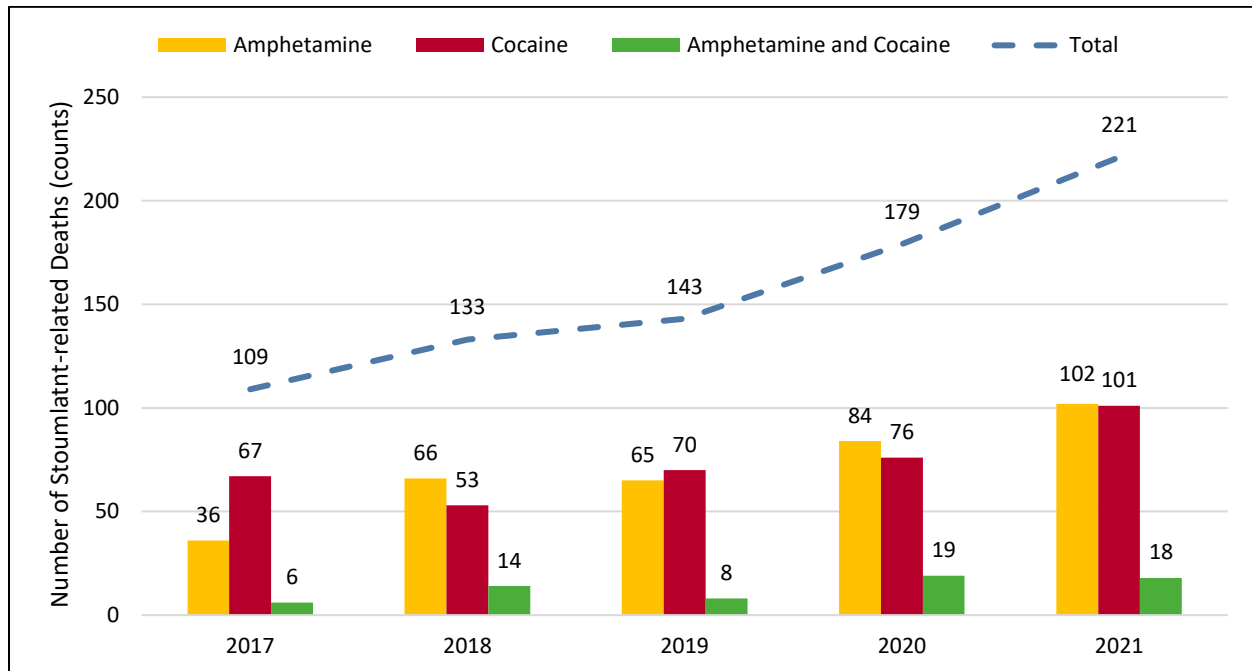


This brief is a yearly update on stimulant-related deaths in St. Louis County. While visuals show 5-year trends, the primary focus of this report will be the most recent data in 2021. The mortality data utilized in this brief was provided by the St. Louis County Medical Examiner's office.

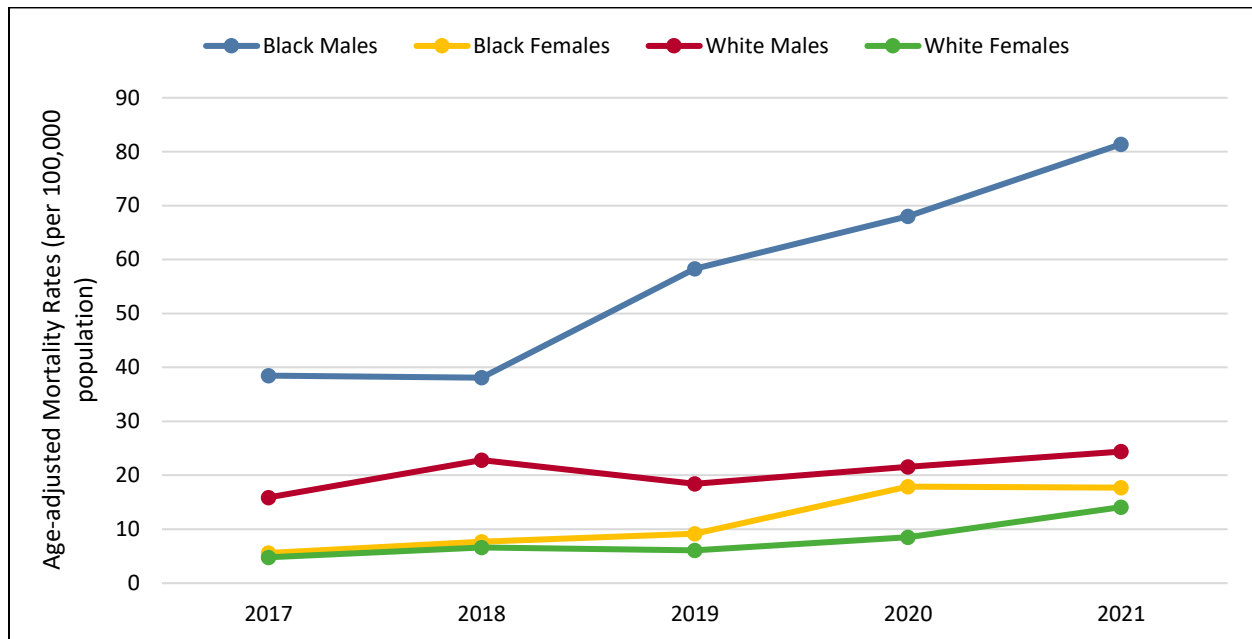
**Figure 1.** Stimulant-related Deaths Occurring in St. Louis County, 2017-2021.



