

# **The Opioid Epidemic: Overdose Data in NYC**

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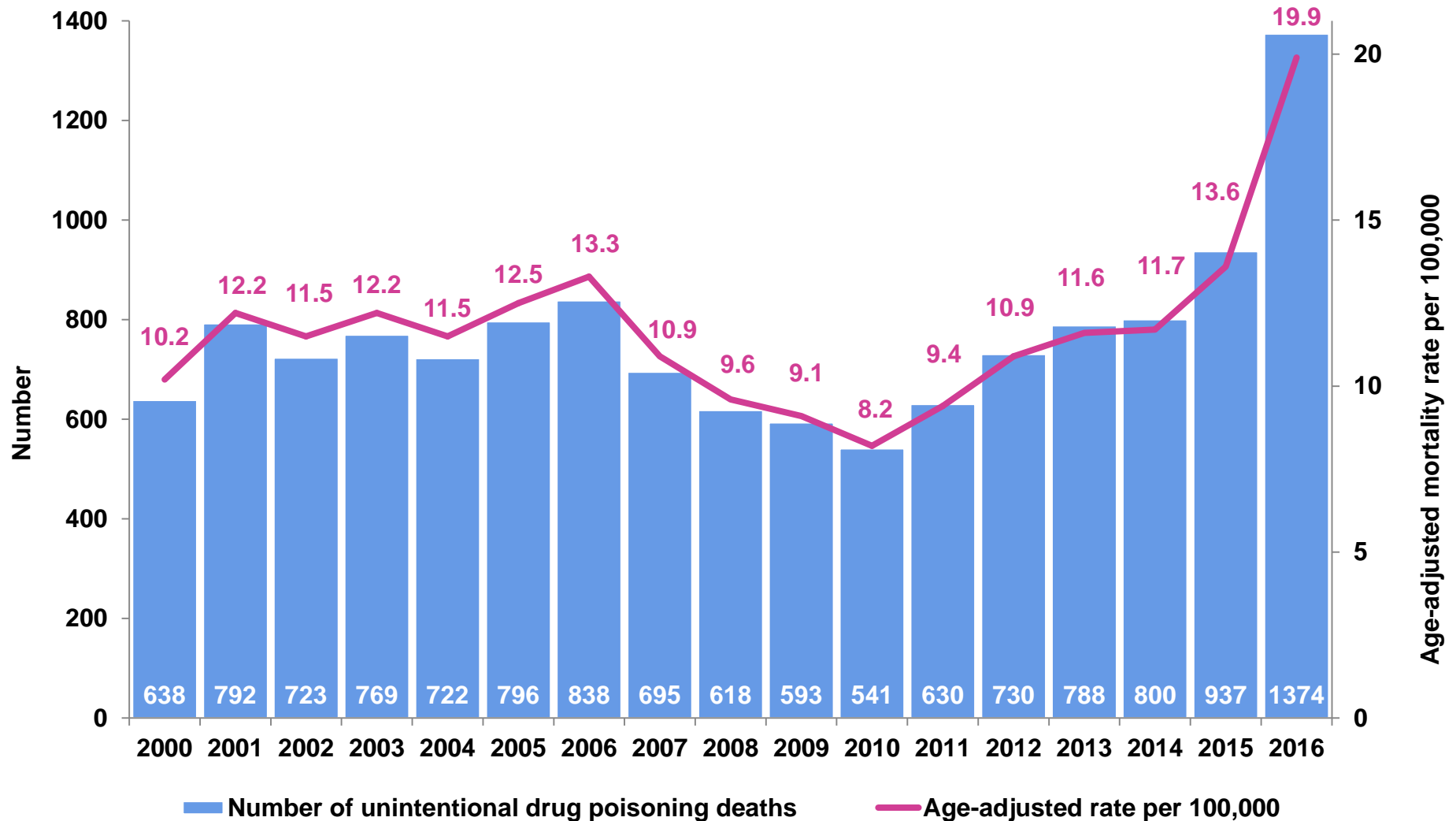
Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention,  
Care and Treatment

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

# The burden of drug overdose

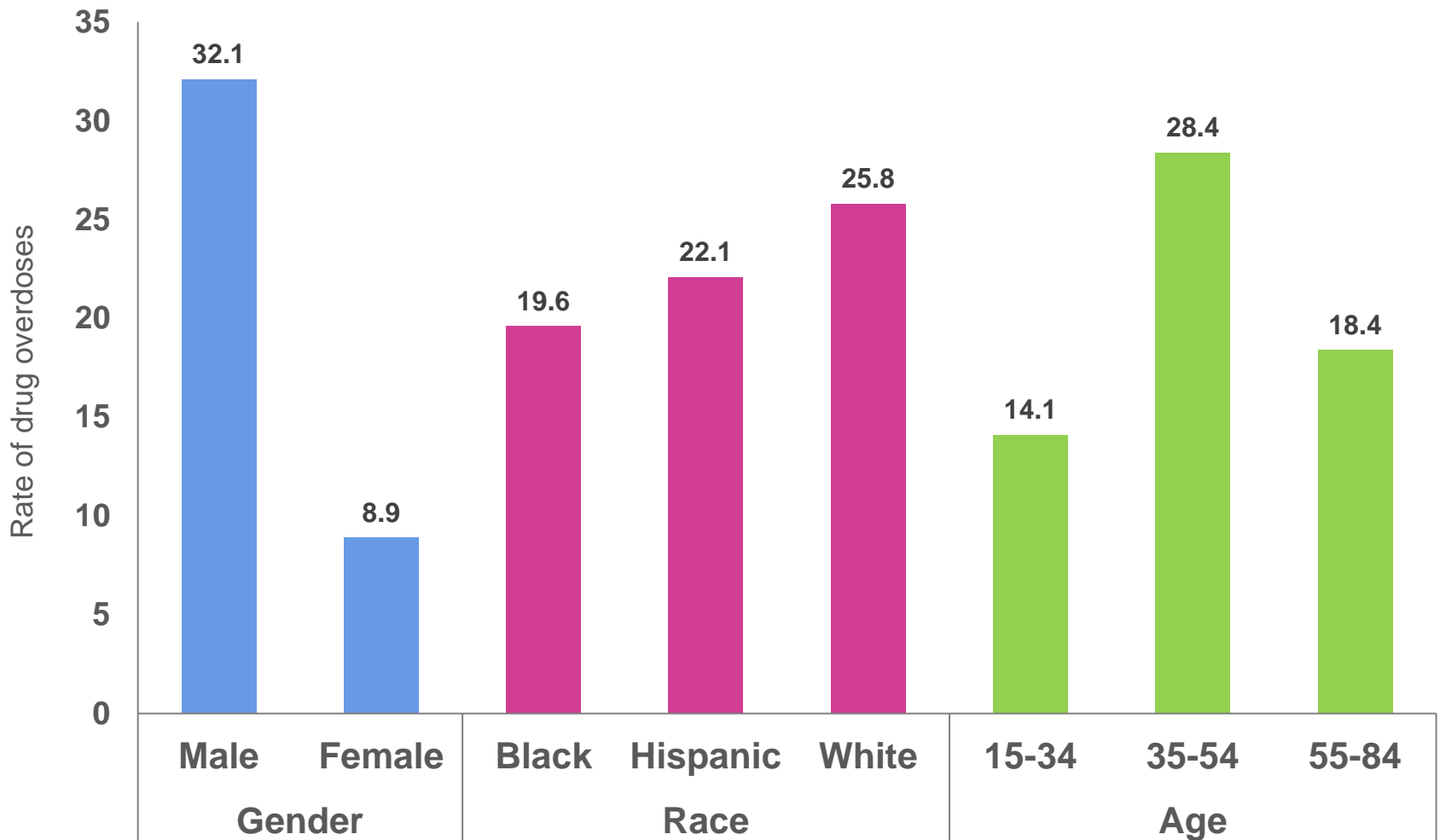
- Nationally, drug poisoning (overdose) deaths surpass those due to motor vehicle accidents
- More New Yorkers die from overdose than homicides, suicides, and motor vehicle crashes combined
- Drug overdose is a leading cause of premature death among NYC residents
- Overdose is the top cause of death for NYC residents age 25 to 34
- 80% of overdoses in NYC involve an opioid; opioid-involved overdoses are preventable

