

Opioid Mortality and Selected Trends

2019 South Carolina Overdose Mortality Data Executive Summary

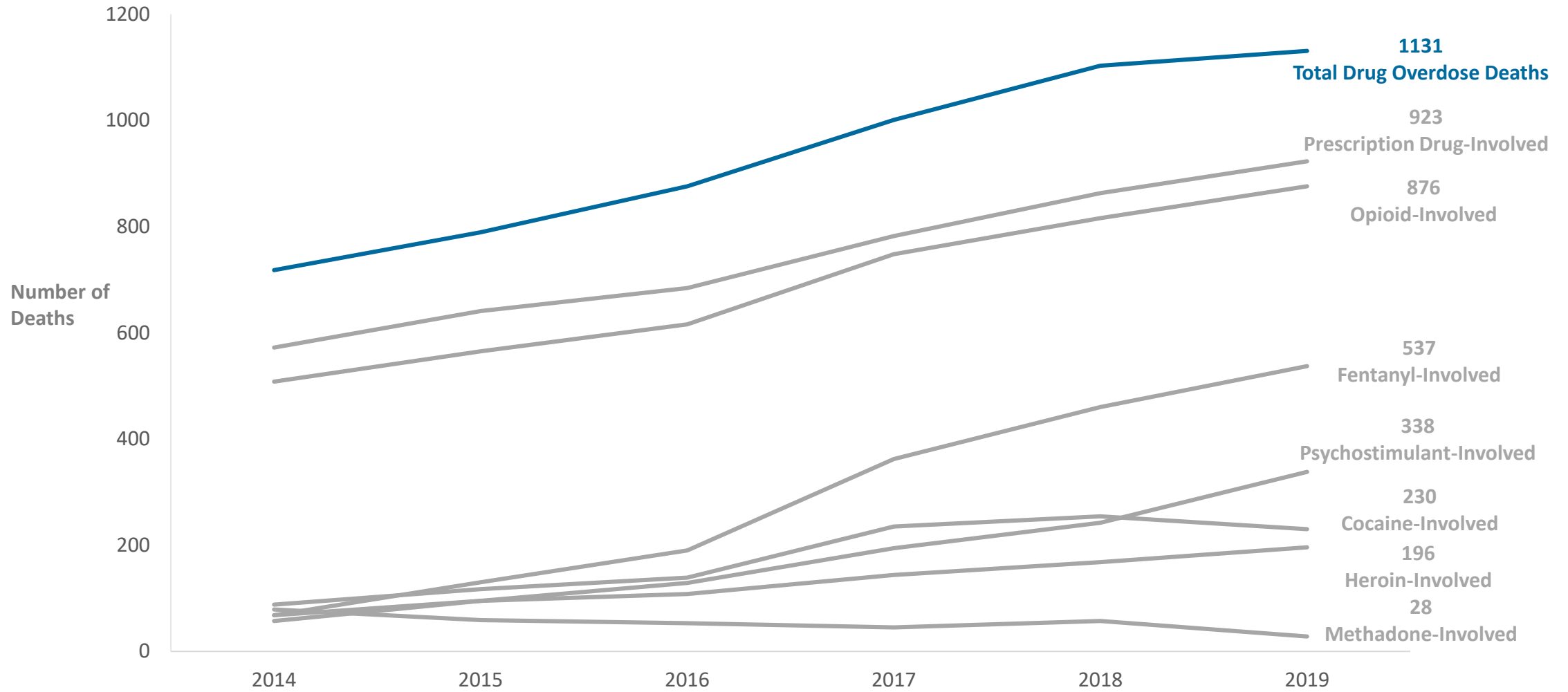


2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 898-3649
Fax: (803) 898-3661



