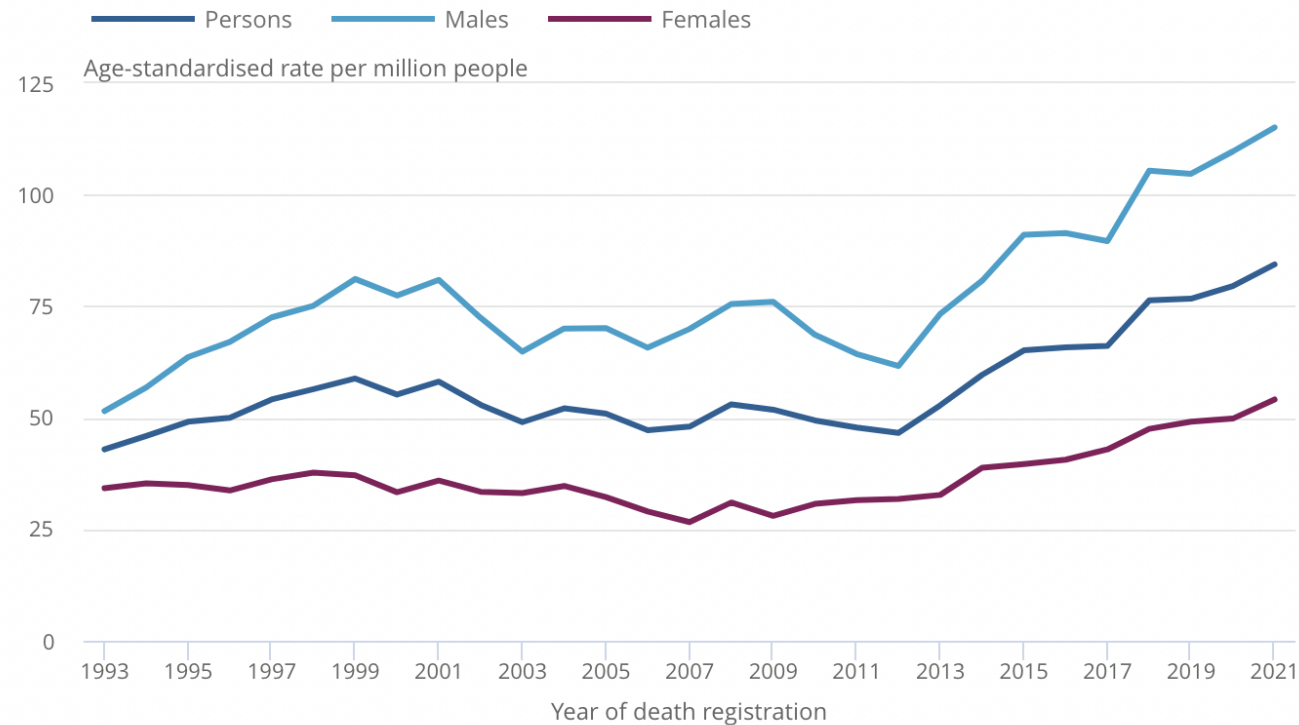
Abstract geometric lines in black and grey, forming various polygons and overlapping shapes, primarily located in the upper left and center of the page.

DEATHS RELATED TO DRUG POISONING IN ENGLAND AND WALES: **2021** **REGISTRATIONS**

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Figure 1: Mortality rates from drug poisoning increased for both males and females in 2021

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths related to drug poisoning, by sex, England and Wales, registered between 1993 and 2021

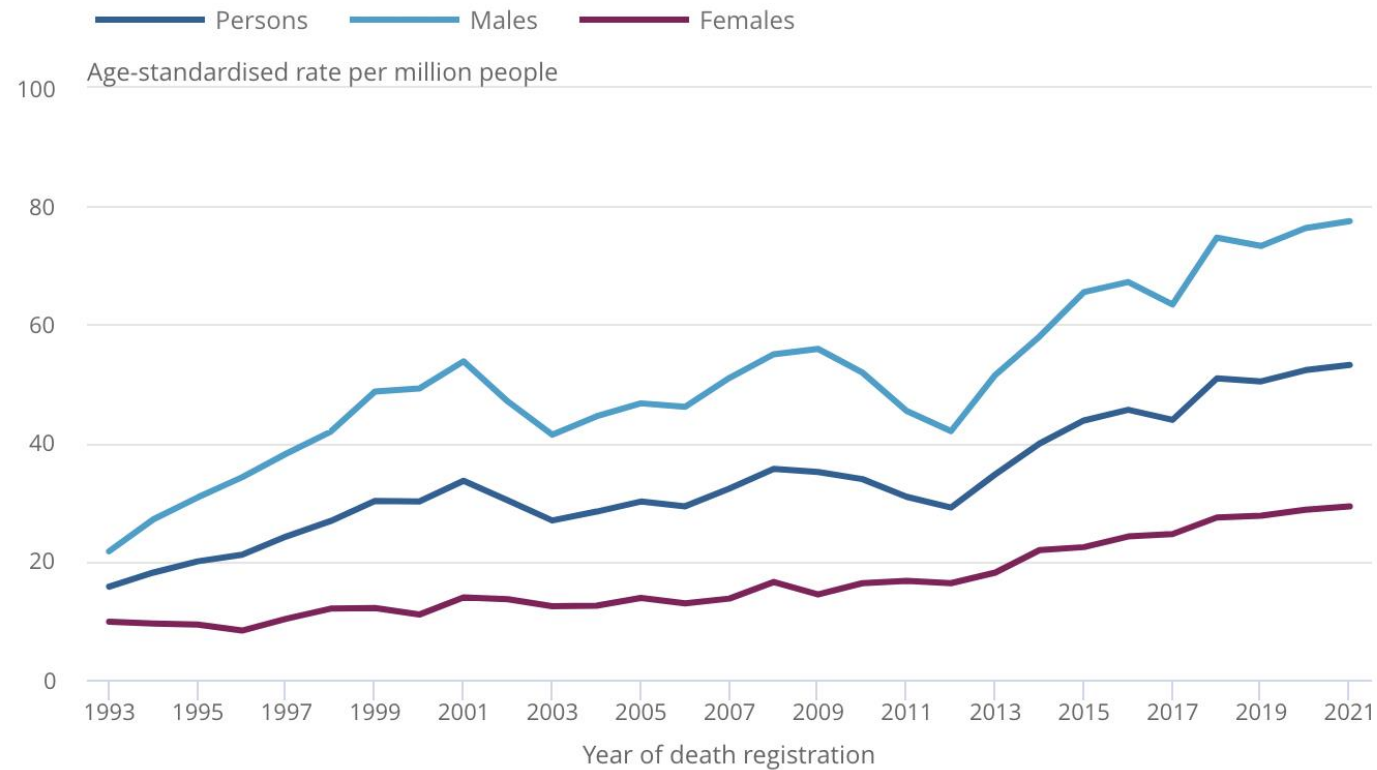


The rate of drug poisoning deaths continues to increase

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

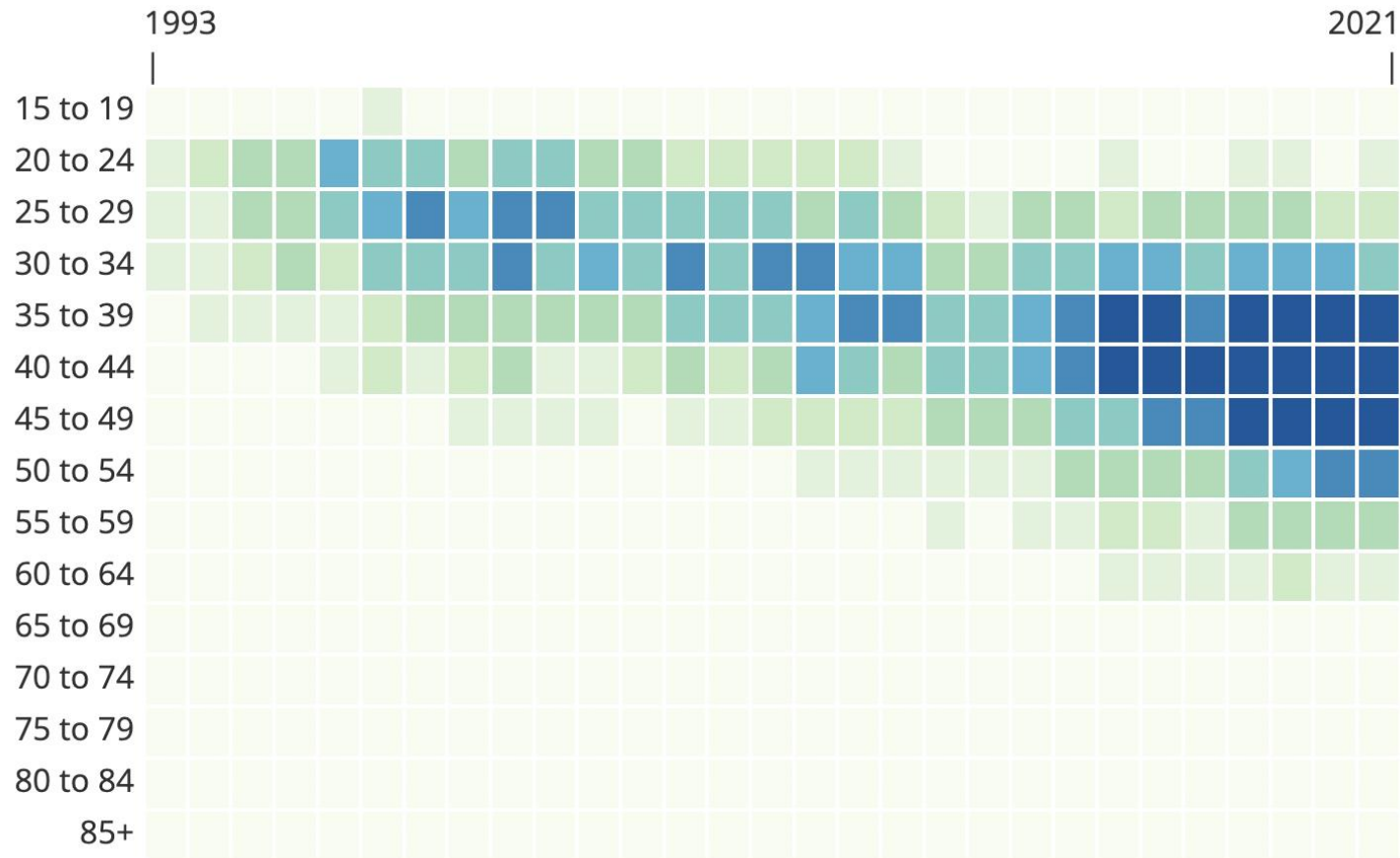
Figure 2: Rates of drug misuse deaths increased in 2021

Age-standardised mortality rates for deaths related to drug misuse, by sex, England and Wales, registered between 1993 and 2021



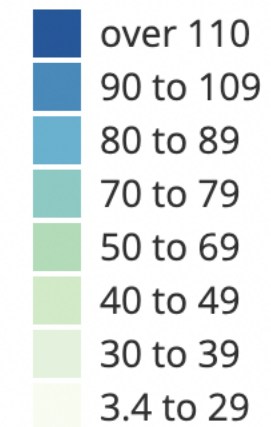
Rates of drug misuse death have continued to increase

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



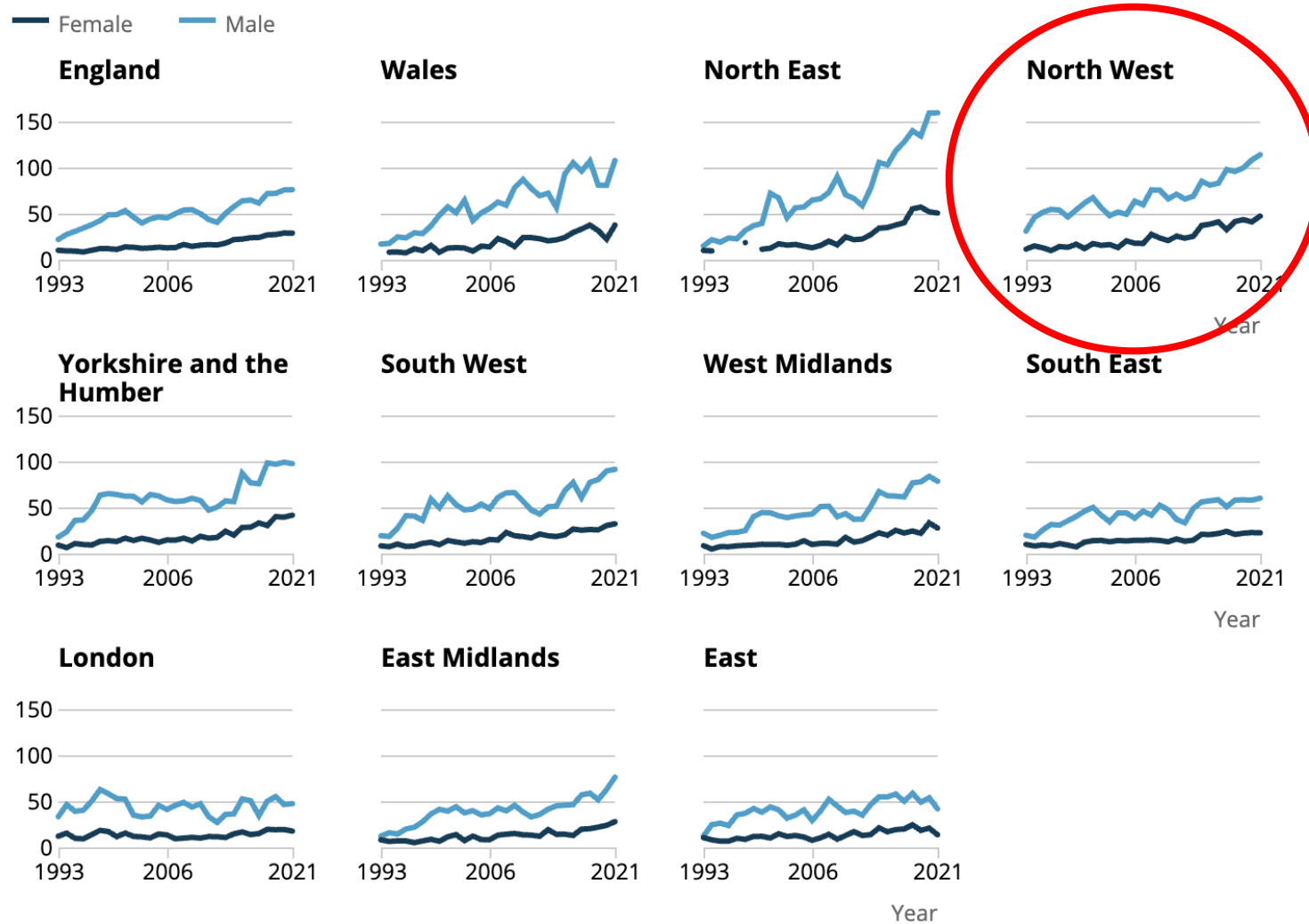
**People born in the 1970s
continue to have the
highest rates of drug
misuse deaths**