# Unintentional drug poisoning deaths, NYC, 2000-2016\*



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2000-2016\*  
 \*Data for 2015 and 2016 are provisional and subject to change (Published June 13, 2017)

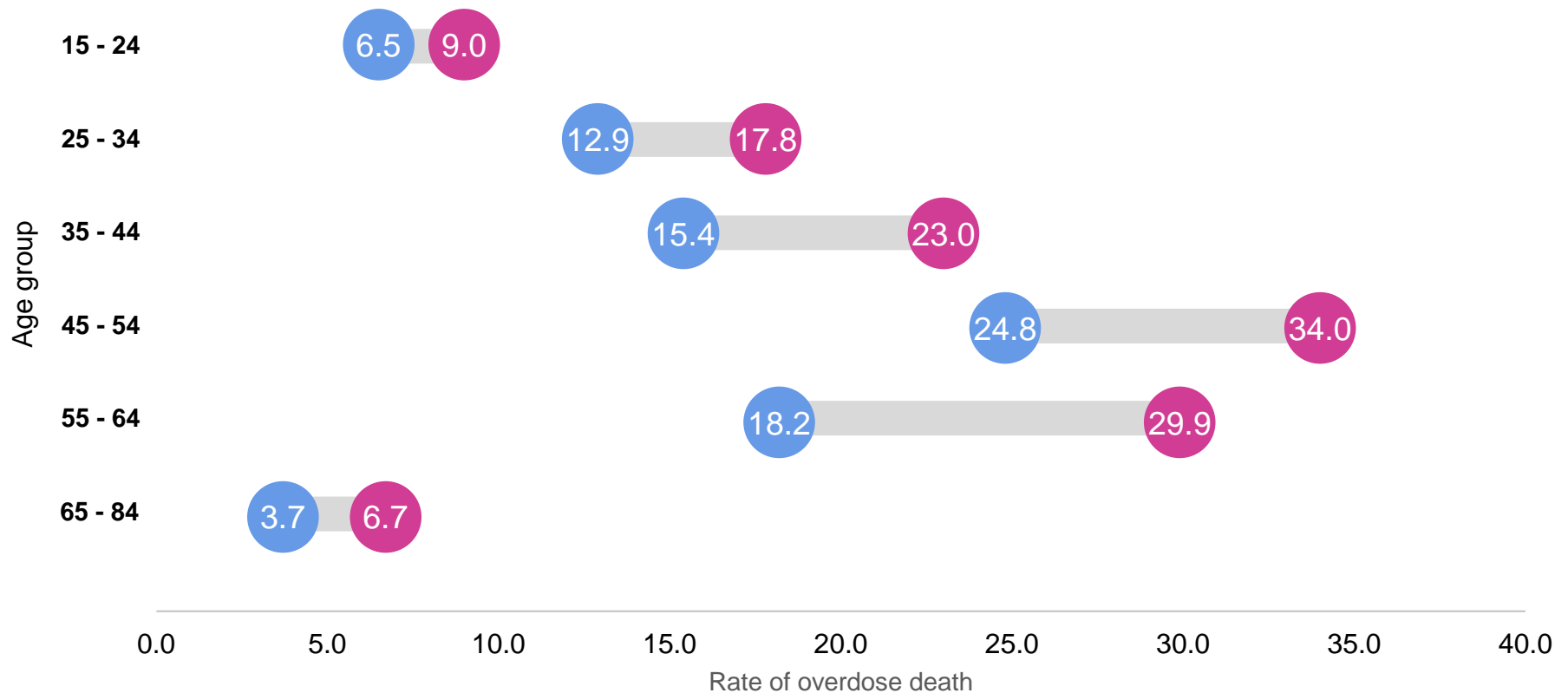
# Rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose), by demographics, 2016\*



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2016\*  
\*Data for 2016 are provisional and subject to change. (June 13, 2017)

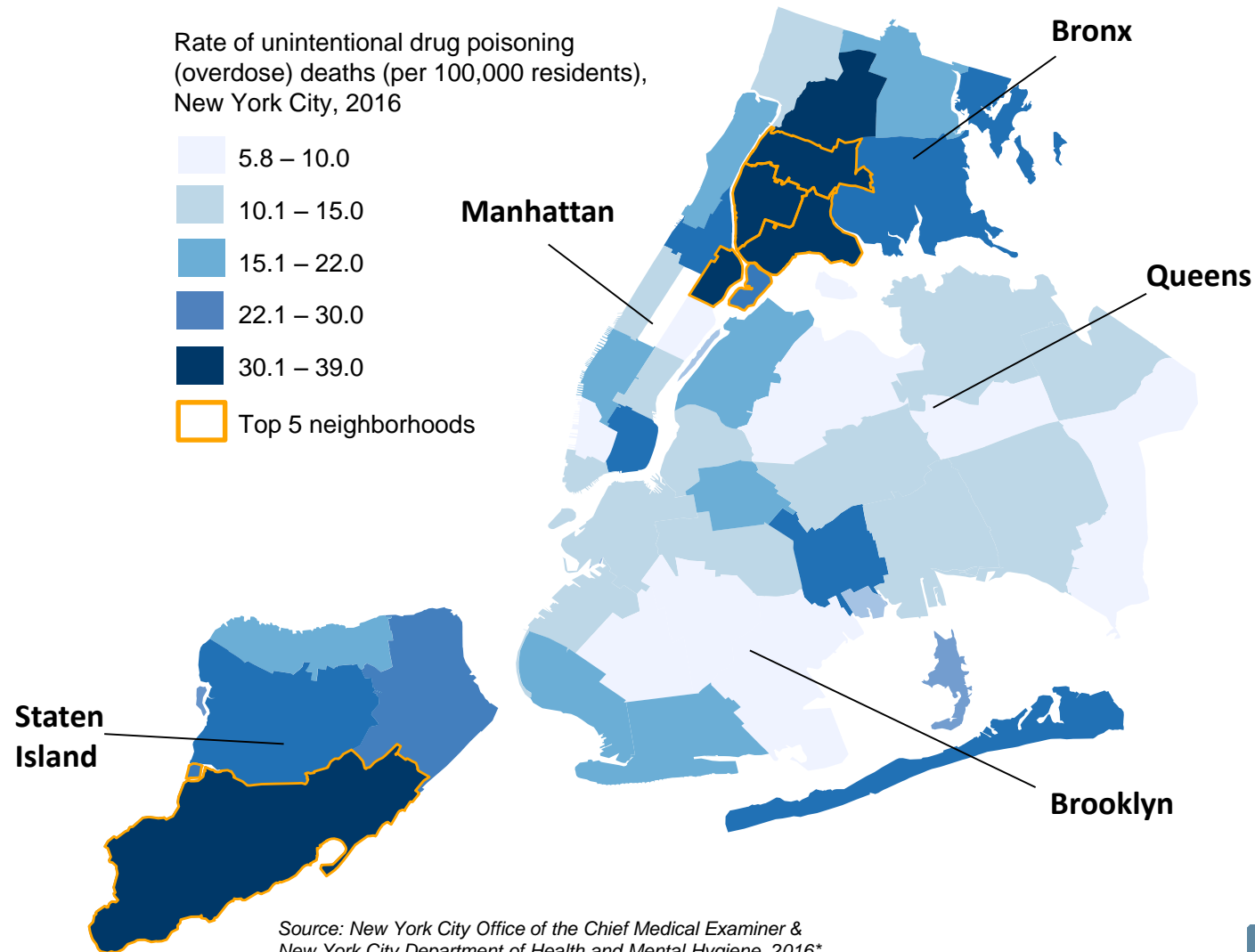
# Large increases among age groups with high rates

