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PUBLIC
HEALTH

Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Methamphetamine Use Commission Overview of Methamphetamine and Stimulant Use in Massachusetts DPH/BSAS

December 8, 2021

Key Definitions

- **Amphetamines**: a class of central nervous system stimulants. Can be legally prescribed and used to treat attention-deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) under the name Adderall and Ritalin. They can be highly addictive if used incorrectly/recreationally.
- **Methamphetamines**: a potent amphetamine, which can be legally-prescribed for certain medical conditions. Regular methamphetamine is a pill or powder. Crystal methamphetamine resembles glass fragments or shiny blue-white “rocks” of various sizes.
- **All Stimulants**: we will use this term to include all amphetamines, methamphetamine, and crack/cocaine.

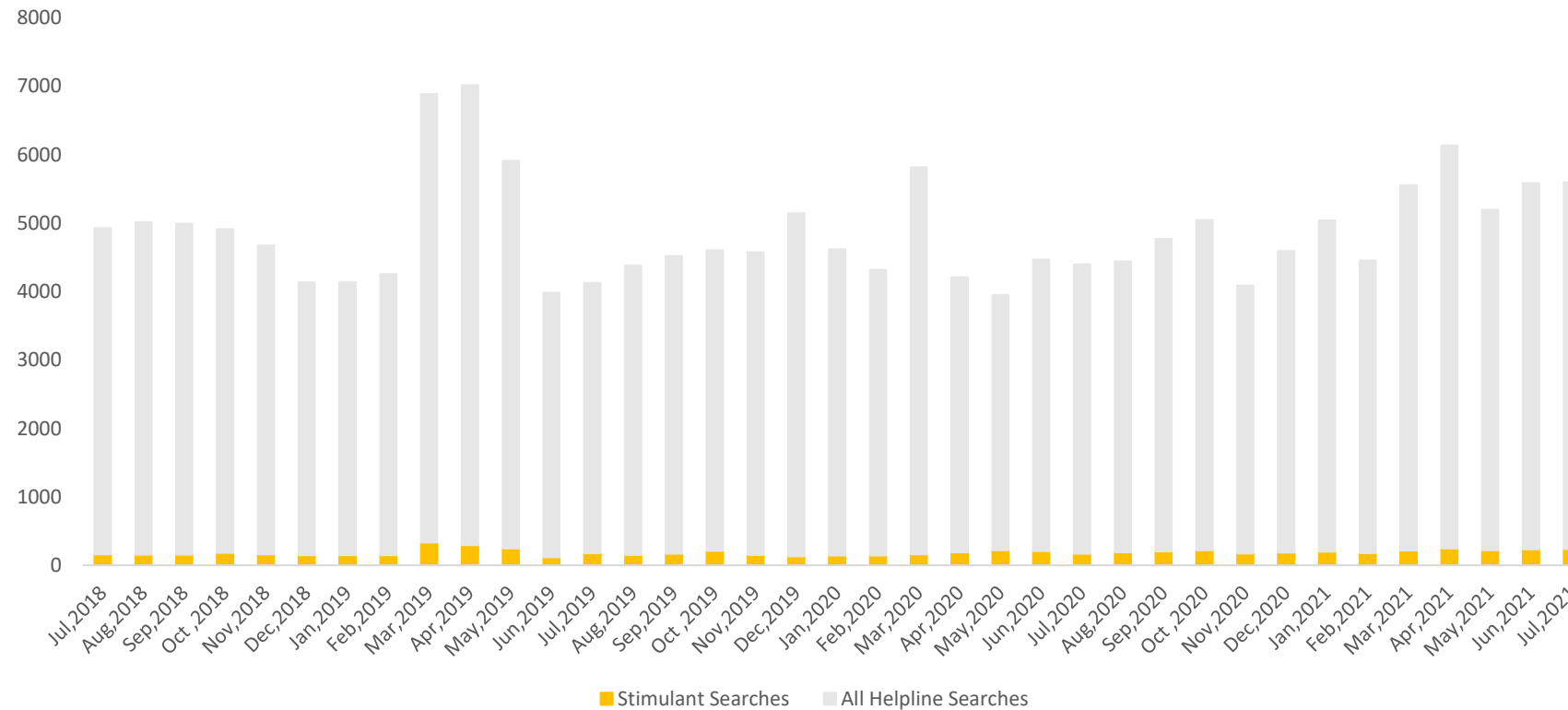
Methamphetamine & Other Stimulant Data - Key Points

- An increase in *Methamphetamine* use in MA is visible in DPH data sources, although rates are low compared to other stimulants.
- *Crack/Cocaine* use continues to be used at much higher rates and cross-contamination with fentanyl is of great concern.
- *Methamphetamine* use is higher in Suffolk County and the eastern portions of the state and in BSAS treatment data is seen largely among the white non-Hispanic population.
- *Crack/Cocaine* use is seen statewide and has higher prevalence among black African/American and Latinx populations in BSAS treatment data.

Data Sources in this Overview

- BSAS Substance Use Helpline Calls/Searches
- Hospital Emergency Department Admissions
- DPH Vital Records Mortality Data
- BSAS Treatment Admission Data

Proportion of all Calls/Searches to BSAS Substance Use Helpline for *Stimulants* (July 2018 - July 2021)



➤ In CY2021, 4% of all Helpline calls/searches were for *Stimulants*;

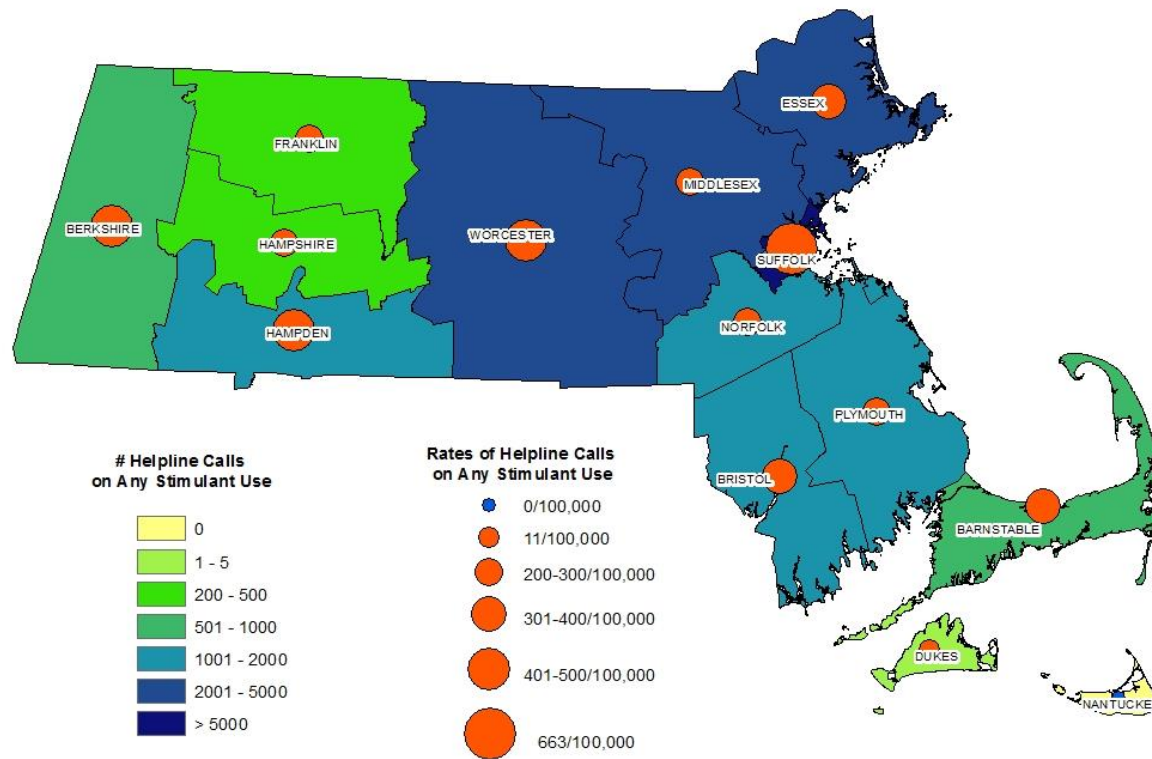
➤ Of these calls/searches, 14% were for *Methamphetamine* and 76% for *Crack/Cocaine*

Data source: Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline, <https://helplinema.org/>

*Please exercise caution when interpreting these data. One user may conduct several searches/calls or seeking referral/information for other persons.

