

Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

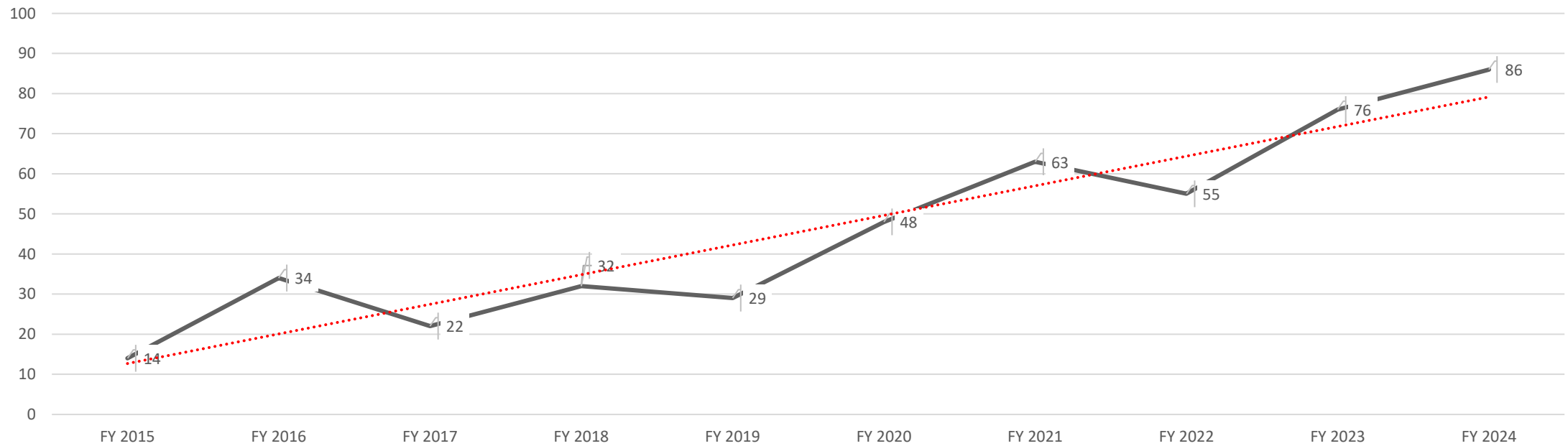
Pediatric Ingestions

Panel Members

- Chair - Hon. Benjamin Harrison, Lewis County Attorney
- Commissioner, DCBS – Lesa Dennis
- Commissioner, DPH - Dr. Lyndsey Neese, proxy
- Family Court Judge - Hon. Libby Messer
- UK School of Medicine - Dr. Christina Howard
- UofL School of Medicine - Dr. Melissa Currie
- State Medical Examiner - Dr. William Ralston
- Court Appointed Special Advocate – Victoria Bengé
- Kentucky State Police – Lt. Jonathan Murphy
- Prevent Child Abuse Ky – Dr. Jaime Pittenger Kirtley
- Ky Coalition Against Domestic Violence – Olivia Spradlin
- Community Mental Health Centers- Steve Shannon
- Citizen Foster Care Review Board - Dr. Elizabeth Salt
- State Child Fatality Review Team – Brittany Nichols
- President KY Coroner’s Association - Mark Hammond, Boyd Co.
- Practicing Addiction Counselor – Geoff Wilson
- Kentucky House of Representatives – Rep. Samara Heavrin
- Kentucky Senate – Sen. Danny Carroll
- Practicing Prosecutor – Hon. Olivia McCollum
- Practicing Social Work Clinician – Nicole Smith Abbott
- Family Resource and Youth Service Center – Heather McCarty
- Practicing Medication-Assisted Treatment – Dr. Danielle Anderson

