

# Missouri Statewide Drug Overdose Deaths by Region

January-December 2022

UMSL-MIMH Addiction Science Team

June 2023

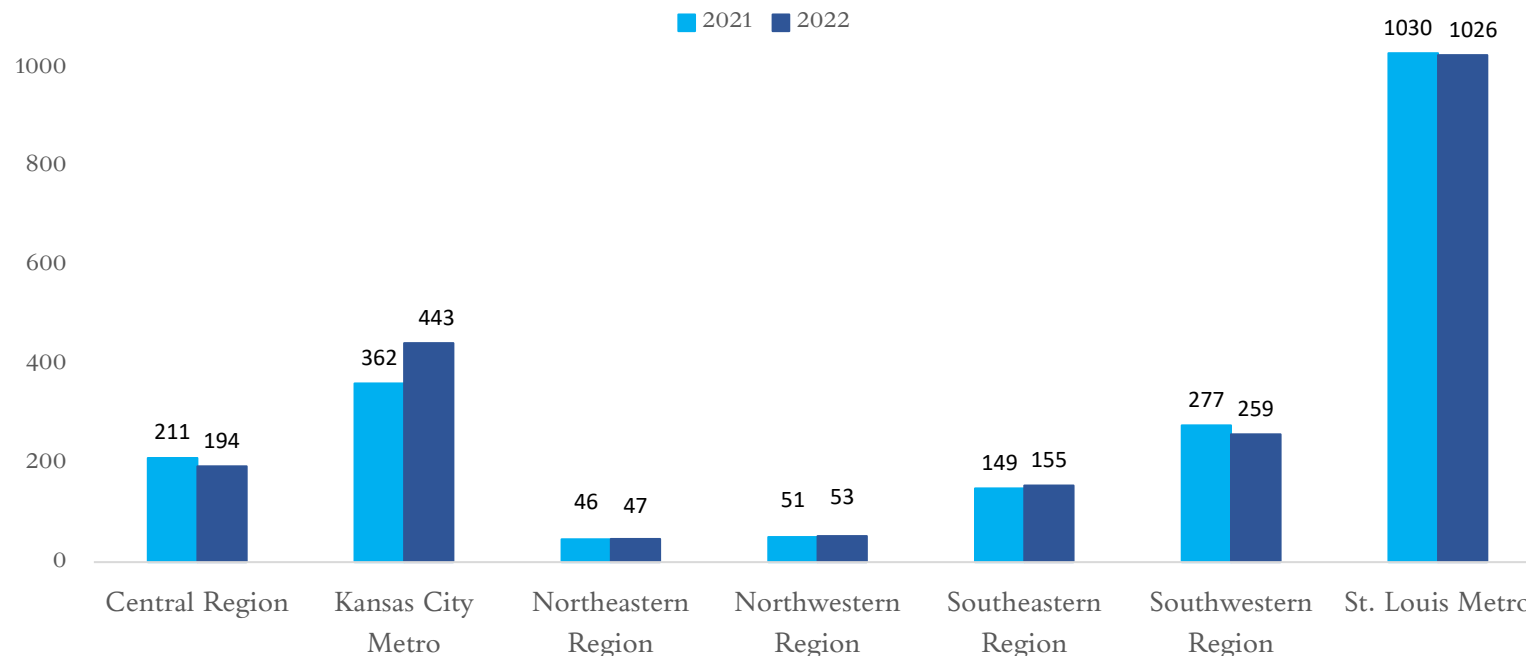
## Lives Lost in 2022

- In Missouri in 2022, 2,178 individuals lost their lives to a drug overdose.
- The total number of drug overdose deaths increased by 2.3% statewide in 2022 compared to 2021.
  - This increase was driven by deaths in the Kansas City metro area.
  - Deaths increased by 5.5 % among females and .9% among males.
  - Deaths increased by 5.5% among Black Missourians but decreased by 1.5% among White Missourians.
    - St. Louis Metro was the only region with a decrease in deaths among Black individuals (-6.7%).
- For the second year in a row, fentanyl was involved in 67% of all overdose deaths in 2022.
- The proportion of overdose deaths involving stimulants (either alone or with opioids) continues to increase.