**These data refer to all helpline calls, web searches, and live chats conducted between July 2018 and July 2021

BSAS Helpline Stimulant Calls & Rates (CY2020)



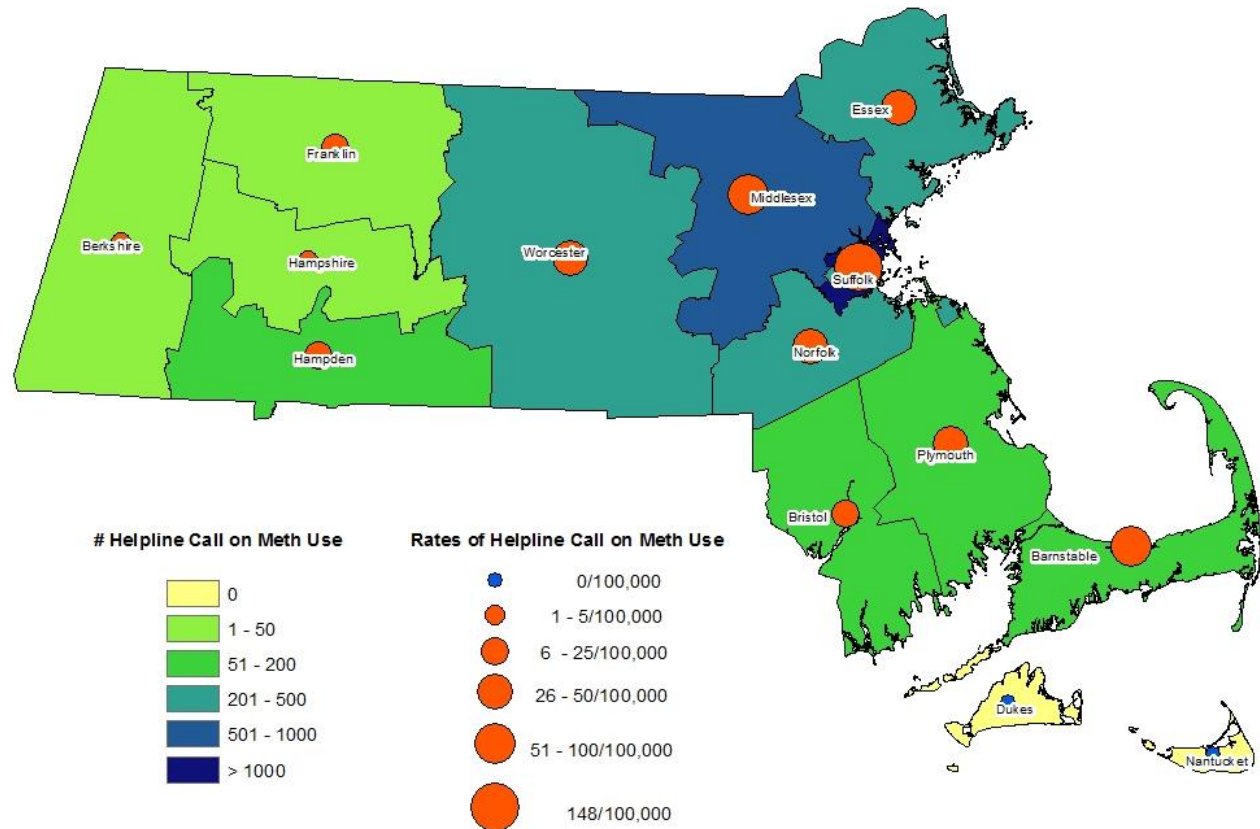
➤ Over 50% of the calls for *stimulants* during the July 2018- July2021 period originated from Middlesex, Suffolk and Worcester

Data source: Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline, <https://helplinema.org/>

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BSAS Helpline Methamphetamine Calls & Rates (CY2020)



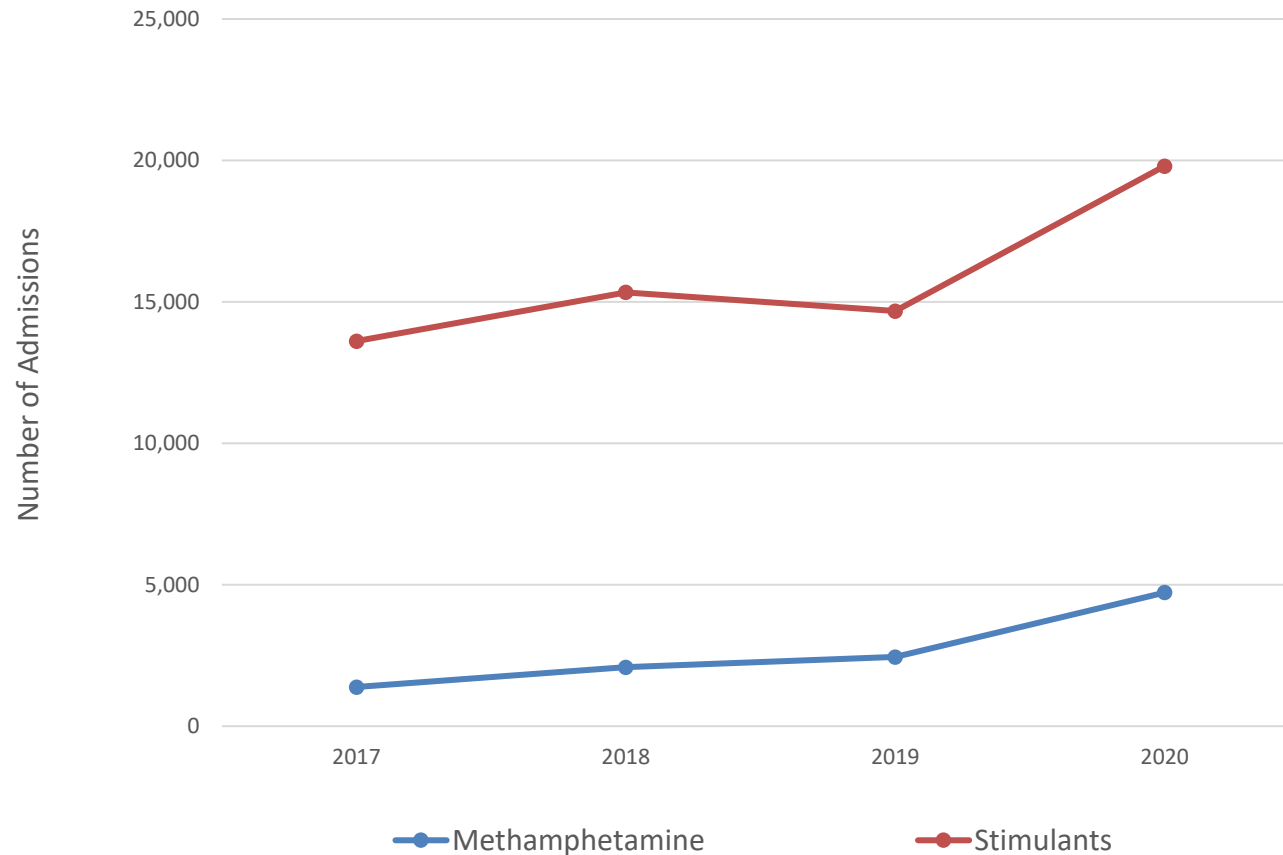
➤ **60% of the Methamphetamine related calls during the July 2018-July 2021 originated in Essex, Middlesex, and Suffolk counties.**