Deaths per million people



Source: Office for National Statistics - Deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

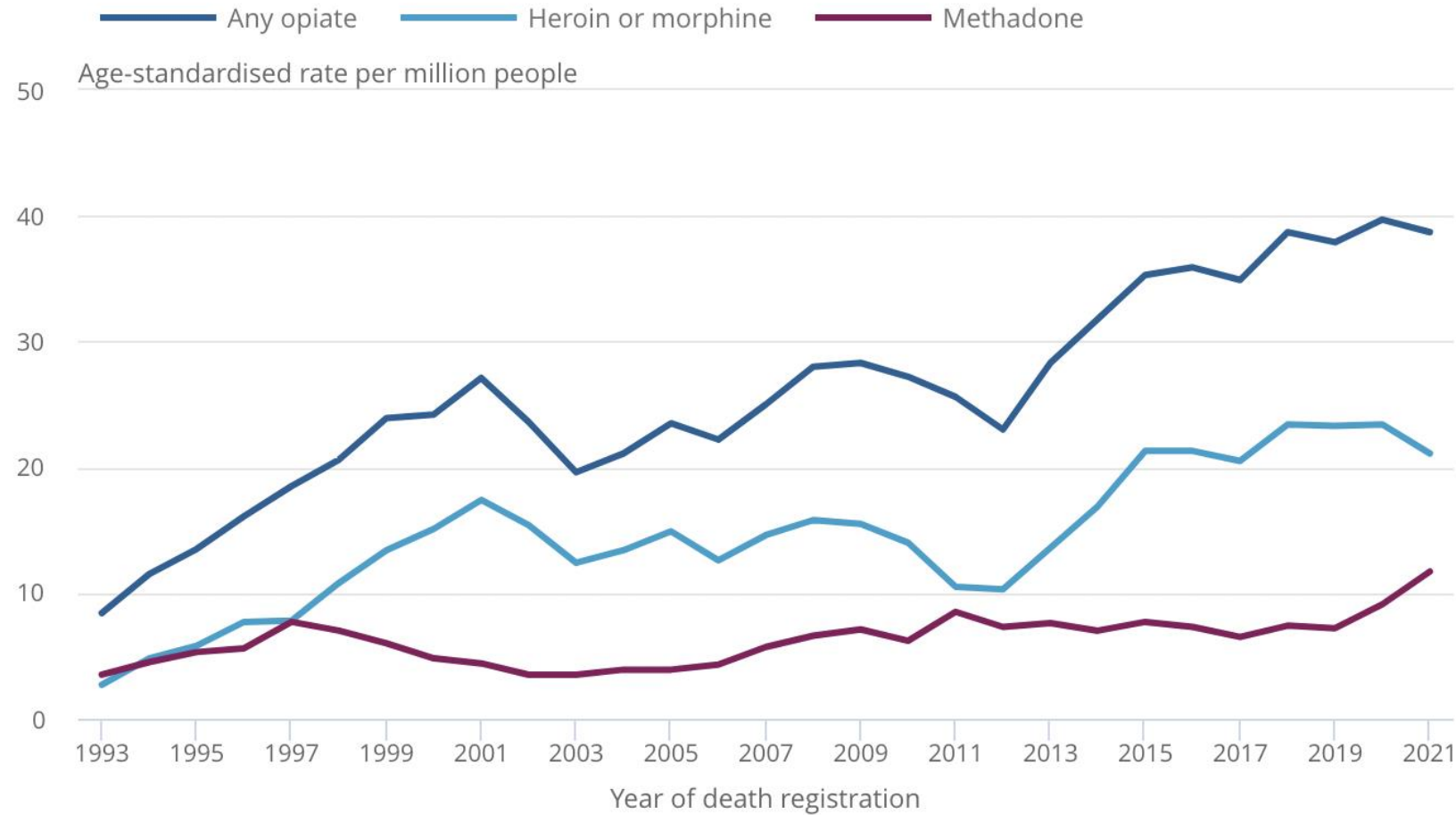


The North East has had the highest rate of drug misuse deaths of any English region for nine consecutive years – but the North West is again second

Almost half of all drug poisonings continue to involve an opiate

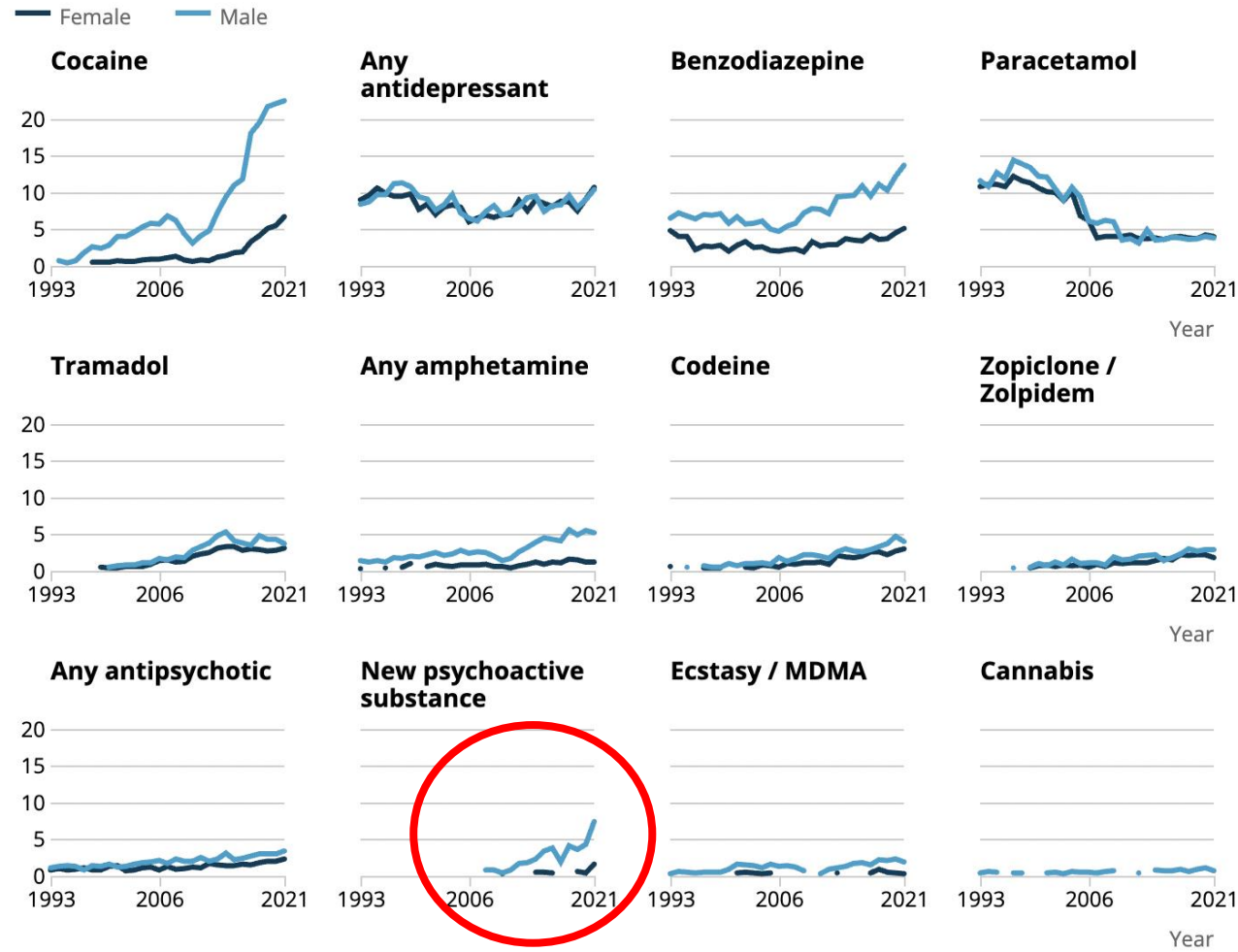
- For deaths registered in 2021, a total of 2,219 drug poisoning deaths involved opiates; this was 1.9% lower than in 2020 (2,263 deaths). Opiates were involved in just under half (45.7%) of drug poisonings registered in 2021, increasing to 61.0% when we exclude deaths that had no drug type recorded on the death certificate.
- Of the drug poisoning deaths registered in 2021, 25.1% (1,219) had no drug type recorded on the coroner's death certificate (for example, records only mention "drug overdose" or "multiple drug toxicity").
- Heroin and morphine continued to be the most frequently mentioned opiates with 1,213 drug poisoning deaths mentioning either one of these substances in 2021 (21.1 deaths per million people).

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



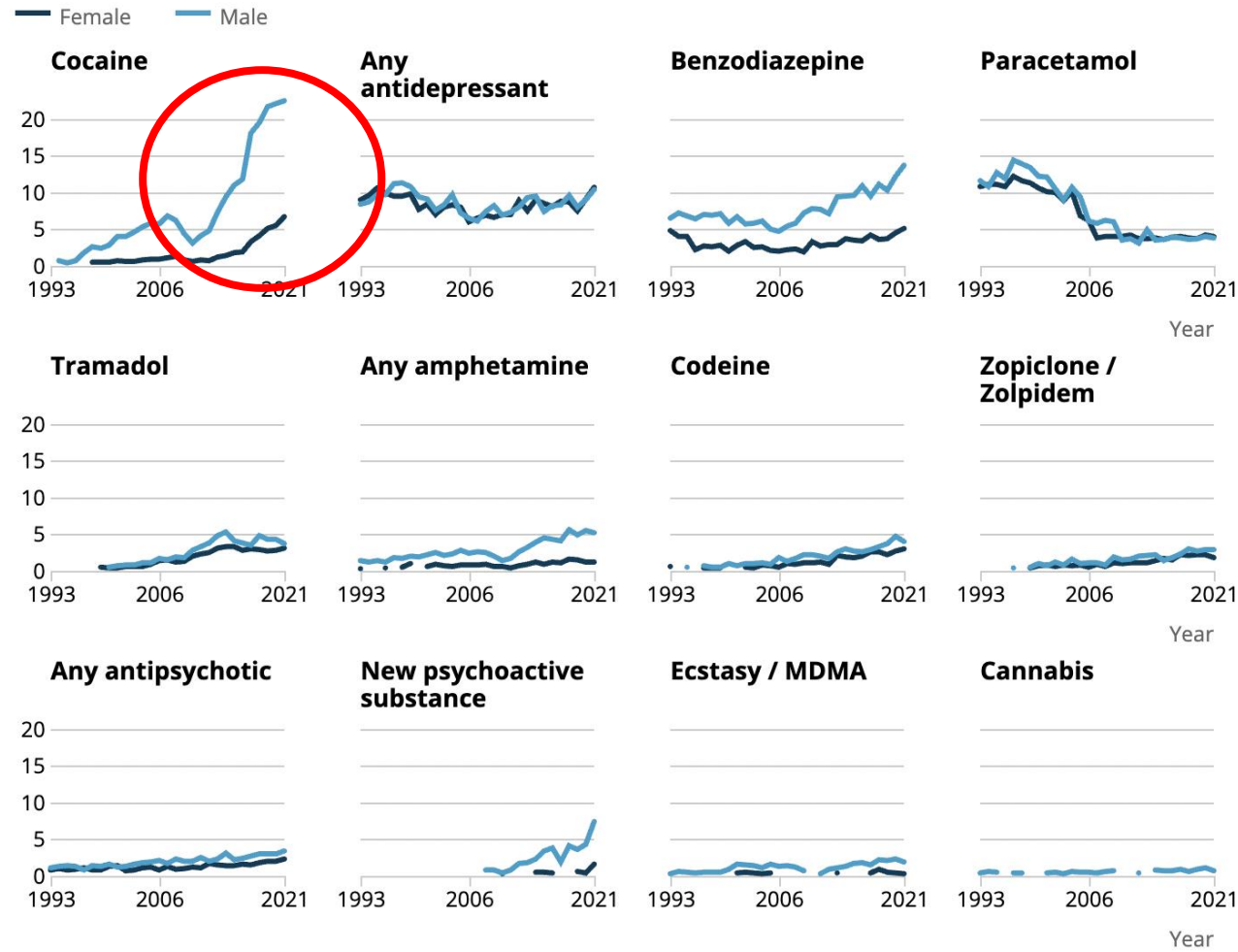
Rates of deaths involving methadone significantly increased in 2021

DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



**Significant increase
in deaths involving
new psychoactive
substances (NPS) in
2021**

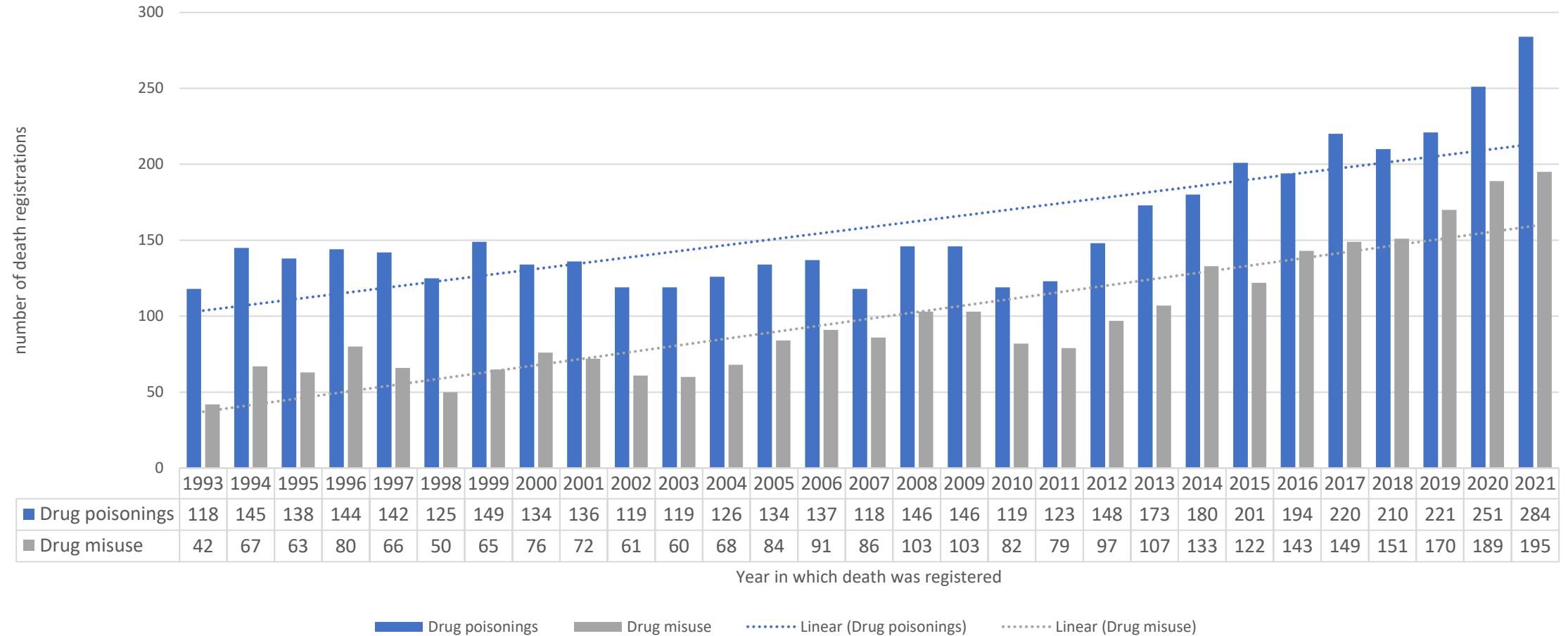
DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES



**Cocaine deaths rise
for the tenth
consecutive year**

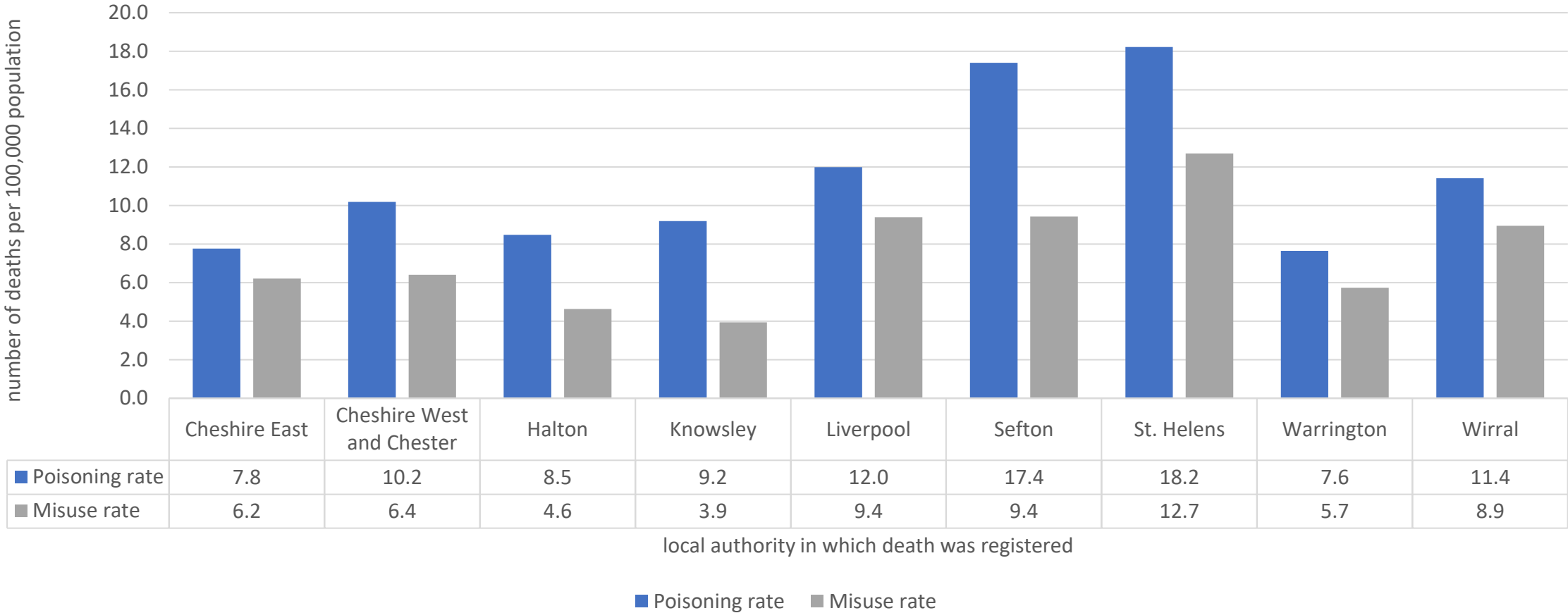
DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Cheshire and Merseyside DRD registrations, ONS, 1993-2021



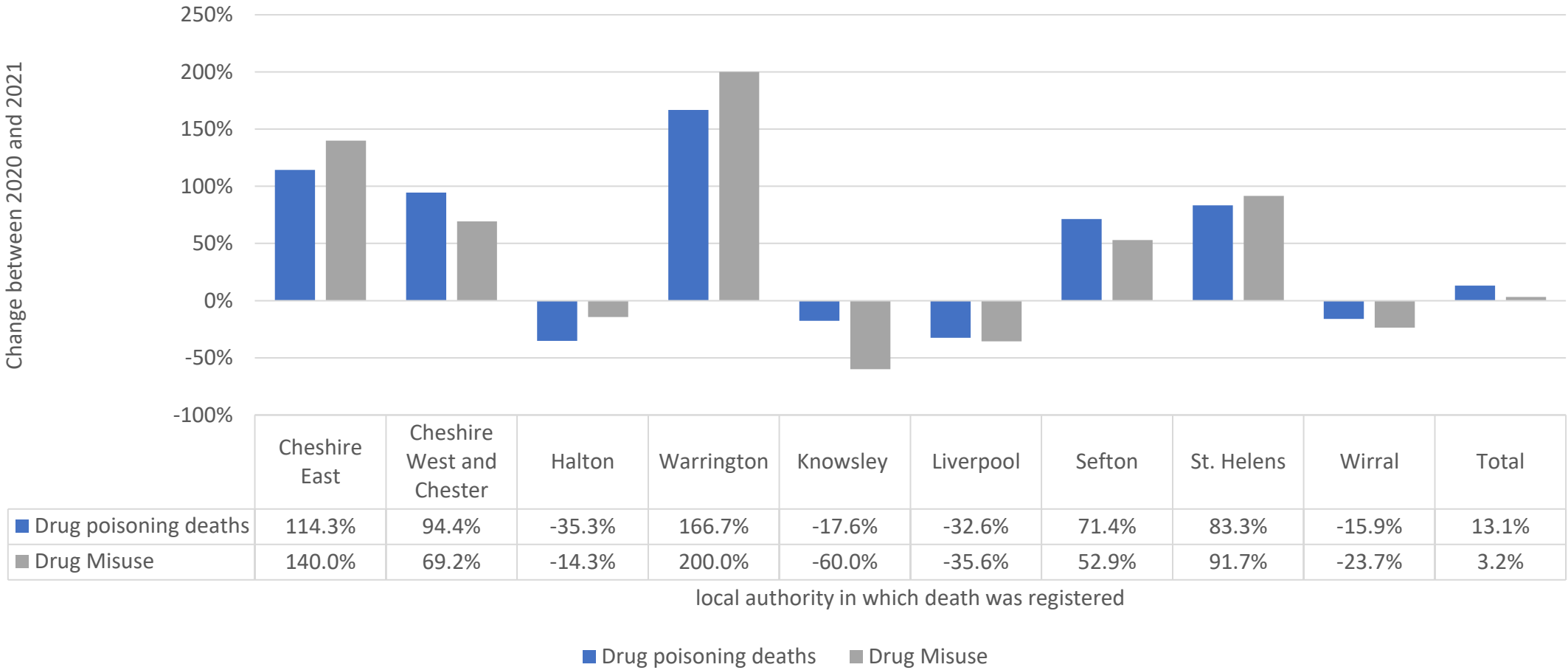
DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Number of drug poisoning/misuse death registrations per 100,000 people, Cheshire and Merseyside local authorities, 2021



DRUG POISONINGS IN ENGLAND AND WALES

Change in deaths from drug poisoning/misuse registrations by Cheshire and Merseyside local authorities, 2020 to 2021



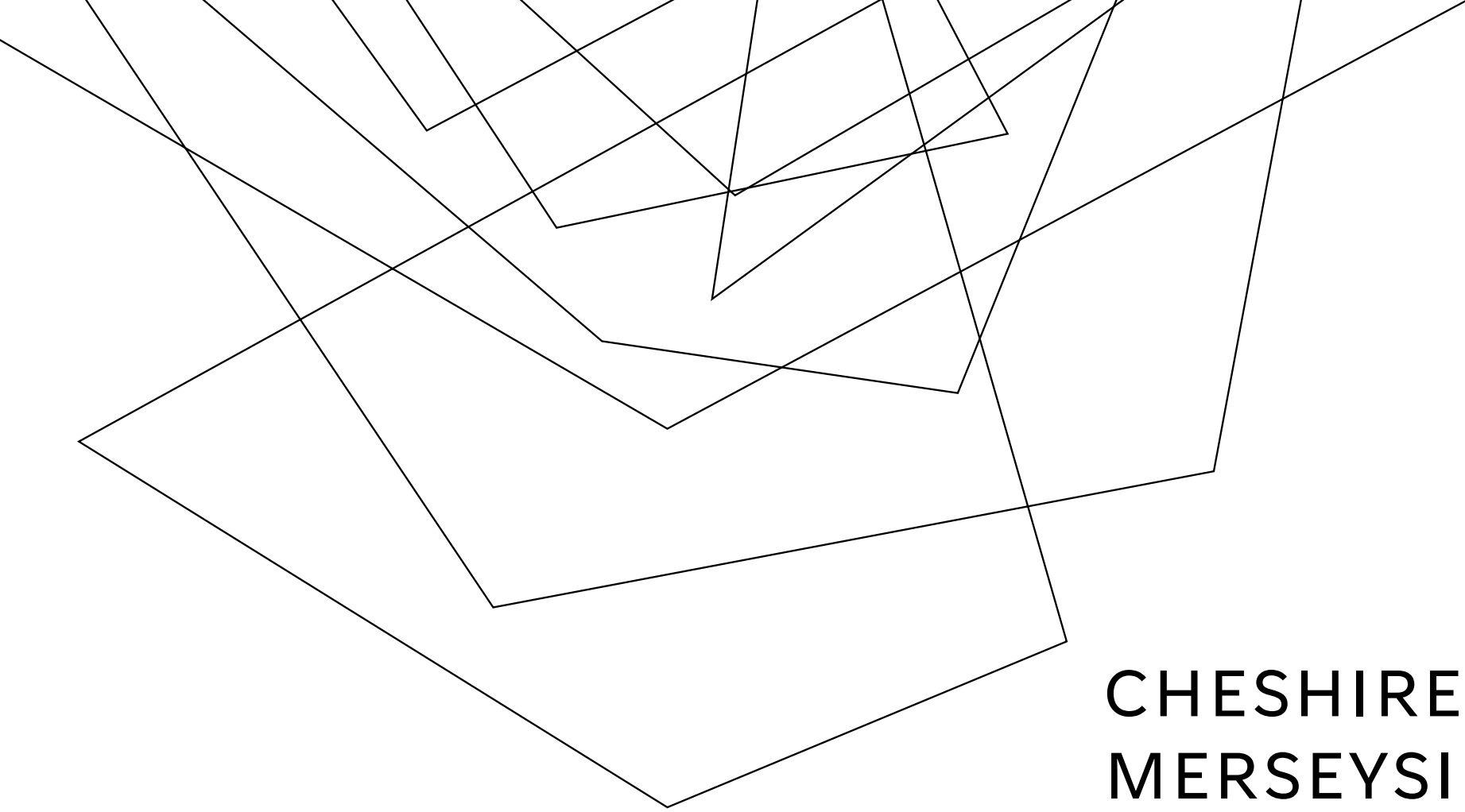
Possible explanations for the increase in drug-related deaths

Across Europe, rates of deaths involving heroin or morphine have been increasing, while the number of new heroin and morphine users has fallen. This indicates higher rates of death among existing long-term drug users. Possible explanations include that:

- ☐ ageing cohort of drug users
- ☐ new trends in taking specific drugs may increase the risk of an overdose
- ☐ increase in disengagement or non-compliance with opiate substitute therapy (OST)
- ☐ rise in deaths involving cocaine is likely to be a direct consequence of the increasing prevalence in cocaine use.

