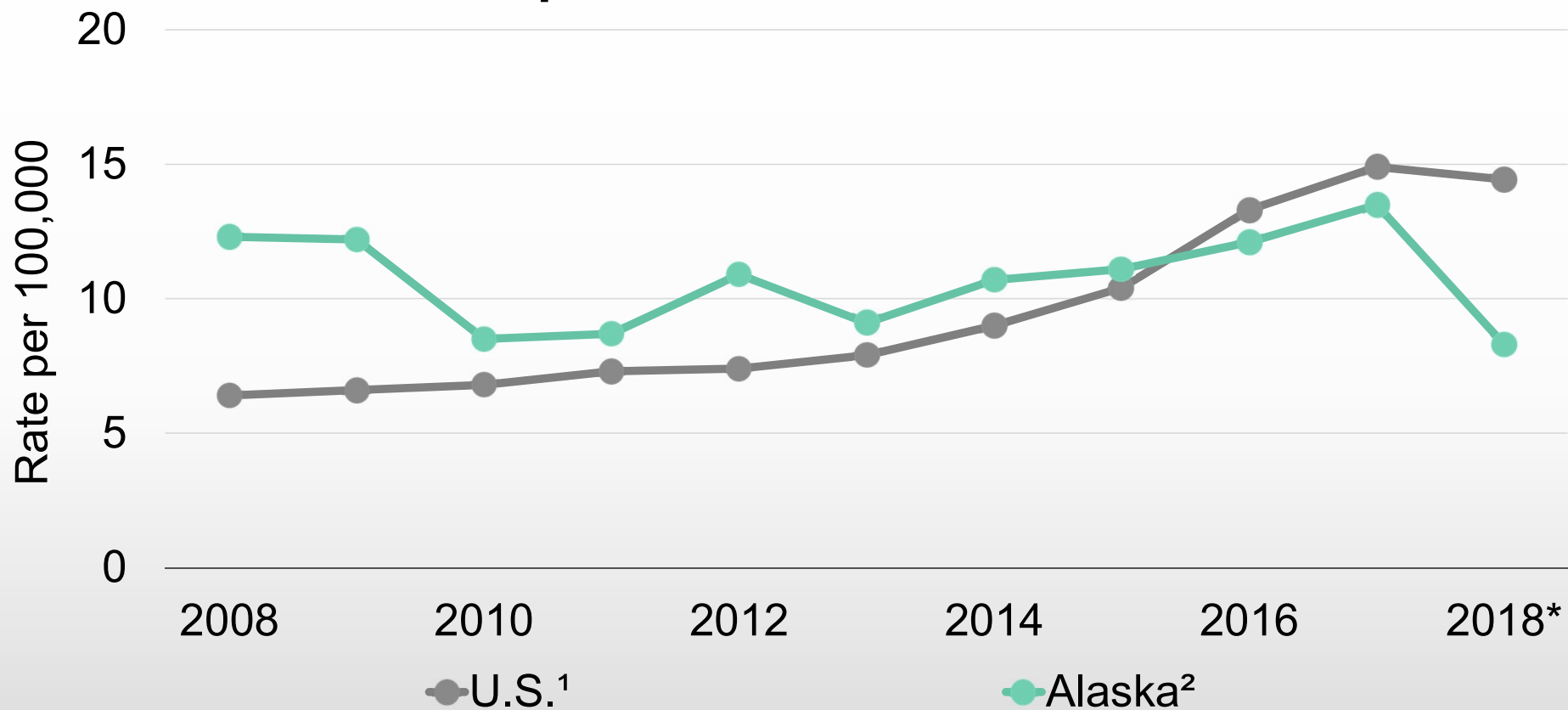
SOURCE: National Vital Statistics System Mortality File.

CDC, 2018

The Opioid Epidemic

- Federal funds to Alaska in 2015
 - Alaska public health disaster declaration in Feb 2017
- HHS declares public health emergency in Oct 2017

Opioid Overdose Deaths



1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Center for Health Statistics. *2018 data preliminary

2. Alaska Division of Public Health; Health Analytics and Vital Records.

Data Sources



- Primary
 - Key informant interviews
 - Tracking of policy changes
- Secondary
 - Overdose deaths
 - Treatment admissions
 - ER visits

Key informant interviews:

- Fall 2016
- 16 participants
- Domains:
 - State climate
 - Partnerships and coordination
 - **Policies, practices, and laws**
 - Data and data monitoring
 - Knowledge and readiness
- SWOT analysis





Findings related to policy:

- Strengths
 - PDMP reporting and timeliness improvements
 - Medicaid expansion
 - Good Samaritan laws
 - Access to naloxone

“

SB 74, which was our omnibus Medicaid Reform Bill, [and it] included all the recommendations of the controlled substances advisory committee to strengthen the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program

“

So, the Medicaid reform, as well as Medicaid expansion, will help expand access to treatment for people who are ‘recovery ready,’ as we say.