## Age-specific rate of overdose death, 2015 and 2016



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2015-2016\*  
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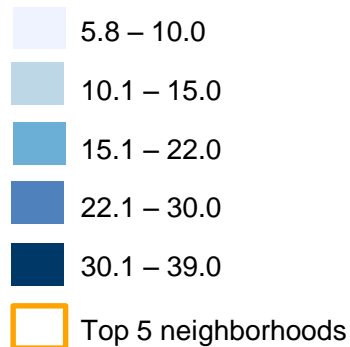
# Rate of overdoses, by neighborhood of residence, 2016



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2016\*  
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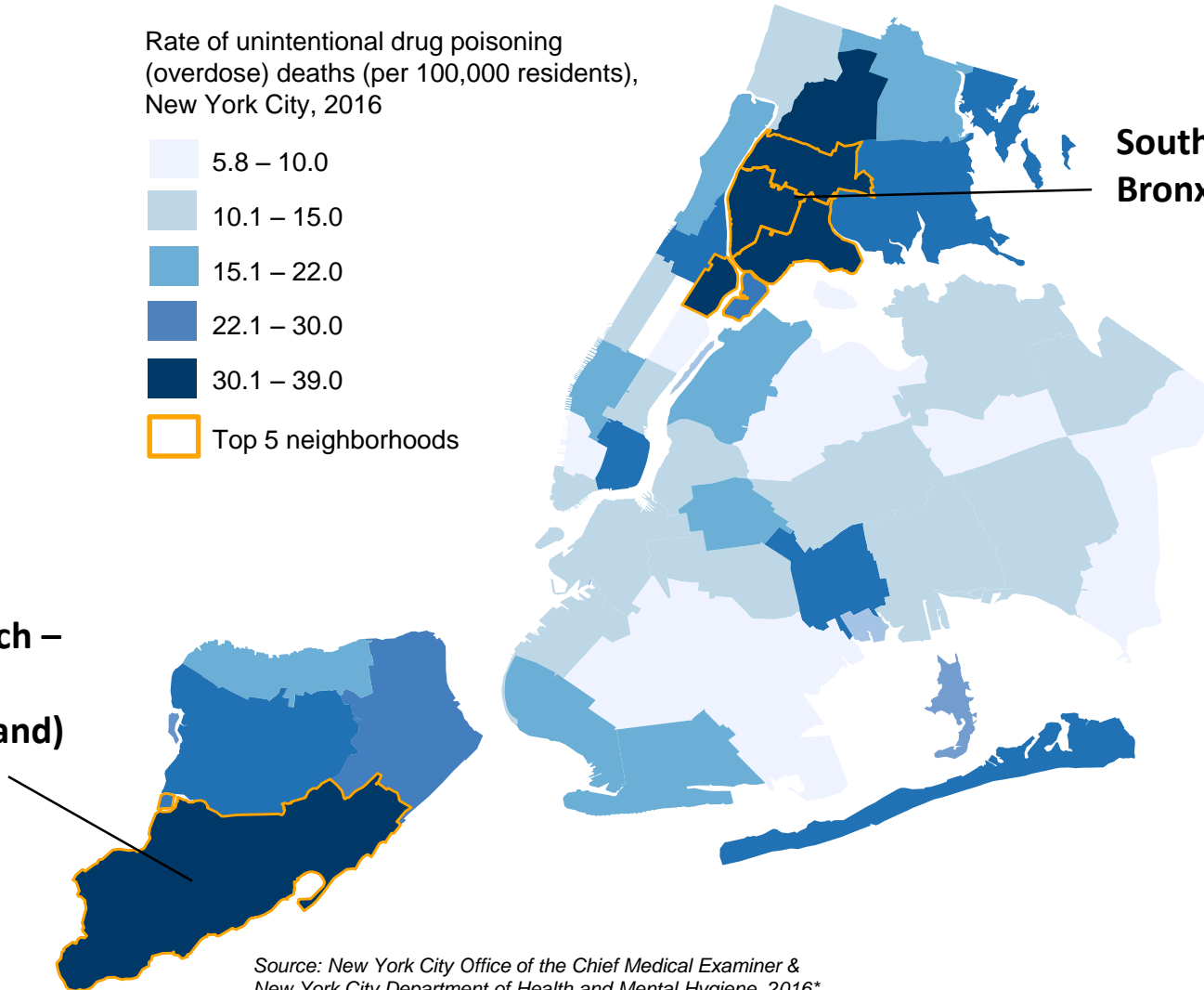
# Rate of overdoses, by neighborhood of residence, 2016

Rate of unintentional drug poisoning (overdose) deaths (per 100,000 residents), New York City, 2016



South Beach –  
Tottenville  
(Staten Island)