Death registration delays in 2021 were the highest on record

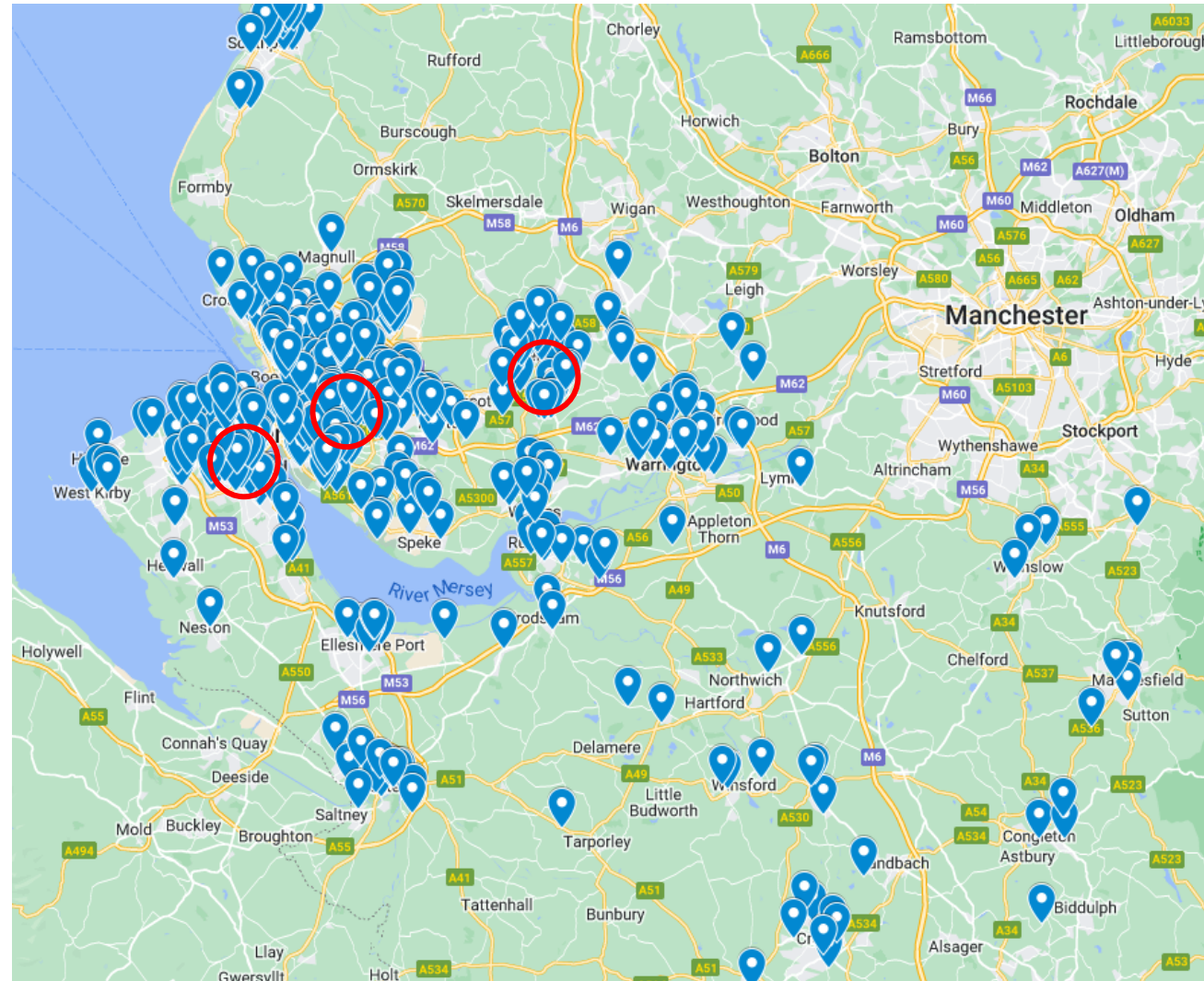
- Most deaths related to drug poisoning in England and Wales are certified by coroners. The length of time it takes to hold an inquest results in a delay between the date a death occurred and the date of registration. This means that around half of the deaths reported in this bulletin will have occurred in the previous year.
- In 2021, the median registration delay for drug poisonings was **205 days** (203 days for misuse) in England, up from **189 days** in 2020. In Wales in 2021, the delay was 315.5 days (325.5 days for misuse), up from 230.5 in the previous year. Registration delays for 2021 are the highest since the time series began in 1993, amid disruption caused by the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE: 2021 DRUG RELATED DEATHS AND IN-TREATMENT MORTALITY



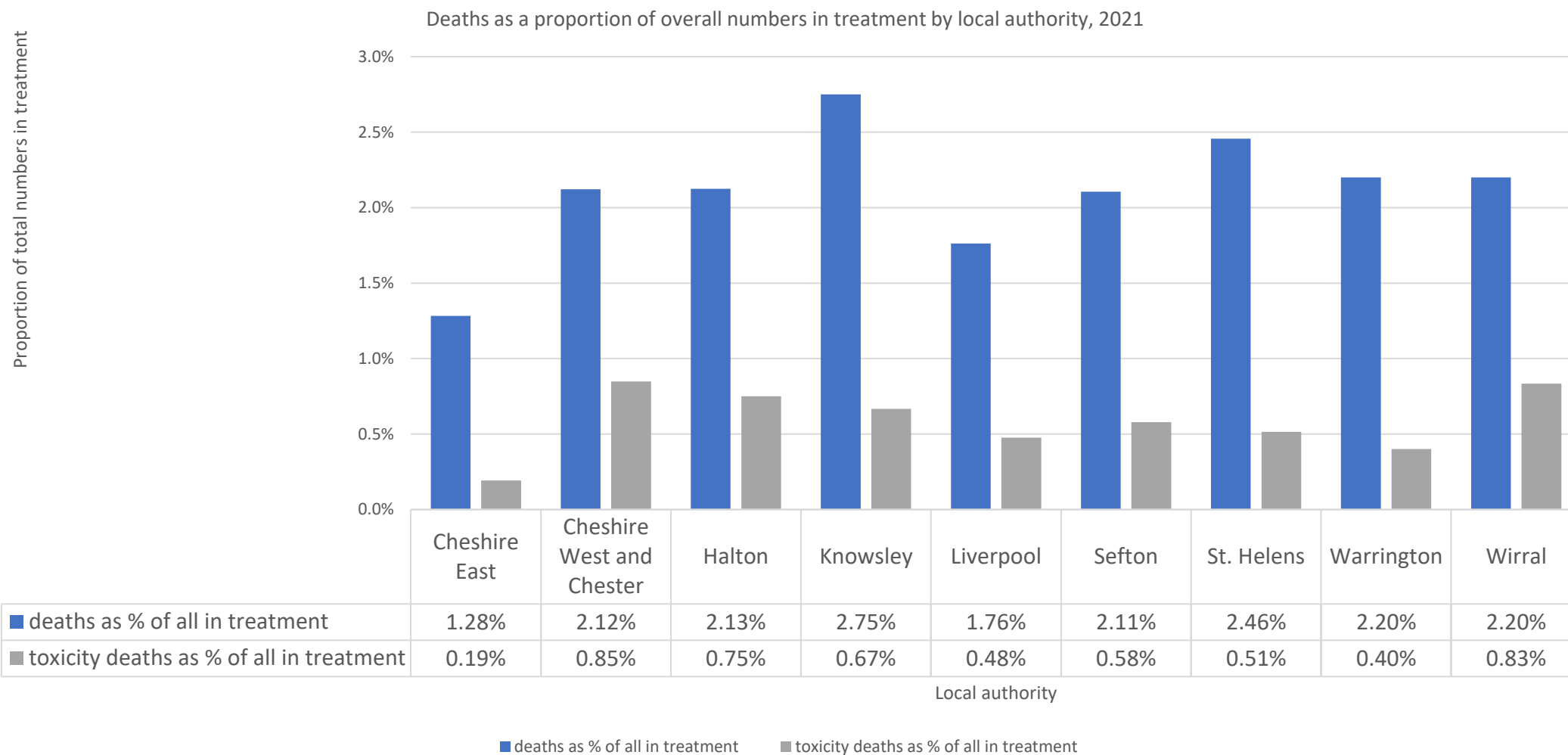
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



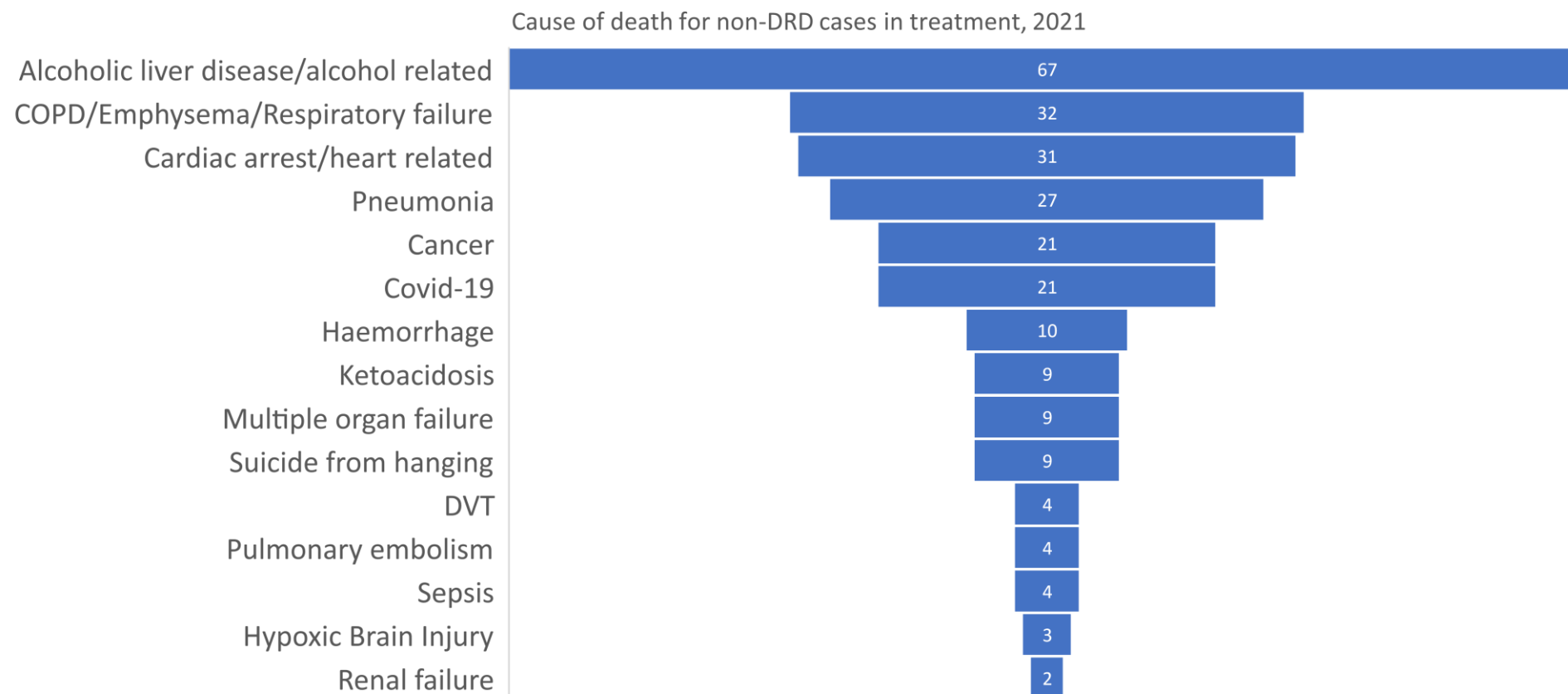
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Deaths reported by provider	Total deaths reported by provider			DRD deaths reported by provider		
	2020	2021	Change	2020	2021	Change
Cheshire East	22	20	-9.1%	3	3	0
Cheshire West and Chester	19	35	+84.2%	4	14	+250.0%
Halton	18	17	-5.6%	2	6	+200.0%
Knowsley	29	33	+13.8%	8	8	0
Liverpool	77	74	-3.9%	27	20	-25.9%
Sefton	36	40	+11.1%	9	11	+22.2%
St. Helens	27	43	+59.3%	4	9	+125.0%
Warrington	21	22	+4.8%	6	4	-33.0%
Wirral	56	66	+17.9%	13	25	+92.4%