- In 2021, 221 people died while using stimulants in St. Louis County, a 23.5% increase over the 179 stimulant-related deaths that occurred in 2020.
- The primary stimulants included in the St. Louis County medical examiner's data are cocaine and amphetamines.
- The number of stimulant-related deaths increased by 102.8% over the 5-year period between 2017 and 2021.
- In 2021, the medical examiner's office recorded 101 deaths that involved cocaine, 102 deaths that involved an amphetamine, and 18 deaths in which the two were combined.
- Fentanyl was involved as a co-occurring substance in more than 70% of stimulant-involved deaths in 2020 and 2021.
- Age-adjusted stimulant-related mortality rates increased across the 5-year period between 2017 and 2021.
- The age-adjusted rate of stimulant-related deaths in St. Louis County was 23.3 per 100,000 population in 2021, up from 19.6 per 100,000 population in 2020.
- Men died of these causes at a rate of 34.3 per 100,000 population while women did so at a rate of 13.5 per 100,000 population.

**When mortality rates are disaggregated by race and sex, it becomes clear that disparities have widened since 2017.**

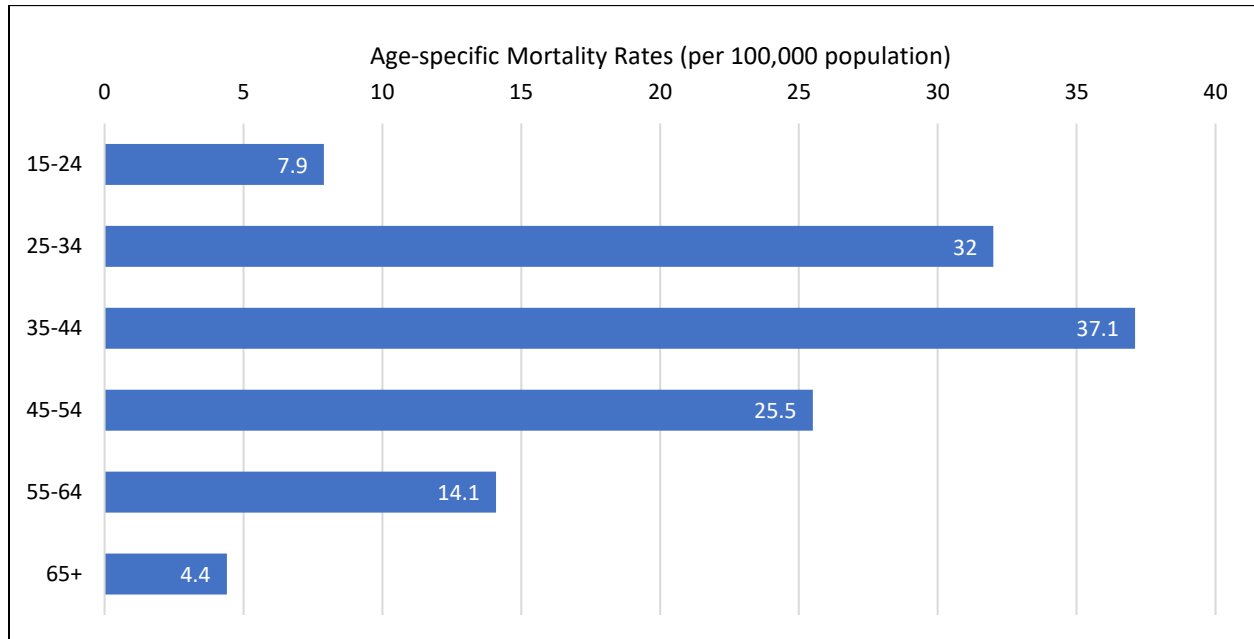
**Figure 2. Age-adjusted Mortality Rates by Race and Sex, 2017-2021.**



- Black men, who are disproportionately affected by substance-related deaths overall, are significantly overrepresented in stimulant-related mortality data as well.
- In 2021, the stimulant-related mortality rate for Black men reached 81.4 per 100,000 population, a 19.7% increase over the 2020 rate.
- White men experienced the next-highest mortality rate at 24.4 per 100,000 population. The third highest rate was among Black women, at 17.7 deaths per 100,000 population.
- White women had the lowest mortality rate of the groups depicted in Figure 2, at 14.1 per 100,000 population. However, this group saw the sharpest increase in deaths since 2020, with 1.5 times as many white women dying from stimulant-related causes in 2021.

### The impact of fatal stimulant use is not distributed evenly among age groups.

**Figure 3.** Age-specific 5-year Mortality Rates by Age Group, 2017-2021



- As displayed in Figure 3, no age group 15 years or older is unaffected by stimulant-related mortality.
- The 5-year average for age-specific mortality rate was highest among those 35-44 years of age, at 37.1 per 100,000 population. The next highest rates were among those aged 25-34 and 45-54, respectively.

For questions and comments related to this brief please email [CAdams@stlouiscountymo.gov](mailto:CAdams@stlouiscountymo.gov)

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