

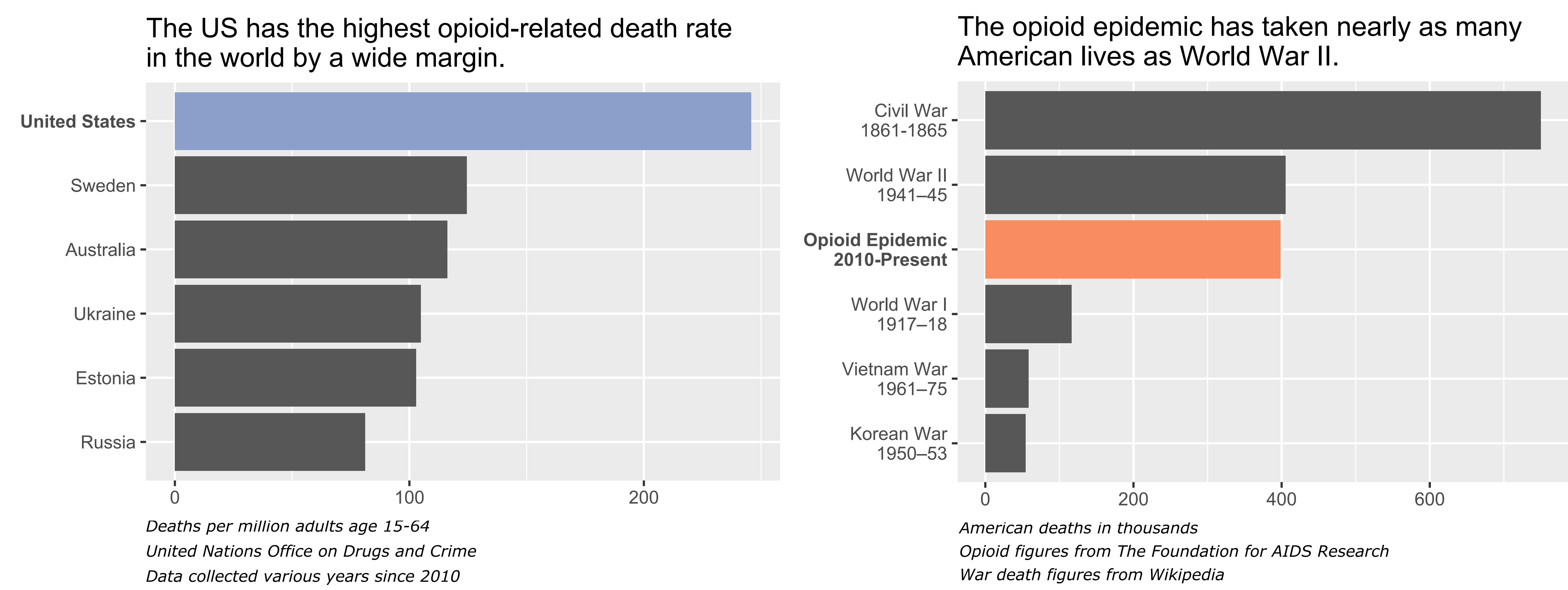
# The American Opioid Epidemic

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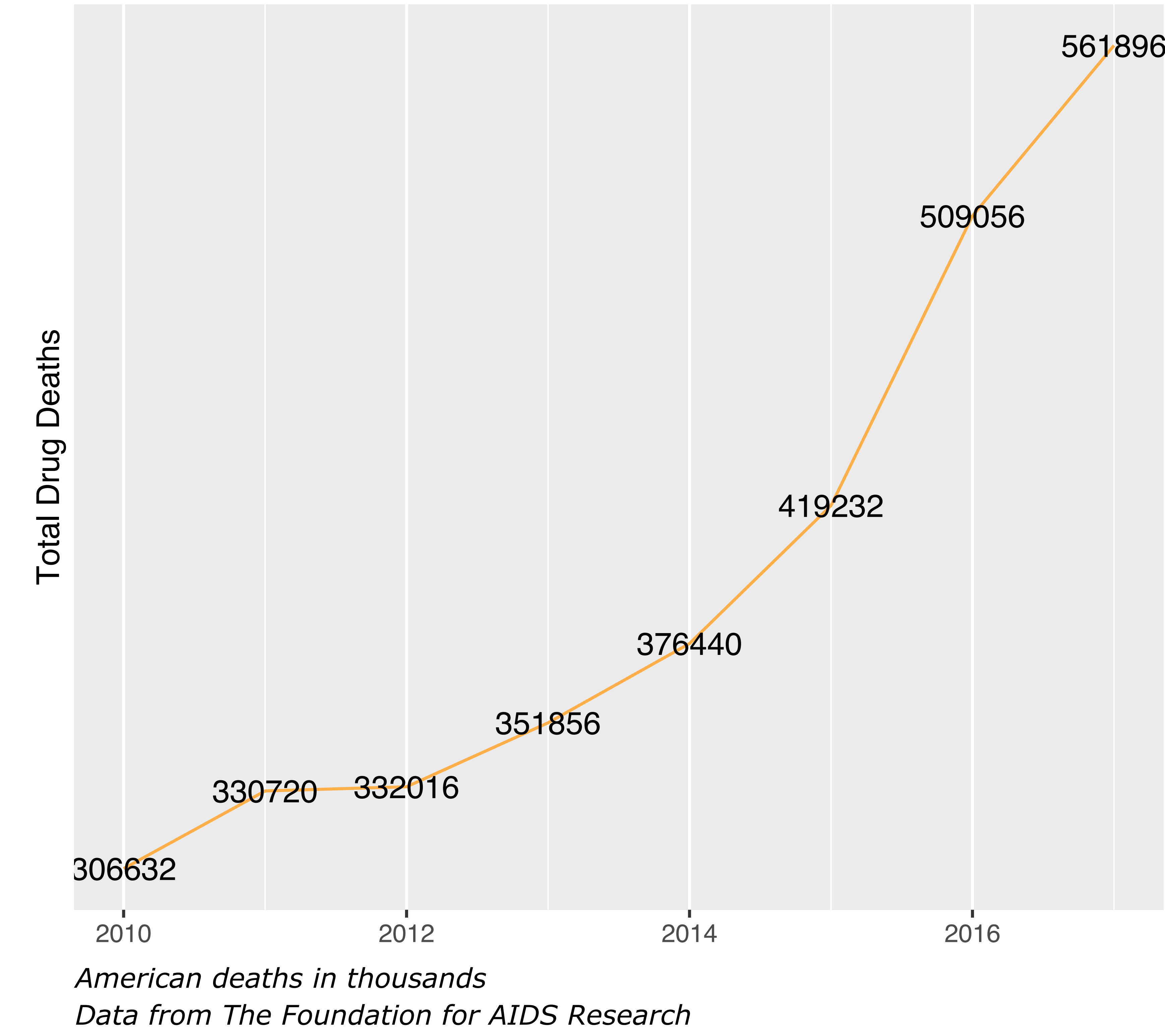
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The opioid epidemic has been an issue in the United States for many years now. Medical providers have become more hesitant on prescribing opioids, but there is still a large presence of heroin on the street. The purpose of this research is to find which opioid is the most abused. If it is found to be an opioid that was prescribed, how often is it prescribed, and in what dosage. Data from each state was analyzed to see which has the most opioid-related overdoses and deaths. Additionally, we want to see which demographic is most likely to abuse opioids. One opioid in particular, fentanyl, has recently garnered more attention due to its lethality. This data could be extremely useful to law enforcement, health care providers, and legislators. This study hopes to show the dangers of opioid abuse and trends over time.



