



# EMPOWER HENRICO

Preventing, Treating and  
Combating Substance Use

**January 2026 Overdose Response Strategy (ORS)  
Trends, Analysis & Threats Webinar Summary**

**Empower Task Force Meeting  
January 15, 2026**

# ABOUT THE OVERDOSE RESPONSE STRATEGY\*

The ORS is a nationally coordinated, cross-sector collaboration between public health and public safety. The mission of the ORS is to help communities reduce fatal and non-fatal drug overdoses by connecting public health and public safety agencies, sharing information and supporting evidence-based interventions.

## ORS Program Goals:

1. Share data systems to inform rapid and effective community overdose prevention efforts
2. Support immediate, evidence-based response efforts that can directly reduce overdose deaths
3. Design and use promising strategies at the intersection of public health and public safety
4. Support the implementation of evidence-informed prevention strategies that can reduce substance use and overdose

*\*ORS acknowledges that all data is shared voluntarily by data owners in advance of public release and can be preliminary and incomplete. ORS does not own or manage any of the data presented.*

# January 2026 ORS-TAT Presenters:

## **Millennium Health**

### **Levi Bolin | Associate Director, Clinical Affairs**

Levi Bolin, presented highlights from the 2025 Millennium Health Signals Report, including current drug use patterns and emerging threats.

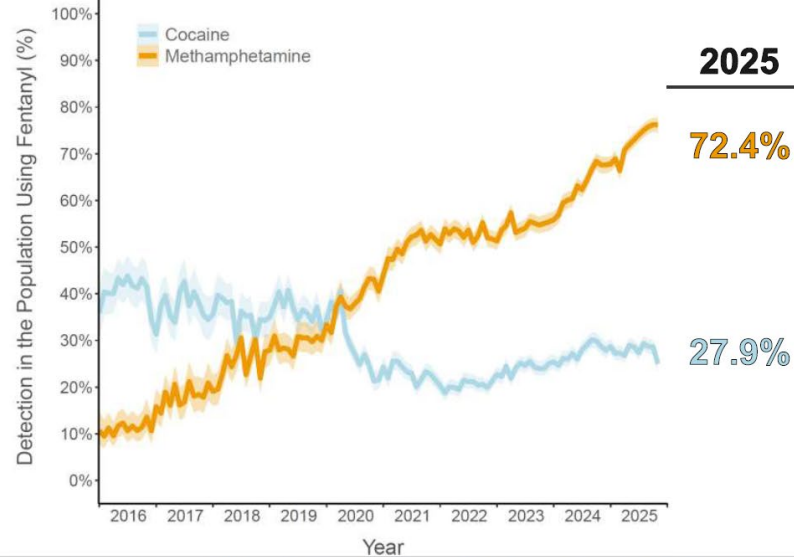
## **University of North Carolina Drug Analysis Lab**

### **Dr. Nabarun Dasgupta | Senior Scientist**

Dr. Dasgupta provided an overview of the UNC Street Drug Analysis Lab and shared key findings of the current illicit drug supply.

# Items of Interest-National/Regional trends

## National Detection of Fentanyl-Associated Polysubstance Use Involving Cocaine and Methamphetamine



Methamphetamine co-use alongside fentanyl is accelerating: In Millennium Health's 2025 clinical urine drug test (UDT) data, meth was detected in 72.4% of fentanyl-positive specimens (15.5% increase from 2024).

**Regionally, the South saw the sharpest rise (+40.7% from 2024),** while the West remained highest overall (85.0% in 2025).

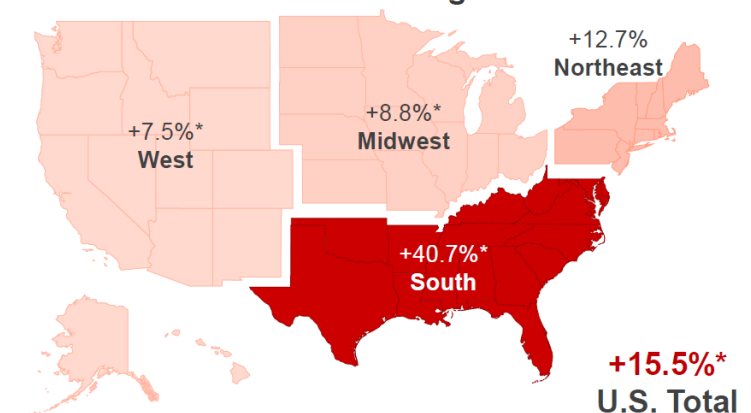
## Regional Detection of Methamphetamine Use in the Population Using Fentanyl (2024 vs. 2025)



### Detection Rates

Census Region	2024	2025
West	79.1%	85.0%
Midwest	43.0%	46.8%
South	31.3%	44.1%
Northeast	30.5%	34.3%
U.S. Total	62.7%	72.4%