Findings related to policy:

- Strengths
 - PDMP reporting and timeliness improvements
 - Medicaid expansion
 - Good Samaritan laws
 - Access to naloxone
- Weaknesses
 - Limited access to PDMP
 - Criminal justice approach
- Opportunities
 - PDMP unsolicited reporting
 - Statewide prescribing guidelines
 - Expand immunity laws



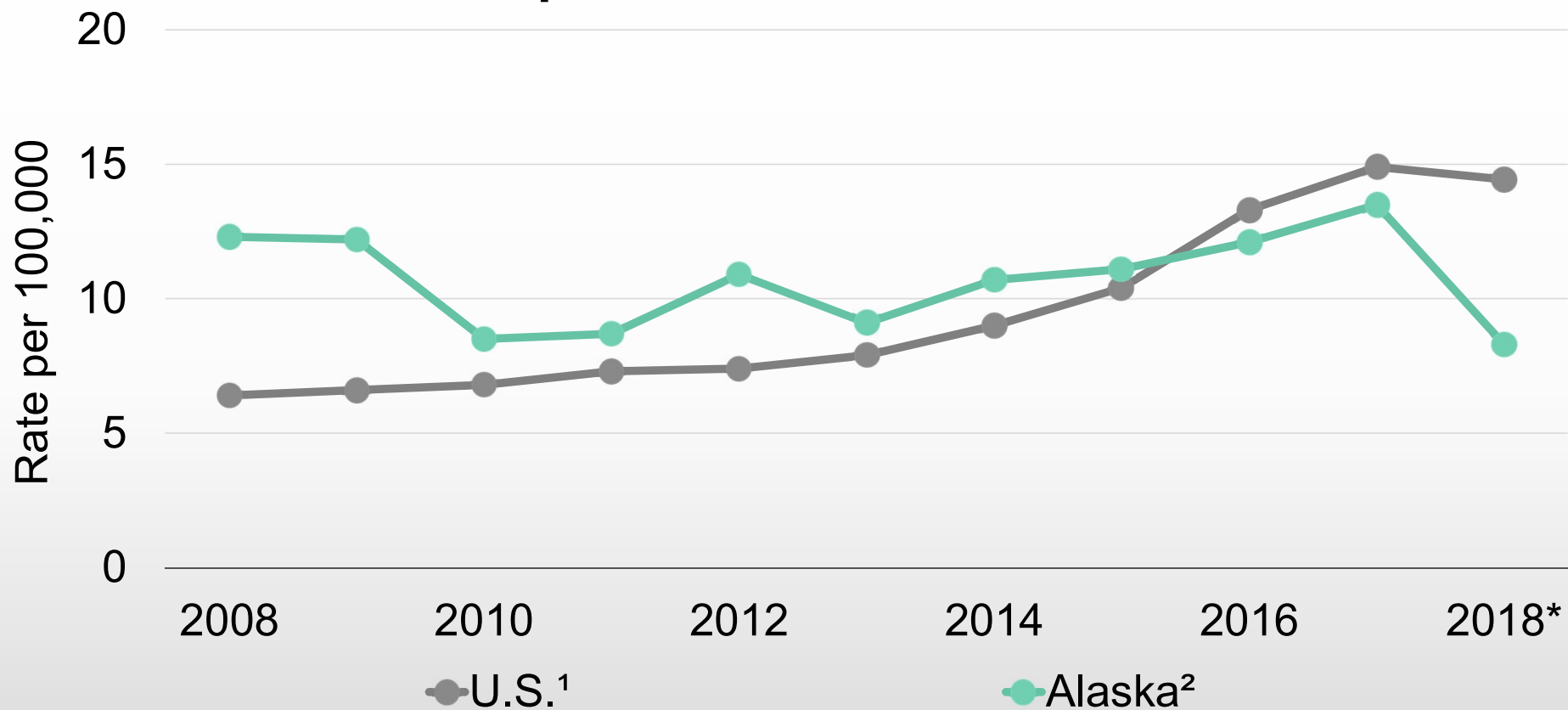
Timeline of relevant policy changes:

