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Drug Related Deaths Wales 2024

Prof Rick Lines

**Head of Substance Misuse & Vulnerable Populations
Communicable Disease Inclusion Health Programme**

23 April 2026



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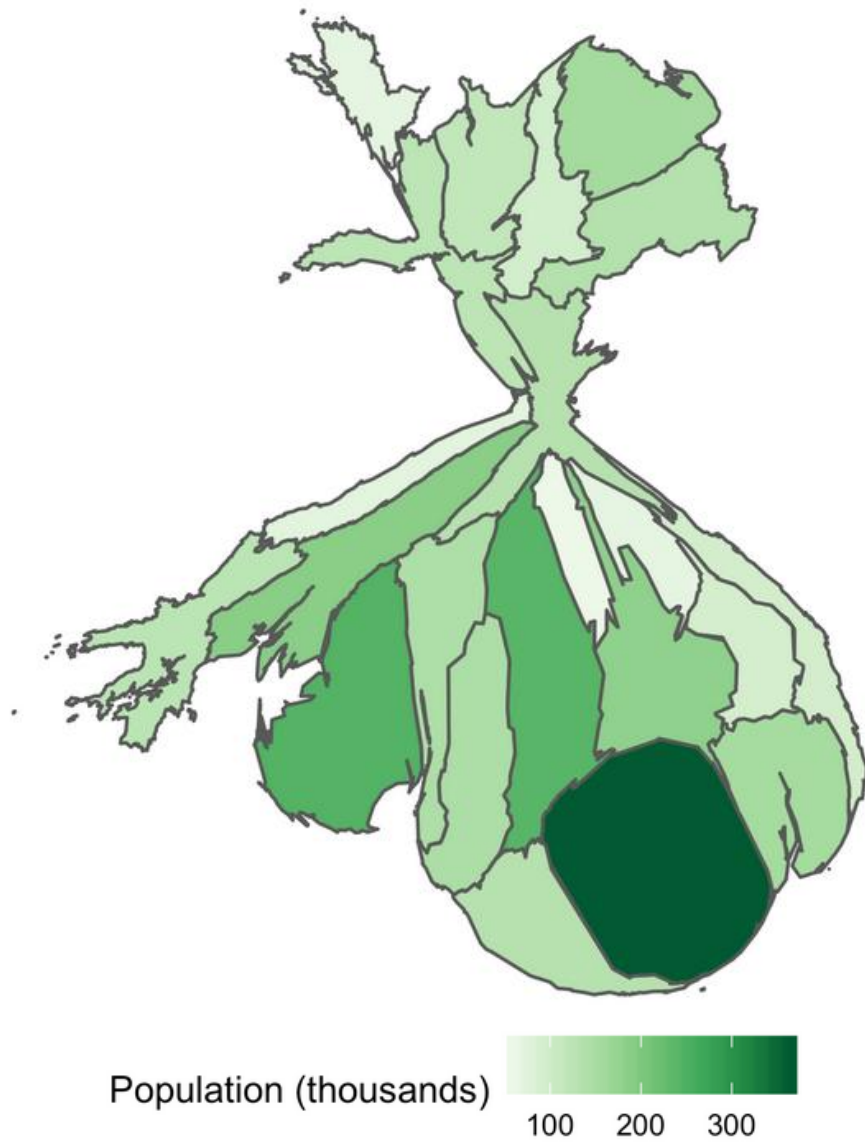
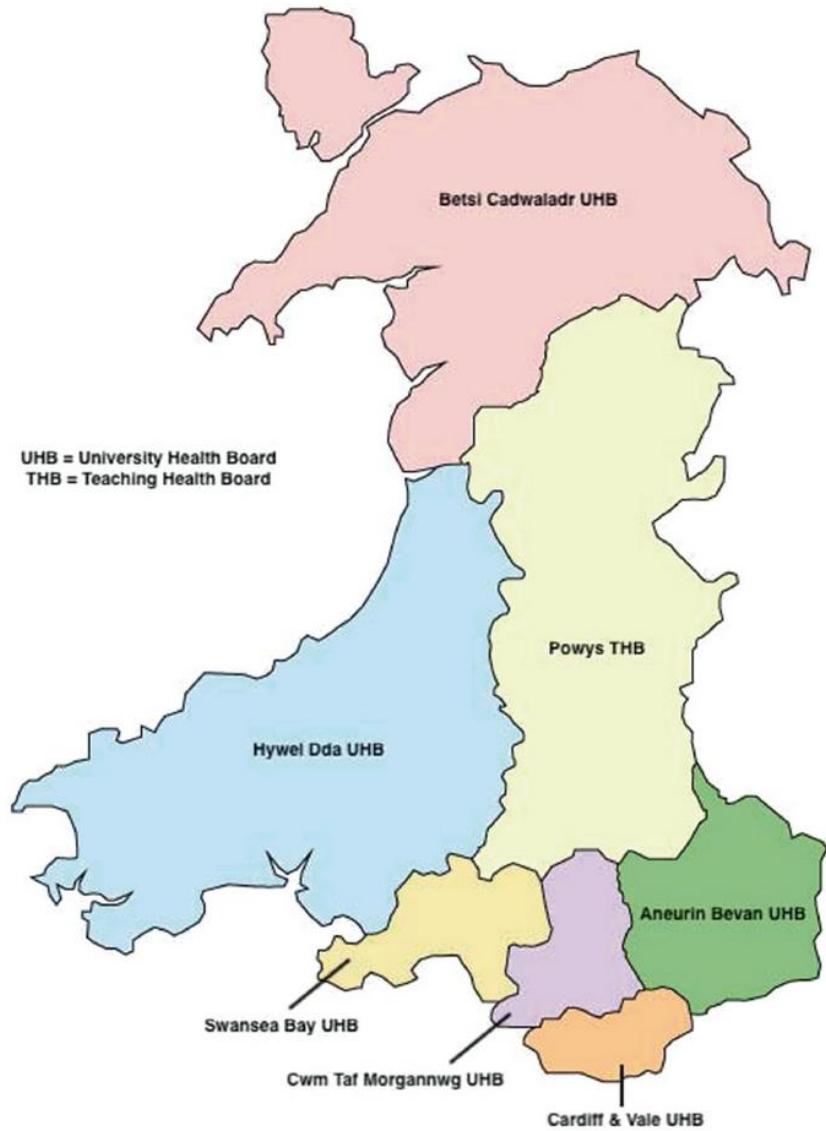
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417

318 (2023)

