



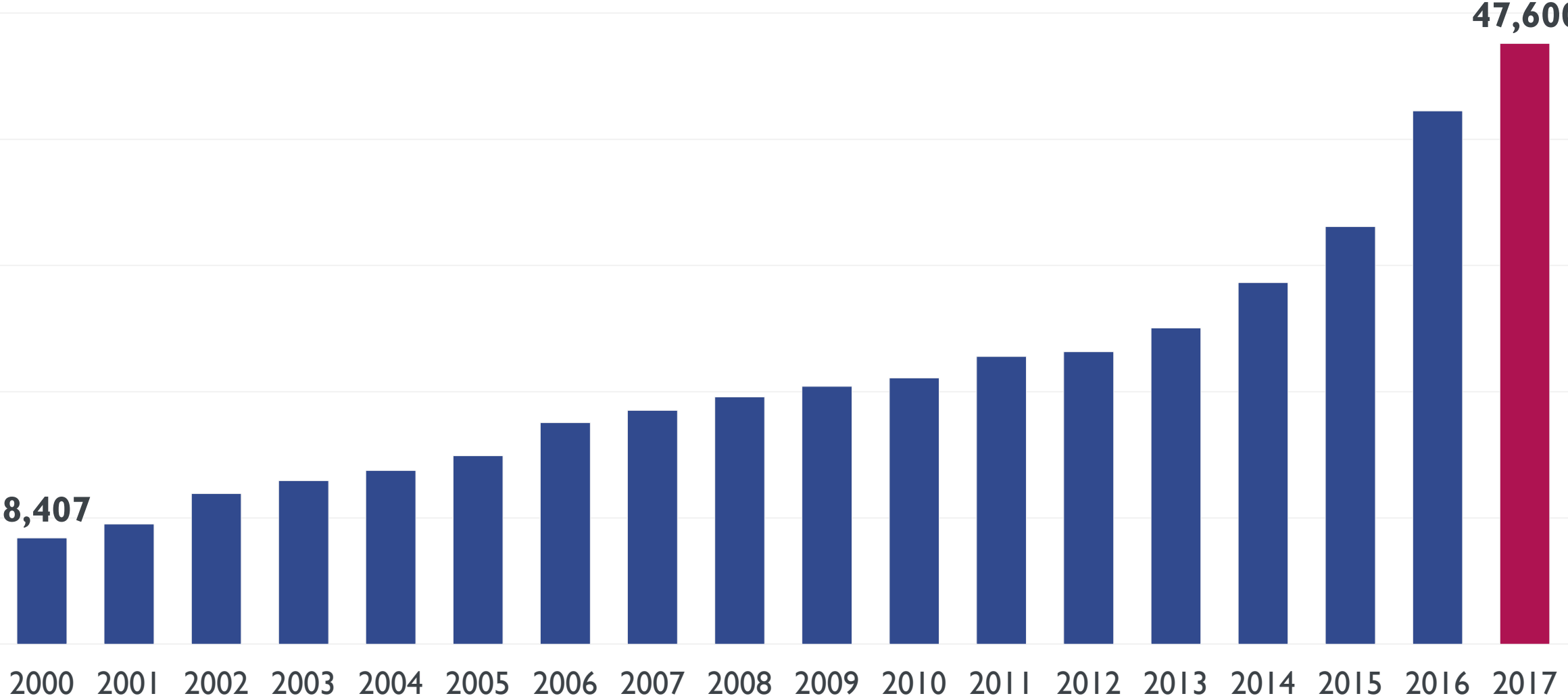
**Opioid Addiction Is a National Crisis...
and It's Twice as Bad in Massachusetts.**

Luc Schuster
Director, Boston Indicators
March 6, 2019

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Opioid-related deaths in the US have quintupled since 2000.

Opioid-related deaths. United States.