1801 Main Street
Columbia, SC 29201
Phone: (803) 896-5555
Fax: (803) 896-5557

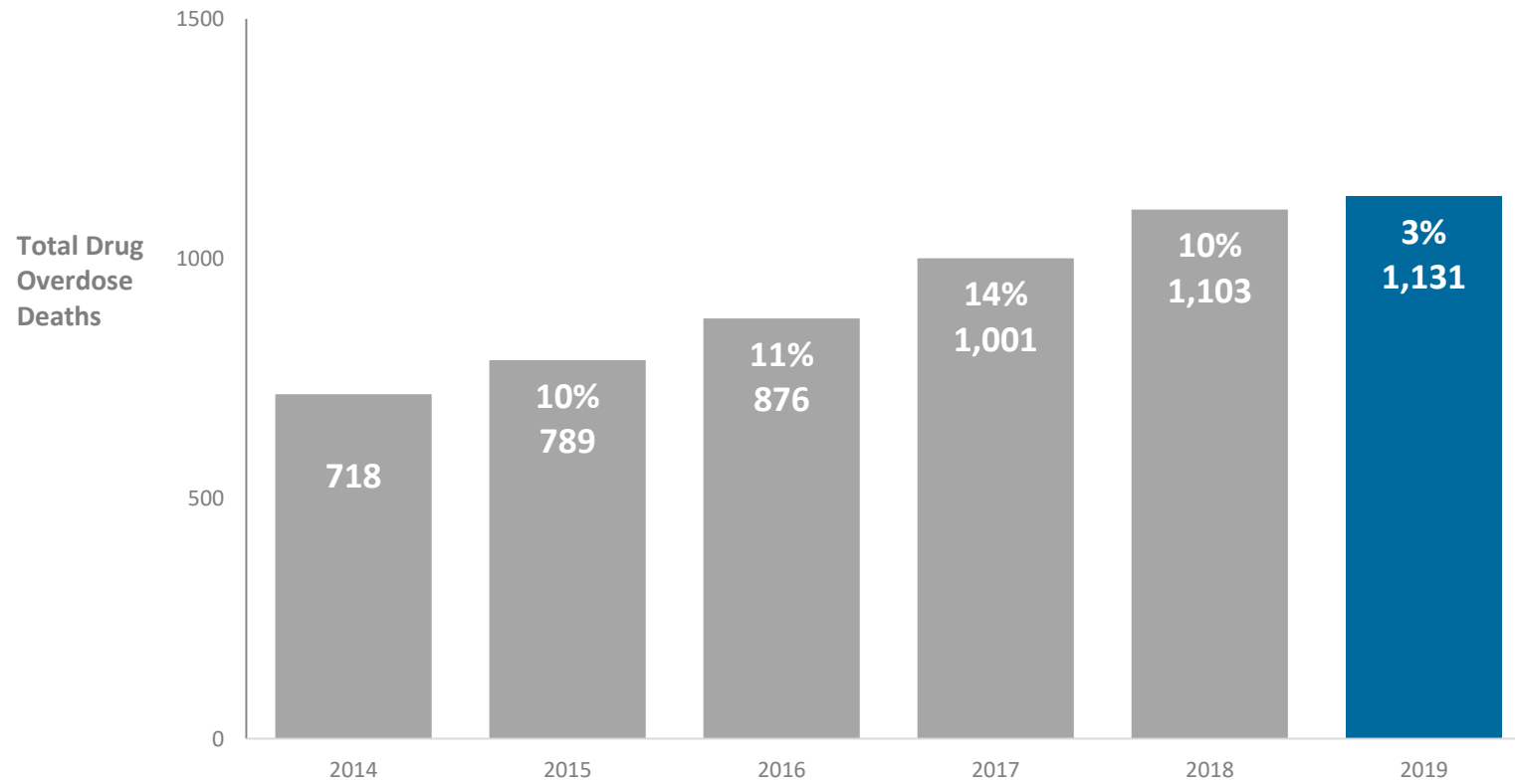
Total drug overdose deaths in SC increased by 3% from 2018 to 2019, compared with a 5% increase nationwide ¹



Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

¹[CDC, National Center for Health Statistics](#)

The year-over-year **increase in all drug mortality slowed** over the past two years; total drug overdose deaths increased 3% from 2018 to 2019, down from a 10% increase between 2017 and 2018



Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

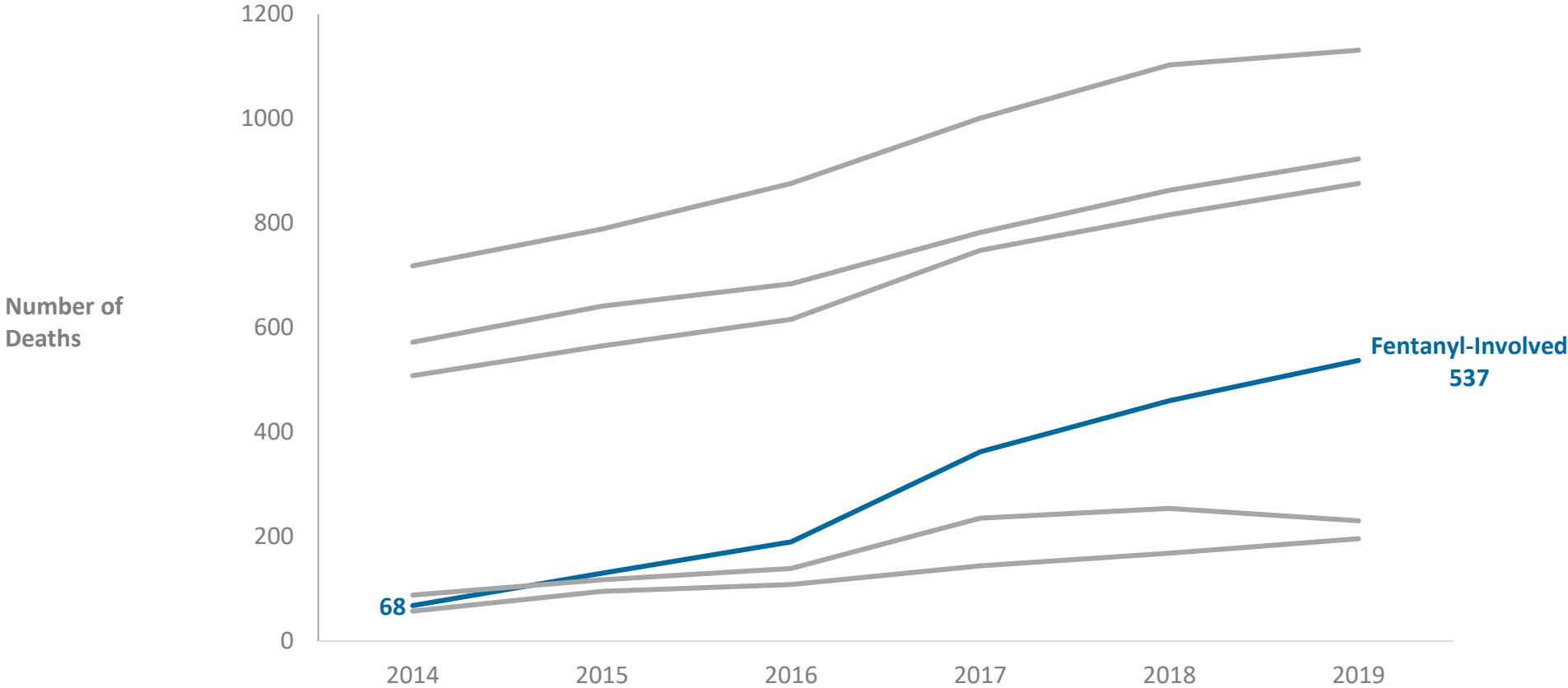
The largest increase in 2019 occurred with psychostimulant-involved deaths (40%); deaths decreased involving cocaine (-9%) and methadone (-51%)

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2018-2019 Percent Change	
Total Drug Overdose	718	789	876	1001	1103	1131		3%
Prescription Drug-Involved	572	641	684	782	863	923		7%
Opioid-Involved	508	565	616	748	816	876		7%
Fentanyl-Involved	68	130	190	362	460	537		17%
Heroin-Involved	57	95	108	144	168	196		17%
Psychostimulant-Involved	68	95	129	194	242	338		40%
Cocaine-Involved	88	117	139	235	254	230	-9%	
Methadone-Involved	79	59	53	45	57	28	-51%	

Year-over-year increase in drug mortality in fentanyl, total drug, prescription drug, and opioid-involved deaths slowed over the past two years.

Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

Fentanyl-involved deaths have seen the greatest increase in number and percentage over time; the 2019 count was nearly eight times the count in 2014



Fentanyl can be a prescription or illicit drug, but most fentanyl-related overdoses nationwide are connected with illicitly manufactured fentanyl (IMF).²

Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

²[CDC, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control](#)

In 2019, the number of opioid-involved deaths decreased or saw no change in 21 counties.