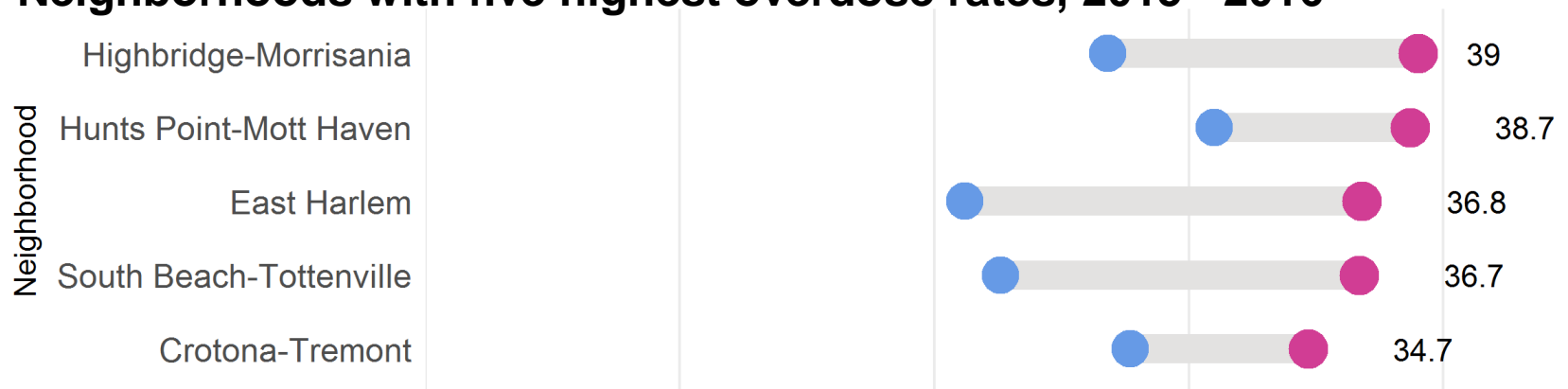
South  
Bronx



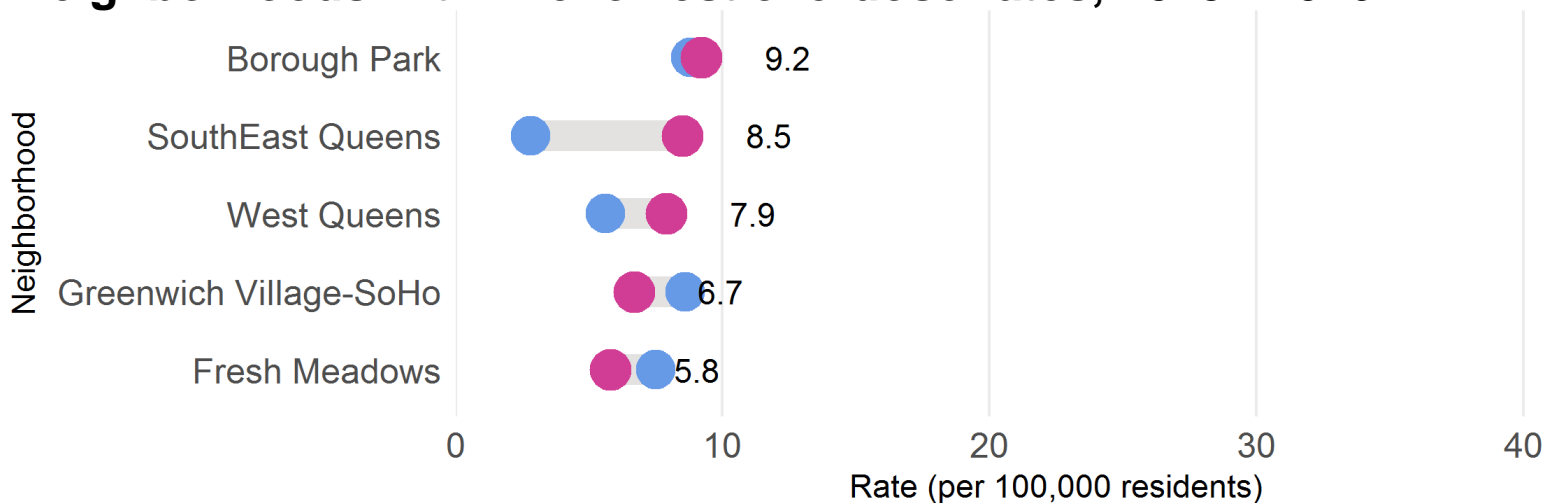
Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2016\*  
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# Large increases from 2015 to 2016 among neighborhoods with endemically high rates

## Neighborhoods with five highest overdose rates, 2015 - 2016



## Neighborhoods with five lowest overdose rates, 2015 - 2016



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2015-2016\*  
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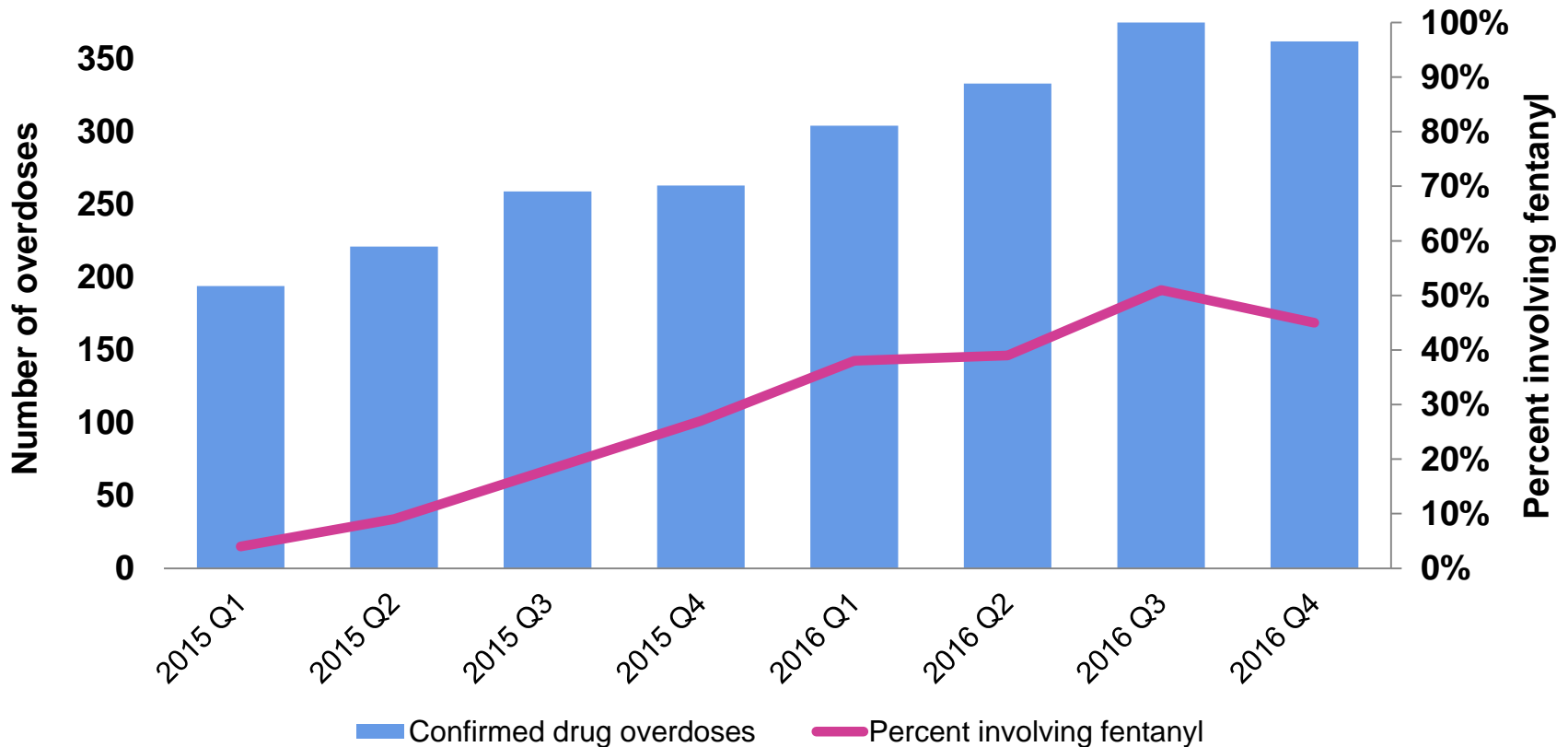
# FENTANYL IN NEW YORK CITY