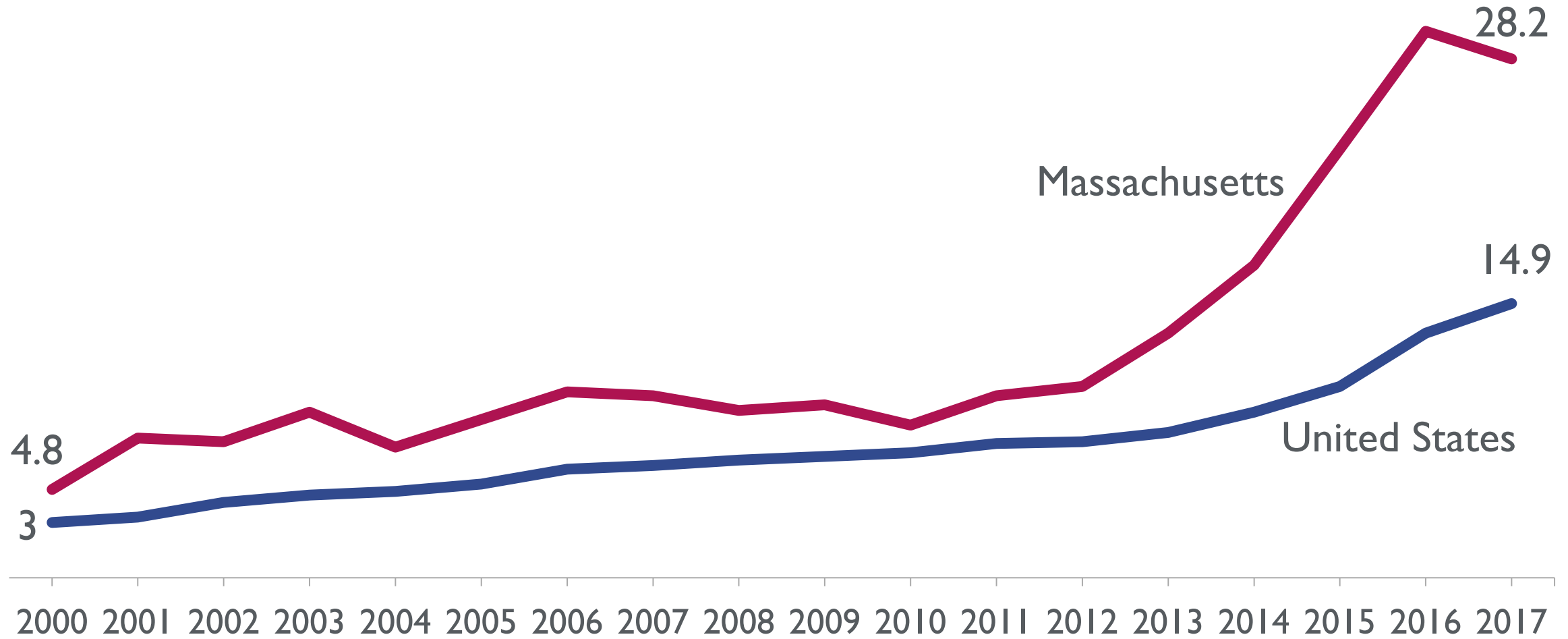


Putting the scale of the opioid crisis in context:

- There were more opioid-related deaths in 2017 than deaths from car crashes.
- Driven by the opioid epidemic, American deaths from drug overdoses in 2017 were greater than American deaths from the entire Vietnam war.
- There were roughly the same number of opioid-related deaths in 2017 as HIV/AIDS deaths in 1995, the height of the epidemic.