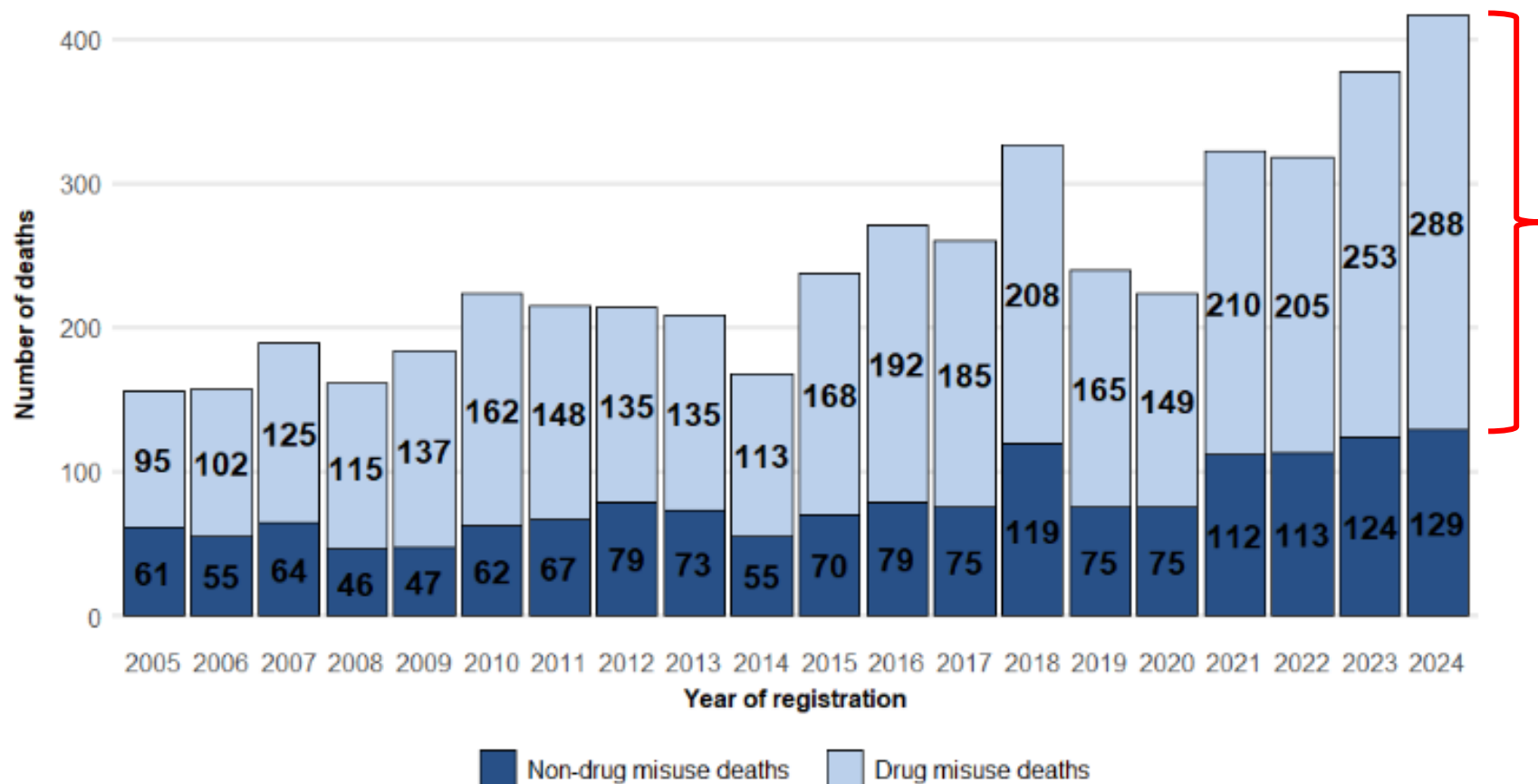
Drug poisoning deaths

288

253 (2023)

