

Figure 4. Rates of positive fentanyl toxicology screens at overdose by age at death, race, sex, and time. Observed data are plotted as vertically jittered points with model-based estimates (solid lines) and 95% credible intervals (shaded regions) for each plotted 2-year interval. Residual error due to geography was added to model estimates by simulating zip code-level variation from model parameters. In 2014, all demographic groups experienced dramatic increases in rates of lethal fentanyl-related overdose. Prior to 2014, black people were at particularly low risk of lethal fentanyl-related overdose. However, they experienced relatively fast rate increases and by 2017 their risk had surpassed that of white people.

Probability of Positive Fentanyl Toxicology Screen among Lethal Overdose Victims, in 2-year intervals