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

70.7% of
individuals are
single



56.6% of individuals
live alone

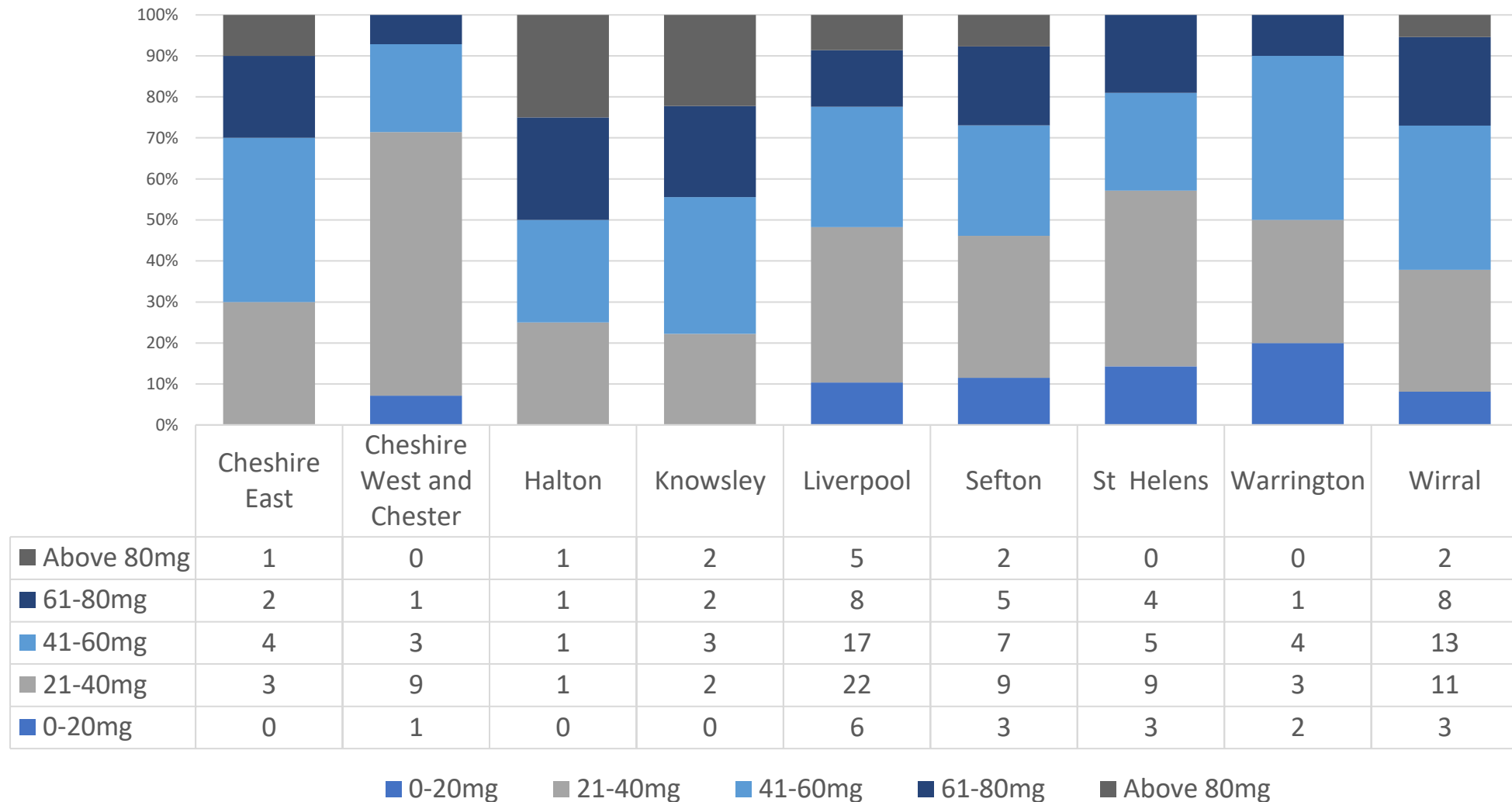


48.9% of people live in
a council/housing
association property



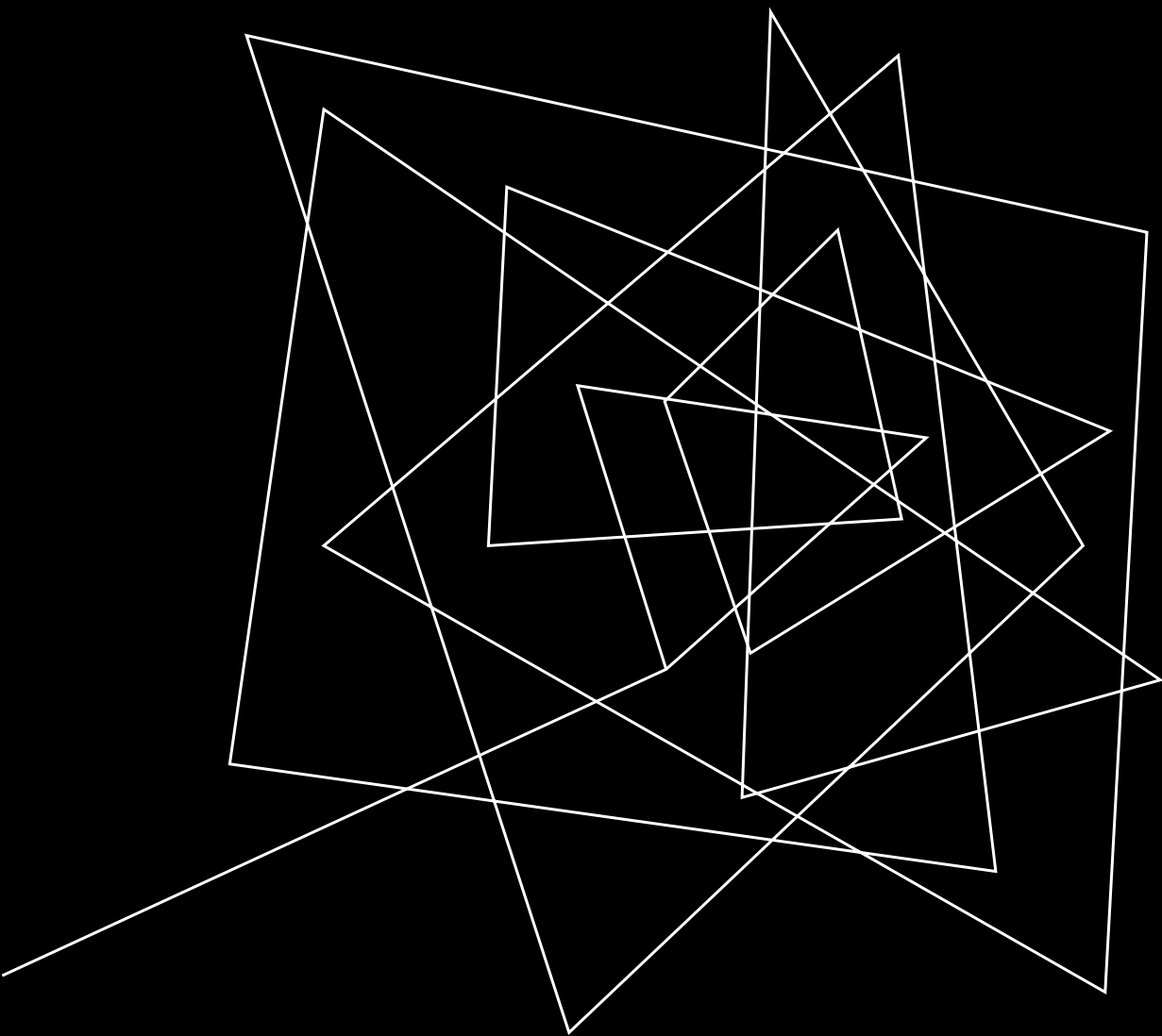
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Methadone dosage prescribed by local authority, 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

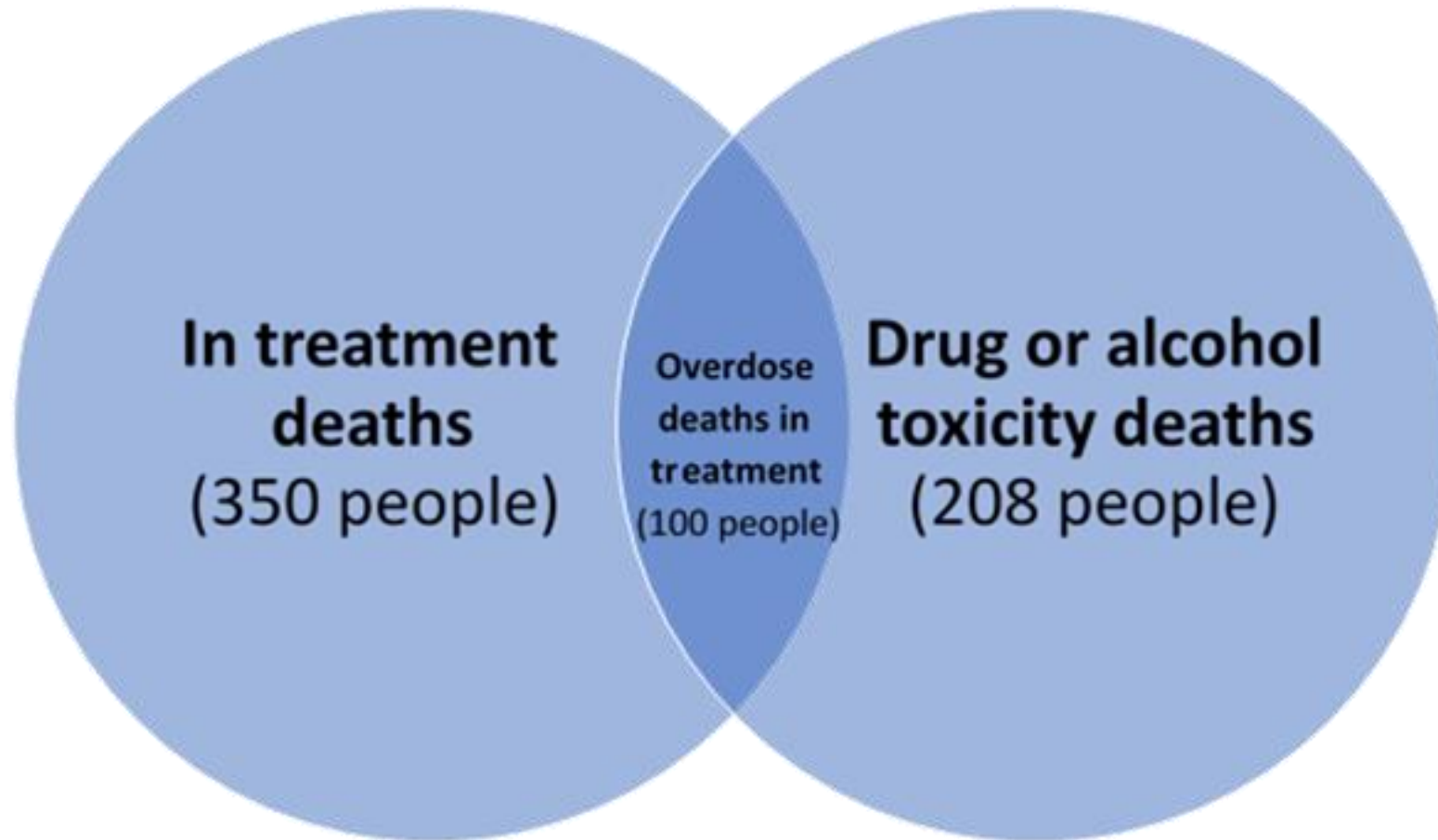
Prescribed medications	Total 2021	% of 2021 total	% of 2020 total	Change
Thiamine/Vitamin B1	138	45.8%	85.0%	-46.0%
Inhaler	112	37.2%	35.7%	+4.2%
Mirtazapine	102	33.9%	33.1%	+2.4%
Gabapentin	90	29.9%	24.1%	+24.3%
Salbutamol	81	26.9%	25.6%	+5.3%
Omeprazole	73	24.3%	26.3%	-7.8%
Pregabalin	71	23.6%	19.2%	+23.0%
Lansoprazole	65	21.6%	13.2%	+64.1%
Zopiclone	46	15.3%	12.0%	+27.0%
Sertraline	45	15.0%	17.7%	-15.4%
Paracetamol	35	11.6%	7.9%	+47.3%
Ensure	34	11.3%	10.2%	+11.3%
Diazepam	33	11.0%	14.3%	-23.3%
Carbocisteine	28	9.3%	10.5%	-11.6%
Furosemide	26	8.6%	5.6%	+53.2%
Amitriptyline	25	8.3%	7.1%	+16.3%
Olanzapine	23	7.6%	8.6%	-11.6%
Dihydrocodeine/Codeine	21	7.0%	6.8%	+3.1%
Fluoxetine	21	7.0%	2.6%	+165.1%



TOXICITY DEATHS

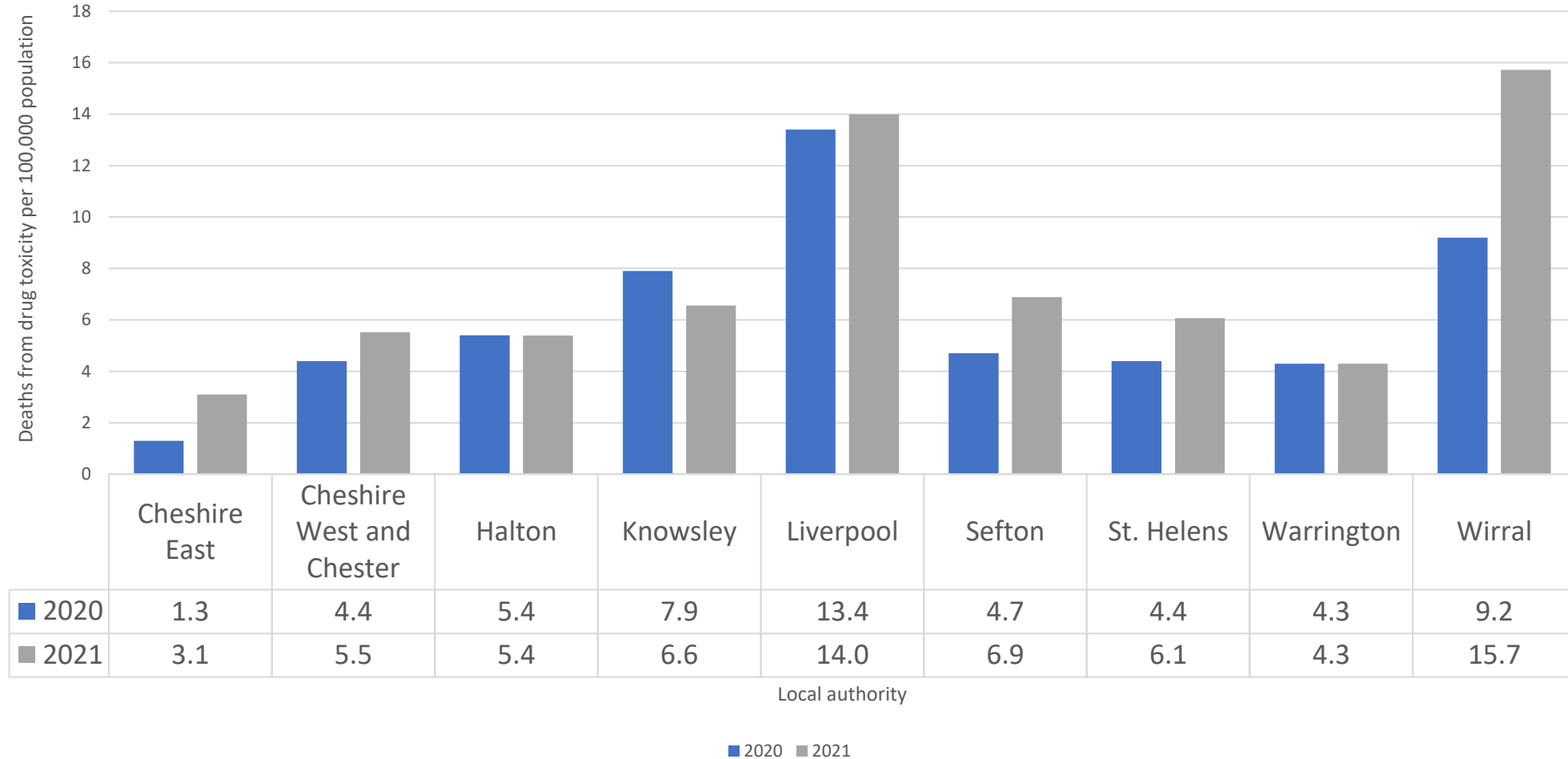
IMS 2021 DATA FOR CHESHIRE AND
MERSEYSIDE