The largest percent decrease³ occurred in **Dorchester County**.

The number of opioid-involved deaths increased in 25 counties.

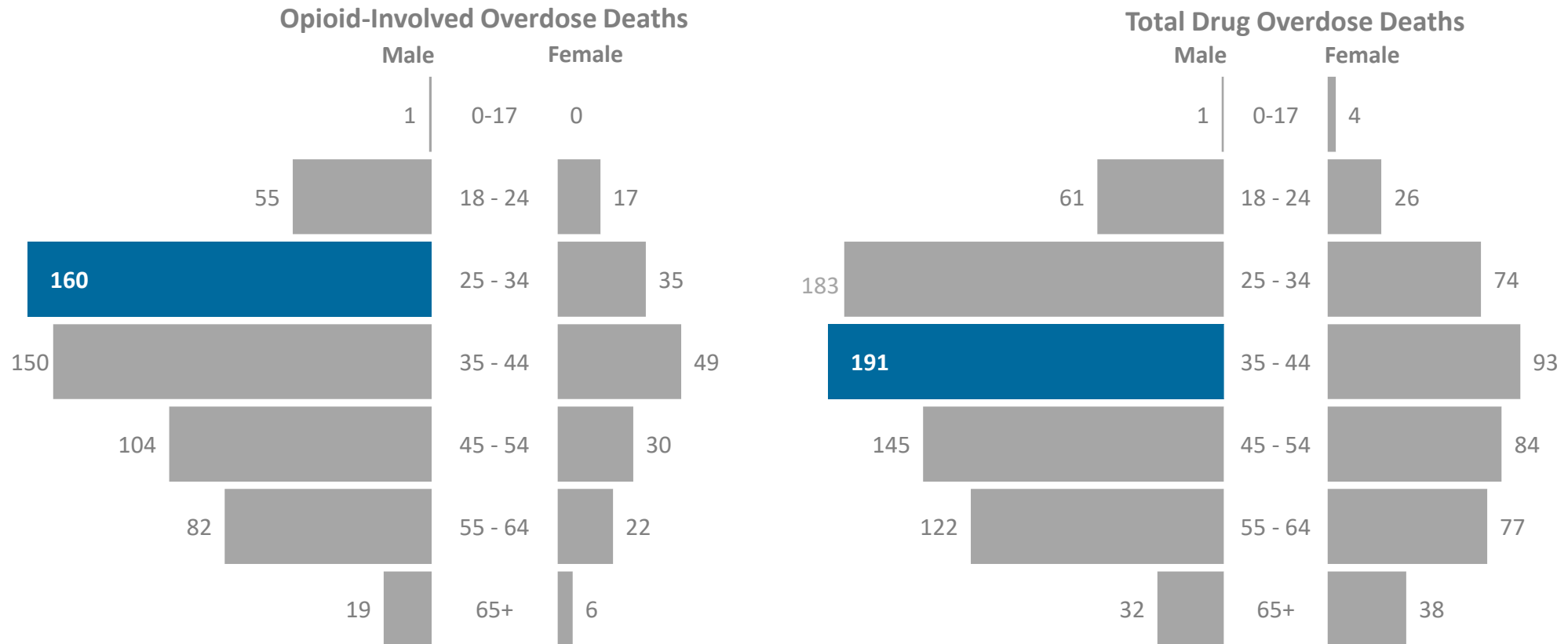
The largest percent increase³ occurred in **Lancaster County**.

Decrease	
Dorchester	-53%
Aiken	-22%
Greenville	-22%
Georgetown	-19%
Laurens	-17%
Florence	-8%
Spartanburg	-2%

Increase	
Lancaster	167%
Orangeburg	88%
Anderson	80%
Horry	54%
Berkeley	29%
Lexington	14%
Beaufort	14%
York	14%
Sumter	12%
Charleston	7%
Oconee	7%
Richland	2%