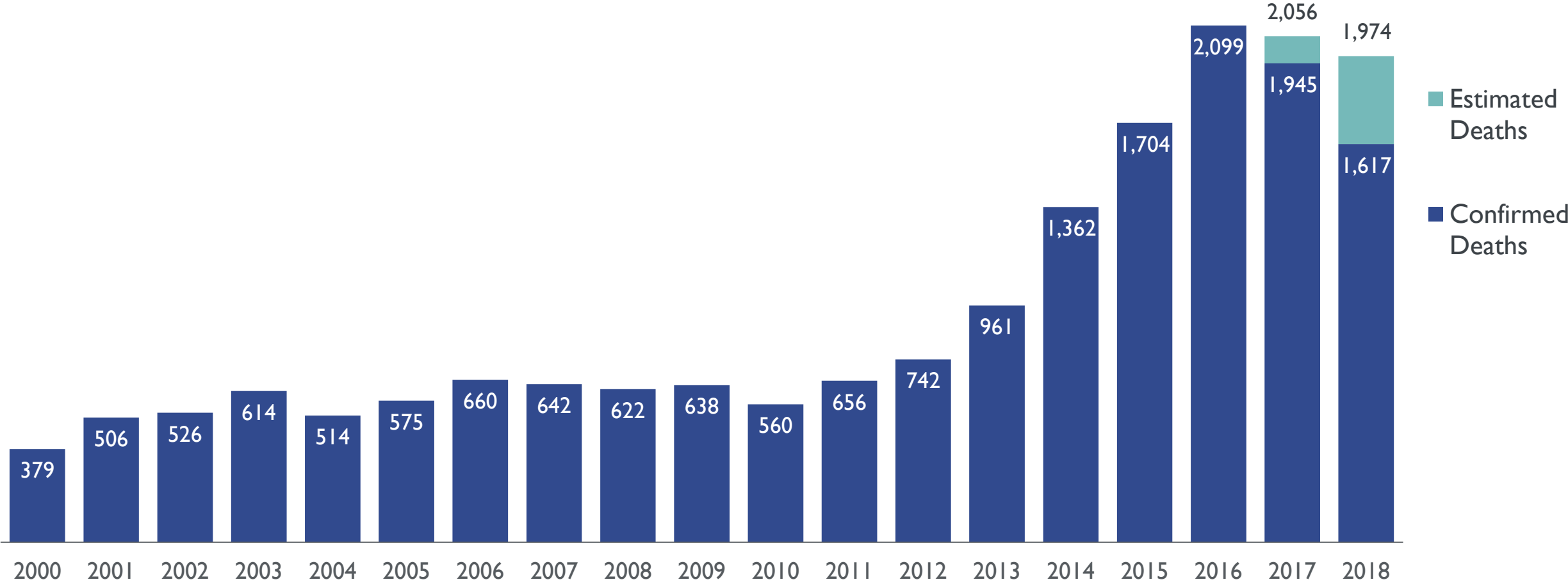
Massachusetts's opioid-related death rate is roughly 2x the US average.

Age-adjusted opioid-related death rate (per 100,000).



While we made some very modest progress over the last 2 years, opioid-related deaths remain extremely high in Massachusetts.

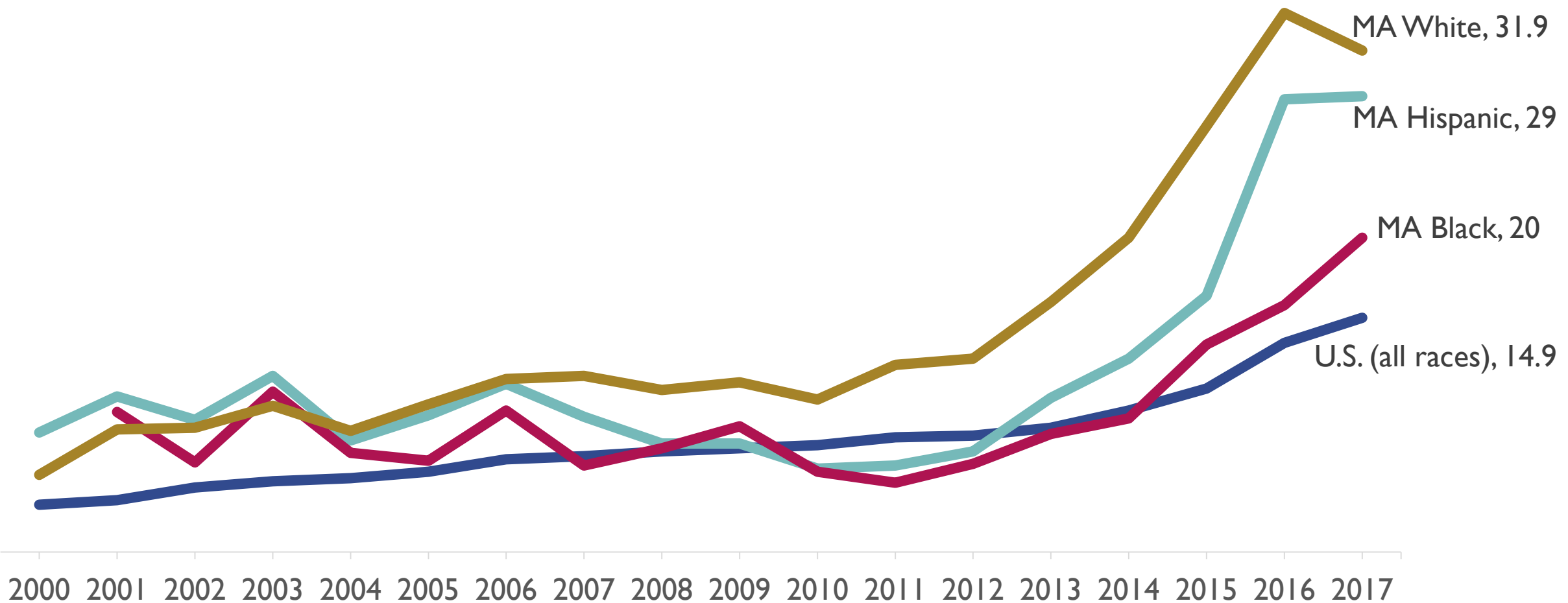
Opioid-related deaths. Massachusetts residents.