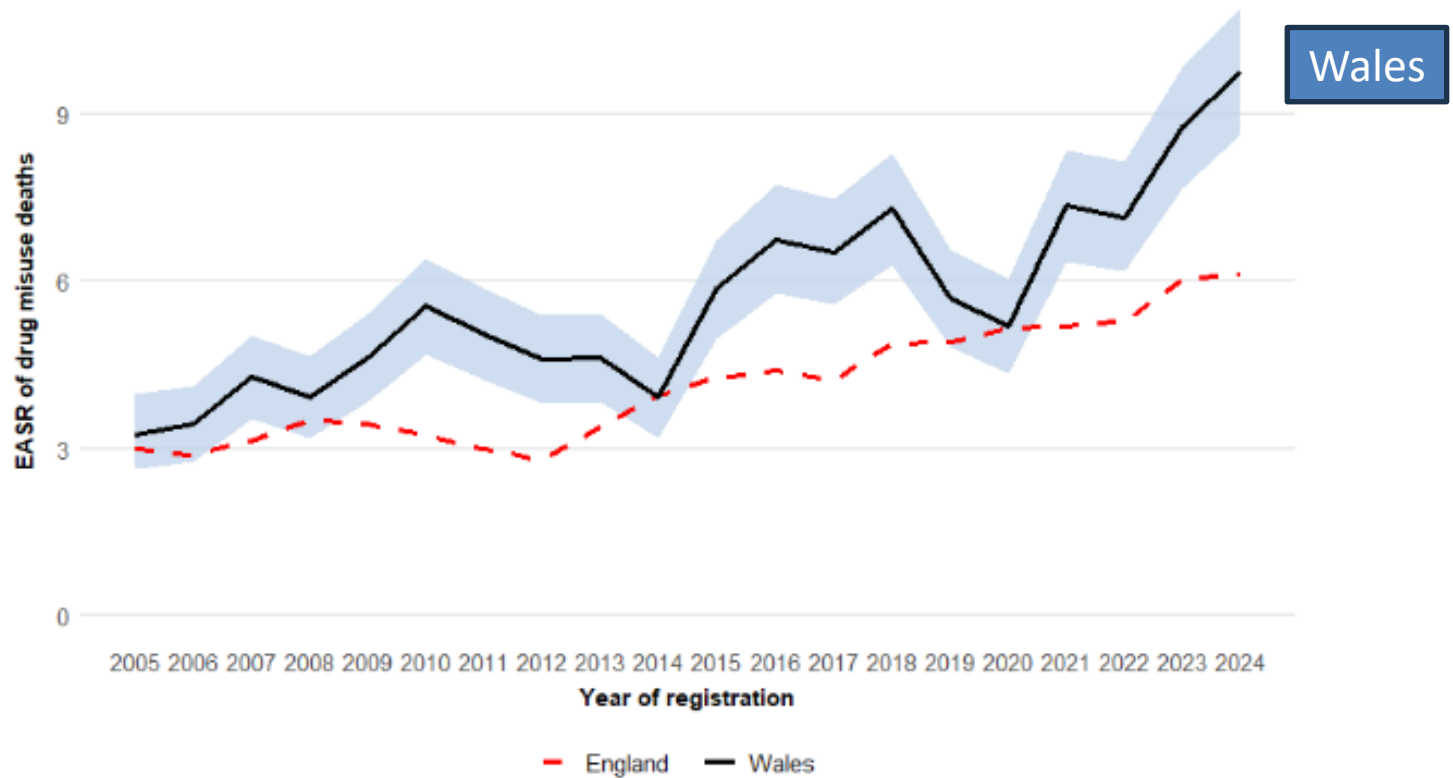
Drug misuse deaths



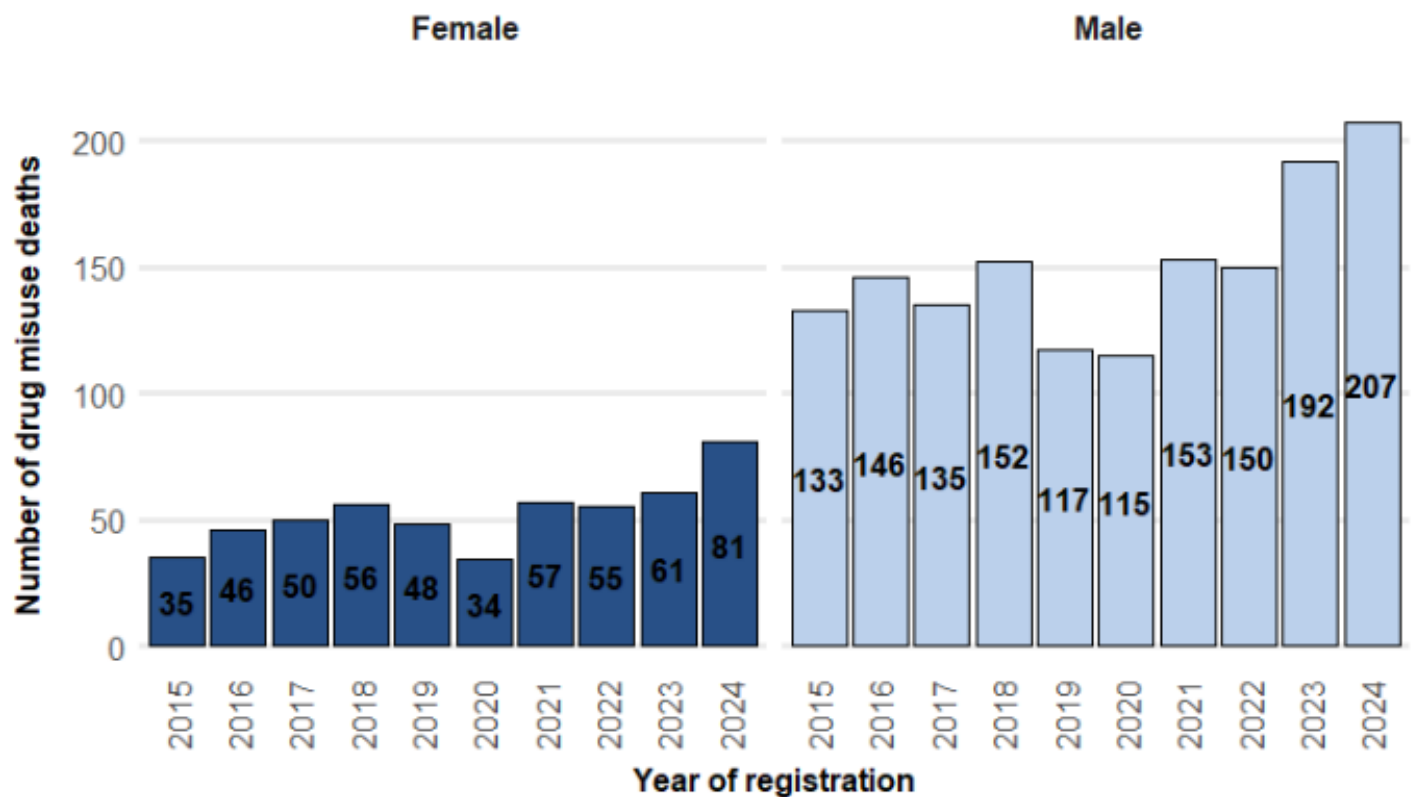


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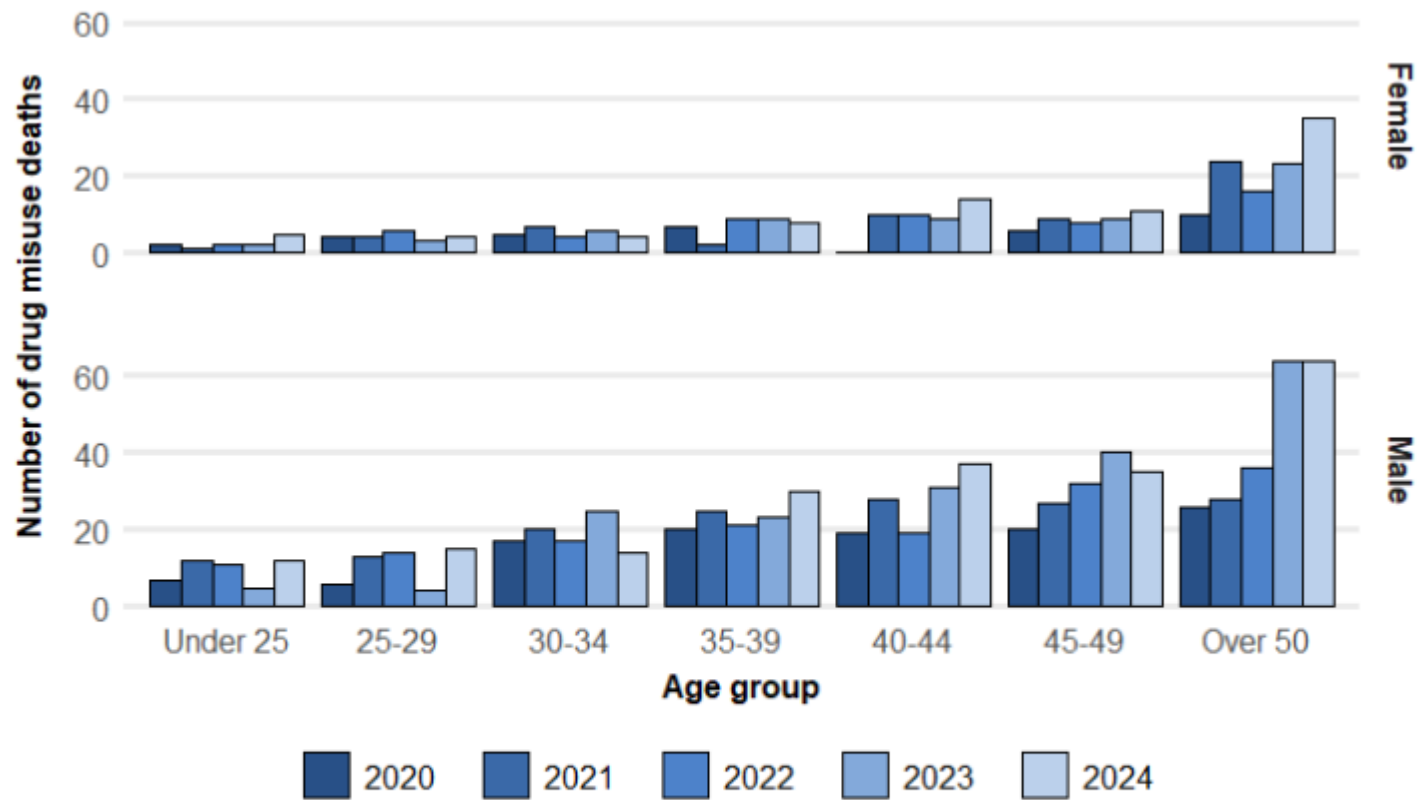
Office for National Statistics, 2025



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Figure 18: Drug misuse deaths by sex and year of registration, 2015 to 2024, Wales