Data source: Massachusetts Substance Use Helpline, <https://helplinema.org/>

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***These data refer to all helpline calls, web searches, and live chats conducted between July 2018 and July 2021*

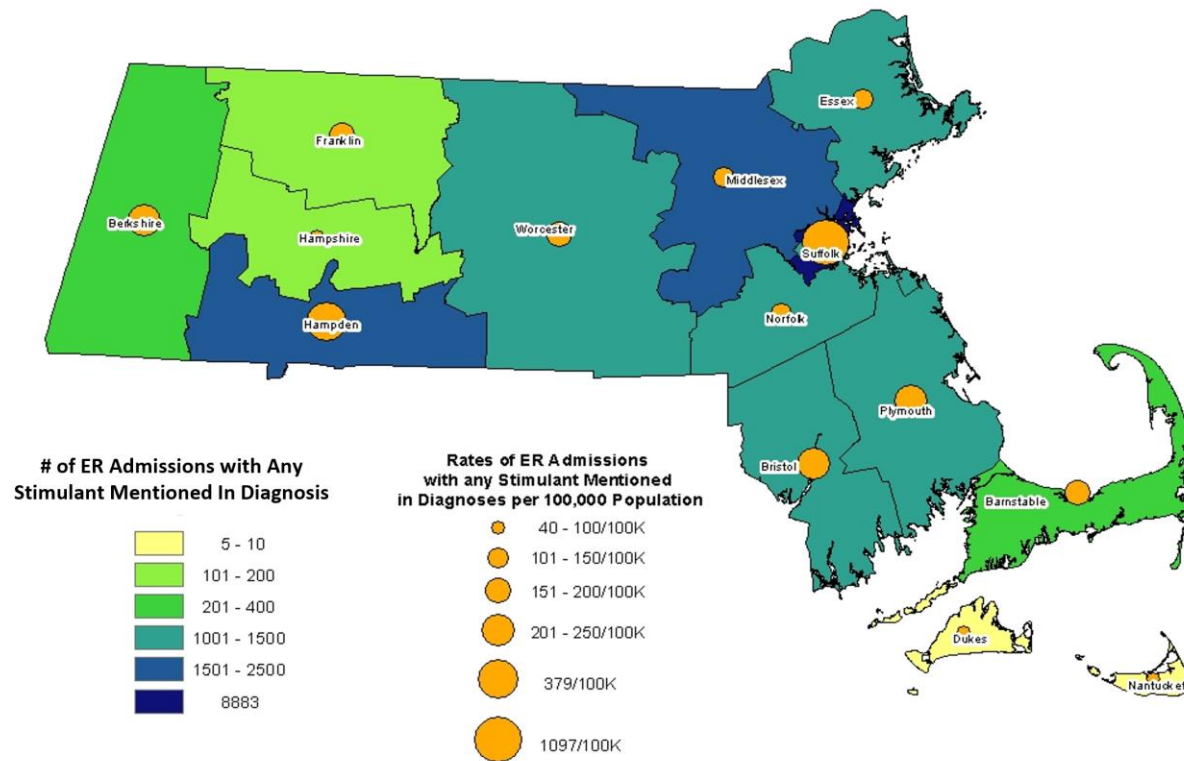
All Stimulants and Methamphetamine-Related Emergency Department (ED) Admissions (FY2017-2020)



- ED Admissions increased by approx. 5,000 for *stimulants* between FY19-FY20
- Of this increase in admissions, approx. one-half of these were due to an increase in *methamphetamine*-related incidents.

Source: Case Mix data is administered by CHIA and includes discharge records from approximately 70 acute hospitals in Massachusetts.

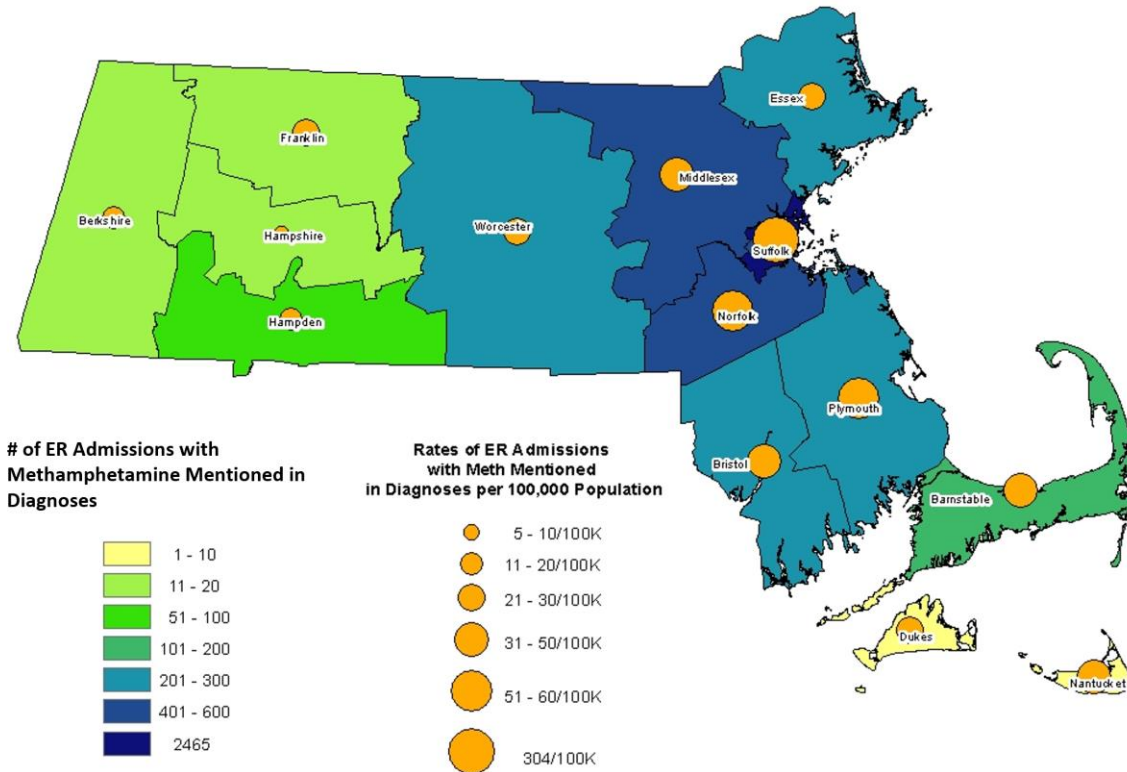
Stimulant-Related ED Admissions and Rates by County of Residence (FY2020)



➤ Highest number of ED admissions in FY2020 were from Suffolk, Hampden and Middlesex counties.