### Percent Change



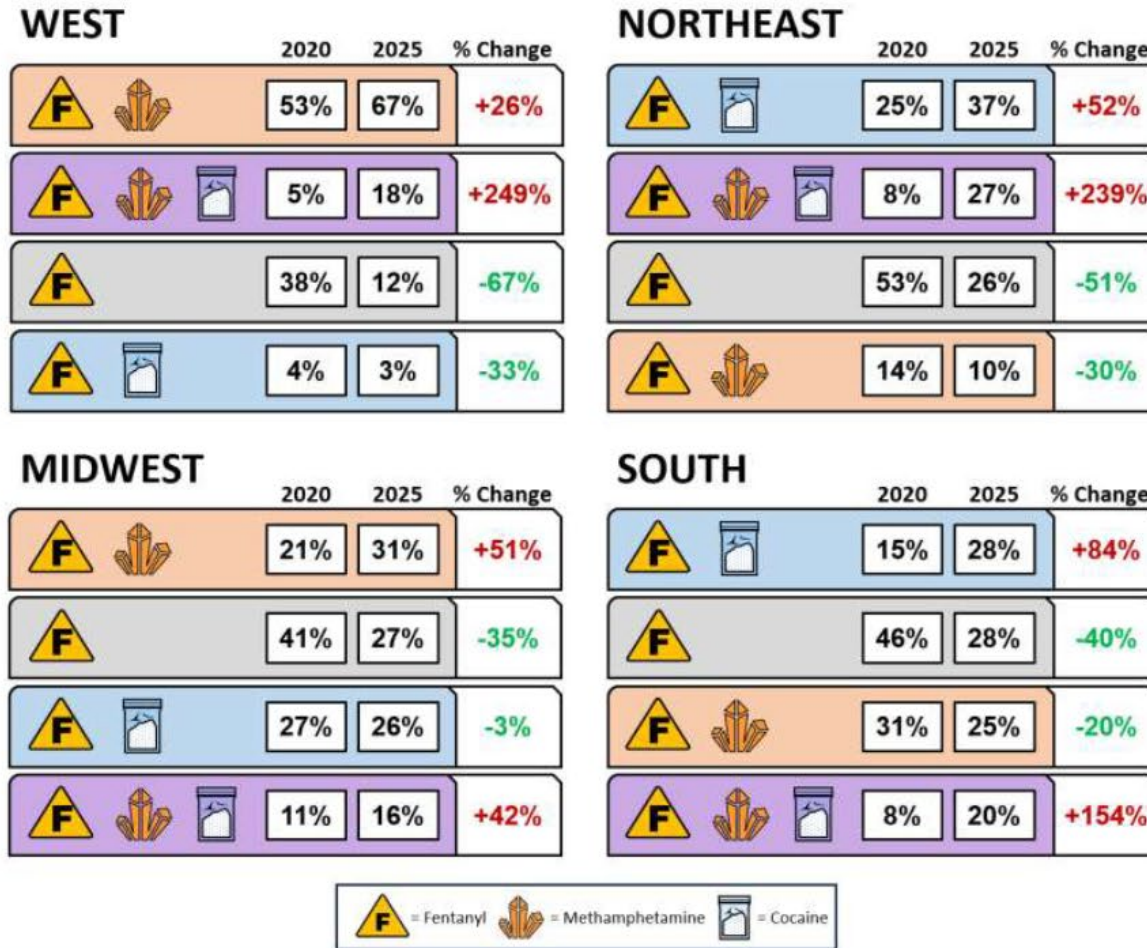
# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends

**Polysubstance use is the rule, not the exception, among people using fentanyl:**

In 2025, ~82.5% of fentanyl-positive specimens also contained an illicit stimulant (methamphetamine and/or cocaine), while ~20.3% had fentanyl plus heroin and/or prescription opioid.

**Overall stimulant detection in this population is now higher than fentanyl, and stimulant use without fentanyl rose to roughly the same detection rate as fentanyl in 2025.**

## Regional Detection of Fentanyl-Stimulant Combinations



# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends

## Conclusions

After an extended period of decline and rebound in late 2024 early 2025, fentanyl detection rates generally fell throughout 2025

Heroin co-detection rates surged in late 2024 as fentanyl detection rates reached their lowest level since 2020, but plummeted as fentanyl quickly returned to 2023 levels (disruption of illicit fentanyl supply?)