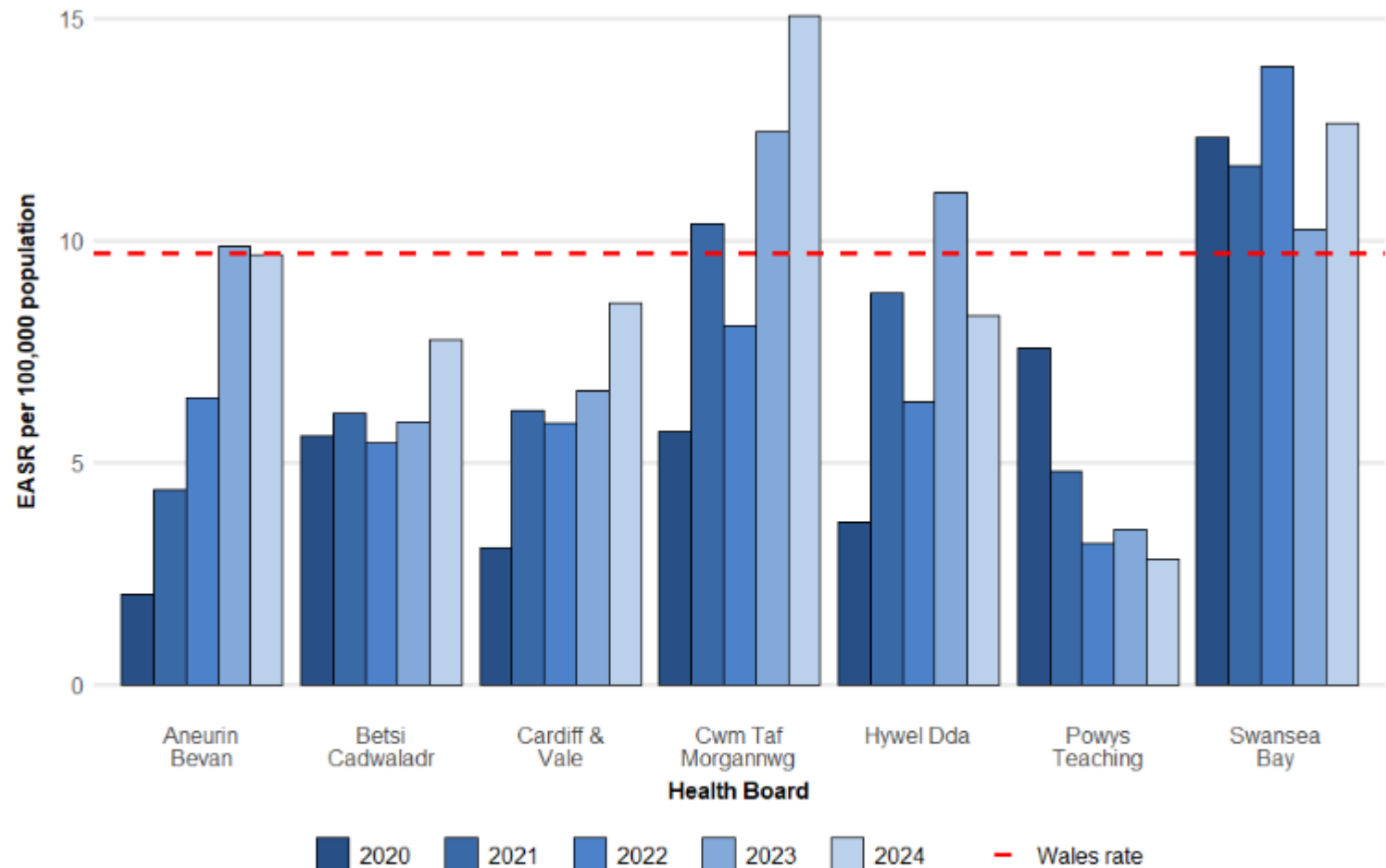
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Figure 19: Drug misuse deaths by age group, sex, and year of registration, 2020 to 2024



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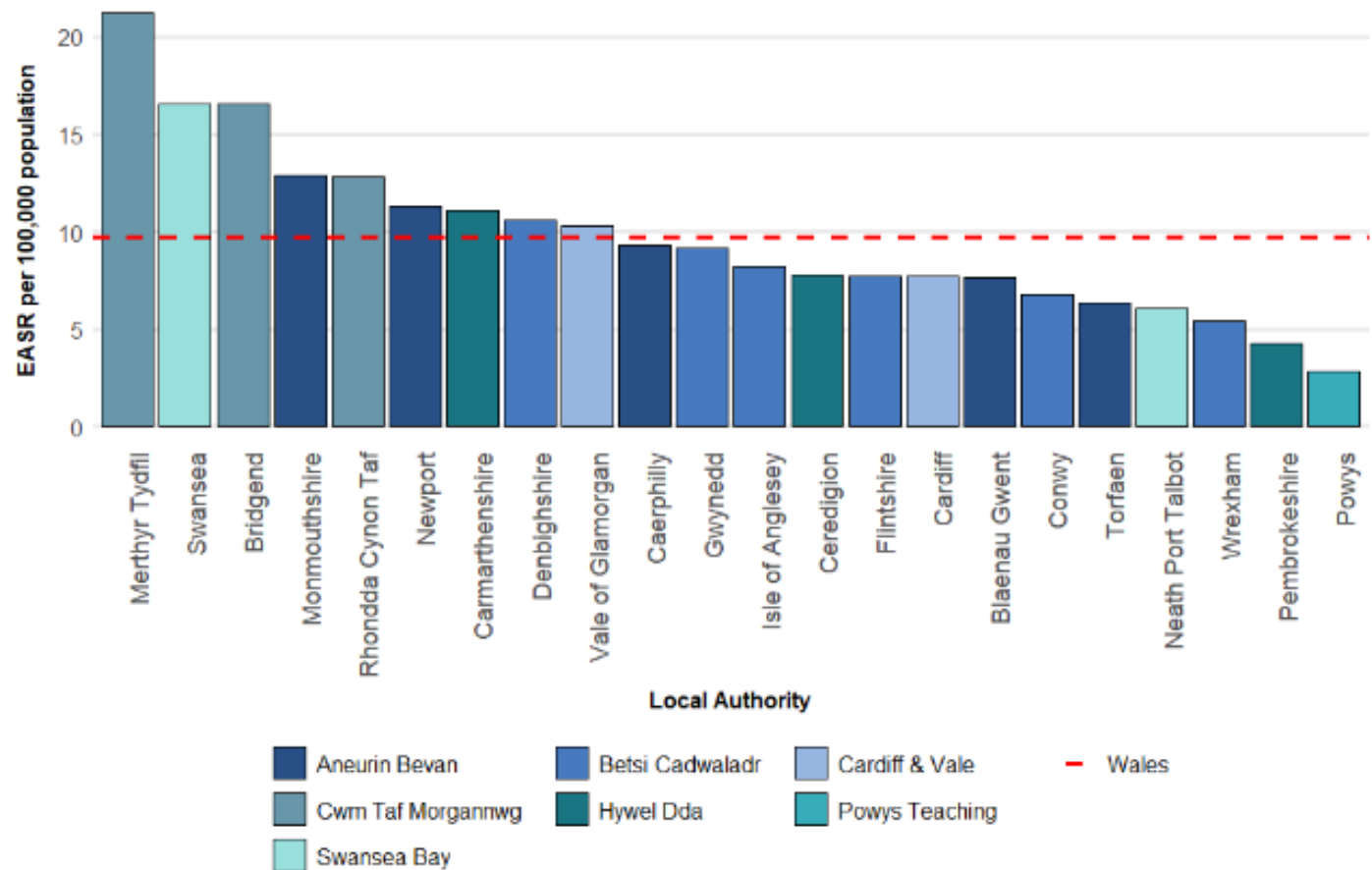
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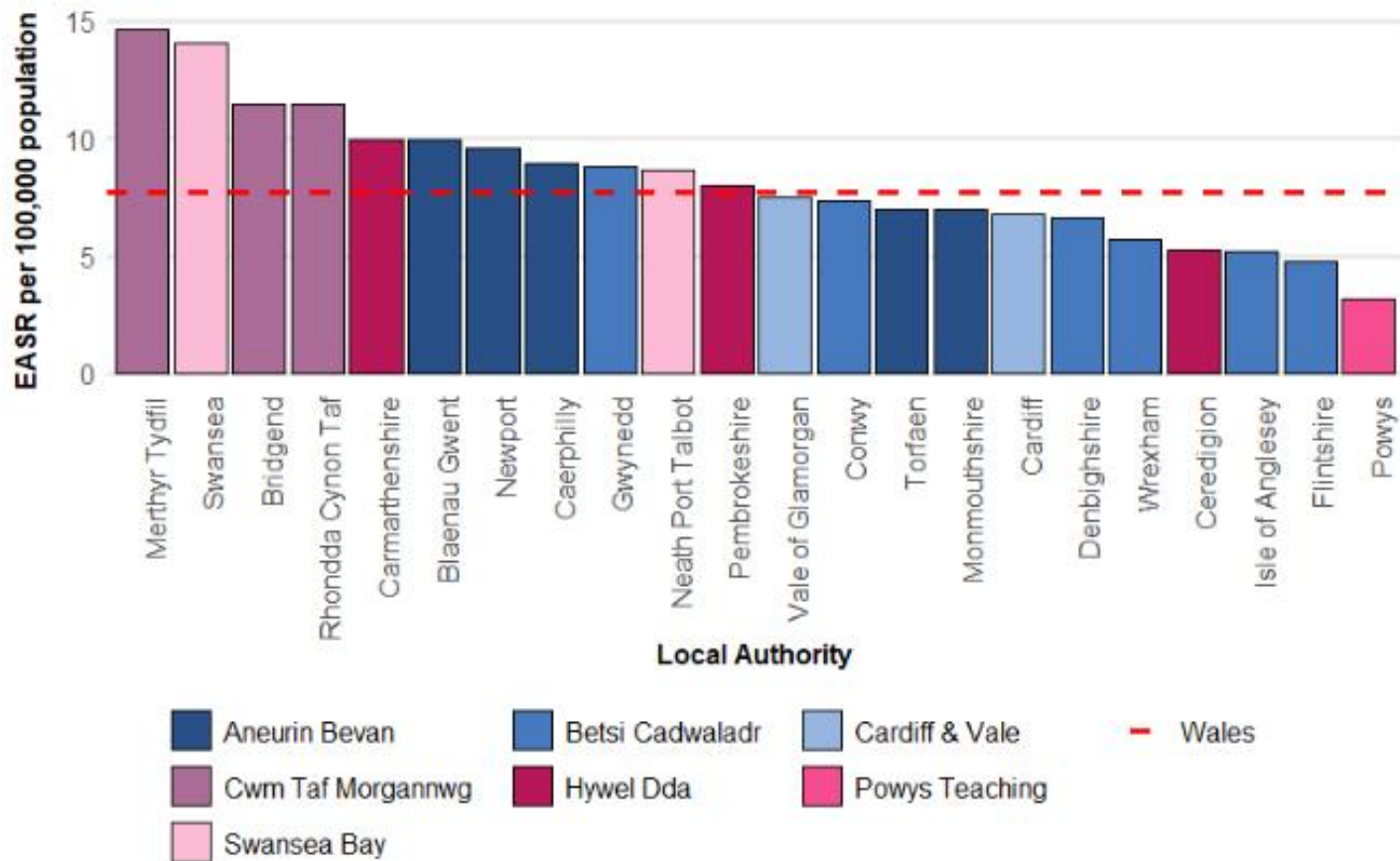
Figure 36: EASR of drug misuse deaths per 100,000 population by health board, 2020 to 2024





