



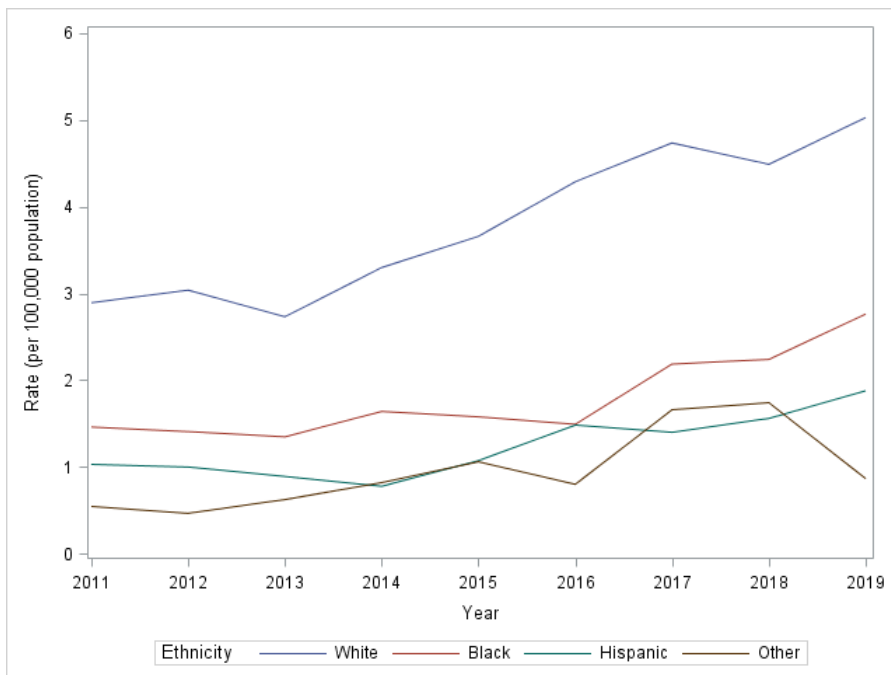
Race/Ethnicity Trends in Polysubstance Overdose Deaths in Texas, 2010–2019

Polysubstance use means a person has used more than one drug, with or without their knowledge, at once. From 2010 to 2019, polysubstance opioid overdose deaths increased across nearly all racial/ethnic groups.

While the greatest rates and counts of polysubstance opioid overdose deaths were seen among non-Hispanic Whites, non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics also saw marked increases in deaths over the last 10 years.

From 2011 to 2019, polysubstance overdose death rates approximately doubled among non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and Hispanic populations, with 2019 seeing the highest rates among these groups.

Figure 1: Polysubstance Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011–2019

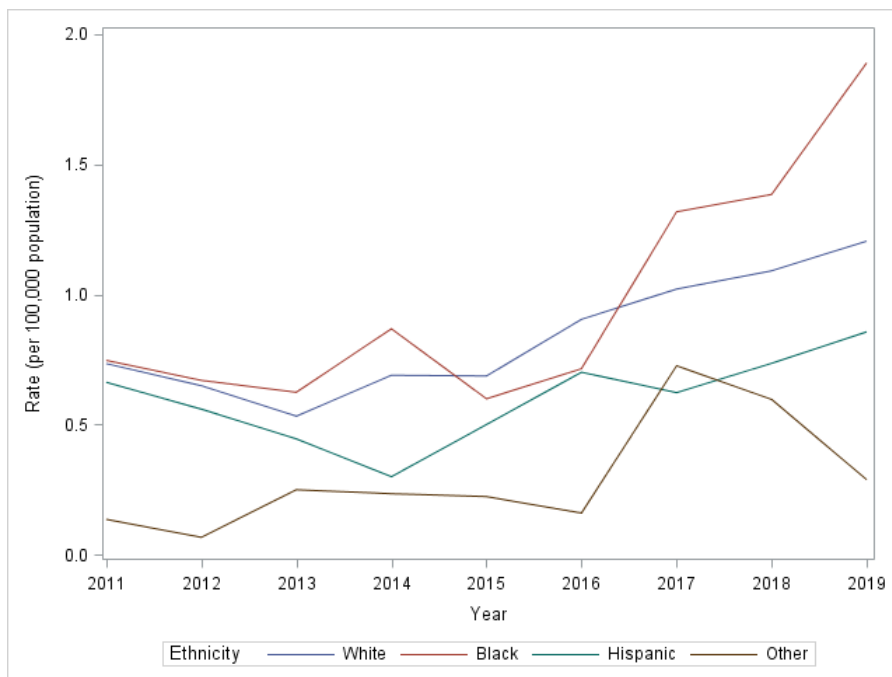


Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Section death certificate data.

Much of the increase in overdose deaths over the past decade is due to a co-involvement of opioids and non-opioid substances. The largest percentage change increases in this type of overdose from 2011 to 2019 occurred among non-Hispanic Black persons (89 percent), followed by Hispanic (83 percent), non-Hispanic White (76 percent), and non-Hispanic Asian and persons in Other, which includes all other non-Hispanic racial groups (59 percent).

Polysubstance overdose deaths involving opioids and cocaine increased from 2010 to 2019. The rate of death for this combination more than quadrupled among non-Hispanic Blacks from 2011 to 2019, accounting for the highest rate among all race/ethnicity groups since 2017.