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

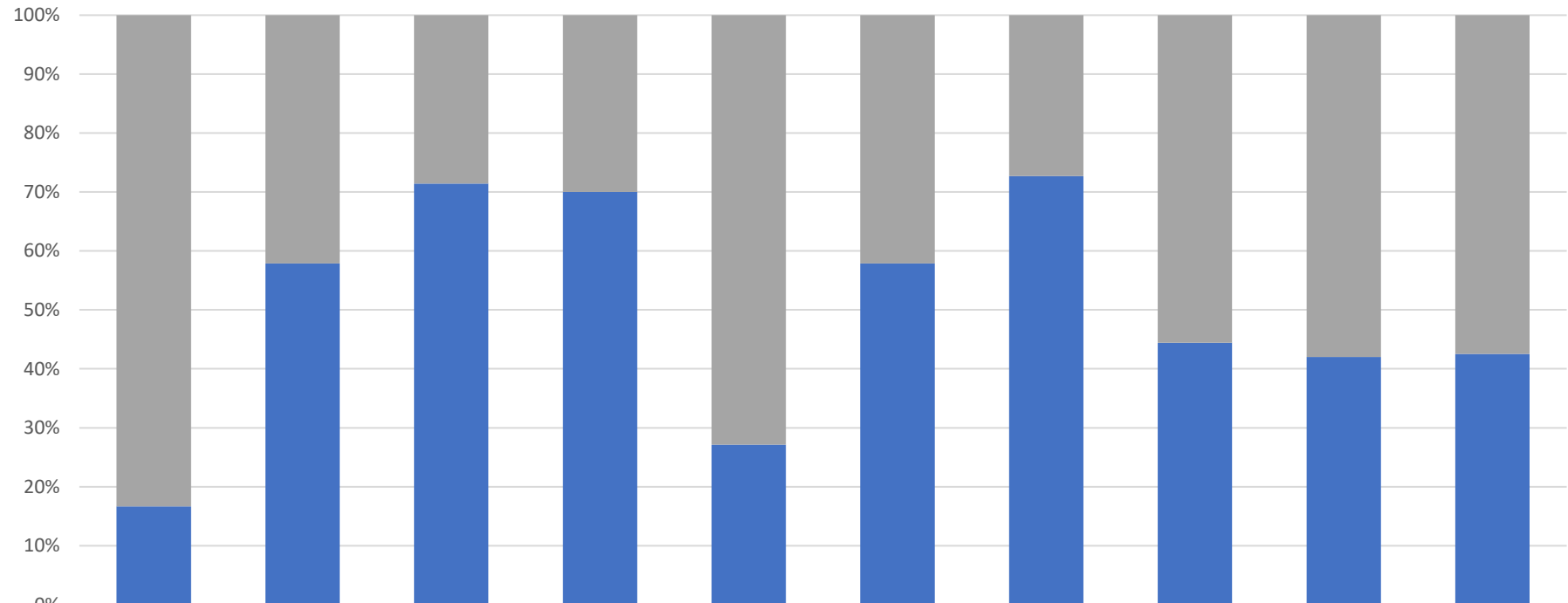
Toxicity deaths per 100,000 population by local authority, 2020-21



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Proportion of toxicity deaths by individuals in/out of treatment

Toxicity deaths in and out of treatment by local authority, 2021



■ Out of treatment	10	8	2	3	51	8	3	5	29	119
■ In active treatment	2	11	5	7	19	11	8	4	21	88

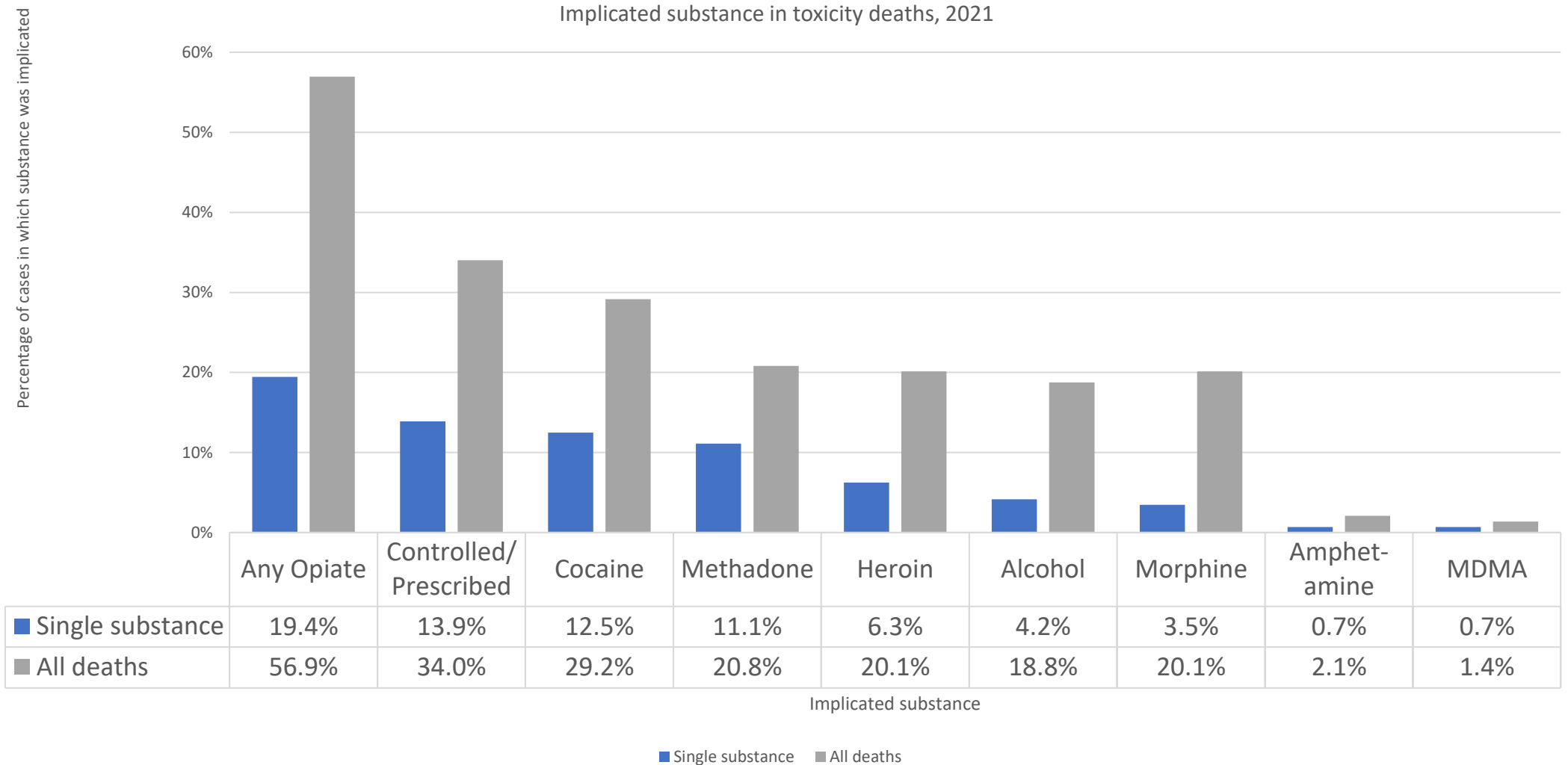
Local authority

■ In active treatment ■ Out of treatment

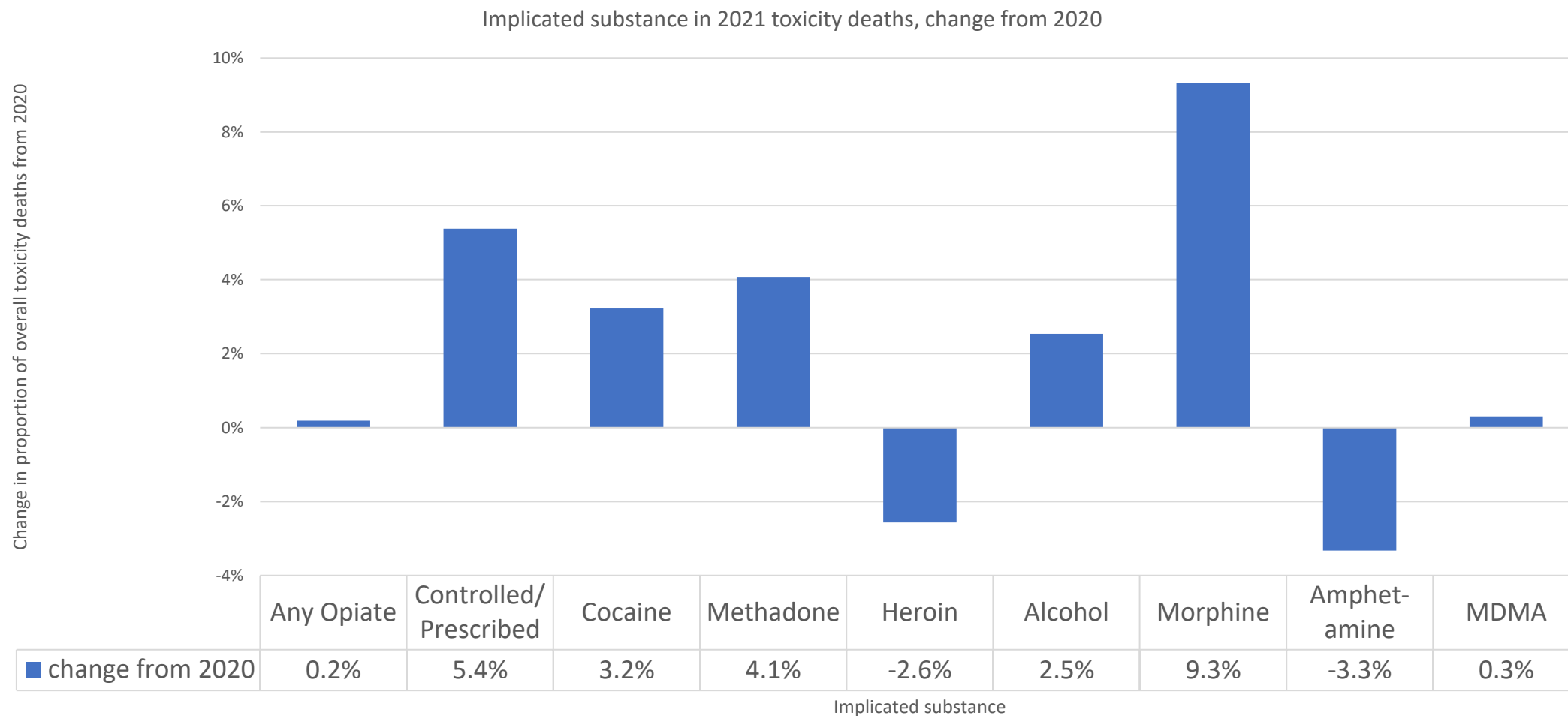
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Toxicology (all cases)	Count	% of 2021 total	2020 %	Change
Any with opiate metabolites	113	68.1%	71.4%	-4.7%
Ethanol/Alcohol	83	50.0%	44.7%	+11.9%
Morphine	79	47.6%	43.8%	+8.7%
Any with cocaine metabolites	78	47.0%	37.3%	+25.9%
Benzoylcegonine	65	39.2%	21.7%	+80.8%
Dihydrocodeine/Codeine	60	36.1%	25.3%	+42.6%
Cocaine	52	31.3%	30.9%	+1.5%
Methadone/EDDP	48	28.9%	29.5%	-2.0%
Diazepam	43	25.9%	18.9%	+37.1%
Pregabalin	35	21.1%	20.3%	+4.0%
Mirtazapine	27	16.3%	17.5%	-7.1%
M3G/M6G	23	13.9%	24.9%	-44.3%
Sertraline	20	12.0%	6.9%	+74.3%
THC	20	12.0%	8.8%	+37.6%
Cocaethylene	15	9.0%	10.6%	-14.7%
Gabapentin	11	6.6%	6.9%	-4.1%
Olanzapine	11	6.6%	6.5%	+2.7%
Zopiclone	11	6.6%	6.9%	-4.1%
Quetiapine	9	5.4%	3.7%	+47.1%
Temazepam	9	5.4%	1.8%	+194.1%
Tramadol	9	5.4%	11.1%	-51.0%
Amitriptyline	8	4.8%	7.8%	-38.5%
Fluoxetine	8	4.8%	3.2%	+49.4%