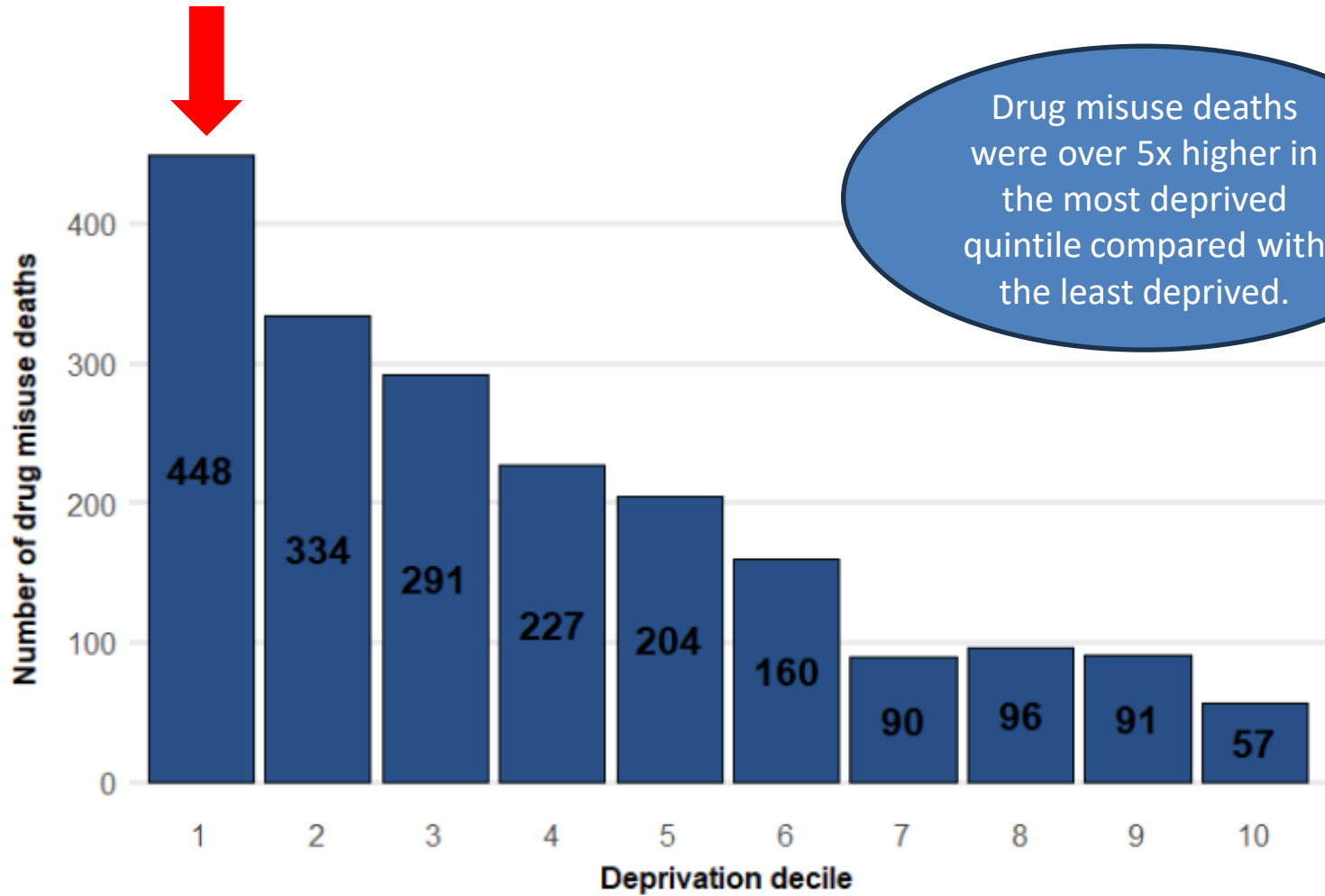
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Figure 37: EASR of drug misuse deaths per 100,000 population in Wales by local authority, 2024



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Figure 38: Three-year rolling average EASR per 100,000 drug misuse deaths in Wales, by local authority, 2022-24



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Figure 17: Cumulative number of drug misuse deaths by deprivation decile, 2015 to 2024 (1 = highest rank of deprivation to 10 = lowest rank of deprivation)