**UMSL** | Addiction Science Team  
University of Missouri–St. Louis

## The total number of drug overdose deaths in Missouri increased by 2.3% in 2022 (2178 individuals) compared to 2021 (2128 individuals)

Total Number of Overdose Deaths in Missouri by Region in 2022



- The **Central Region** had the greatest proportional **decrease** (-8%) in total overdose deaths while the **Kansas City Metro** region had the greatest proportional **increase** (+22%) in total overdose deaths from 2021 to 2022.
- The **St. Louis Metro Region** (which showed little change in the total number of drug overdose deaths in 2022 compared to 2021), **accounted for 47% of all drug overdose deaths in Missouri.**

## Deaths among Black individuals decreased in the St. Louis Metro although increased in other regions in 2022

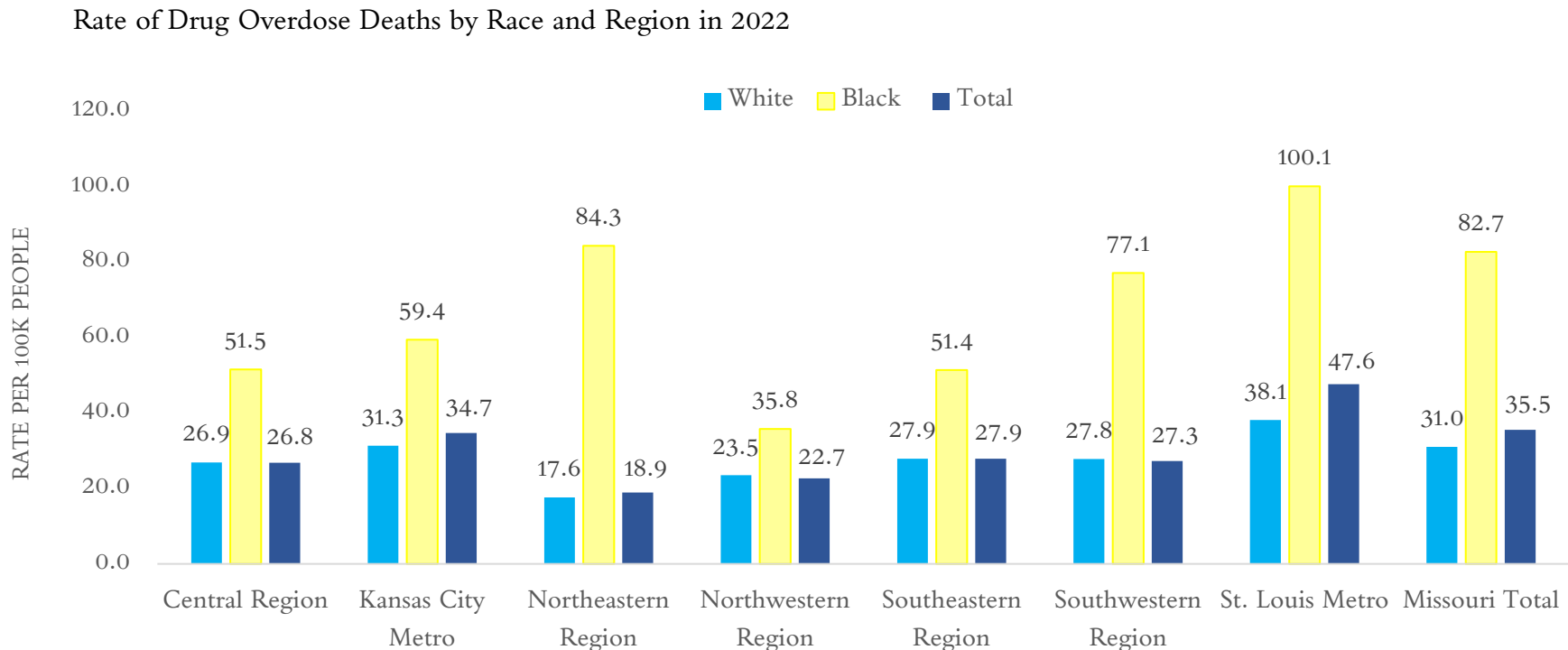
Total Number of Overdose Deaths by Race/Sex by Region in 2022