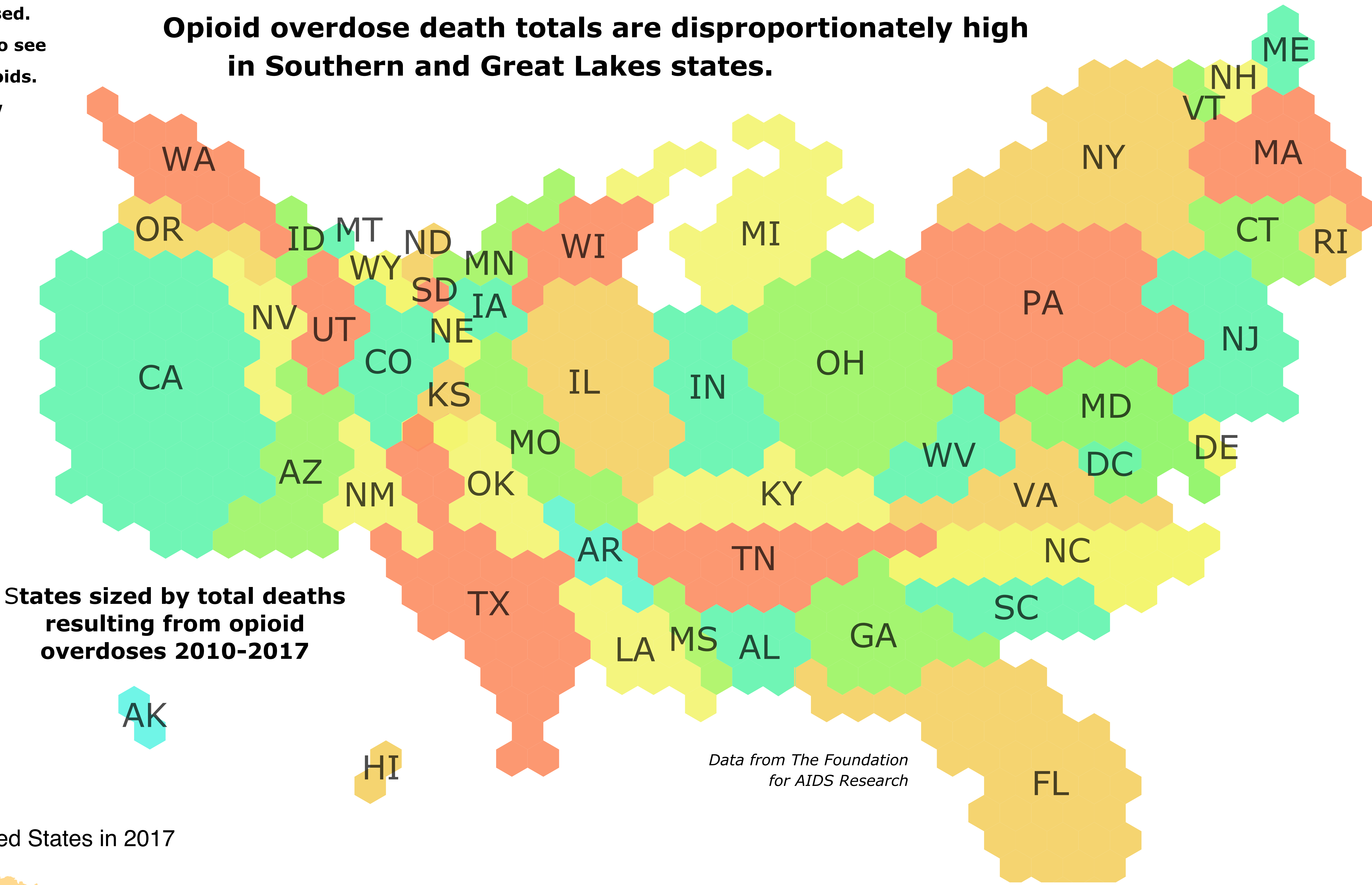
What is an opioid? Opioids are compounds that resemble opium in a variety of effects like addictive properties or psychological effects. It originally comes from the juice of the Papaver Somniferum, commonly known as the opium or breadseed poppy. When harvested from an unripe poppy, it is a milky white fluid that is air dried to form what is known as opium. The drug itself is generally used as a pain reliever that is reddish-brown, heavily scented and very addictive. Due to its ability to affect mood or behavior, it is also used and sold for non-medical purposes. A few known opioids that will be focused on in this poster are heroin, methadone, and fentanyl.