- Feb 2017 – disaster declaration
 - Standing order for naloxone
- January 2017 – Opioid prescribing
 - Adopted guidelines
- July 2017 – PDMP responsibilities
 - Providers/dispensers: registration, delegates, recording, and checking
 - Board of Pharmacy: unsolicited reports to providers/dispensers, reporting to legislature
- July 2017 – Opioid prescribing
 - Limits and sanctions
 - 7-day maximum supply
- July 2018 – PDMP updated



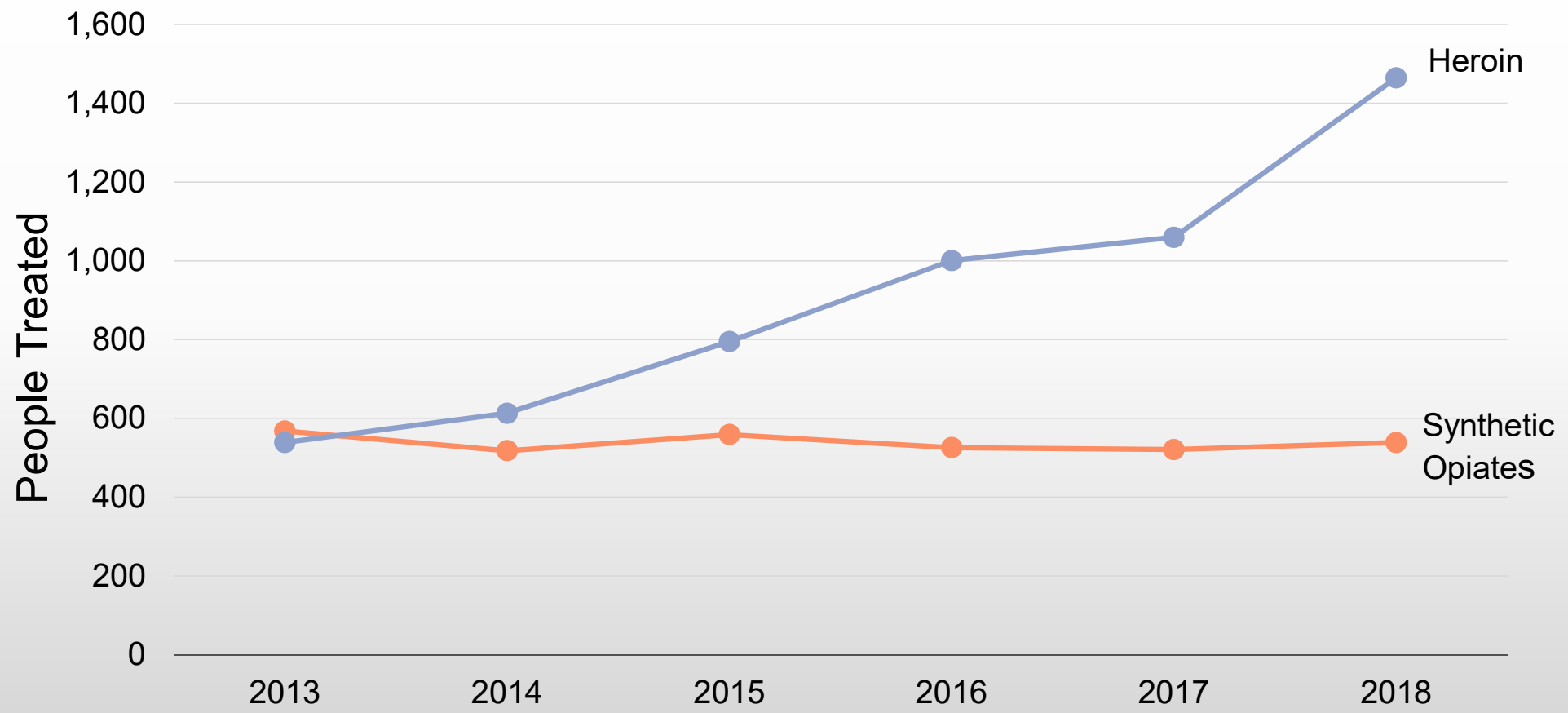
What has happened?