Source: Massachusetts Department of Public Health, November 2018 update.

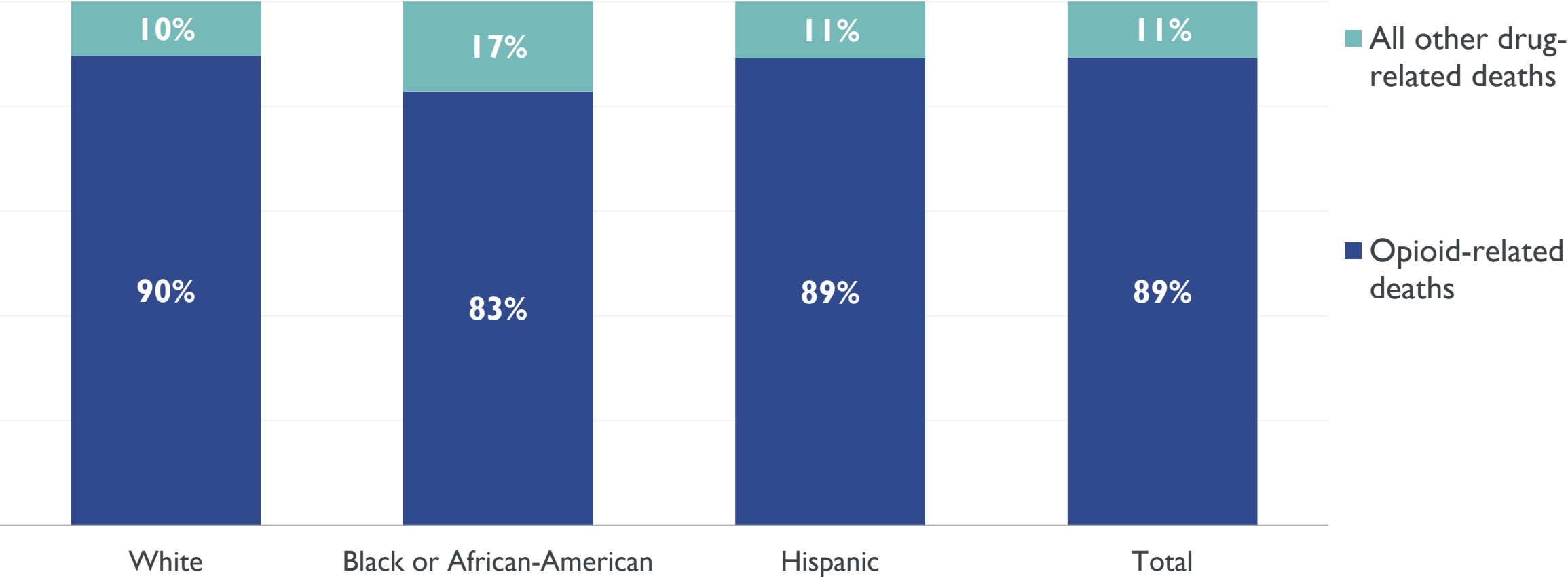
Black and Hispanic opioid deaths have increased rapidly since 2011. And their death rates in MA are higher than the national rate for all races.

Age-adjusted opioid-related death rate (per 100,000). Massachusetts and United States.