Opioid-related drug deaths in the United States are increasing

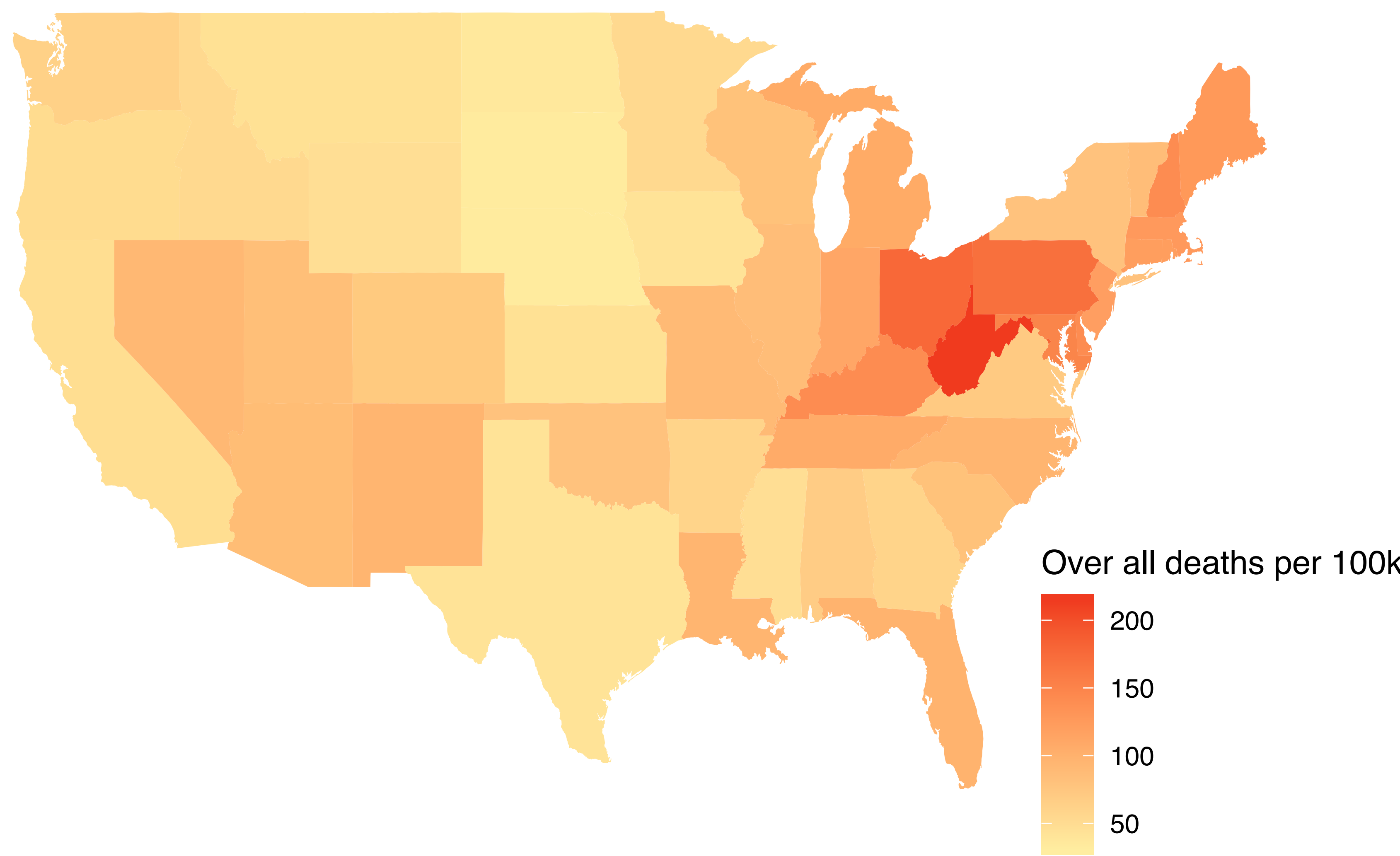


There has been a boom in opioid-related deaths since 2010. The total number of deaths resulting from overdoses nearly doubled between 2010 and 2017.