# Fentanyl in NYC drug supply

- Fentanyl: potent synthetic opioid analgesic that is short acting
  - Potency 50-100 times greater than morphine
- **Non-pharmaceutical fentanyl**
  - Not patches or lollipops
  - Produced in illicit laboratories
- Showing up in heroin, as well as cocaine, and street pills (e.g., marked as Xanax® or opioid analgesics)
  - Cut in and/or pressed prior to purchase
- Persons who use typically cannot detect it by sight, taste, or smell

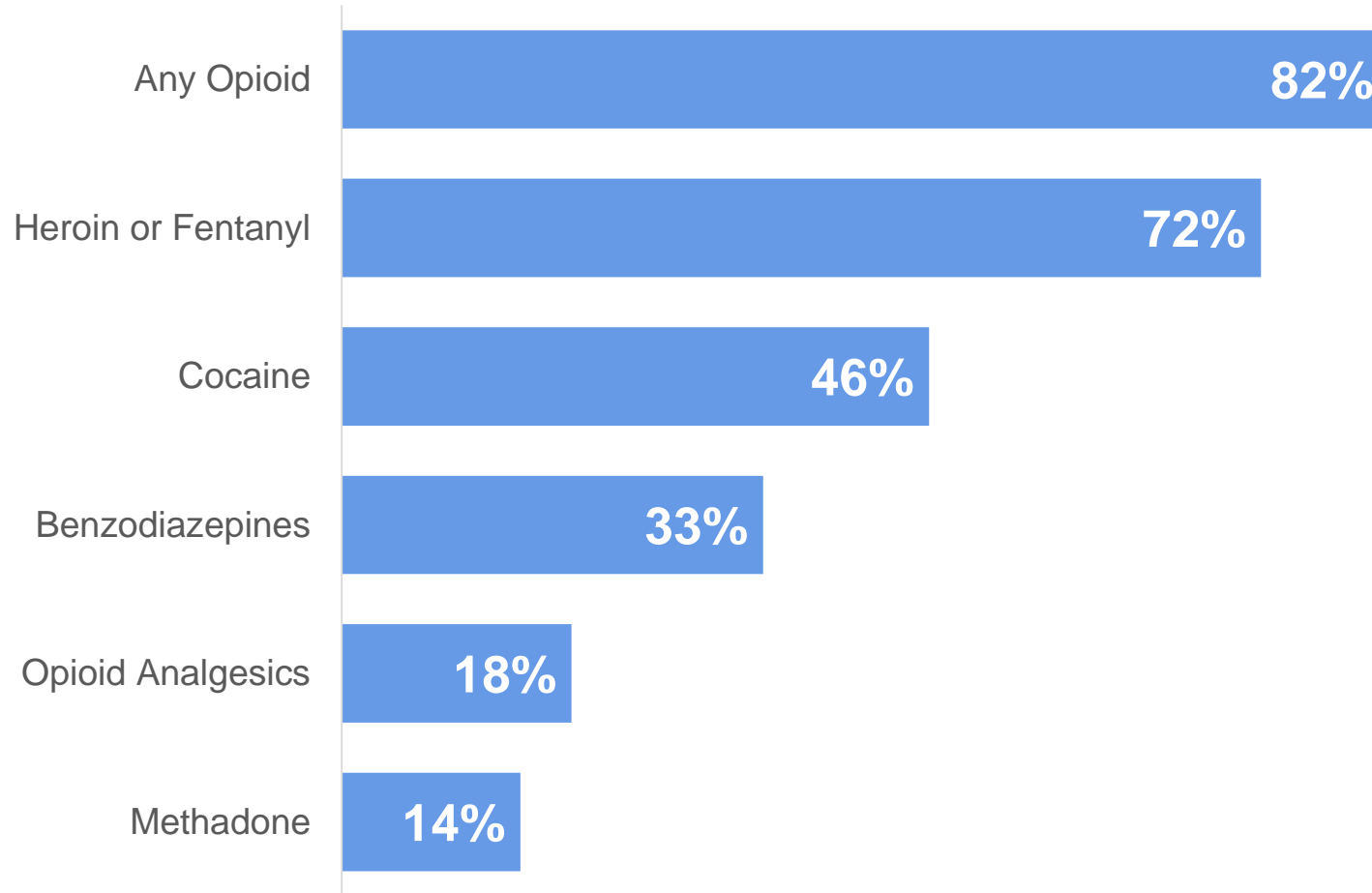
# Increase in fentanyl driving increases in overdose deaths

Number of unintentional drug poisoning deaths (overdoses), by quarter, New York City, 2015 - 2016



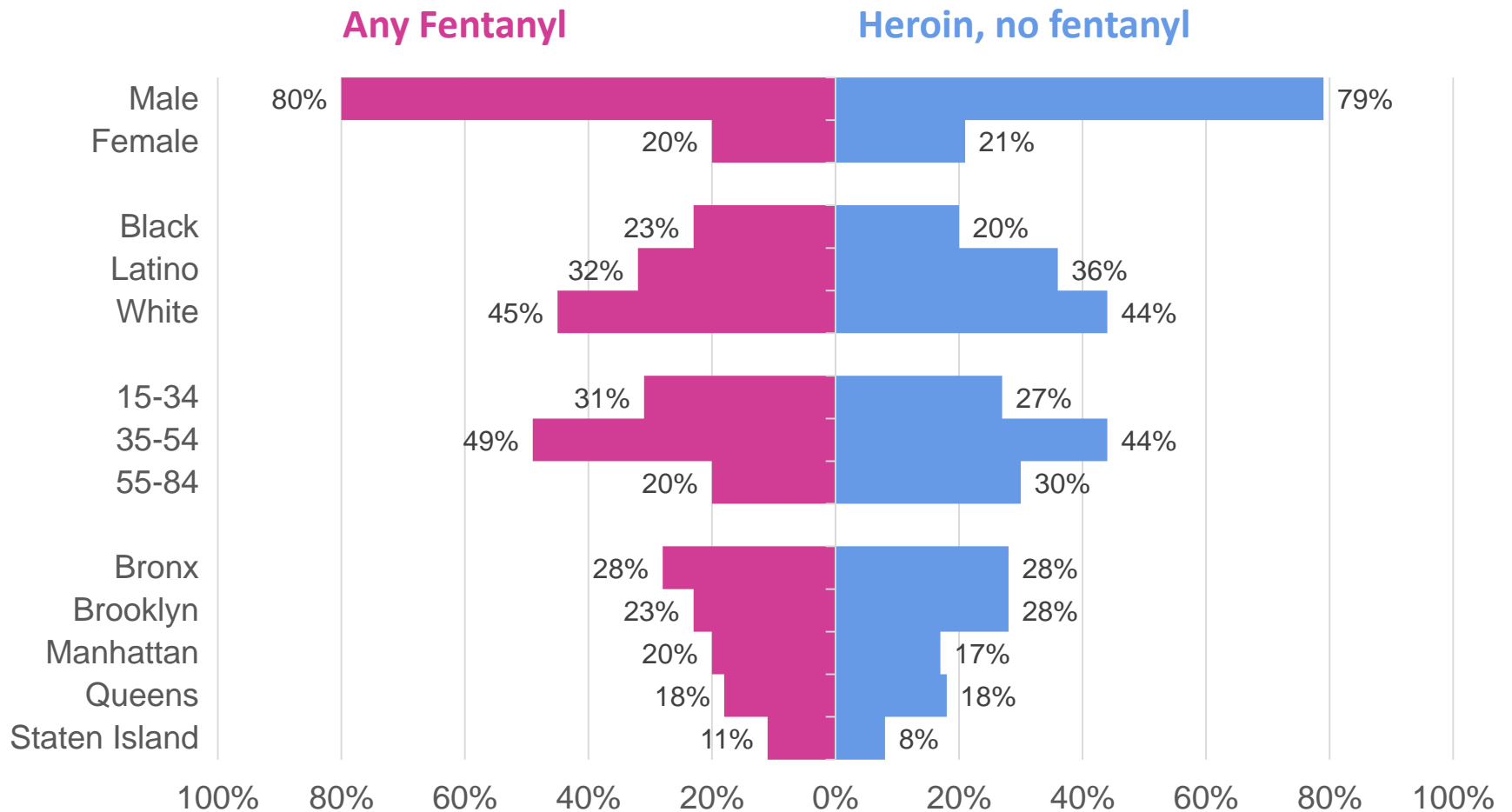
Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2015-2016\*  
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# Heroin or fentanyl involved in nearly all opioid overdoses in 2016