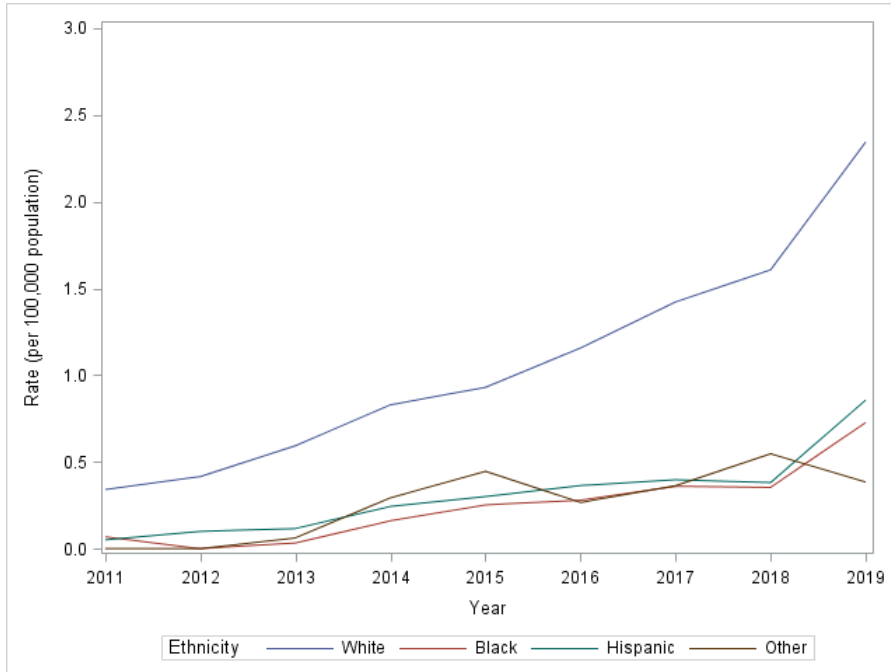
Figure 2: Opioid and Cocaine Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011–2019



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Section death certificate data.

Rates of death involving a combination of opioids and psychostimulants increased across all racial/ethnic group categories and more than doubled among non-Hispanic Blacks and Hispanics from 2018 to 2019.

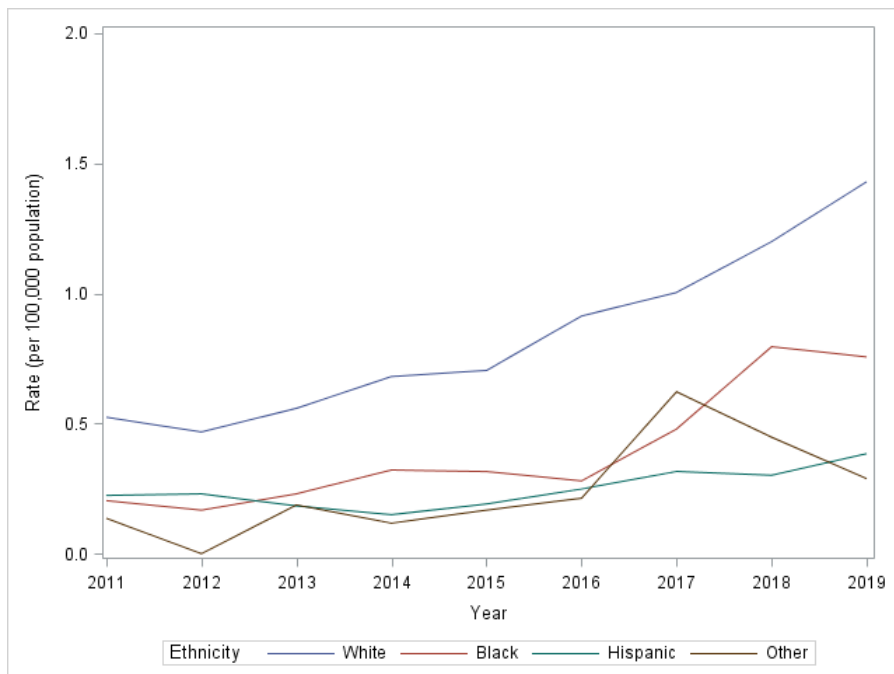
Figure 3: Opioid and Psychostimulants Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011–2019



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Section death certificate data.

The rate of death caused by multiple types of opioids (opioid co-occurrence) more than doubled across nearly all racial/ethnic groups from 2011 to 2019, except among Hispanic populations.

Figure 4: Opioid Co-Occurrence Overdose Death Rates by Race/Ethnicity, 2011–2019



Source: Texas Department of State Health Services Vital Statistics Section death certificate data.

Next Steps

Steady increases in polysubstance overdose deaths among non-Hispanic White, non-Hispanic Black, and Hispanic populations point to a need for health equity and prevention and intervention efforts at the individual, community, and policy level to ensure service access is readily available for all Texans.

Public health initiatives aimed at preventing and treating substance use disorder and opioid use disorder should focus on the intersectionality of race/ethnicity with other important sociodemographic characteristics (e.g., sex and gender, place, socioeconomic status, education level) to better address health and treatment outcome disparities.

Resources

Texas Targeted Opioid Response strategies: <https://txopioidresponse.org>

Additional Texas overdose death data:

<https://healthdata.dshs.texas.gov/dashboard/drugs-and-alcohol/drug-overdose-deaths#>

Polysubstance use in the United States:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/deaths/other-drugs.html>