Opioid Overdose Deaths

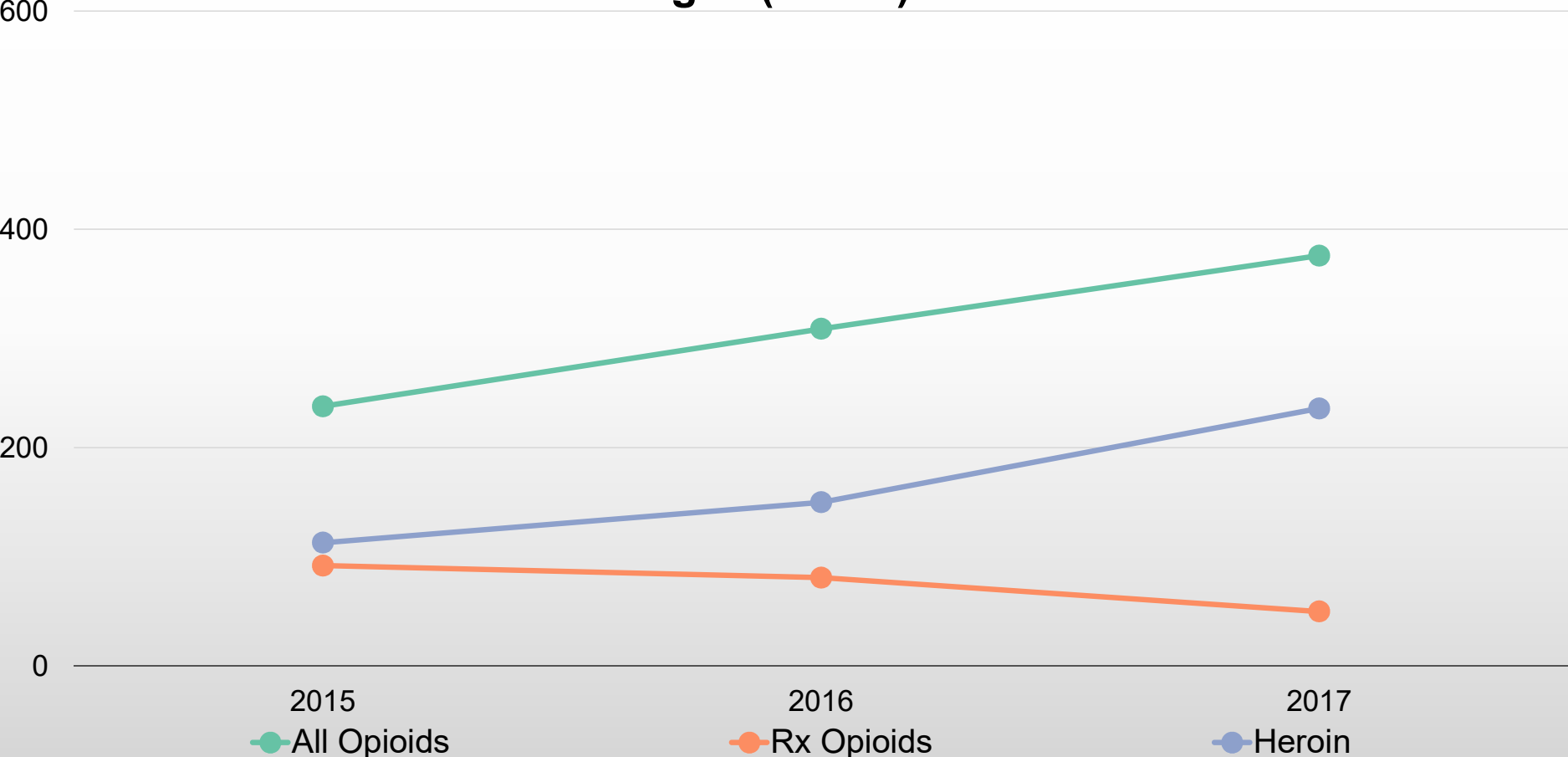


1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; National Center for Health Statistics. *2018 data preliminary
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Treatment for Synthetic Opiates & Heroin as Primary Substance of Abuse (AKAIMS)



All Opioid, Prescription Opioid, & Heroin Poisoning Discharges (HFDR)



The Challenge

- Identifying specific influence of policies
- Informing future policy development
- Next steps:
 - Follow-up key informant interviews
 - Continued monitoring of secondary data



Thank you!

Questions?

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