	Male			Female			Black			White		
	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change	2021	2022	% Change
Central Region	138	130	-5.8	73	64	-12.3	19	21	+10.5	189	169	-10.6
Kansas City Metro	235	307	+30.6	127	136	+7.1	75	114	+52.0	273	297	+8.8
Northeastern Region	28	28	0.0	18	19	+5.6	*sup	7	*sup	44	40	-9.1
Northwestern Region	36	44	+22.2	15	9	-40.0	*sup	*sup	*sup	48	49	+2.1
Southeastern Region	101	100	-1.0	48	55	+14.6	9	15	+66.7	137	139	+1.5
Southwestern Region	188	157	-16.5	89	102	+14.6	6	12	+100.0	267	238	-10.9
St. Louis Metro	730	704	-3.6	300	322	+7.3	431	402	-6.7	590	595	+0.8
Missouri Total	1458	1471	+0.9	670	707	+5.5	545	575	+5.5	1550	1527	-1.5

\*sup=Number suppressed due to a cell count less than 5; Other races (not Black or White) are included in the Totals but are suppressed in cells due to low counts

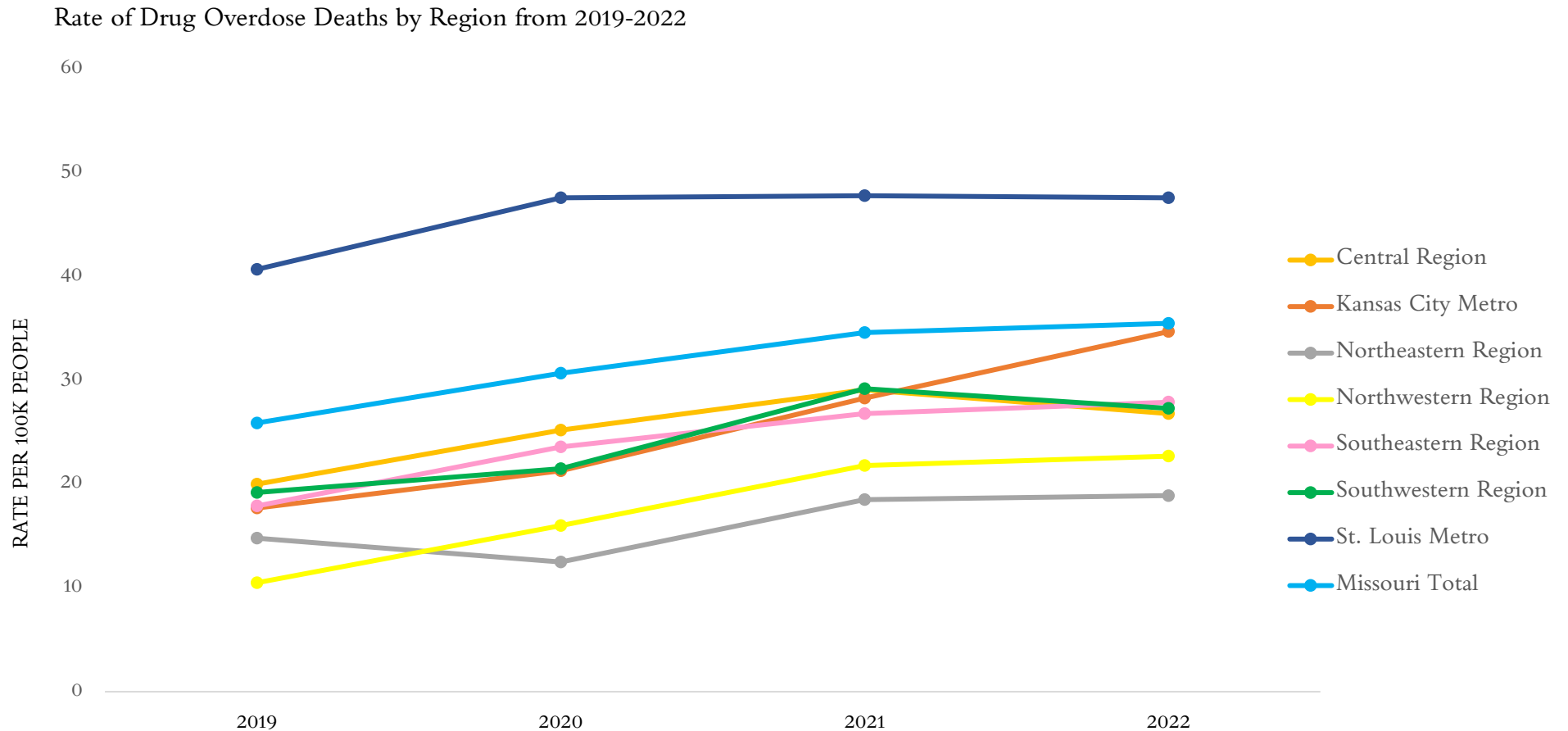
- Across Missouri, deaths among **males increased by approximately 1%** and deaths among **females increased by 5.5%** in 2022 compared to 2021.
- Deaths among **Black individuals increased by 5.5%** compared to a **decrease of 1.5% among White individuals**.
- The **St. Louis Metro Region accounted for 70% of all drug overdose deaths among Black individuals** in Missouri compared to 79% the year prior. This is due in part to a large increase in the number of deaths of Black individuals in the **Kansas City Metro Region** in 2022.