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2015-2016\*  
\*Data for 2015 and 2016 are provisional and subject to change (Published June 13, 2017)

# Demographic profiles of decedents with fentanyl the same as heroin w/o fentanyl



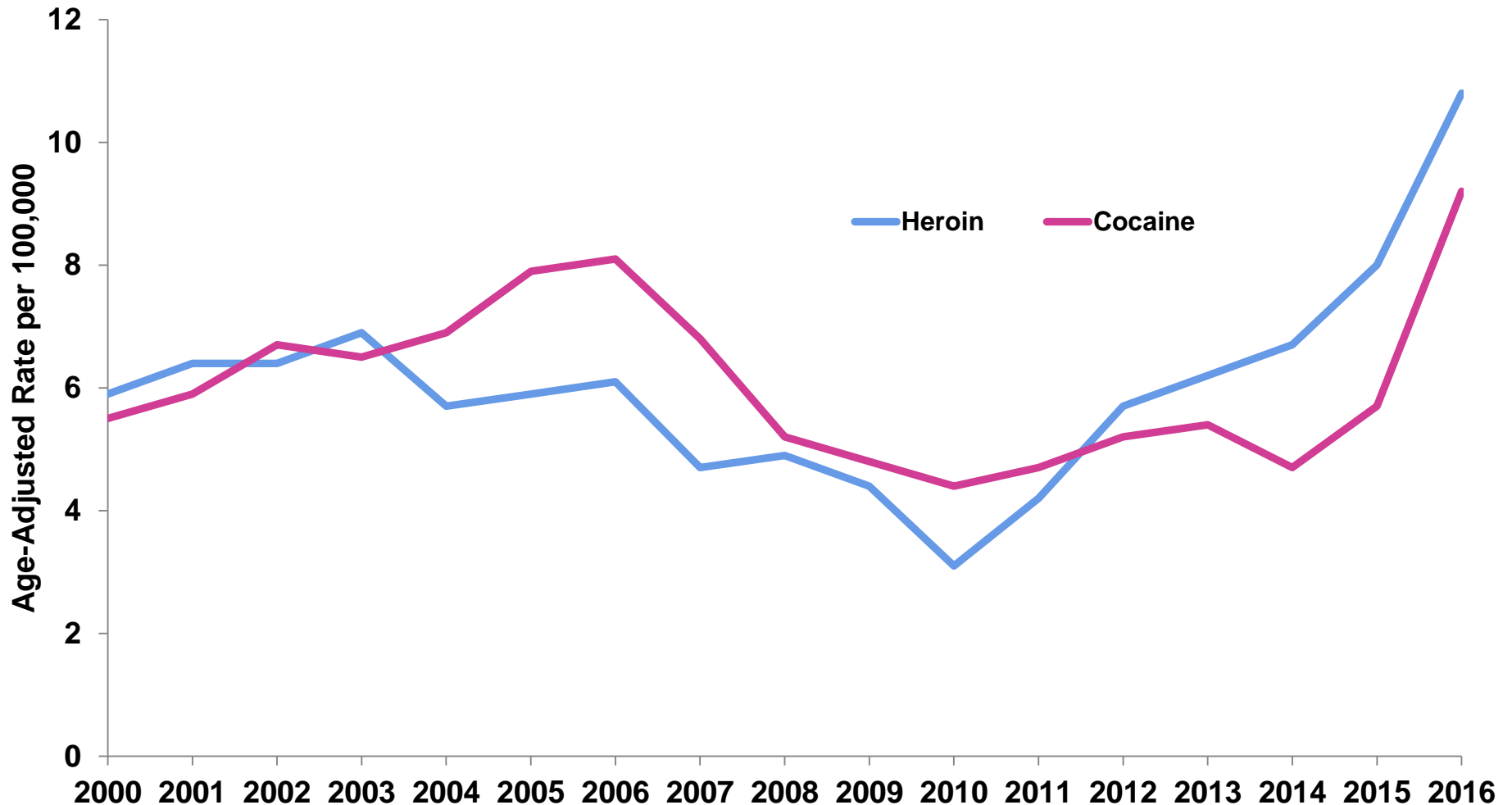
Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2016\*

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# **INCREASE IN COCAINE- INVOLVED OVERDOSES**

# Rate of unintentional drug poisoning deaths by drug type, NYC 2000-2016\*

(Drugs not mutually exclusive)