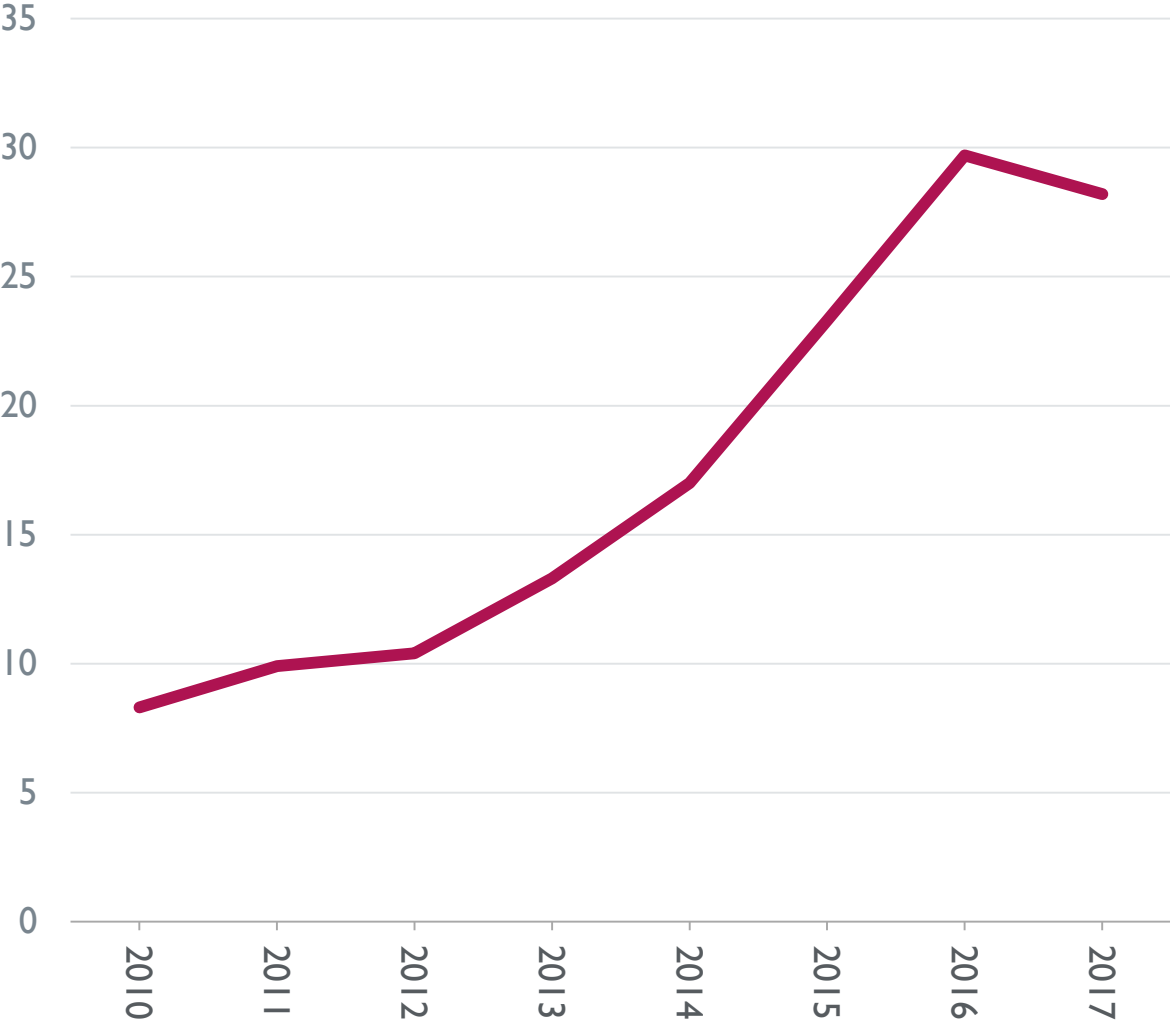
The vast majority of drug deaths in Massachusetts are opioid-related, regardless of race or ethnicity.

Share of drug overdose deaths related to opioids. Massachusetts. 2016.