## The overdose death rate of Black Missourians is over 2.5 times higher than that of White Missourians in 2022



- The overdose death rate for Black individuals was higher than White individuals in every region, with the **St. Louis Metro** region showing the **highest drug overdose death rate for Black individuals** within the state (100.1 per 100,000 people).
- The **St. Louis Metro** region also has the **highest drug overdose death rate among White individuals** within the state (38.1 per 100,000 people).

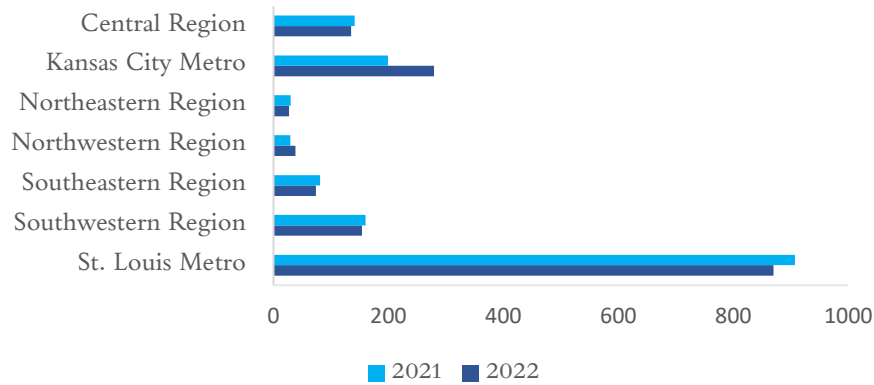
## The rate of overdose deaths in Missouri continues to increase