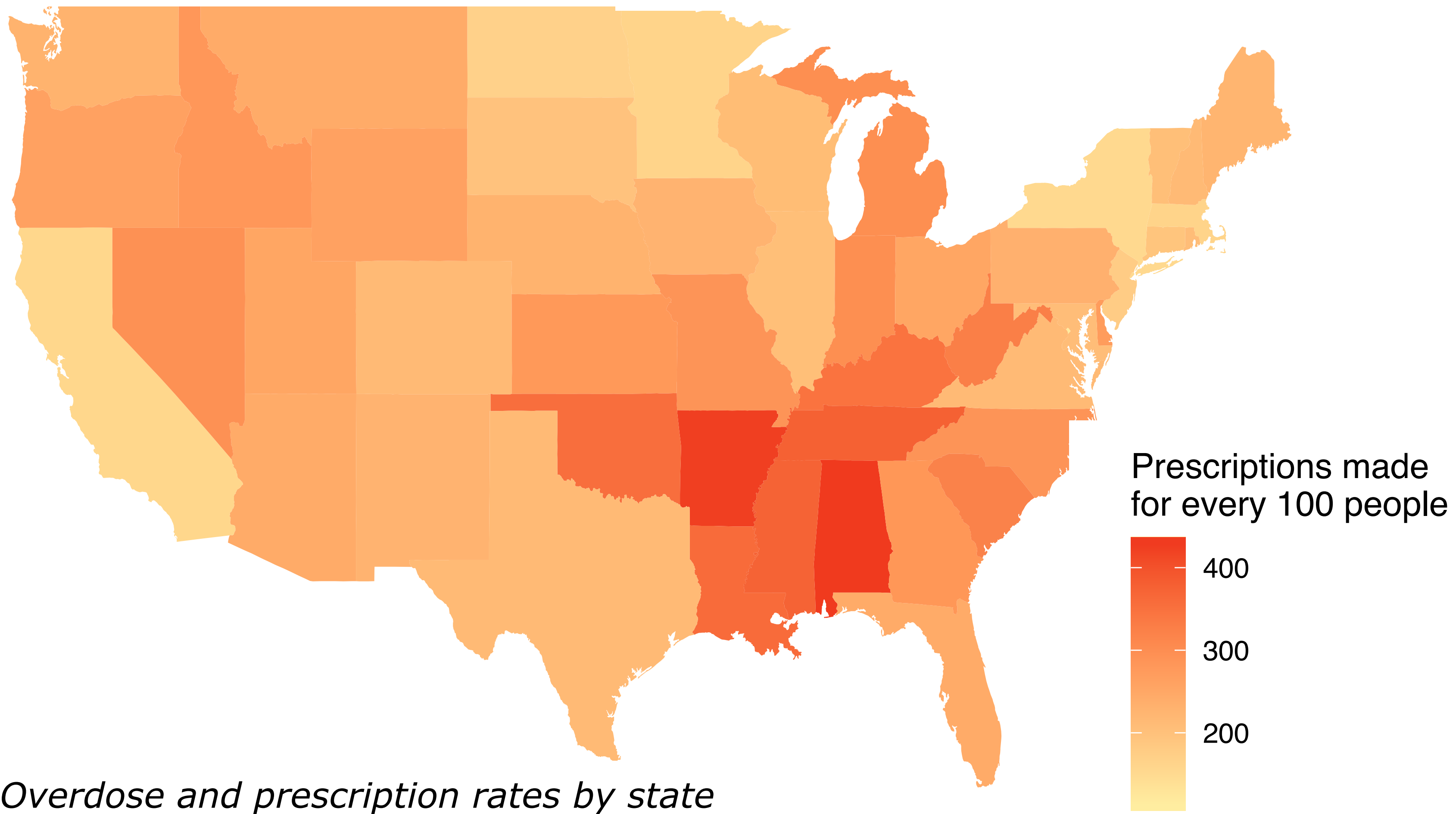
Opioid overdose death totals are disproportionately high in Southern and Great Lakes states.