**Stimulant use remains a major—and still growing—concern across the U.S., especially among people who use fentanyl**

No stimulant overdose reversal agents or FDA-approved medications for stimulant use disorders

Treatment of co-occurring opioid and stimulant use disorders may be particularly challenging

Chronic, heavy use of stimulants associated with significant psychiatric complications, the development of chronic health conditions, and elevated infectious-disease risk

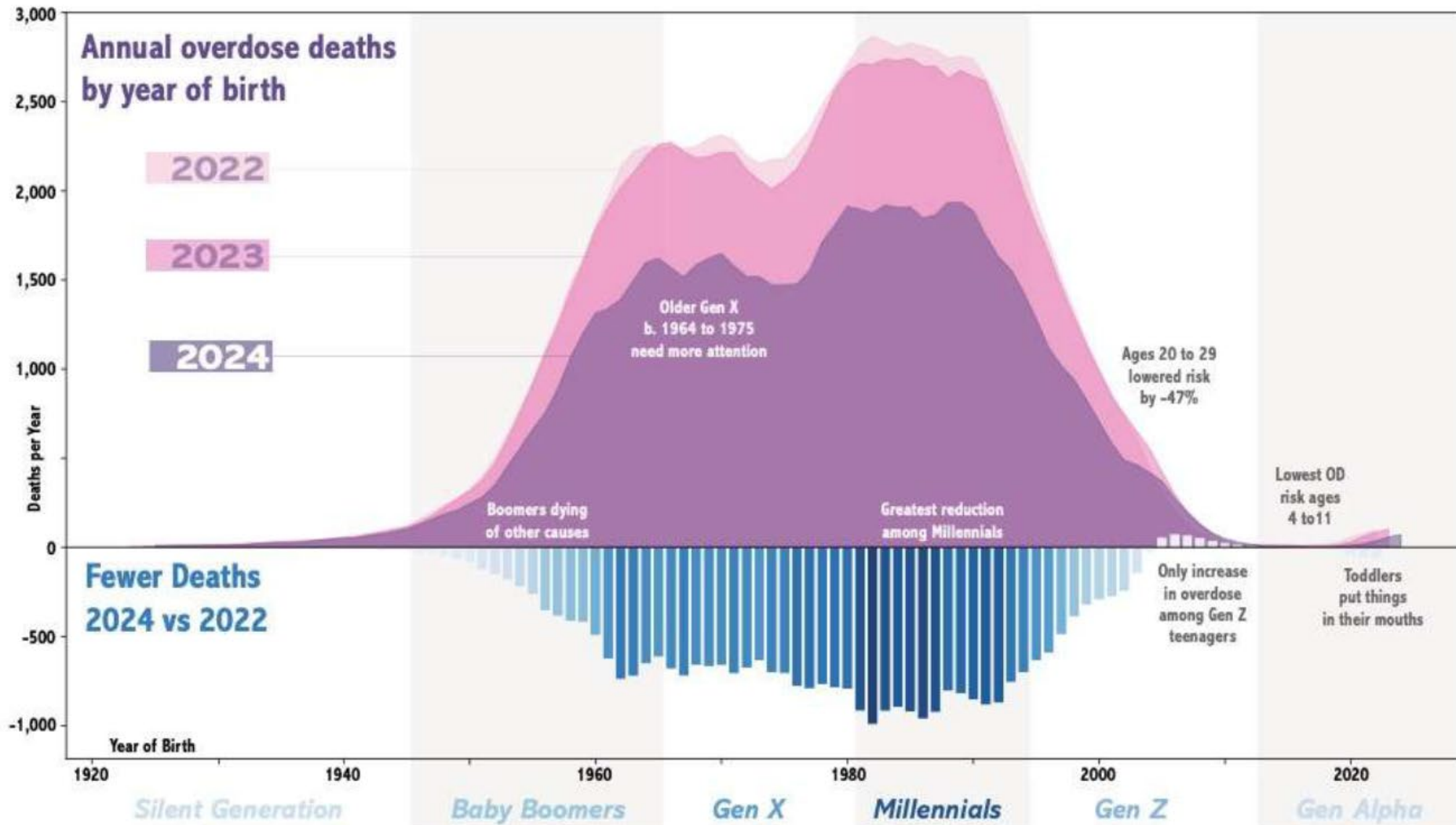
Widespread dissemination and utilization of effective, evidence-based interventions desperately needed

# Henrico County Top 10 Substance Combination Trends, 2015 to present

Calendar Year	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
<b>Substance Combination</b>											
Cocaine	< 5	356	549	612	838	673	695	645	753	814	820
Marijuana	< 5	297	405	386	411	254	106	96	135	128	177
Heroin	< 5	431	344	269	476	176	71	30	5	12	7
Fentanyl	< 5	16	35	36	78	136	167	161	262	201	112
Methamphetamine	< 5	21	25	43	109	127	140	178	165	181	171
Buprenorphine + Naloxone	< 5	24	51	60	105	79	98	49	90	92	74
Fentanyl + Heroin	< 5	35	59	67	100	120	64	86	52	57	22
Alprazolam	< 5	92	79	65	65	35	25	23	25	26	21
Amphetamine	< 5	30	54	53	40	33	22	19	23	22	20
Oxycodone	< 5	57	66	45	43	25	24	15	11	9	20