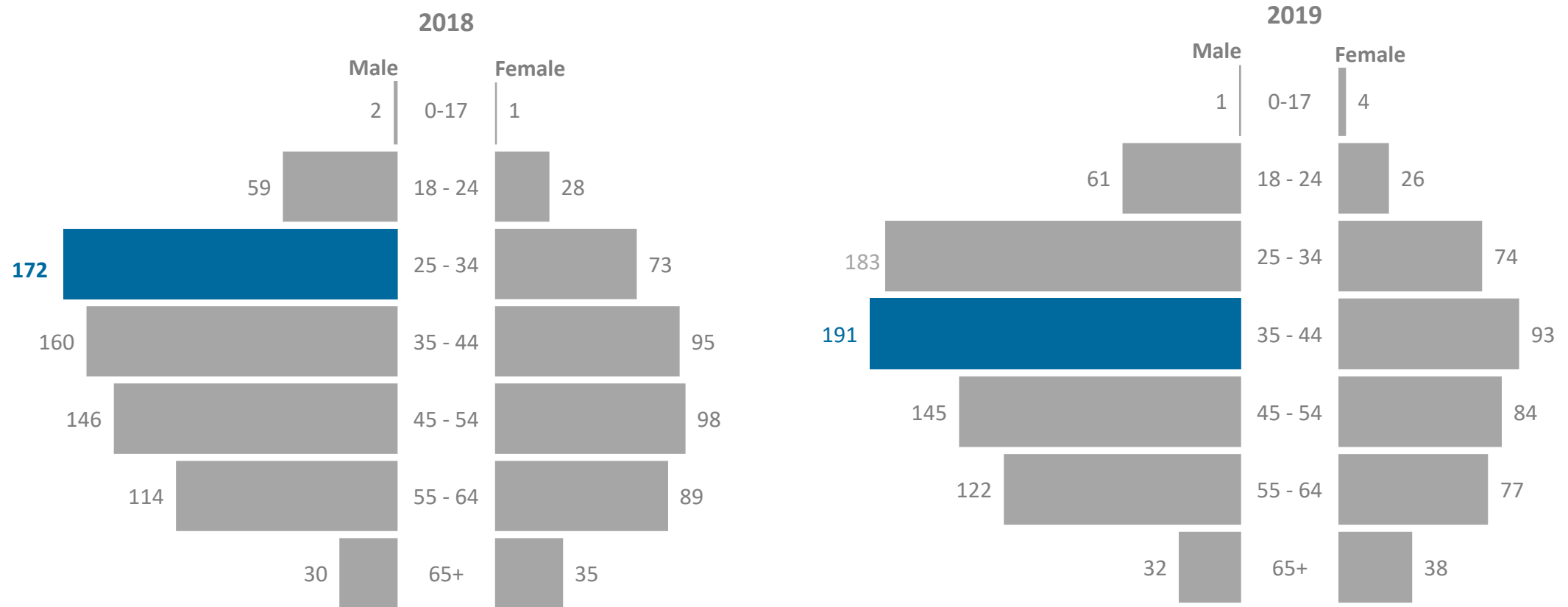
³Percent change not calculated for counties with less than 10 reported opioid-involved deaths in 2019.

Men have a higher burden of overdose deaths than women overall; the highest number of overdose deaths among men in 2019 occurred in ages **25-34** for opioid-involved and ages **35-44** for all drugs



Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

The burden of all drug overdose deaths among men shifted to an **older** age group from 2018 to 2019



Data source: SC Department of Health and Environmental Control, Vital Statistics

Overdose Response Efforts

Local: Many counties have implemented efforts to enhance and support response and prevention, often through unified task forces and coalitions, which may have contributed to the slowed increase in the number of total drug overdose deaths.

State: In 2017, Governor Henry McMaster declared the state's opioid crisis to be a public health emergency and established the South Carolina Opioid Emergency Response Team (OERT). The SC OERT developed a multilateral strategy to prevent and treat the misuse of prescription opioids and use of illicit opioids in order to strengthen public health, security, safety, and the economic well-being of the citizens of South Carolina.⁴ The strategies are regularly reviewed and updated to best serve South Carolinians in confronting the opioid epidemic. The full response plan can be found at: <https://scemd.org/em-professionals/plans/opioid-emergency-response-plan/>

DAODAS and DHEC have received federal funding through the State Opioid Response (SOR) and the Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grants to expand prevention, treatment, and response initiatives.

A detailed overdose mortality report and other updates for various indicators of substance use and overdose, including hospital admissions and Narcan[®] administrations, is available at the state and county level. Find more information at <http://justplainkillers.com/data/>.

⁴South Carolina Opioid Emergency Response Plan (SCOERP)