# Geographic Variation in Opioid Mortality by Race/Ethnicity, 1999–2016

Identifying epidemic hotspots

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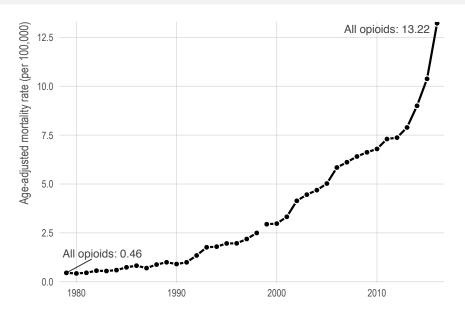
<sup>1</sup>Department of Social and Behavioral Sciences Harvard TH Chan School of Public Health

<sup>2</sup>Department of Demography University of California, Berkeley

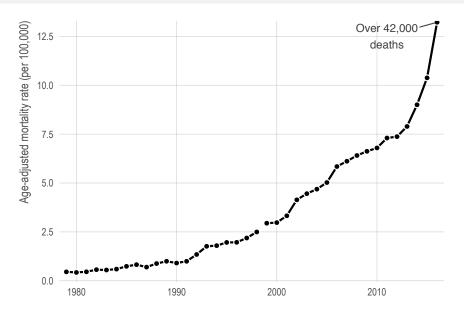
<sup>3</sup>Heinz College Carnegie Mellon University

PAA 2018: Denver, CO

### Almost 30x increase since 1980

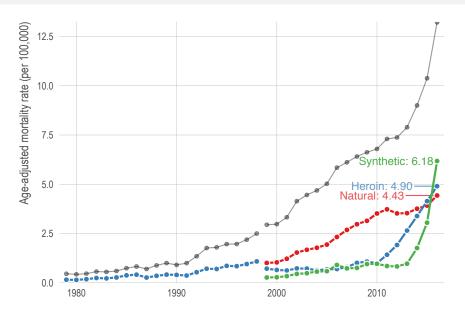


## More than deaths by car accidents or guns

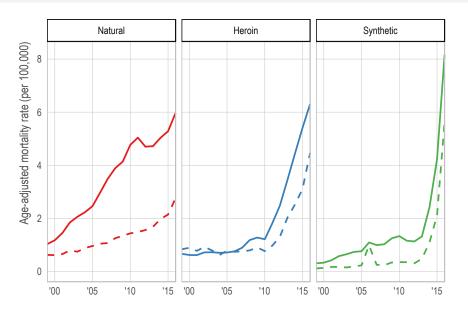


Variation in the opioid epidemic

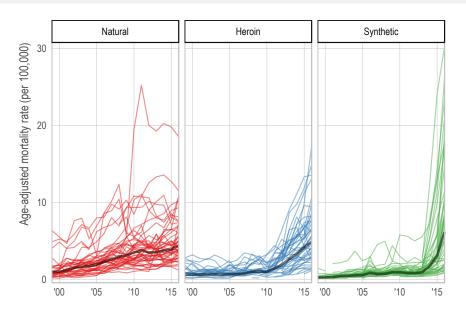
## Variation by opioid type



## Variation by race/ethnicity



## Variation by state



• Systematically describe the opioid epidemic across geography (state), race/ethnicity, and opioid type.

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  - The epidemic over time (1999-2016)
  - The current epidemic in terms of both mortality rate and rate of increase
- Identify "epidemic hotspots" areas with high mortality and rapid increases

## Data / Methods

• Multiple cause of death data from NCHS

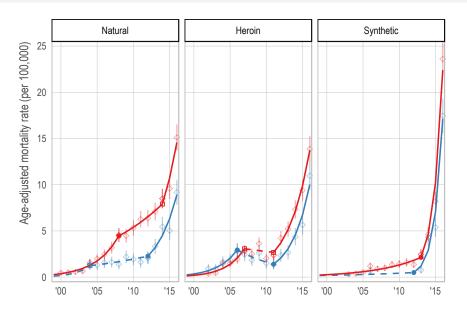
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- Multiple cause of death data from NCHS
- Calculate age-standardized rates by state, race/ethnicity, and opioid type

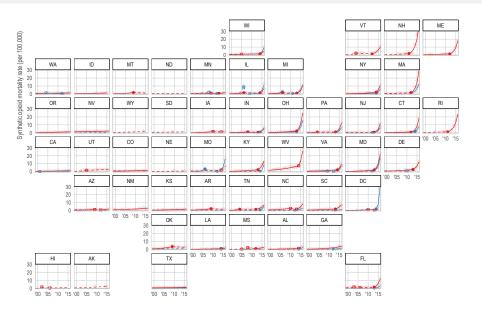
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- Calculate age-standardized rates by state, race/ethnicity, and opioid type
- Joinpoint regression

## **Example Results: Maryland**

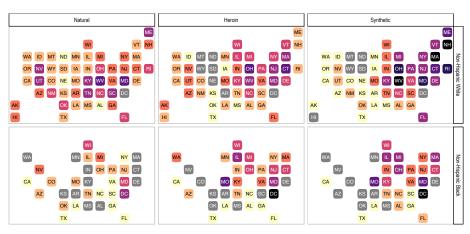


## **Example Results: Synthetic Opioids**



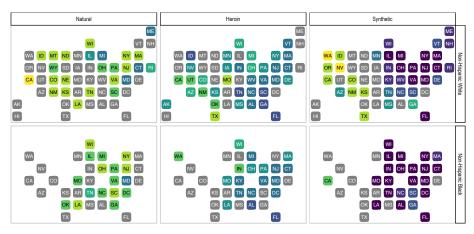
**Results: Current Epidemic** 

## **Current Mortality**



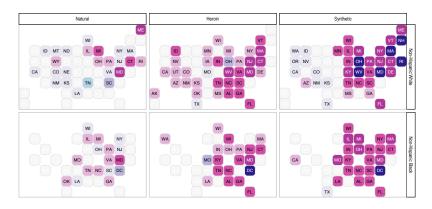
Mortality (per 100,000) [0.2.5] (2.5.5] (5.7.5] (7.5.10] (10.15] (15.20] (20.25] (25.34] NA

## **Current Trajectory**



APC (%) (0.5) (5.10) (10.15) (15.20) (20.30) (30.50) (50.75) (75.100) (100.331) NA

## **Epidemic Hotspots**





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- Strong geographical clustering of epidemic hotspots

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  - Cost and availability

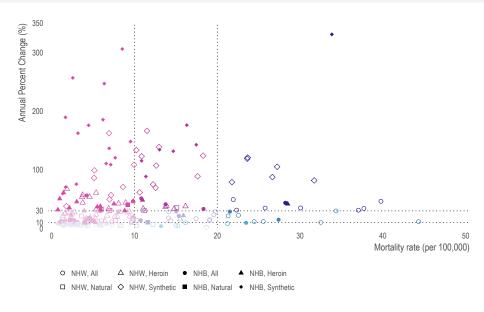
## Thank you

## Code and interactive results explorer:

https://tiny.cc/paa2018

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## **Epidemic Hotspots**



## **Average Annual Percent Change**