Source: VA Substance Use Disorder Analytics (SUDA) site: <https://suda.virginia.gov/reports/public>

# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends



Source: CDC WONDER, processed and analyzed by UNC Opioid Data Lab

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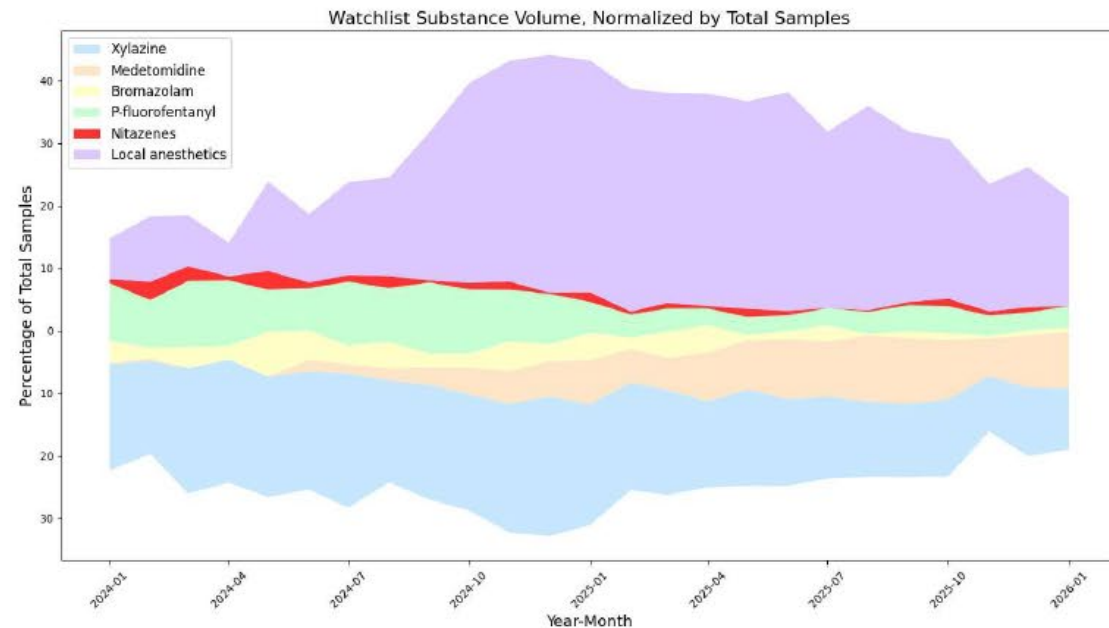
Demographics of overdose risk are shifting by generation: Overdose deaths remain **concentrated among Gen X and Millennials (~70%), with Millennials carrying the highest burden.**

**Declines may reflect a combination of factors including less risky use patterns, older cohorts 'aging out', and fewer youth initiating fentanyl use.**

# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends

## Common and Puzzling: Numbing Agents

- Lidocaine, procaine, tetracaine
- Initially an East Coast phenomenon, but now spreading
- Procaine: serious cardiac complications possible



# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends

## Anticipated in 2026

### 1. Expect dominant nitazenes species to change in 2026.

Example: Seeing fewer samples containing metonitazene

### 2. Methadone Analogues (rare)

- Emerging in Europe in the wake of China nitazene production ban\*

Examples:

Dipyanone

Methiodone (IC-26)

*One sample seen from the Midwest, where the donor expected IC-26*

### 3. Orphines (rare)

- Emerging in Europe in the wake of China nitazene production ban\*

Examples:

Brorphine

Cyclorphine

*One sample seen from the Midwest, where it was mixed in with a lot of other drugs*

*\*In June 2025, China's Ministry of Public Security, National Health Commission and National Medical Products Administration jointly announced placing nitazene analogues under national control using a generic definition.*

# Items of Interest-National/Regional Trends Anticipated in 2026

## Making Sense of the Moment

Are fatal overdoses down overall? ✓

Is there less fentanyl in the supply? ✓

Are fewer people starting to use fentanyl? ✓

Are fewer people using fentanyl daily? ✓

Are people taking less fentanyl? ✓

Are people using less often? ✓

**But there are worse things replacing fentanyl, with a mix of known acute and medium-term health risks.**

# QUESTIONS?

**Link to register for future  
ORS TAT Webinars:  
[ORS TAT Webinar Series Registration Link](#)**

## APPENDIX



Jan2026 ORS-TAT  
Slides



Jan2026 ORS-TAT  
Summary