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

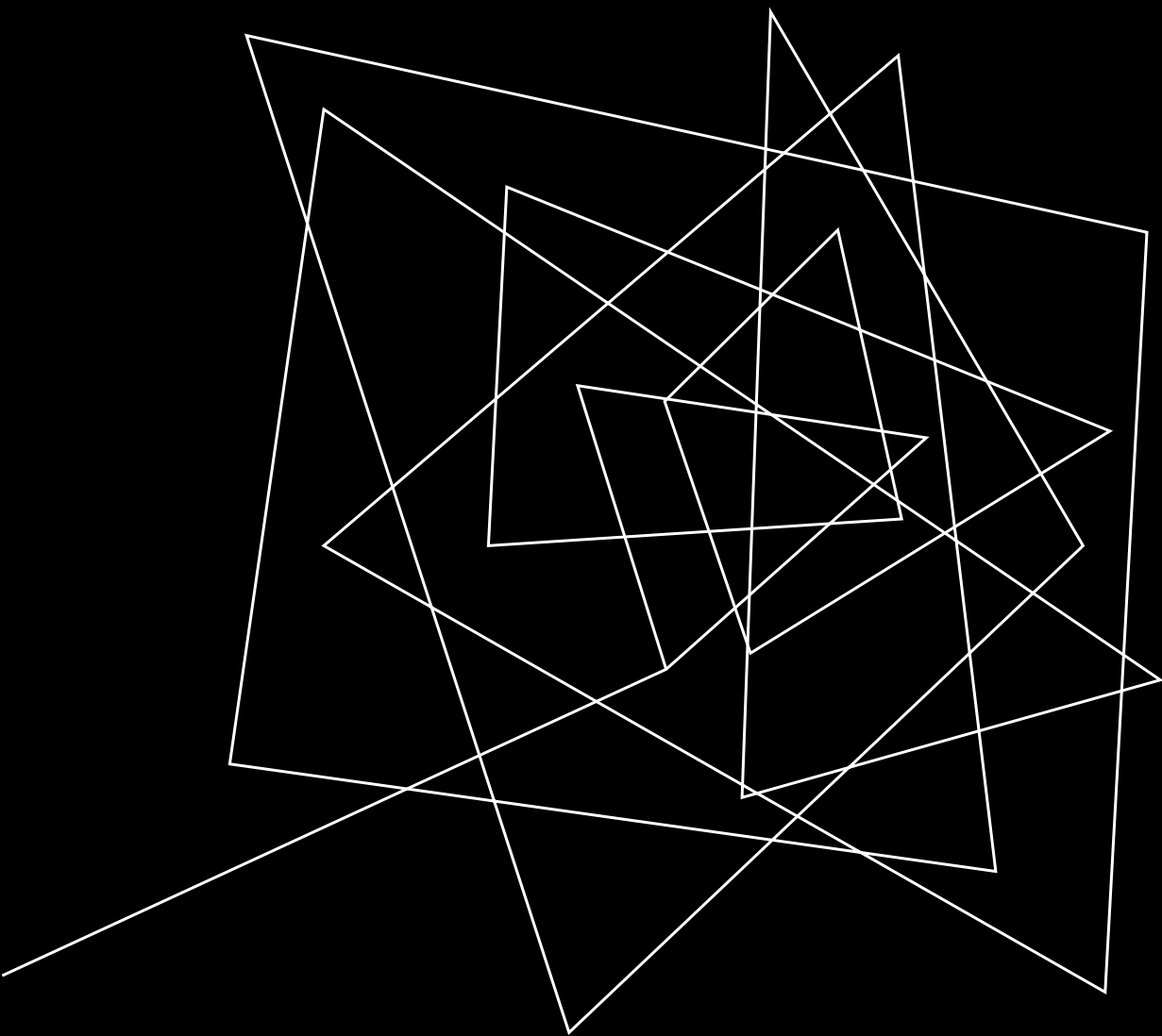


CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

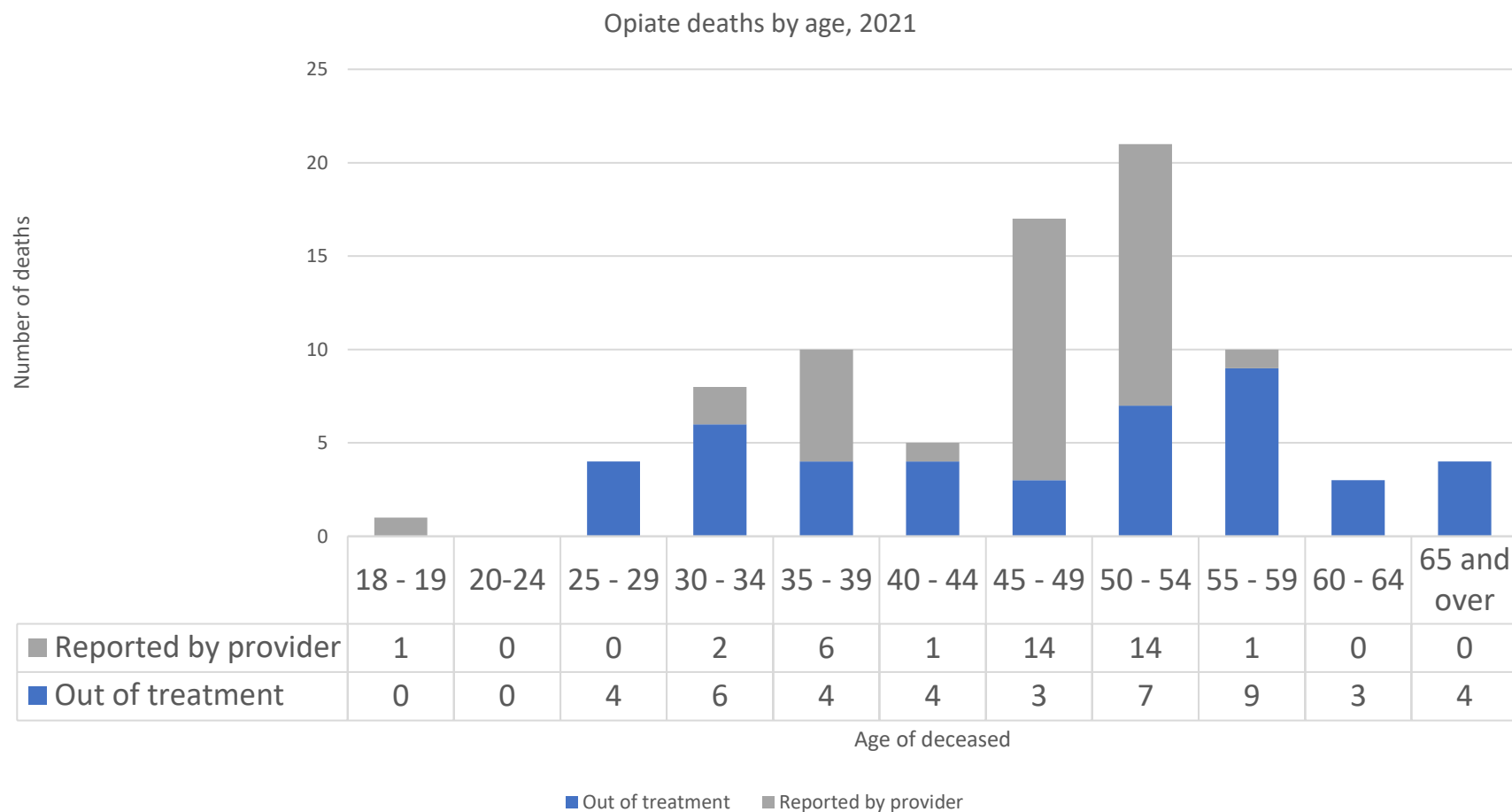
Implicated controlled meds	Total	% of controlled meds toxicity deaths	% of overall toxicity deaths
Amitriptyline	1	2.0%	0.7%
Anti-depressants (generic)	1	2.0%	0.7%
Benzodiazepines	1	2.0%	0.7%
Buprenorphine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Diazepam	6	11.8%	4.2%
Dihydrocodeine/Codeine	14	27.5%	9.7%
Duloxetine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Fluoxetine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Gabapentin	8	15.7%	5.6%
Mirtazapine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Mitragynine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Nortriptyline	1	2.0%	0.7%
Paracetamol	6	11.8%	4.2%
Paroxetine	1	2.0%	0.7%
Pregabalin	4	7.8%	2.8%
Propranolol	3	5.9%	2.1%
Sertraline	3	5.9%	2.1%
Temazepam	1	2.0%	0.7%
Tramadol	6	11.8%	4.2%
Venlafaxine	2	3.9%	1.4%
Zopiclone	2	3.9%	1.4%