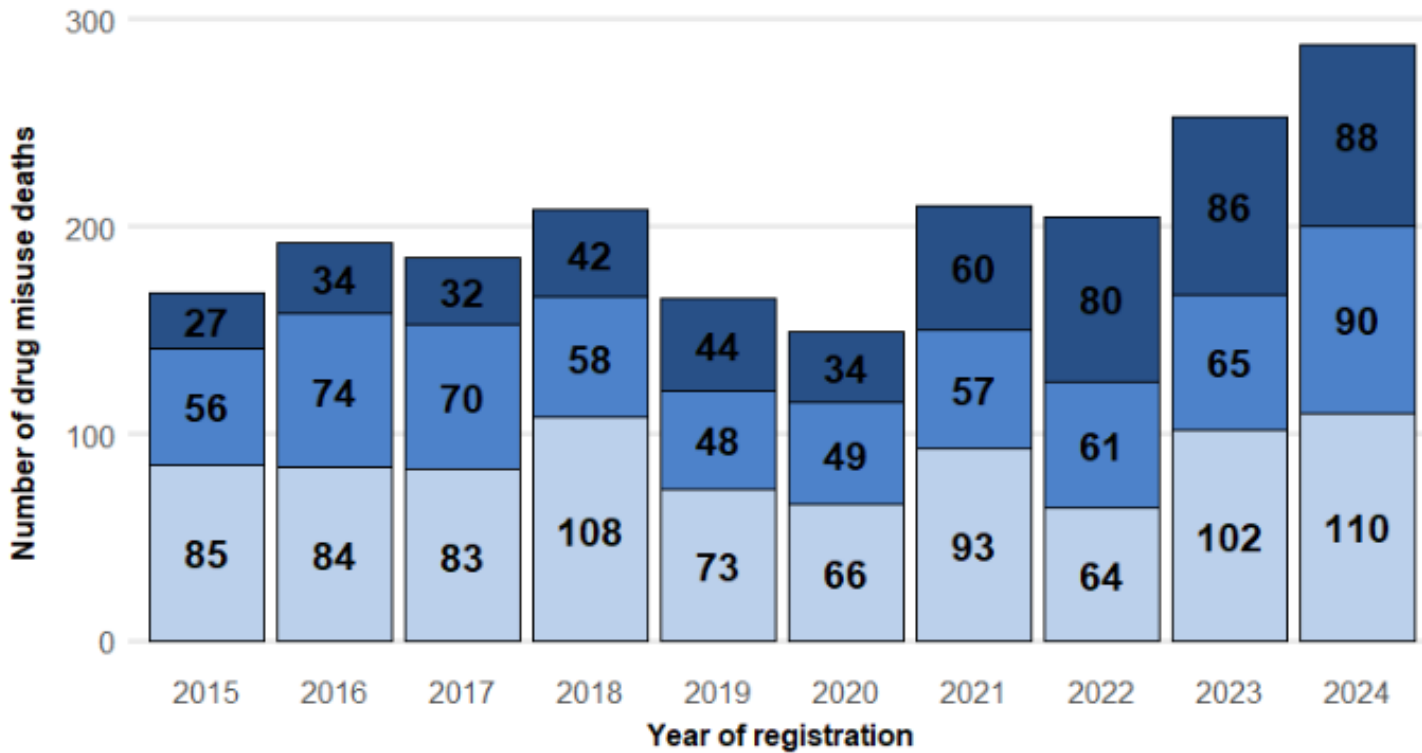
Substances

- Opioids remain the most common substances reported in Wales - 200 deaths (69.4%)
 - 110 involved heroin/morphine (55%)
 - Next most common opioid was methadone (n=35)



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- No opioid recorded
- Opioid – Heroin/Morphine not recorded
- Opioid – Heroin/Morphine recorded

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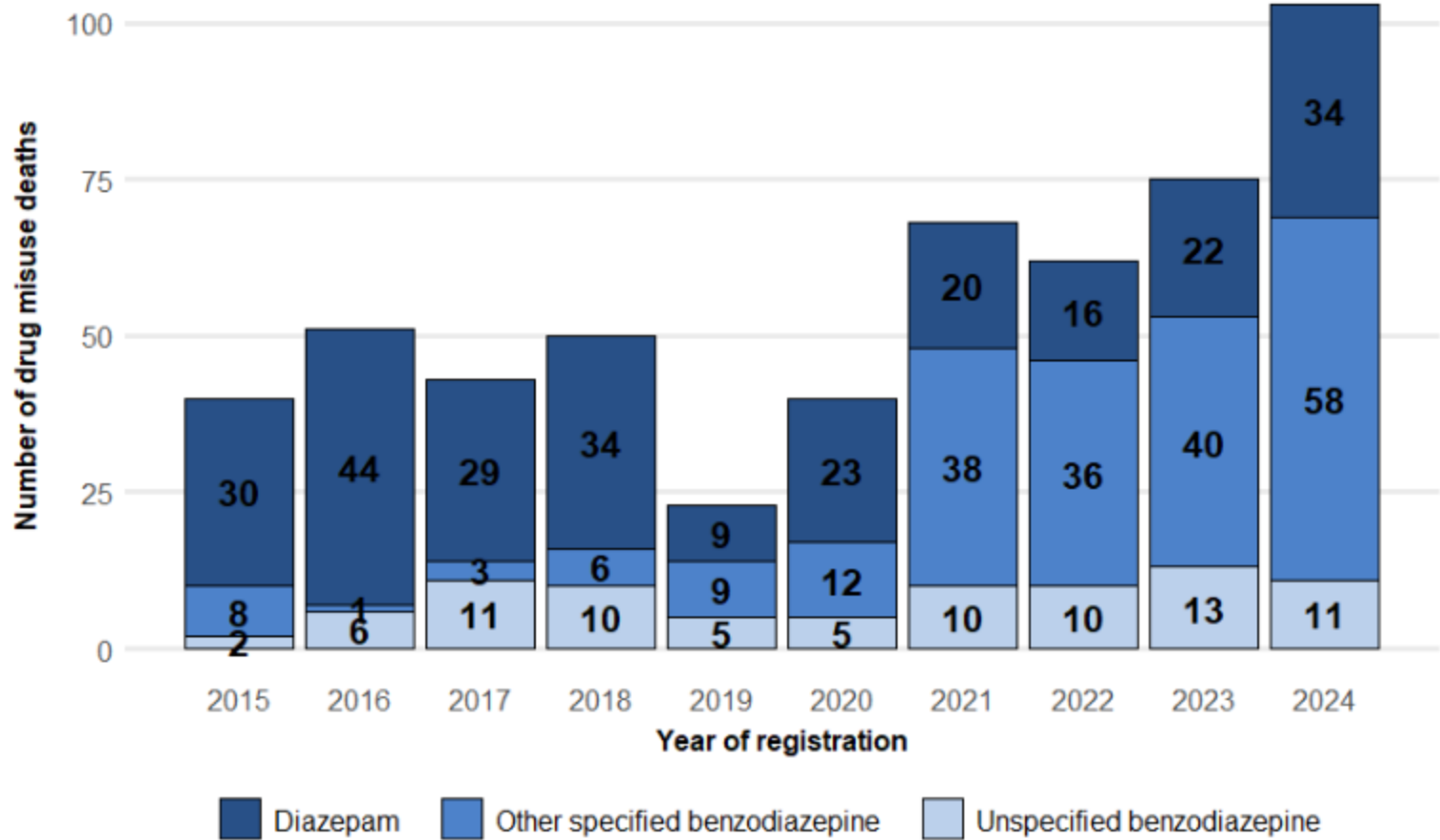
Substances

- Opioids remain the most common substances reported in Wales - 200 deaths (69.4%)
 - 110 involved heroin/morphine (55%)
 - Next most common opioid was methadone (n=35)
- Benzodiazepines were reported in 29% of drug misuse deaths registered in 2024 (n = 83)