Source: Case Mix data is administered by CHIA and includes discharge records from approximately 70 acute hospitals in Massachusetts.

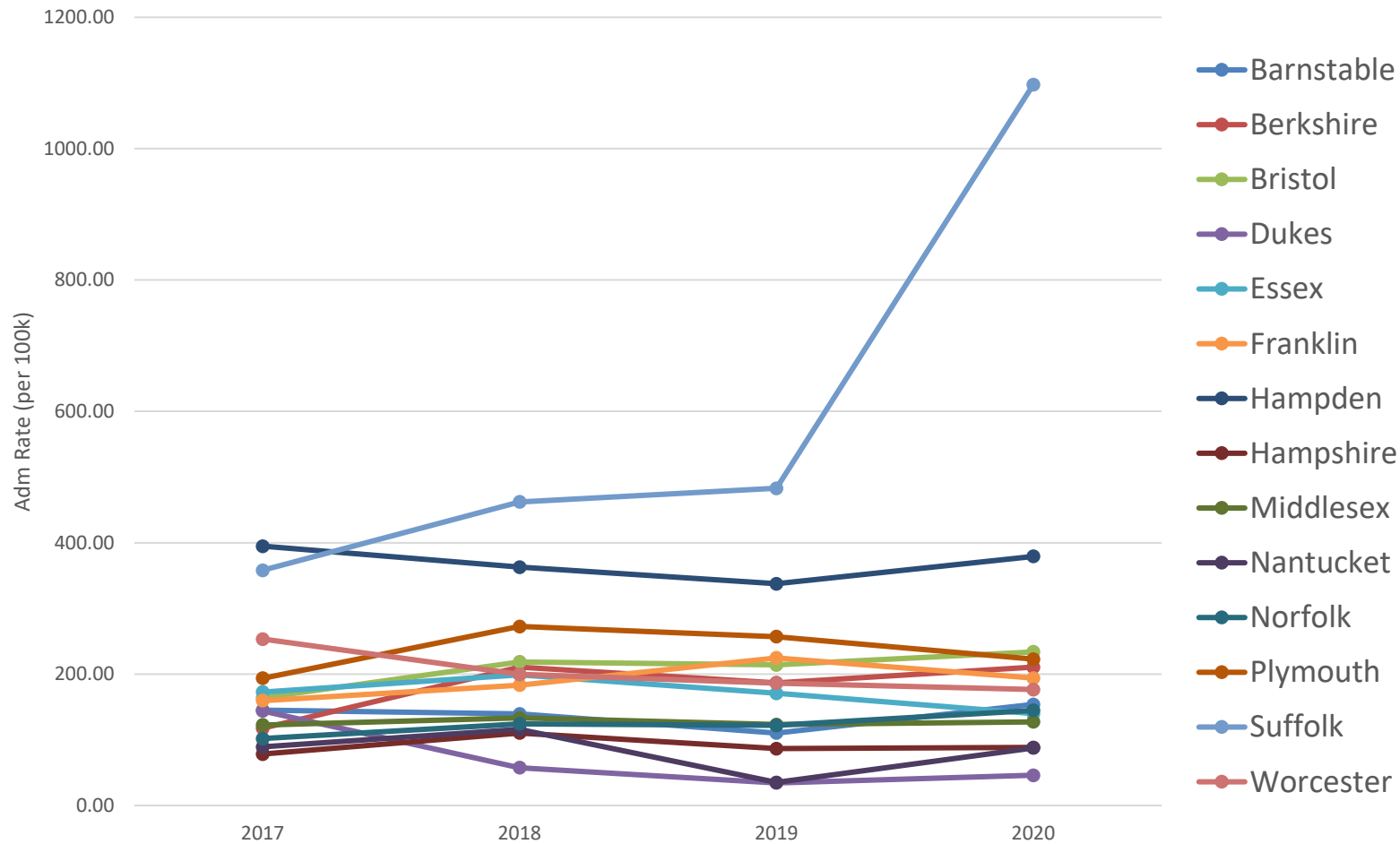
Methamphetamine-Related ED Admissions and Rates per 100,000 Population by County of Residence (FY2020)



➤ **Methamphetamine** related ED admissions and rates are the highest in the eastern part of the state.

Source: Case Mix data is administered by CHIA and includes discharge records from approximately 70 acute hospitals in Massachusetts.

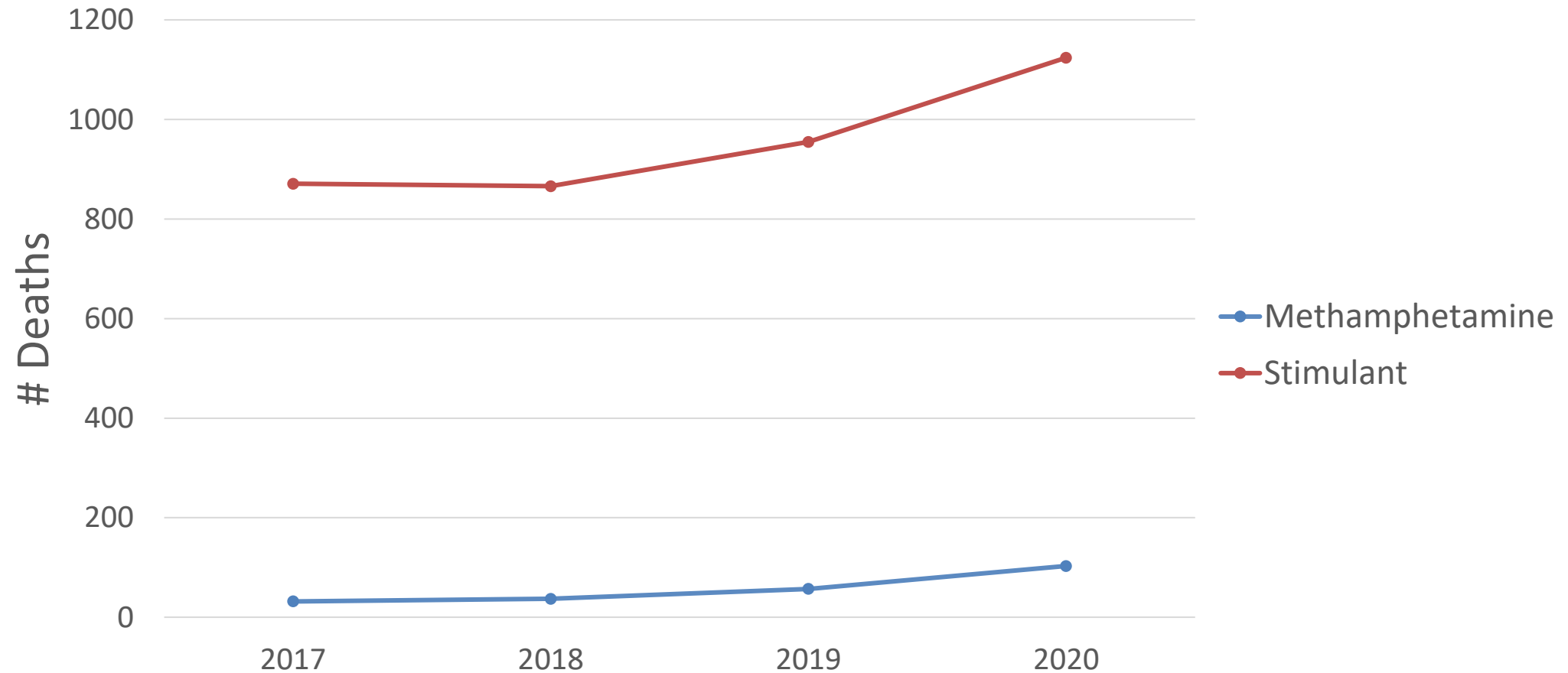
Stimulant-Related ED Admission Rates by County (FY2017-2020)