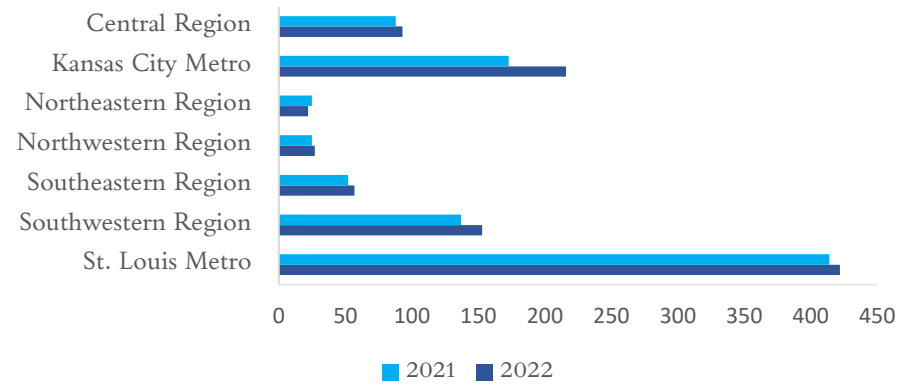
- The rate of overdose deaths in the **Central, Southwestern, and St. Louis Metro Regions decreased** while all other regions increased in 2022.
- The **St. Louis Metro Region** continues to have the **highest rate** of drug overdose deaths in the state in 2022 (47.6 per 100,000 people).