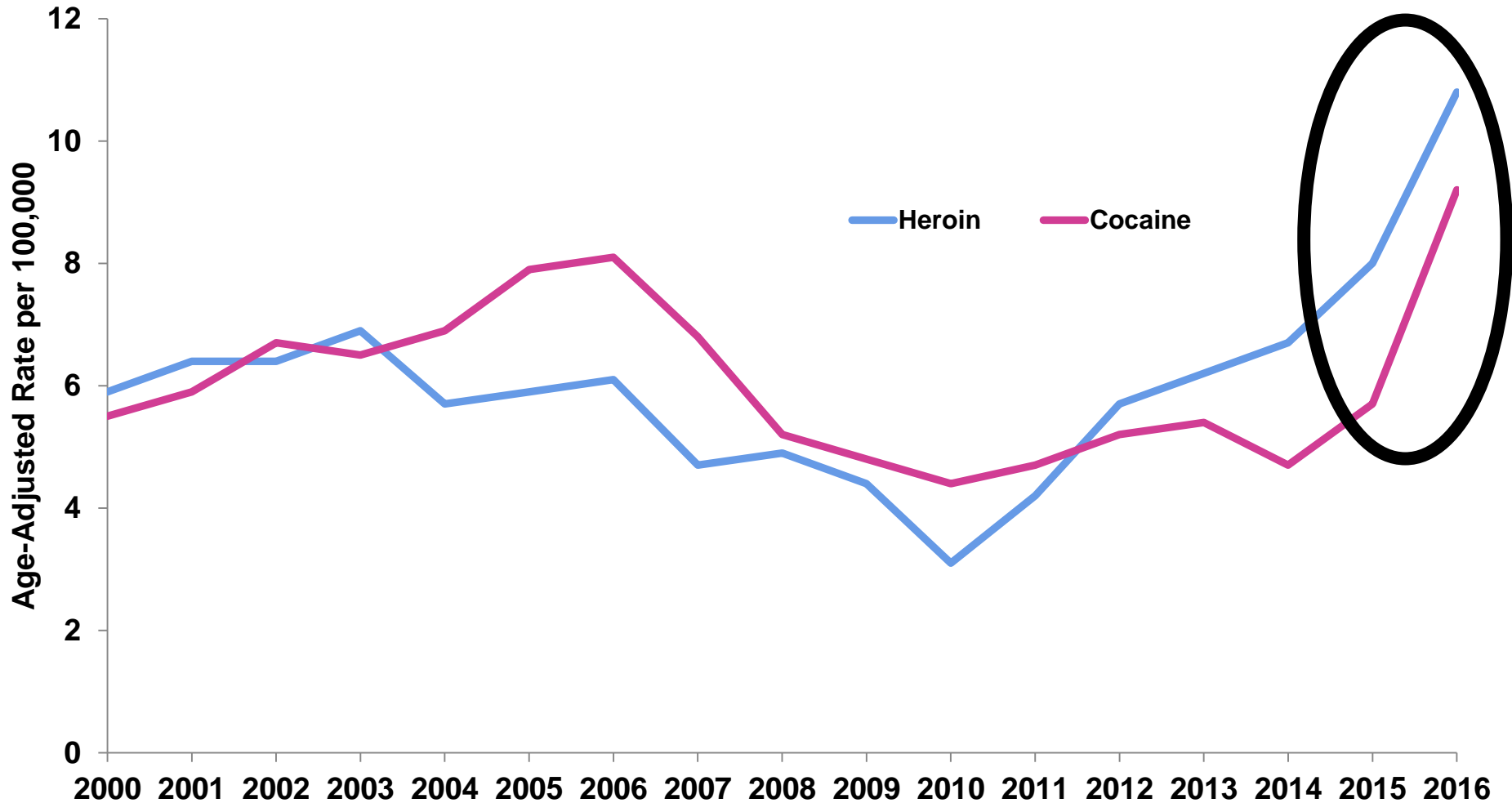


Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2000-2016\*

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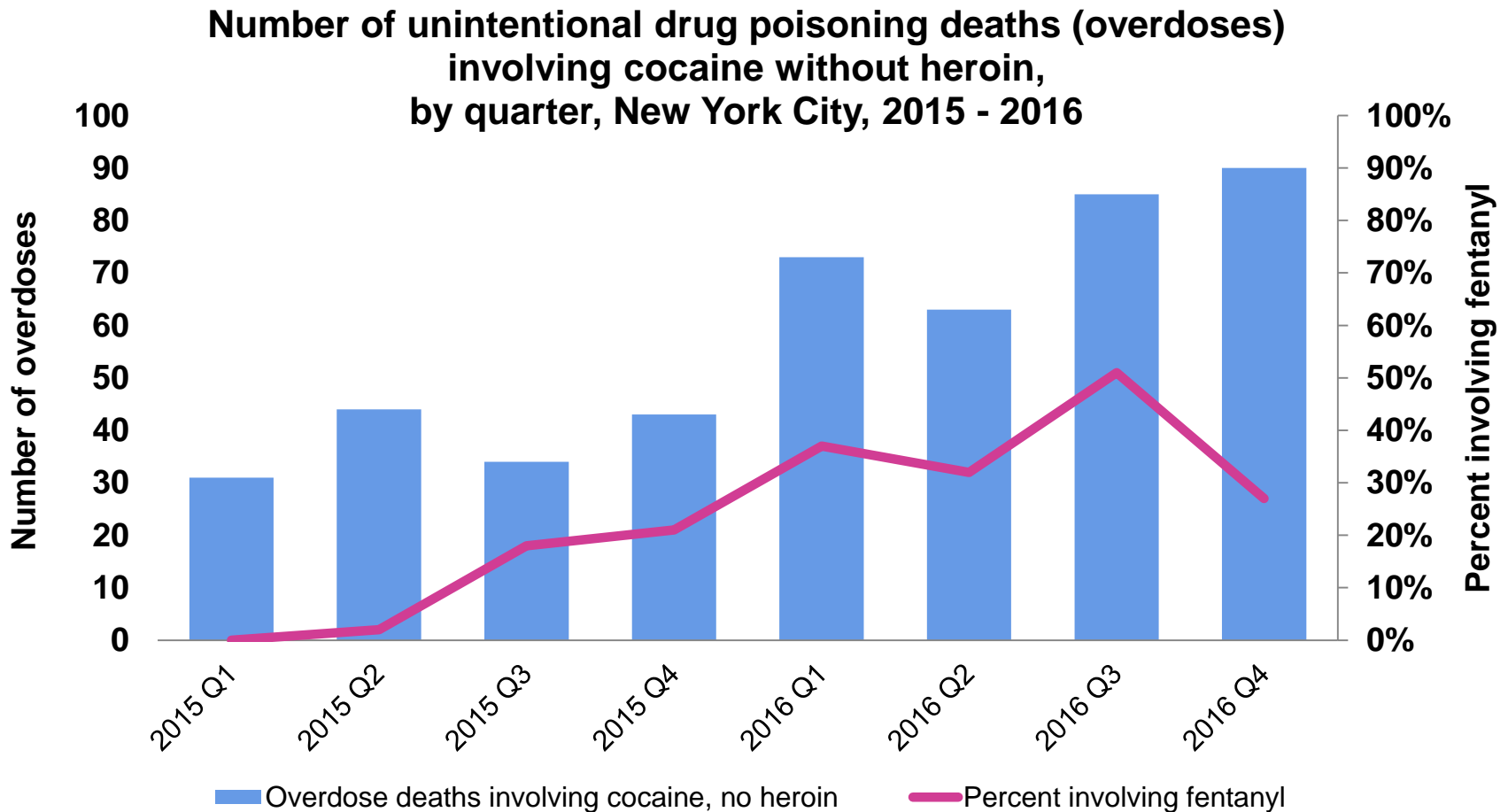


Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, 2000-2016\*

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# Fentanyl increasingly present in cocaine-involved overdoses



Source: New York City Office of the Chief Medical Examiner & New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene 2015-2016\*  
\*Data for 2015 and 2016 are provisional and subject to change (June 13, 2017)

# Thank you!

## Questions?



# **The Opioid Epidemic: Responses to Overdose in NYC**

Jonathan McAteer, MPH

Bureau of Alcohol and Drug Use Prevention,  
Care and Treatment

NYC Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

# New York City's response: HealingNYC

- \$38M per year investment announced by the Mayor in March 2017
- **Goal:** decrease opioid overdose deaths by 35 percent over 5 years
- 12 overall strategies
- Collaborative effort among multiple agencies



# DOHMH-led strategies

1. Naloxone expansion

2. Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR)