➤ **When examining the data on ED admissions by county, the spike in ED admissions related to any *stimulant* were driven by a large spike in Suffolk county, while trends for other counties remained flat.**

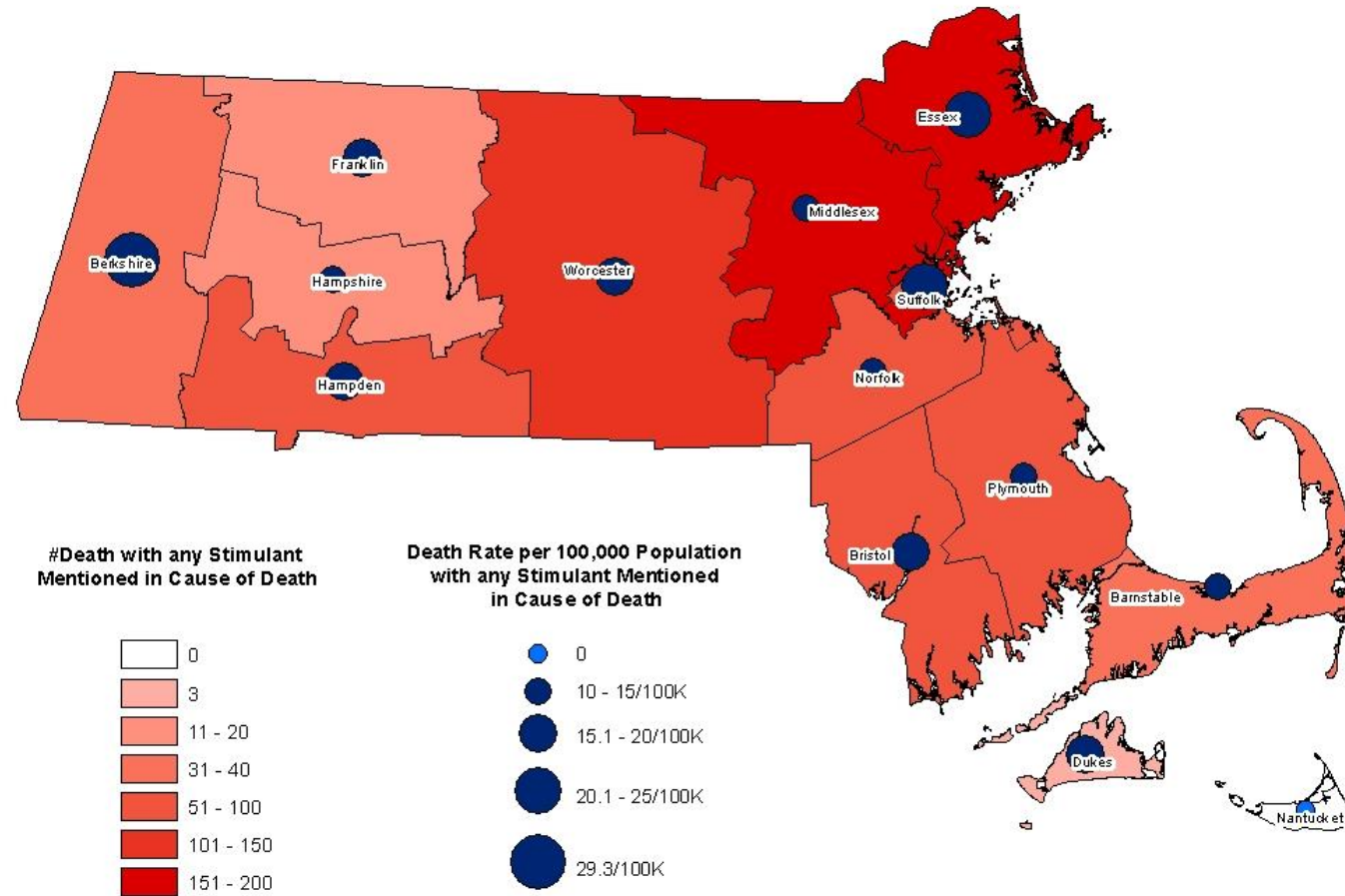
Source: Case Mix data is administered by CHIA and includes discharge records from approximately 70 acute hospitals in Massachusetts.

All Stimulants and Methamphetamine-Related Deaths in Massachusetts (CY2017-2020)



Source: Mortality data is maintained by the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, and includes annual death record files for deaths occurring in Massachusetts.

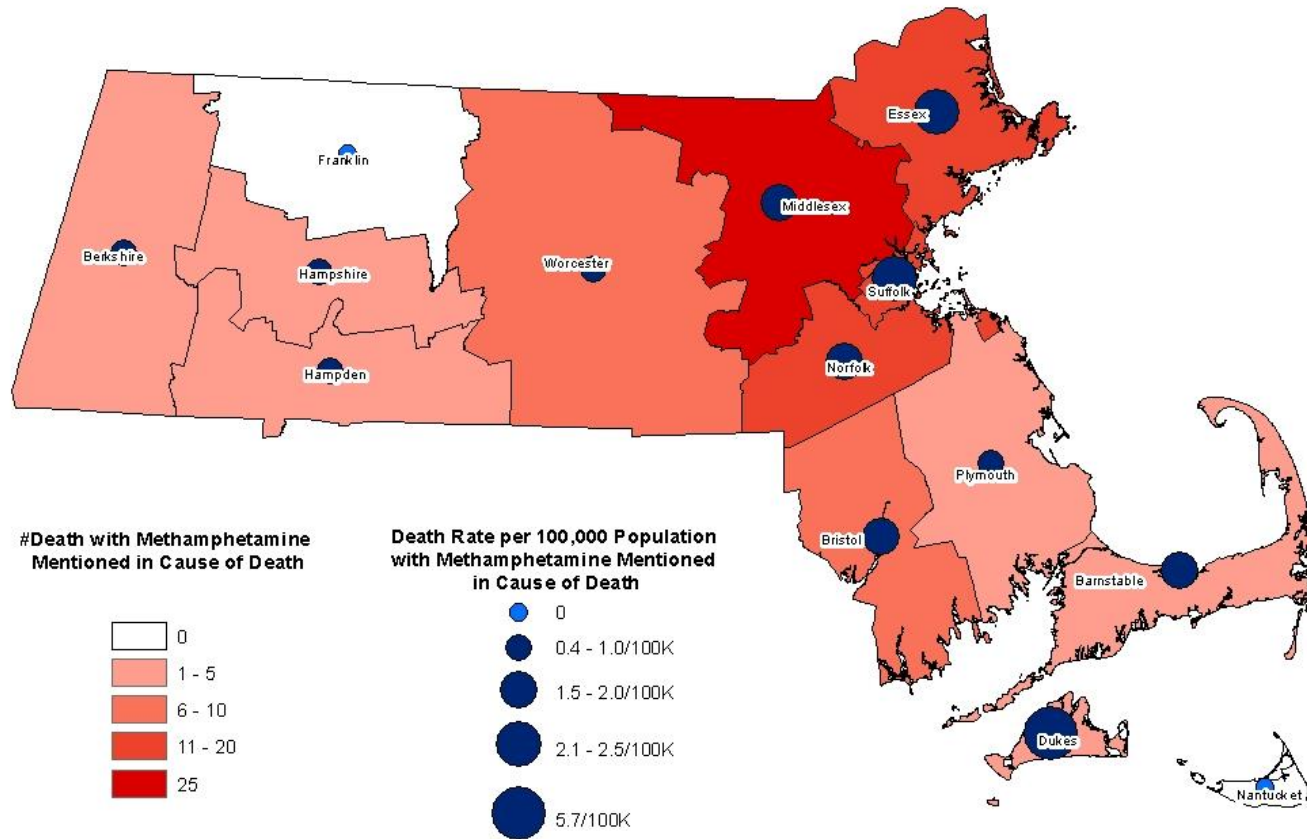
All Stimulant-Related Death Counts and Rates by County of Residence (CY2020)