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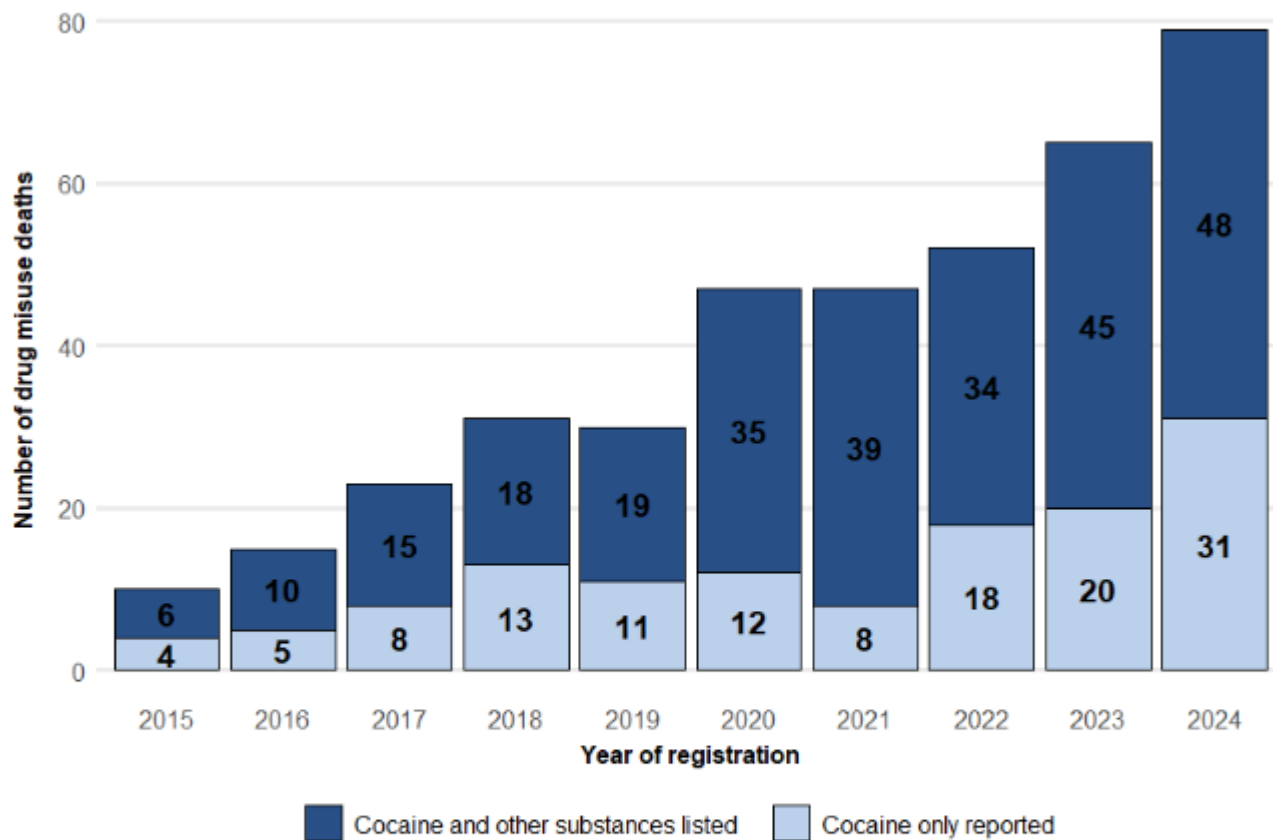
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Figure 30: Deaths involving benzodiazepines by year of registration and substance, 2015 to 2024⁵

Substances

- Opioids remain the most common substances reported in Wales - 200 deaths (69.4%)
 - 110 involved heroin/morphine (55%)
 - Next most common opioid was methadone (n=35)
- Benzodiazepines were reported in 29% of drug misuse deaths registered in 2024 (n = 83)
- Cocaine was recorded in 27.4% of drug misuse deaths (n=79)





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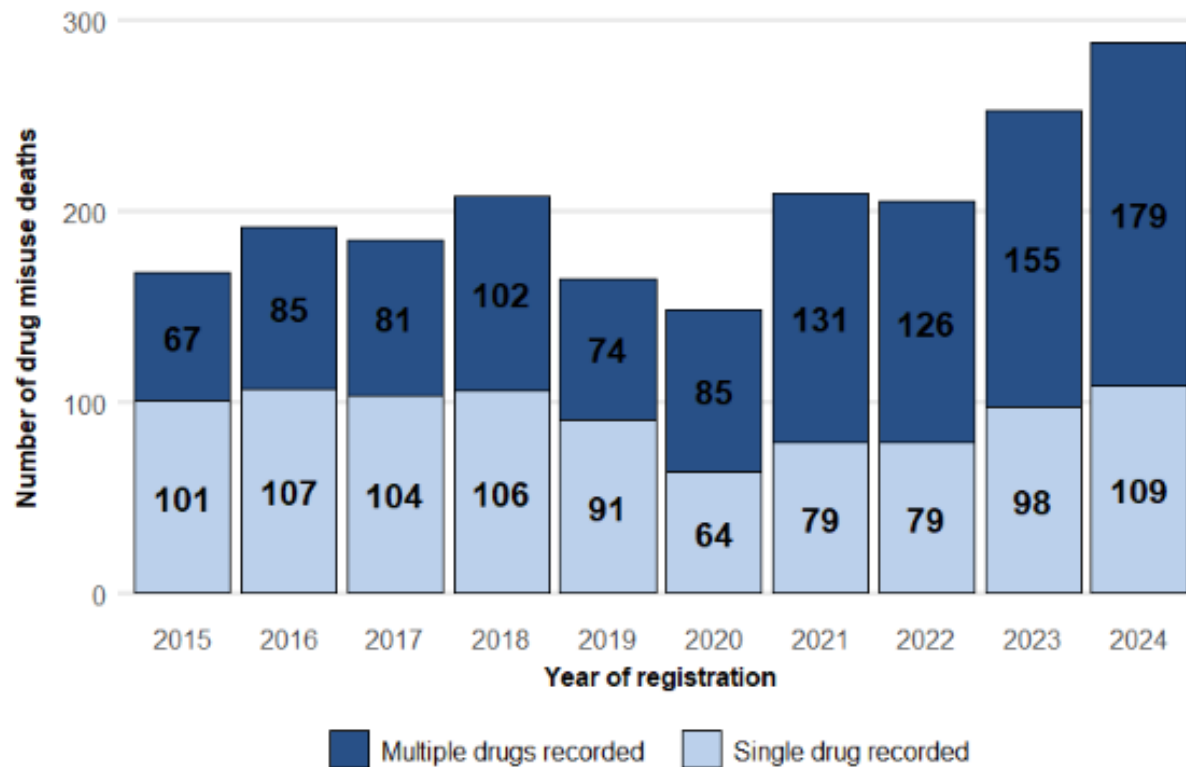
Figure 32: Drug misuse deaths involving cocaine as the only substance reported, and cocaine alongside at least one other substance, by year of death registration, 2015 to 2024



Substances

- Opioids remain the most common substances reported in Wales - 200 deaths (69.4%)
 - 110 involved heroin/morphine (55%)
 - Next most common opioid was methadone (n=35)
- Benzodiazepines were reported in 29% of drug misuse deaths registered in 2024 (n = 83)
- Cocaine was recorded in 27.4% of drug misuse deaths (n=79)
- Poly-drug use was reported in 62% per cent (n=179) of drug misuse deaths