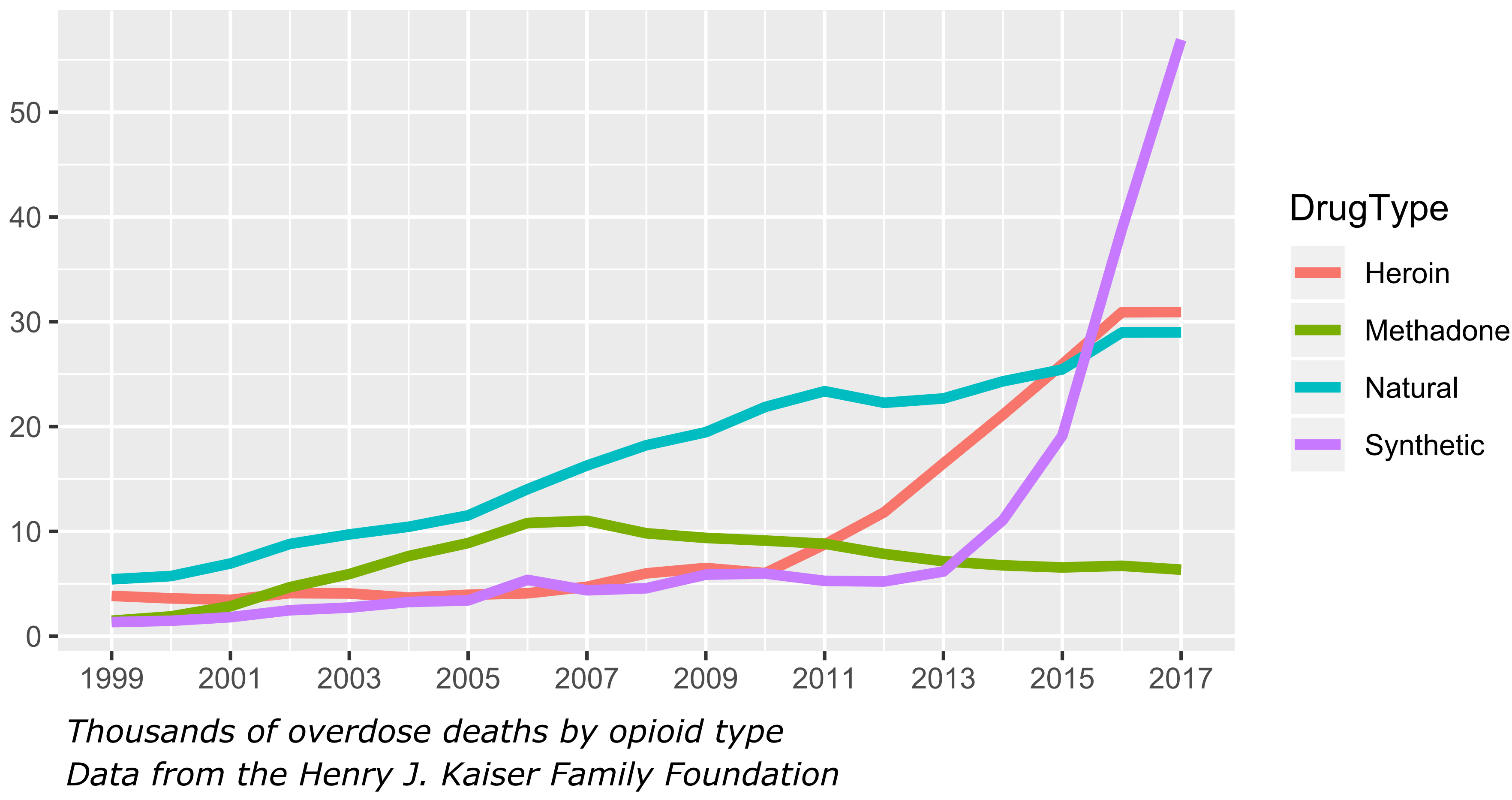
Opioid-related drug deaths in the United States in 2017