- The largest number of stimulant-related deaths were concentrated in Eastern part of the state
- The highest rates were seen in Berkshire followed by Suffolk and Essex.

Source: Mortality data is maintained by the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, and includes annual death record files for deaths occurring in Massachusetts.

Methamphetamine-Related Death Counts and Rates by County of Residence (CY2020)

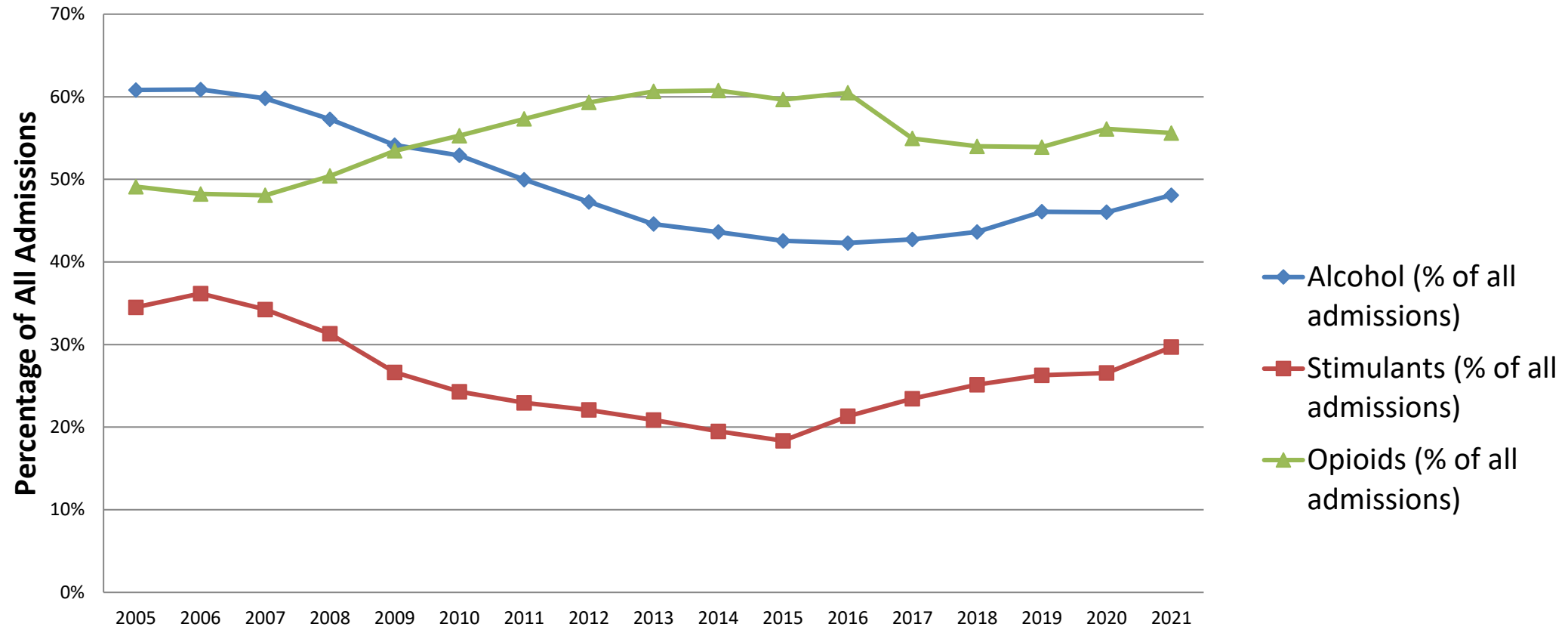


➤ Most of the Methamphetamine deaths are seen in the Eastern part of the state with the highest rates observed in Suffolk and Essex

* Dukes county has a very high rate but relatively small numbers.

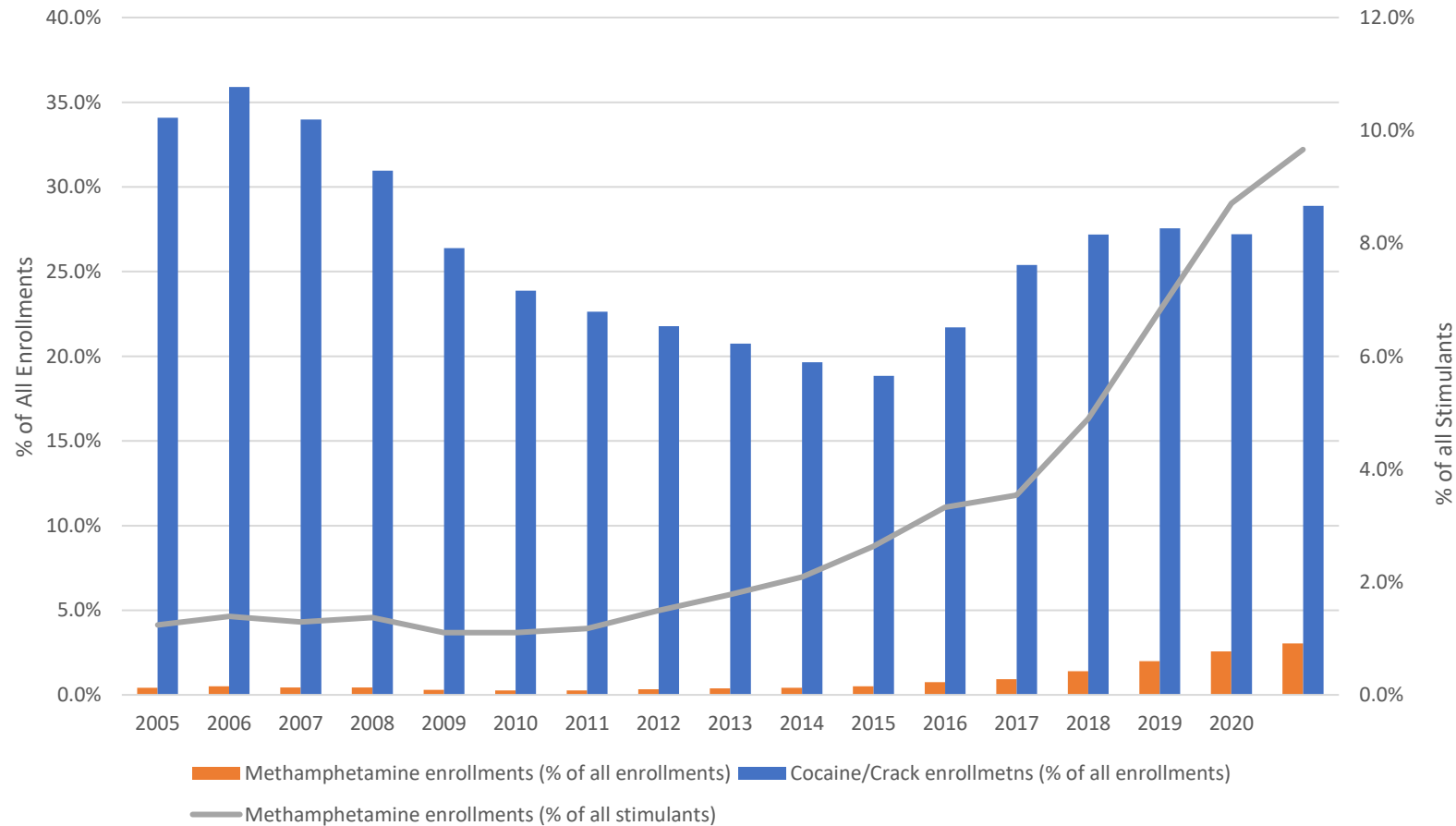
Source: Mortality data is maintained by the Registry of Vital Records and Statistics, and includes annual death record files for deaths occurring in Massachusetts.