3. Relay: Non-fatal overdose response system

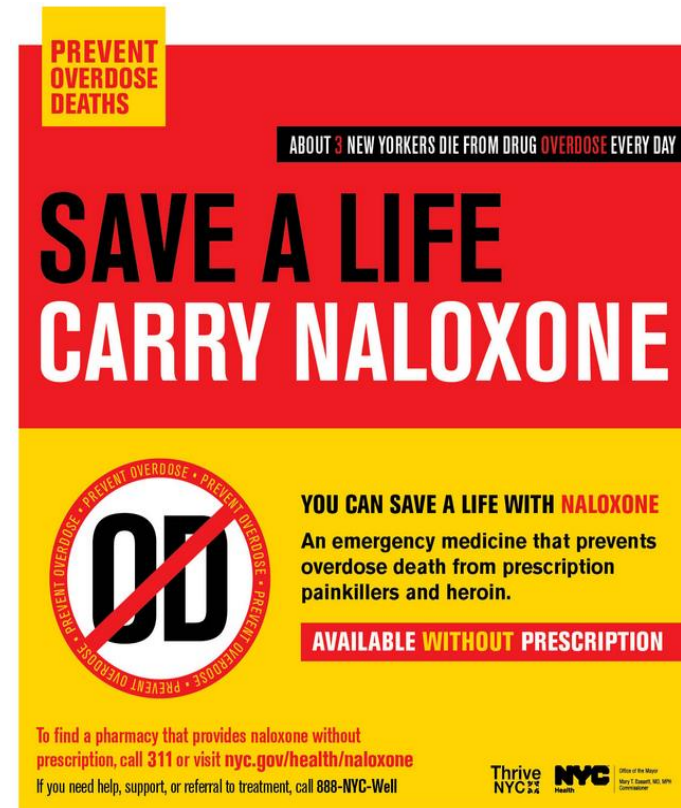
4. Public awareness campaigns

5. Judicious opioid prescribing

6. Buprenorphine access

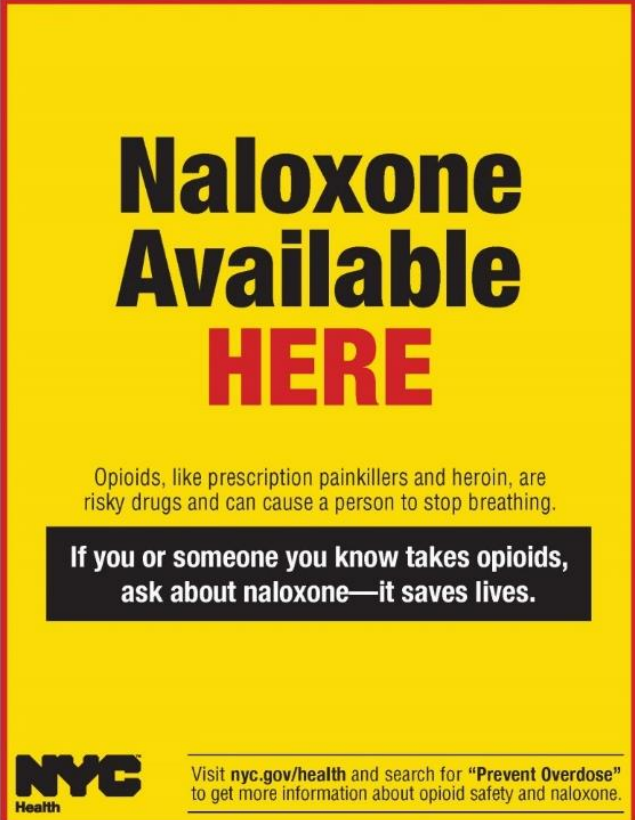
# Naloxone expansion

- Reach high risk populations
- Equip more public safety officers
- Encourage organizations to register as opioid overdose prevention programs
- Raise public awareness
- **Goal: Distribute 100,000 naloxone kits annually**



# Naloxone expansion

- **Naloxone available via standing order (no prescription needed)**
  - NYC Health Commissioner provides standing order to pharmacist to dispense naloxone
  - All major chain pharmacies carry naloxone
- **Goal: Expand the number of independent pharmacies participating in the standing order**



**Naloxone Available HERE**

Opioids, like prescription painkillers and heroin, are risky drugs and can cause a person to stop breathing.

**If you or someone you know takes opioids, ask about naloxone—it saves lives.**

**NYC**  
Health

Visit [nyc.gov/health](https://nyc.gov/health) and search for "Prevent Overdose" to get more information about opioid safety and naloxone.

# Rapid Assessment and Response (RAR)

- Method of quickly gathering data and information from stakeholders in response to a time-sensitive problem
- Informed by infectious disease/outbreak investigation models
- Investigations targeted to specific geographies and/or demographic groups
- Process includes: mapping, interviews, surveys, observation, site visits, and canvassing
- Disseminate findings to key stakeholders and coordinate response strategies with public safety and other partners



# Examples of public health rapid response

- Health alert flyer in targeted communities
- Targeted distribution of naloxone
- In-person visits to service providers
  - Provide data on fentanyl and mortality
  - Distribute fentanyl awareness materials
  - Encourage non-registered community based organizations to enroll as opioid overdose prevention programs



# Relay: NYC DOHMH

## nonfatal overdose response system

- The occasion of a nonfatal overdose is an opportunity for intervention
- Relay program model based on pilot program in Rhode Island
- Partner with emergency departments (ED) in NYC hospitals located in high-risk neighborhoods
- 10 hospitals over 3 years
- Launched in June of 2017



# Relay: NYC DOHMH

## nonfatal overdose response system

- Wellness Advocates (trained peer workers) dispatched to partner EDs 24/7 to engage individuals after a non-fatal overdose
- Participants will be offered
  - Overdose risk reduction counseling
  - Opioid overdose rescue training and naloxone
  - Follow-up, referrals, and navigation to harm reduction, drug treatment, or other services
- Provide follow-up engagement for up to 90 days
- More than 91 participants engaged to date

# Raise public awareness

“I saved a life” campaign launched in May 2017



**“I SAVED MY BEST FRIEND’S LIFE”**

“I’ve had one best friend I could always rely on. A few years ago, we were hanging out. He looked like he was falling asleep. I shook him to wake him up but couldn’t. He was overdosing. I gave him a dose of naloxone and he came back. Today, I still have my best friend.”

~Shantae, Bronx

**NALOXONE** is an emergency medicine that prevents overdose death from prescription painkillers and heroin.

To find out more about naloxone and where to get it, call **311** or visit [nyc.gov/health/naloxone](http://nyc.gov/health/naloxone).

If you need help or referral to treatment call, **888-NYC-Well**.

Thrive NYC **NYC** HEALTH



**“I SAVED MY NEIGHBOR’S LIFE”**

“I took a different way home from work one night and found my neighbor on the ground. He was blue and not breathing. I gave him naloxone, which I always carry, and in 2 minutes he was breathing again. As we waited for the ambulance, it hit me that if I hadn’t come home this way, his family would be getting a very different phone call that night.”

~Evelyn, Manhattan

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Thrive NYC **NYC** HEALTH

# Thank you!

# Questions?

To request copies of our educational material, posters, or ads, please contact Cindy Moy at [cmoy2@health.nyc.gov](mailto:cmoy2@health.nyc.gov)