## Total Counts of Overdose Deaths by Drug and Region from 2021-2022

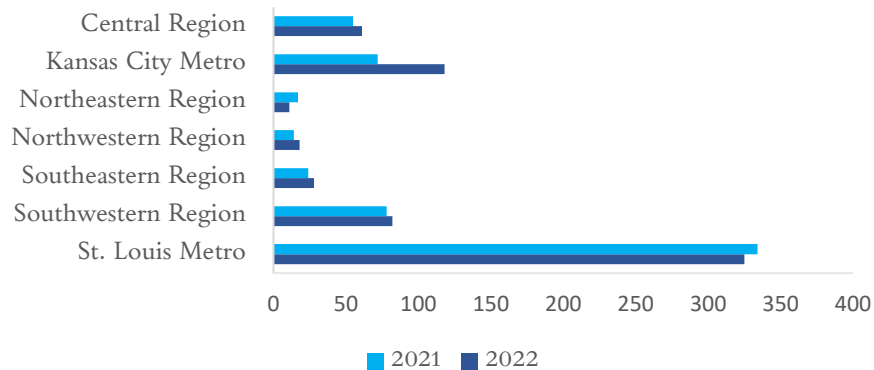
### Opioid-Involved Deaths



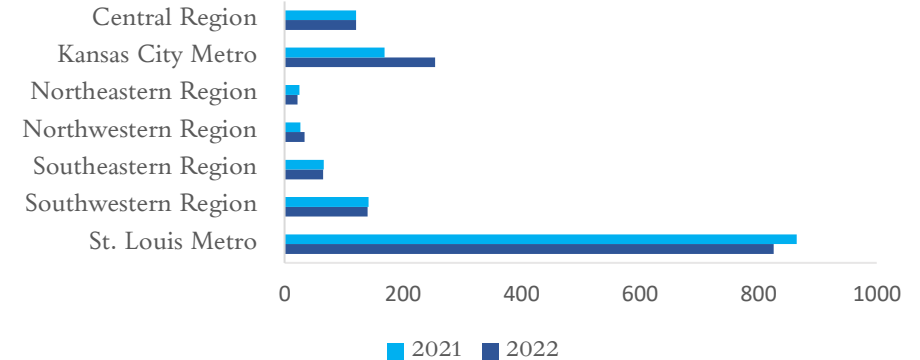
### Stimulant-Involved Deaths



### Opioid and Stimulant-Involved Deaths



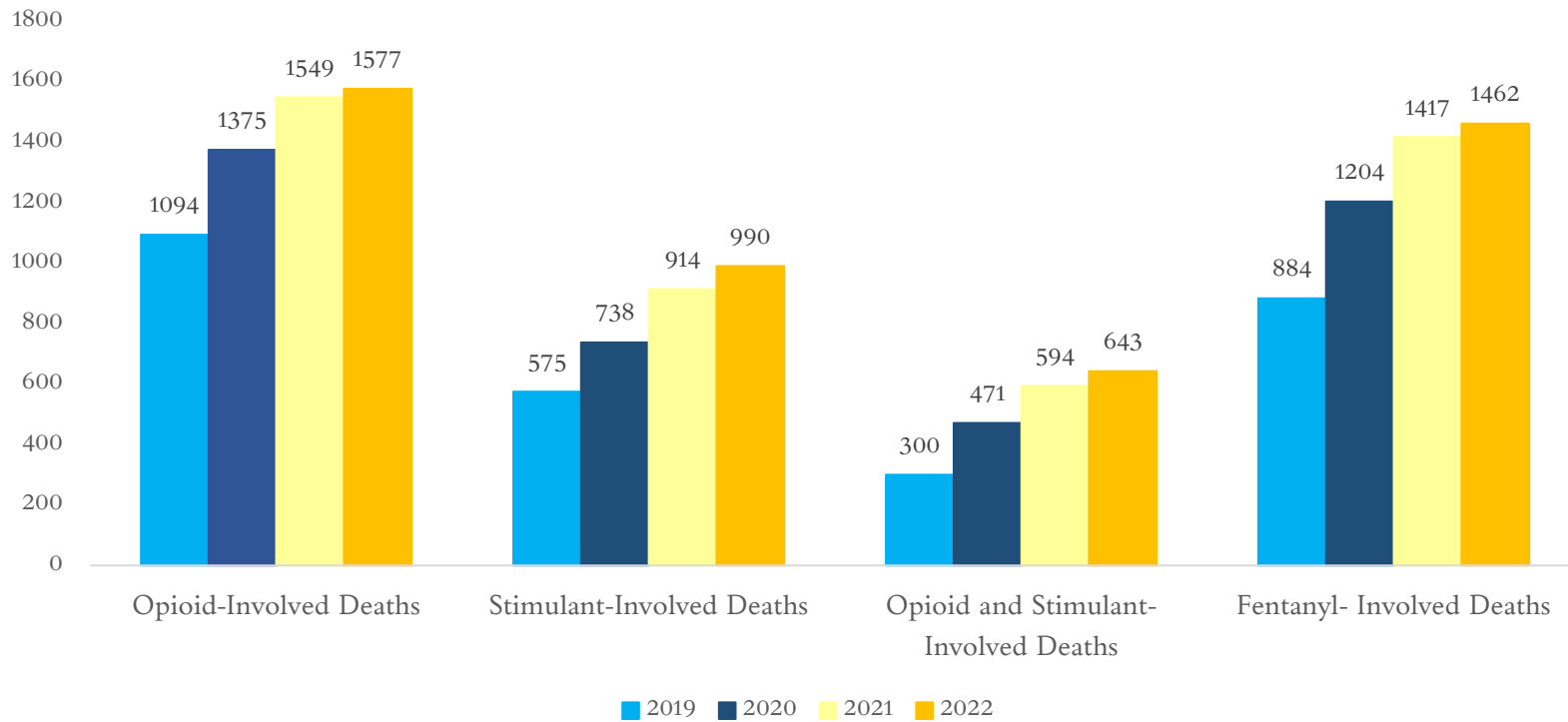
### Fentanyl-Involved Deaths



- The **Kansas City and Northwestern Regions** showed an **increase in the total number of fentanyl-involved overdose deaths**, while all other regions decreased or remained stable in 2022 compared to 2021.
- The **Northeastern Region** is the only region to show a **decrease in the number of stimulant-involved overdose deaths** in 2022 compared to 2021.

## Fentanyl was involved in 67% of all overdose deaths in 2022

Total Counts of Overdose Deaths in Missouri by Drug from 2019-2022



- The proportion of overdose deaths involving **stimulants alone and stimulants in combination with opioids** has continued to **increase since 2019**.
- The proportion of overdose deaths involving **Fentanyl** remained stagnant in 2022 from 2021 at **67%**.