Substances Reported at Admission as a Percentage of All BSAS Admissions (CY2005-2021)



Source: Treatment statistics prepared by the Office of Statistics and Evaluation, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

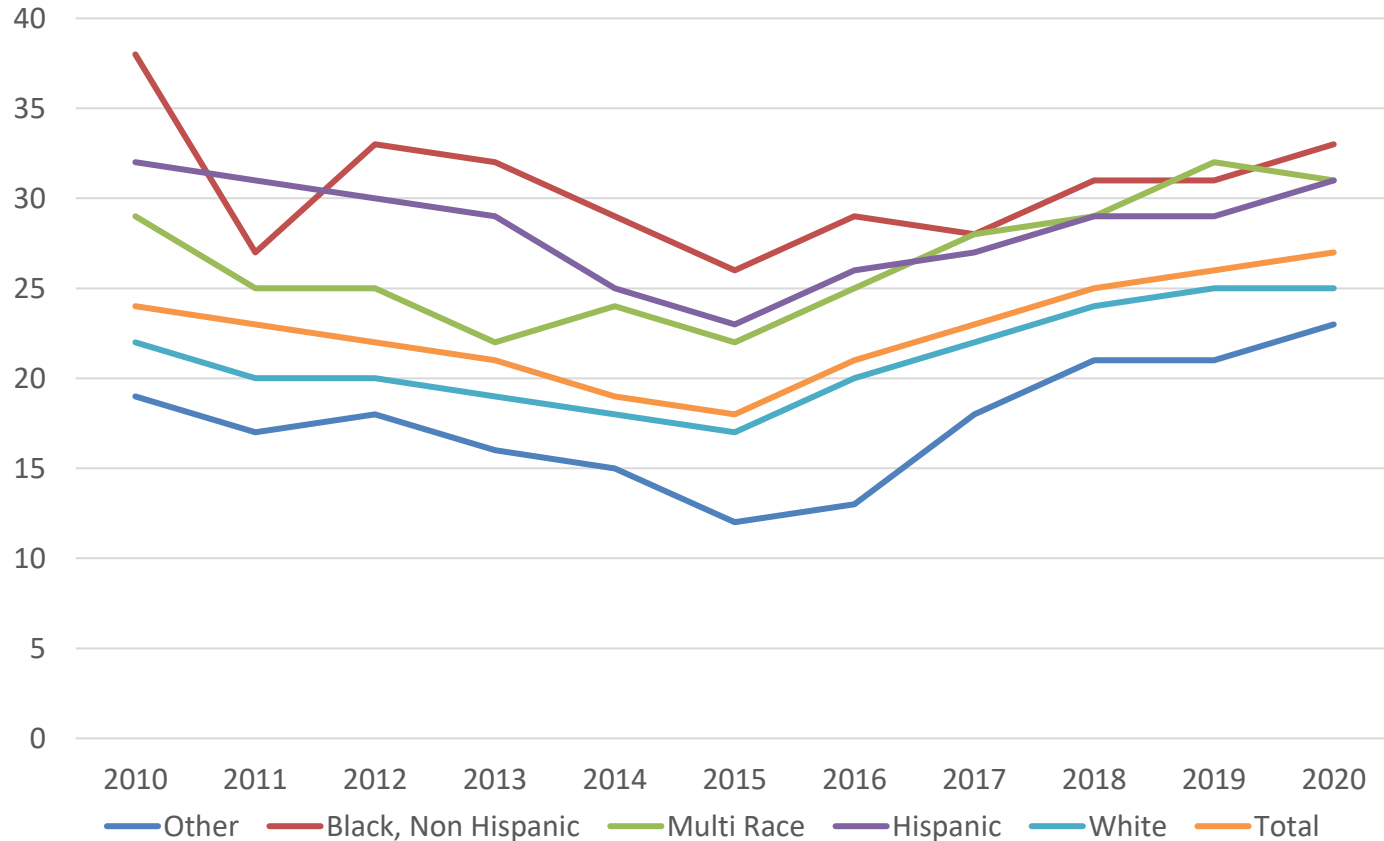
BSAS Admission Trends for Crack/Cocaine and Methamphetamine (CY2005-2021)



- Stimulant admissions have been rising since 2015.
- Methamphetamine represented 9.7% of all stimulant related admissions in 2021, up from 1.4% in 2005