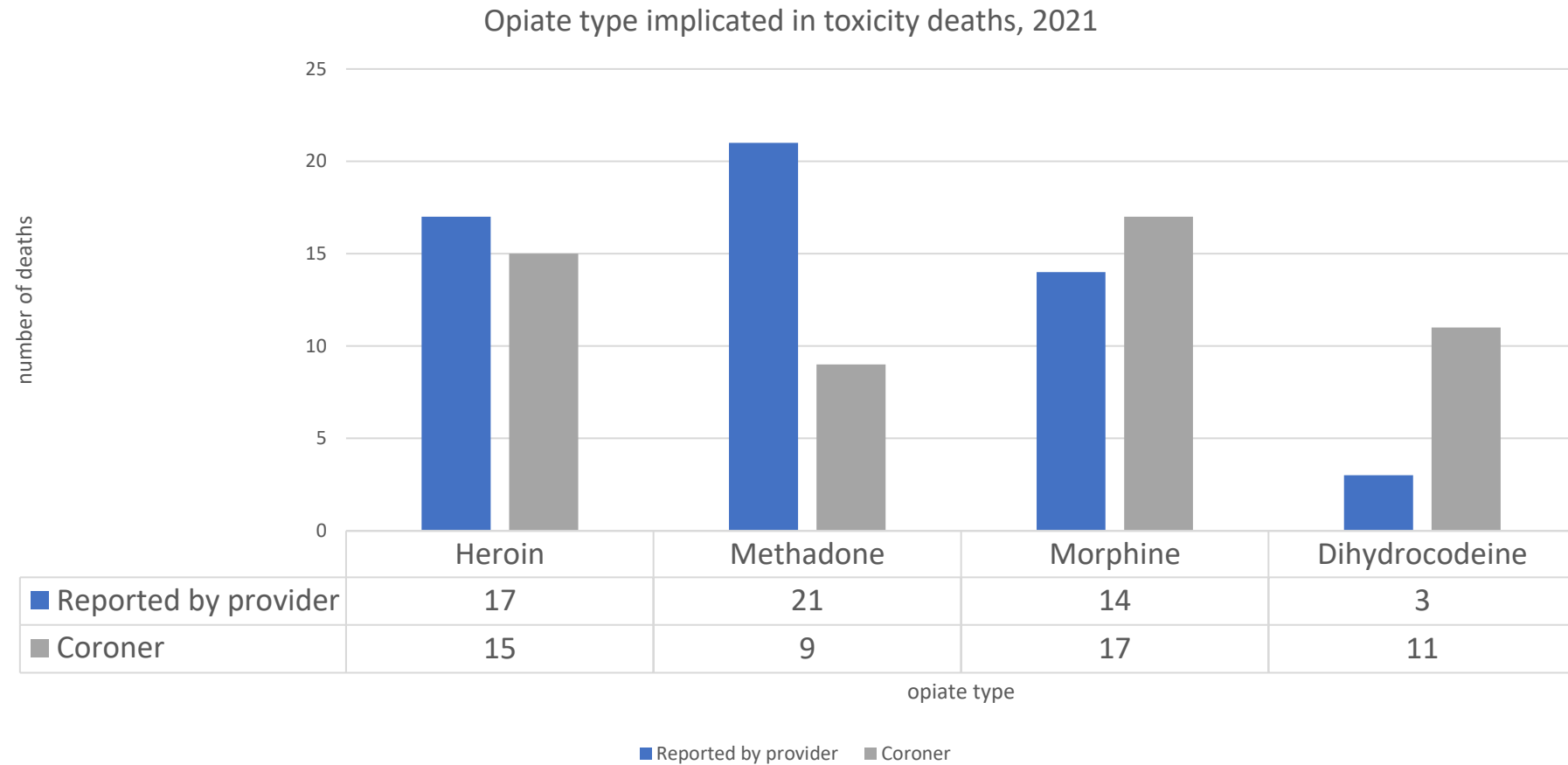
OPIATE TOXICITY DEATHS

IMS 2021 DATA FOR CHESHIRE AND
MERSEYSIDE

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

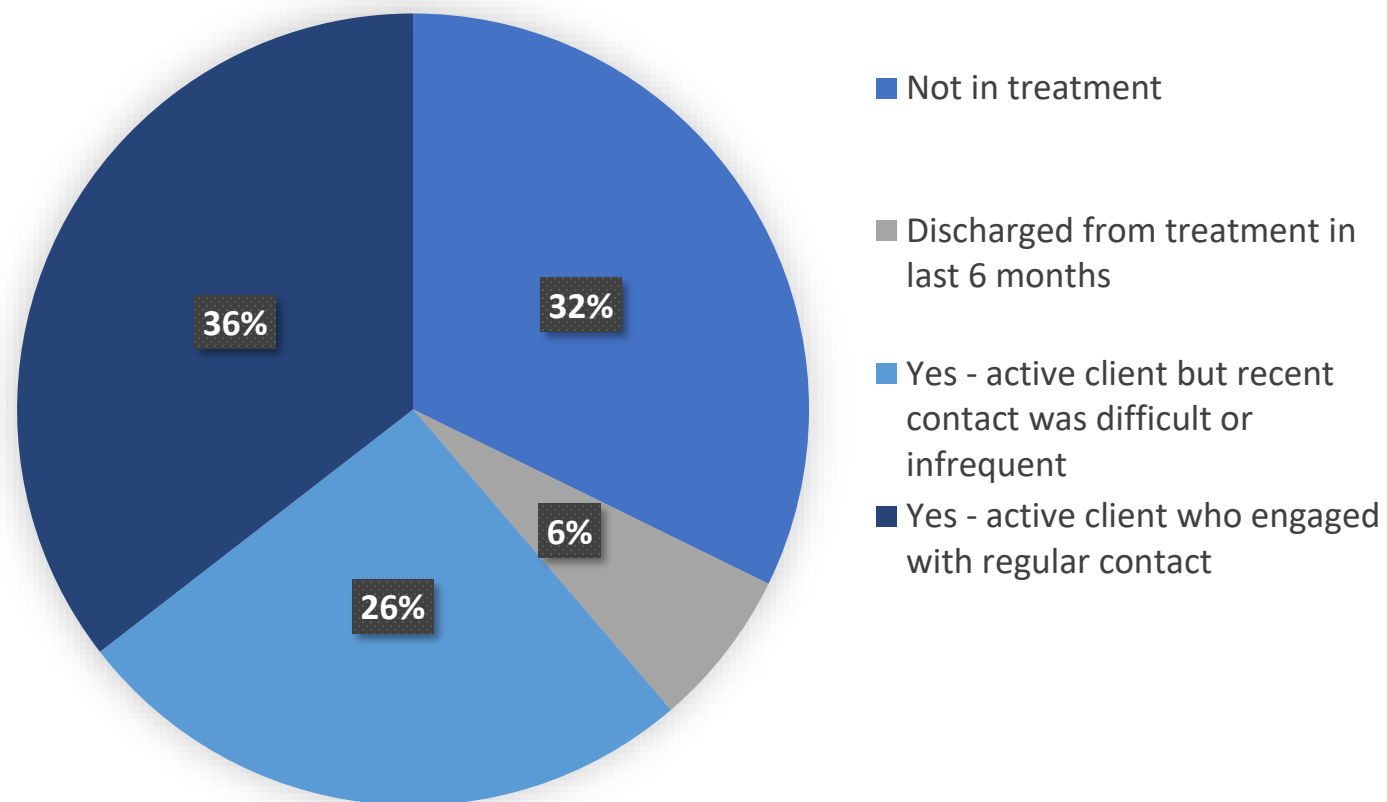


CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021



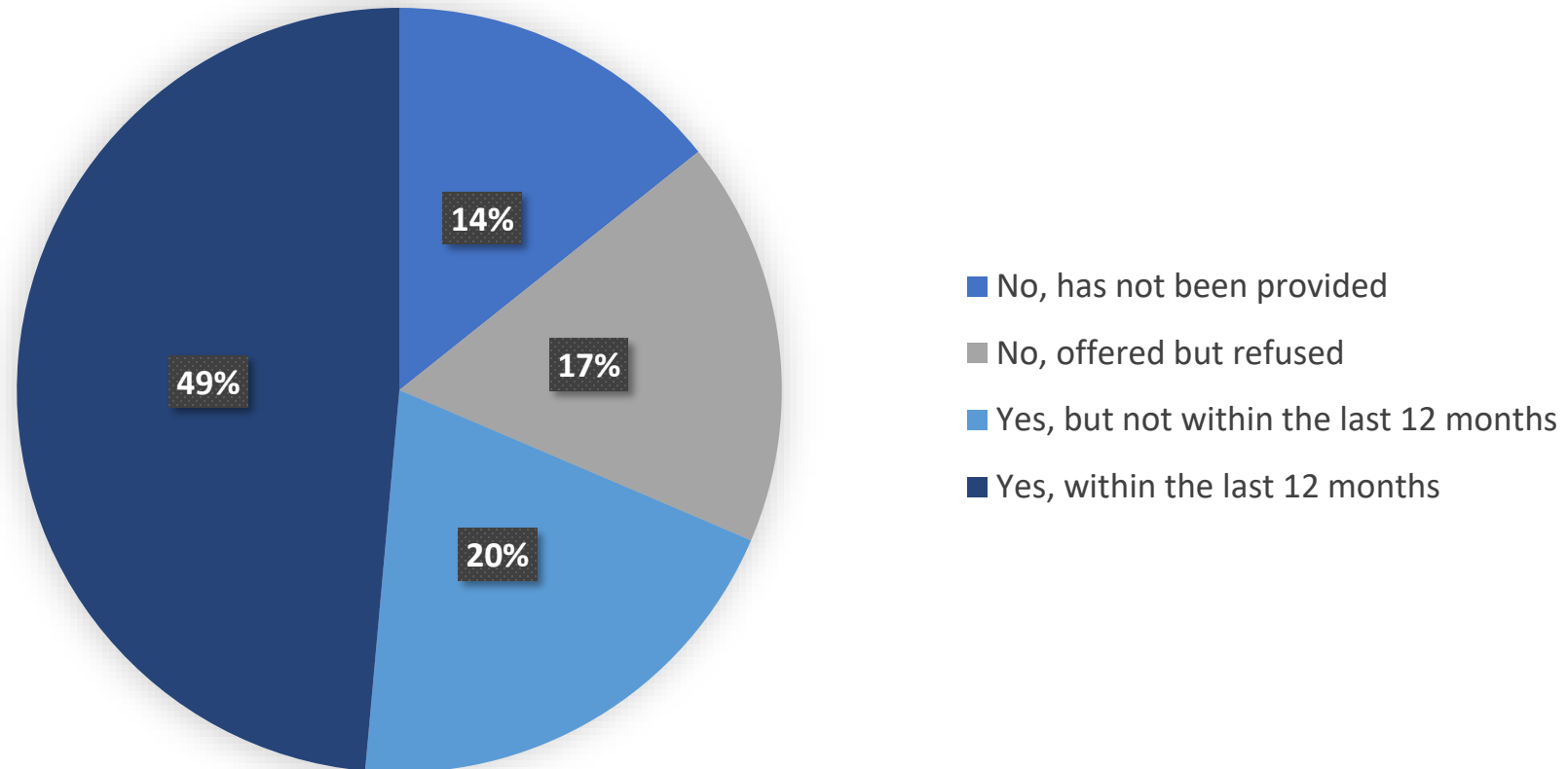
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Treatment status for methadone toxicity deaths, 2021



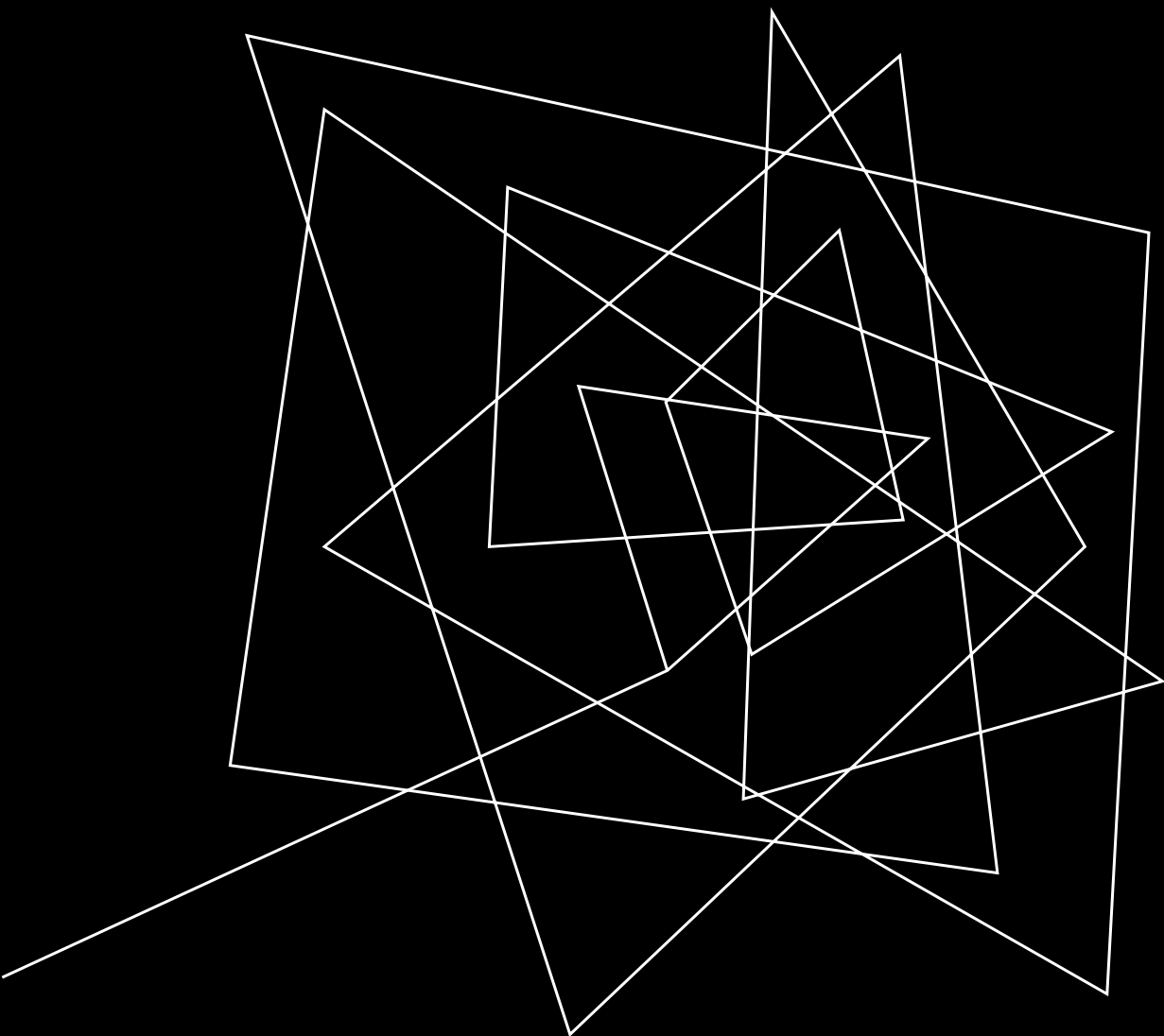
CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Naloxone status for opiate-related deaths, 2021



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

IMS - NSP Needle and Syringe Transaction data	Treatment provider - NDTMS record injecting status				No NDTMS record or not in structured treatment	Total
	Currently Injecting	Previously Injected	Never Injected	Not stated		
Currently Injecting	22	34	21	1	4	82
Previously Injecting	3	50	25		22	100
No match to NSP activity recorded in IMS	5	21	148	1	116	291
Total	30	105	194	2	142	473



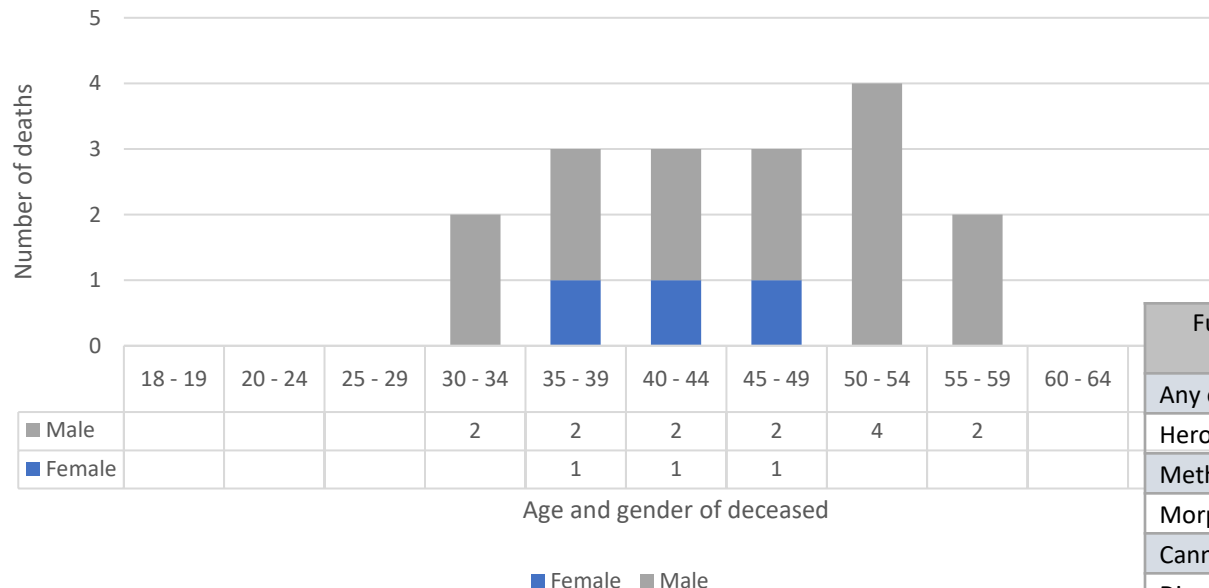
COCAINE TOXICITY DEATHS

IMS 2021 DATA FOR CHESHIRE AND
MERSEYSIDE



CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Single substance cocaine toxicity deaths, 2021



- 17 DRDs in which cocaine implicated on its own
- Further 26 with other substances

Further 26 deaths involved cocaine with other substances	count	proportion of cocaine related deaths
Any other opiate	23	85.2%
Heroin	15	55.6%
Methadone	12	44.4%
Morphine	8	29.6%
Cannabis	2	7.4%
Diazepam	2	7.4%
Other sedatives	2	7.4%
Alcohol	1	3.7%
Amphetamines	1	3.7%
Buprenorphine	1	3.7%
Dihydrocodeine	1	3.7%
Gabapentin	1	3.7%
MDMA	1	3.7%
Opiates (not stated)	1	3.7%
Other psychoactive drug	1	3.7%
Pregabalin	1	3.7%

CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE DRUG RELATED DEATHS 2021

Other causes of death mentioned
Acute congestive cardiac failure
Alcohol associated liver disease
Cardiac damage
Cardiomegaly & Ischaemic Heart Disease
COPD
Drowning with cardiomegaly, pulmonary emphysema
Hemopericardium; Thoracic Aortic Dissection
Hypertensive and vascular heart disease
Hypoxic brain injury; Cardiac Arrest
Intracerebral haemorrhage
Ischaemic heart disease
Natural causes
Pneumonia
Severe Bullous Emphysema