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Figure 22: Drug misuse deaths with multiple substances recorded, 2014 to 2024

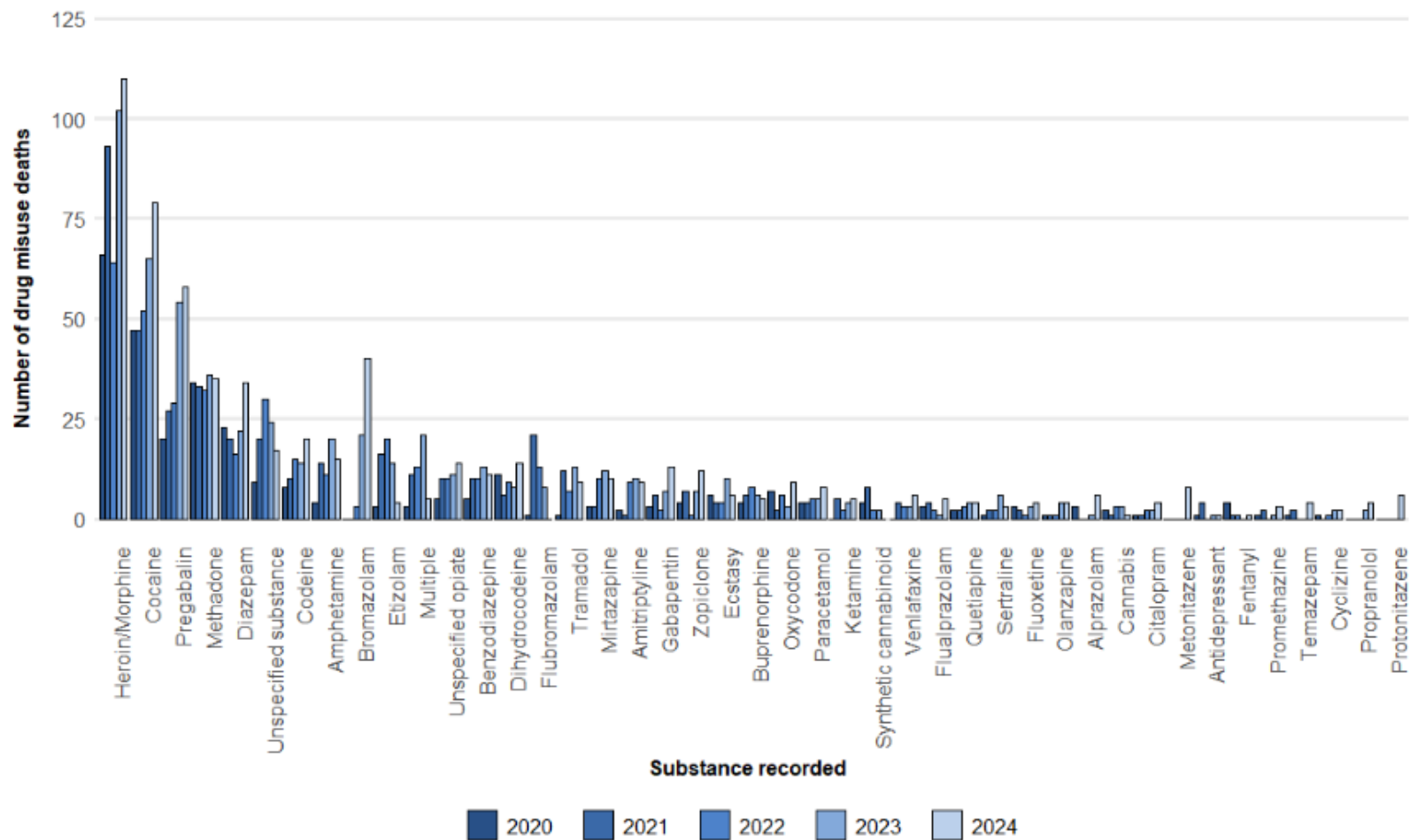




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Figure 23: Drug misuse deaths in Wales with multiple substances recorded, 2014 to 2024

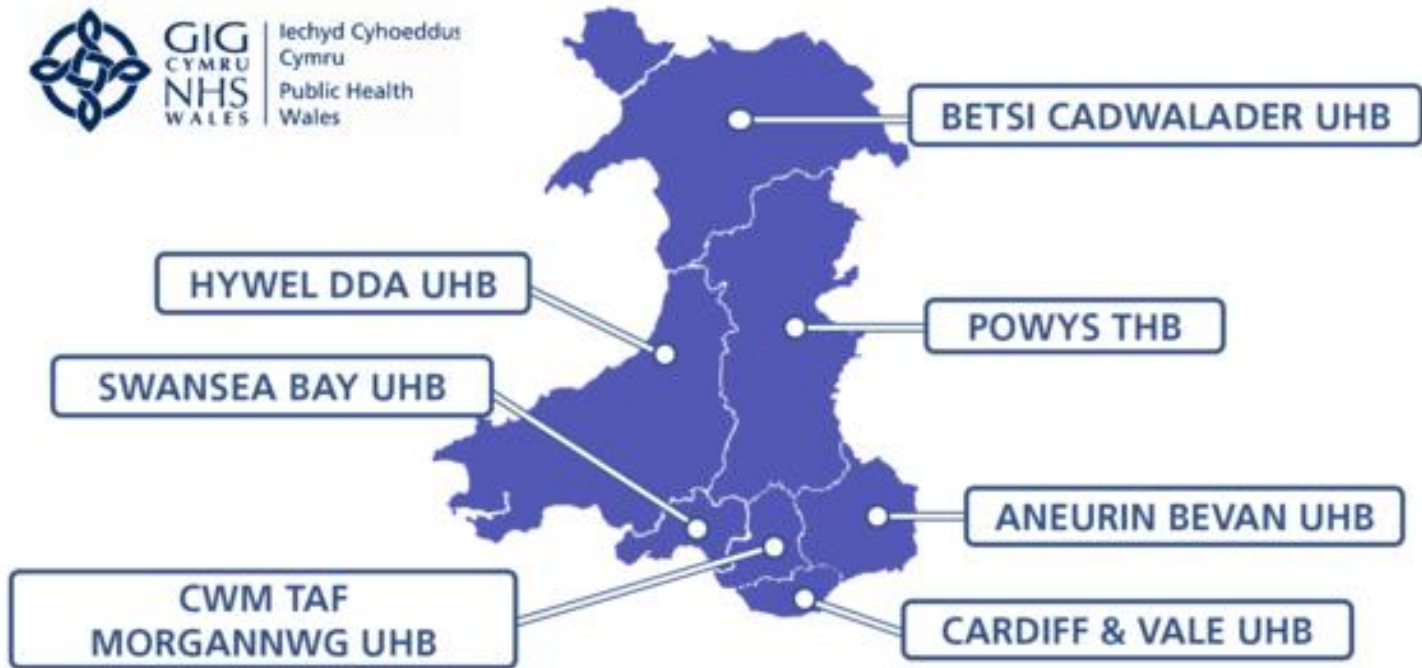




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Figure 35: Number of drug misuse deaths in Wales by substance 2020 to 2024

New Developments



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New Developments



 24/7 Helpline [Cymraeg](#) | [English](#)

[Sample testing](#)

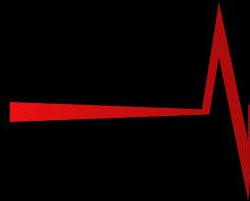
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[Substance information](#)

[Harm reduction advice](#)

[Reports](#)

 Find out more about harm reduction or go to the [DAN 24/7 helpline](#)



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