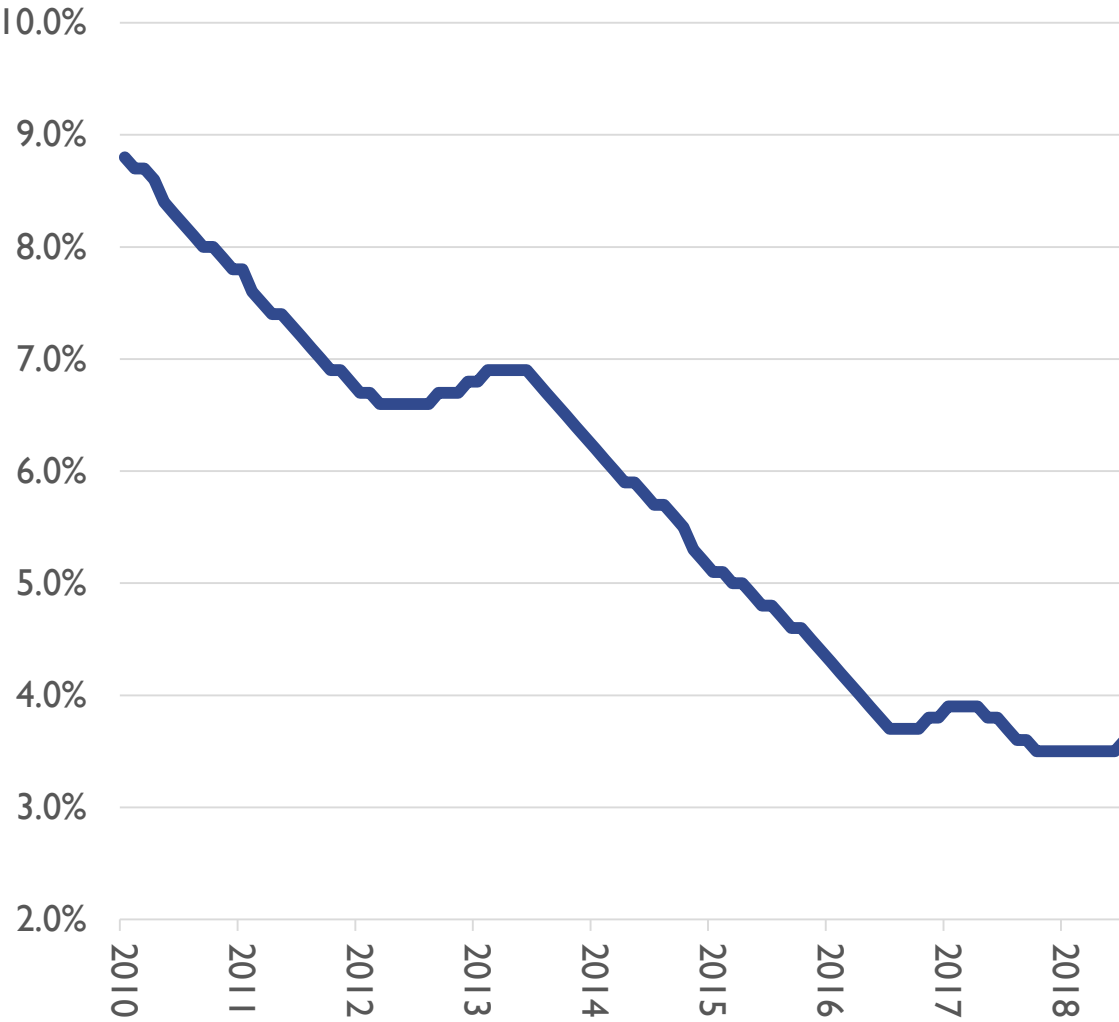
Our state's opioid crisis spiked...

Age-adjusted opioid-related death rate (per 100,000). Massachusetts.



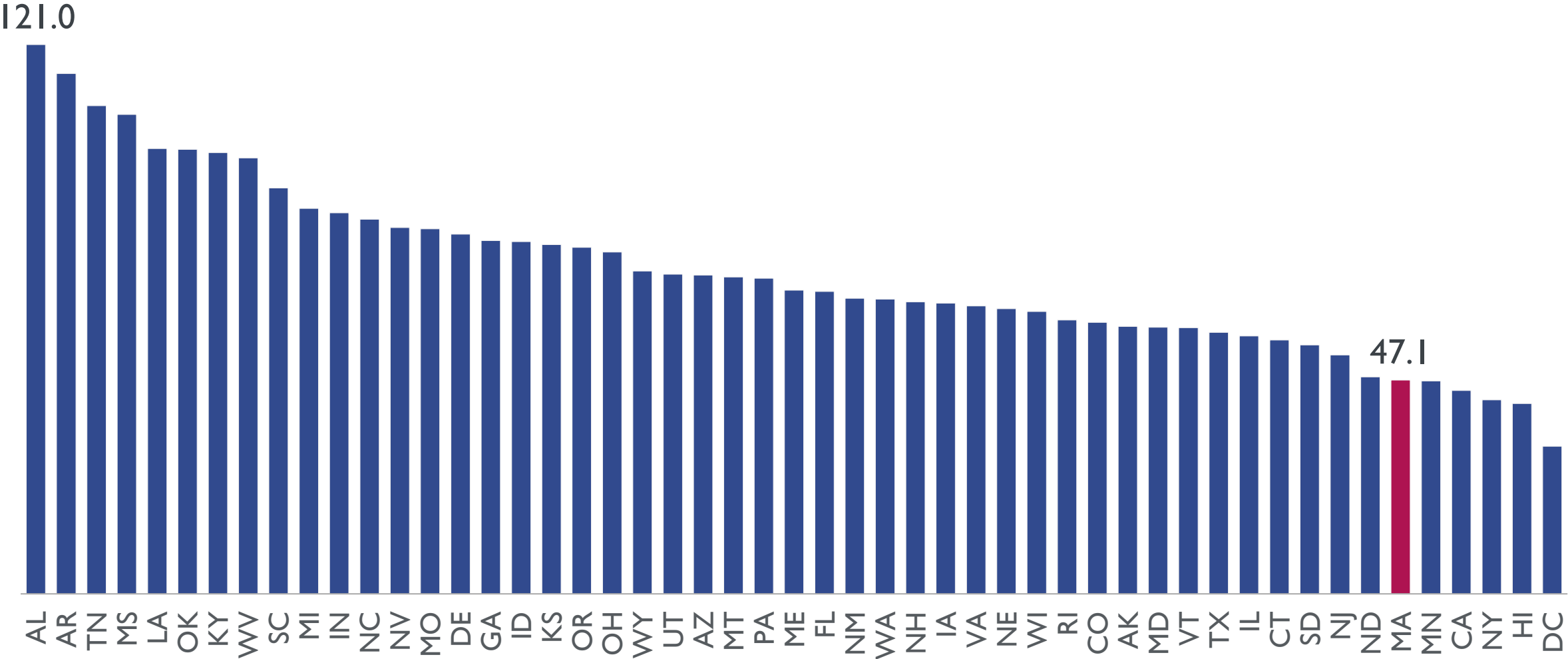
...even as our economy improved.