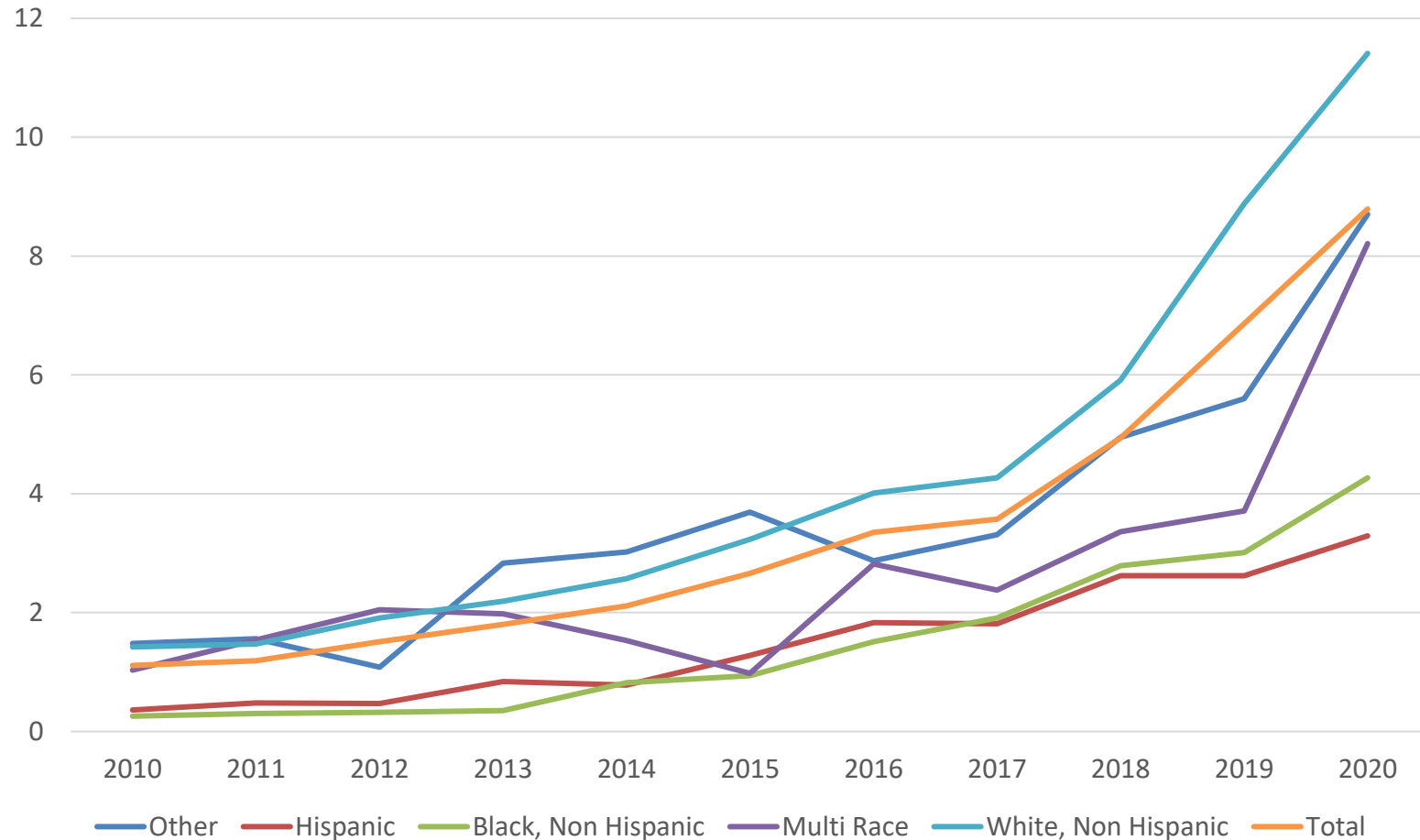
Source: Treatment statistics prepared by the Office of Statistics and Evaluation, Bureau of Substance Addiction Services, Massachusetts Department of Public Health

Stimulants Use Reported at BSAS Admission by Race (CY2010-2020)



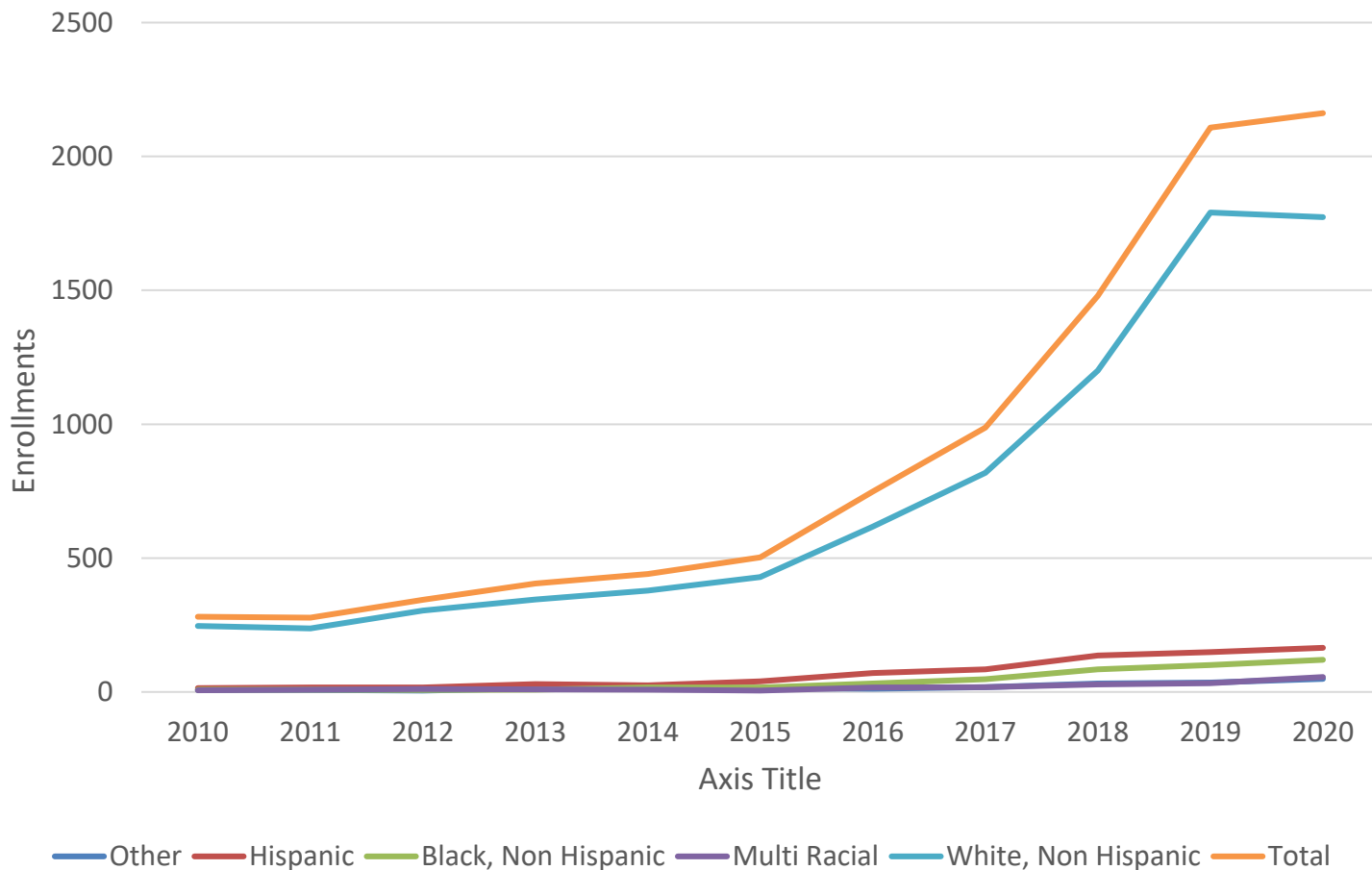
- The percentage of enrollments reporting stimulants use at the time of enrollment increased from 18% in 2015 to 27% in 2020.
- Black non-Hispanic and Hispanic enrollments consistently report higher rates of stimulant use than White non-Hispanics.

Methamphetamine Use as a Percentage of All Stimulants Reported at BSAS Admission by Race (CY2010-2020)



- **Methamphetamine use reported by BSAS enrollments has been on the rise since 2010.**
- **While this increase was noticed across all races, white non-Hispanic, other and multi-racial enrollments experienced the highest increase.**

BSAS Enrollments Who Reported Methamphetamine Use by Race (CY2010- CY 2020)



- **Enrollments reporting Methamphetamine as a problem substance increased sharply from 2015 - 2020.**
- **White non-Hispanics represented majority of these admissions.**