Opioid-related drug prescriptions in the United States in 2017

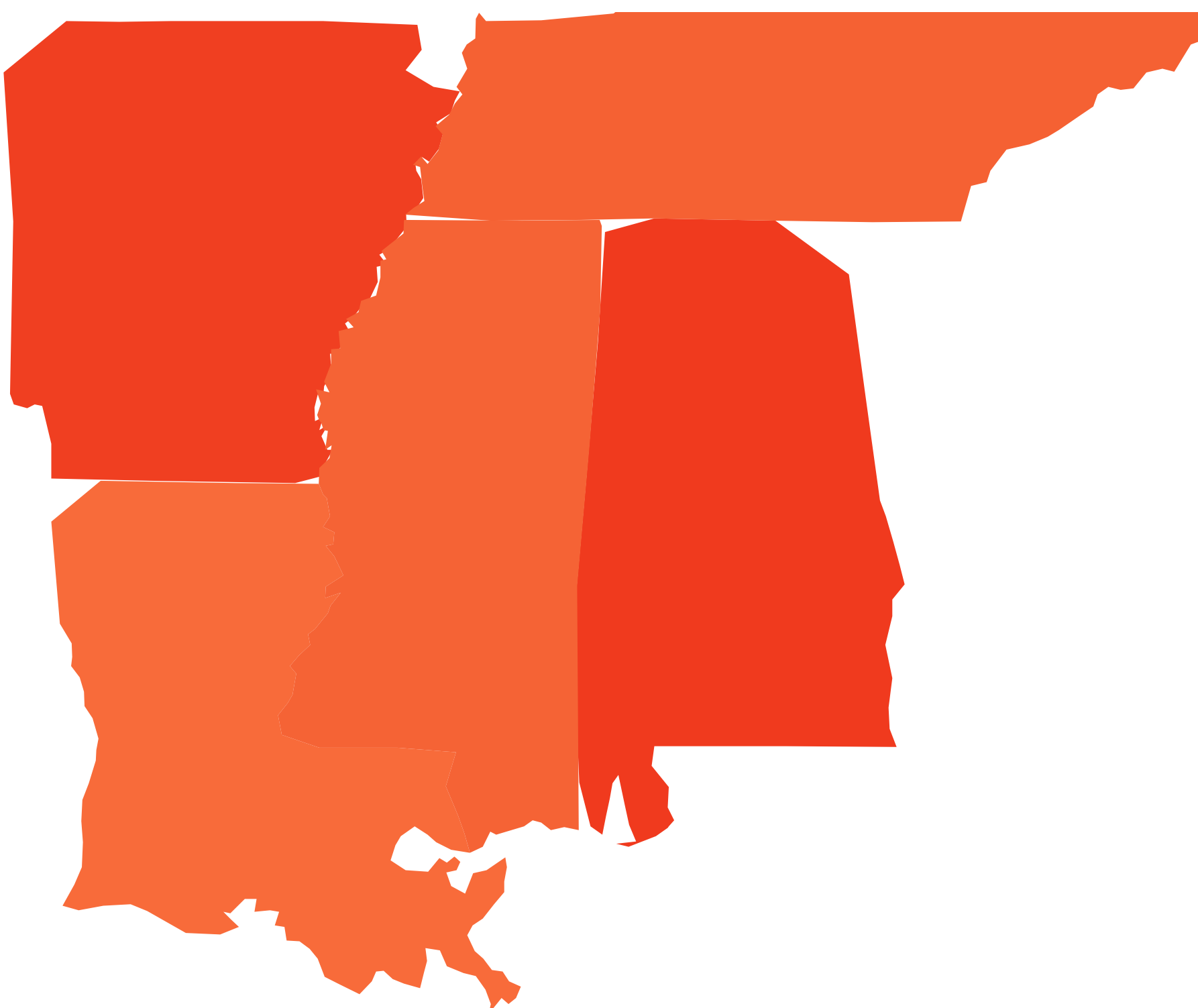


Synthetic drugs including Fentanyl are linked with the spike in deaths



With the exception of methadone, there has been a large increase in opioid-related overdose deaths. The greatest spike is in synthetic, which is the category that fentanyl lies.

Alabama and Arkansas have the highest rates of opioid prescriptions in the United States in 2017



How are opioids taken? There are a multitude of different ways that the opioids can be taken into the body. For instance, there are the more commonly known ways like orally or injected into various attributes of the anatomy such as the veins and muscles or the lesser known nasal spray, patch, suppository, or implanted pump.