Unemployment rate, seasonally adjusted. BLS. Massachusetts.



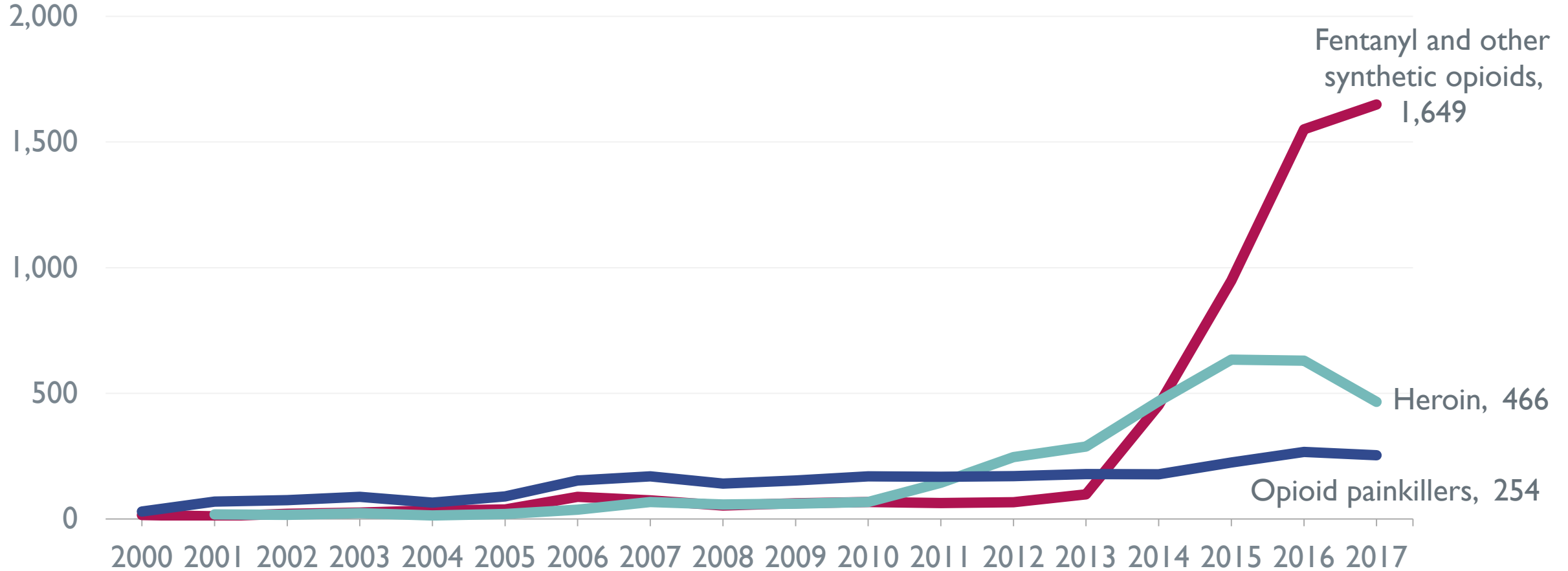
Massachusetts prescribes lots of opioids, but less than most states.

Opioid prescriptions per 100 people. 2016.



Fentanyl is now the number one cause of opioid-related deaths in Massachusetts.

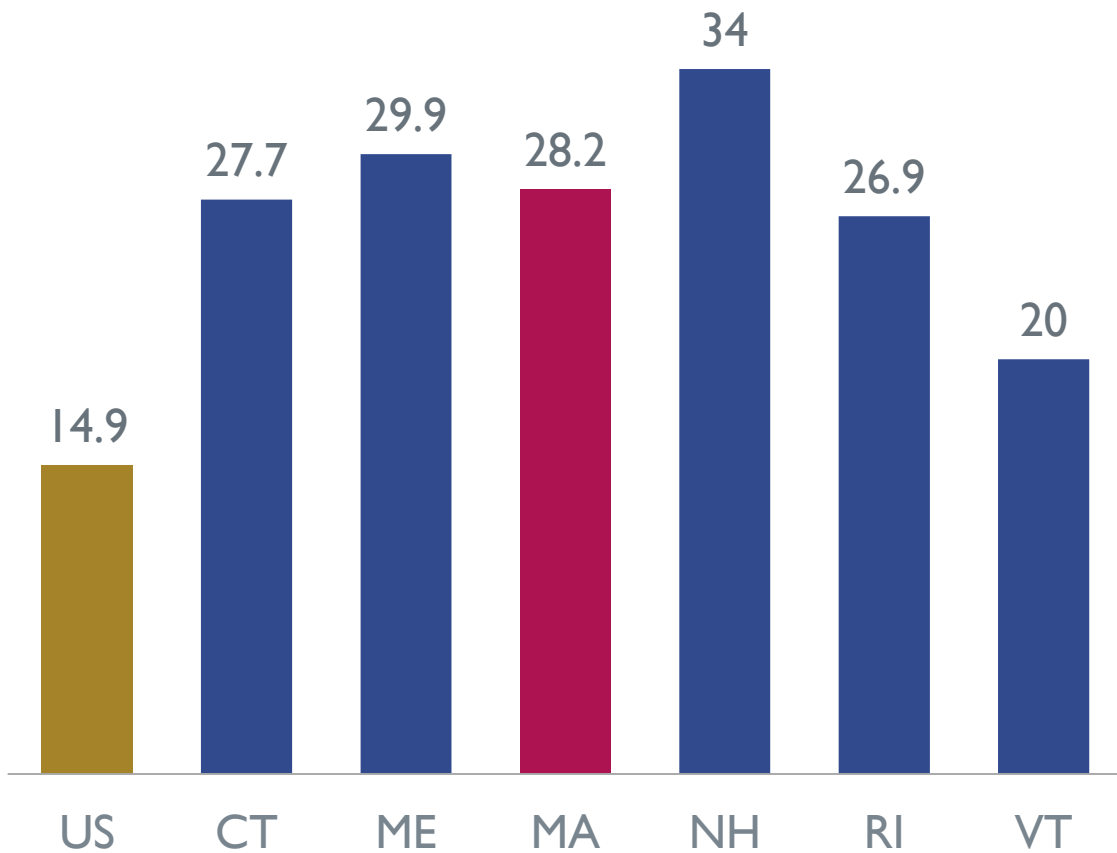
Number of deaths by opioid type.



There's likely a regional effect at play, with New England states having high opioid-related death rates.

Opioid-related death rate

Age adjusted death rate (per 100,000 people). New England states. 2017



Fentanyl-related death rate

Rank	State	Fentanyl-related death rate per 100k (age-adjusted), 2016
1	New Hampshire	30.3
2	West Virginia	26.3
3	Massachusetts	23.5
4	Ohio	21.1
5	D.C.	19.2
6	Maryland	17.8
7	Rhode Island	17.8
8	Maine	17.3
9	Connecticut	14.8
10	Kentucky	11.5
11	Pennsylvania	10.9
12	Vermont	10.1
13	Michigan	9.8
14	Delaware	8.7
15	Florida	8.3

Major drug trafficking routes run through New England.

Map A1. New England High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area



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