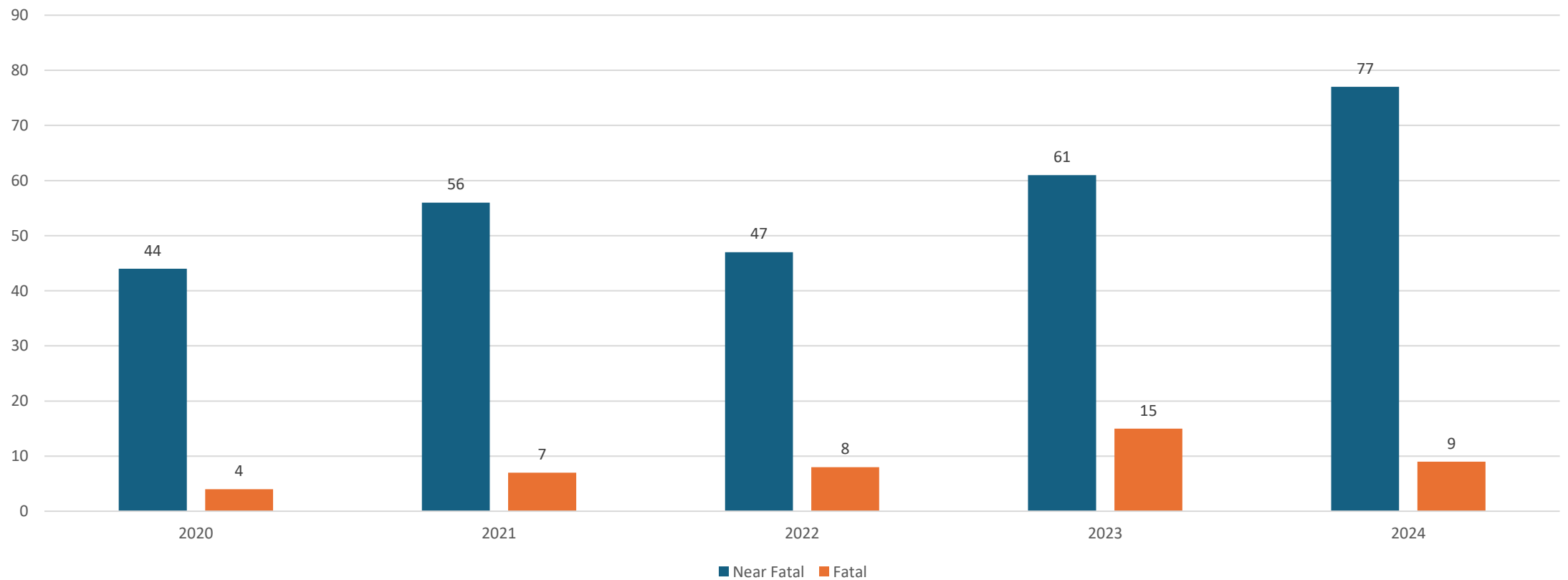
Pediatric Ingestions

Overdose/Ingestion Categorization, SFY15-24*

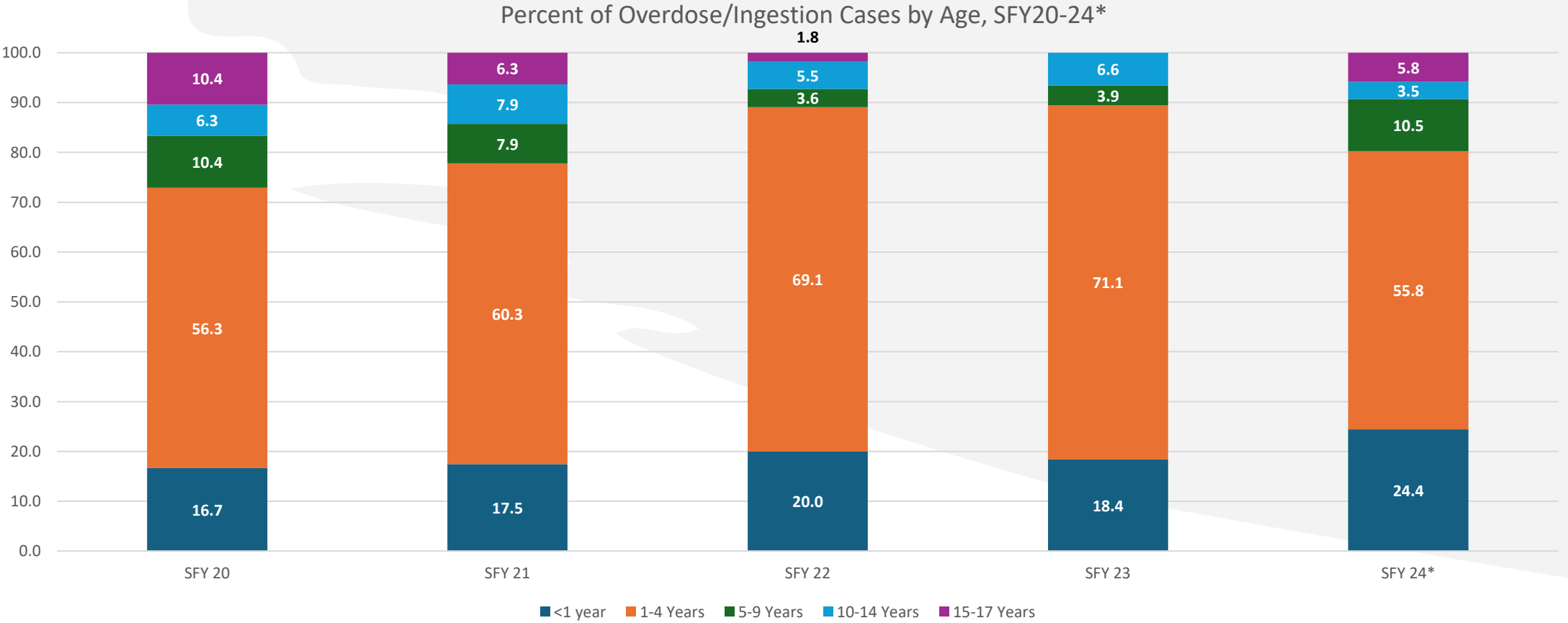


Fatal vs. Near Fatal Cases

Fatal vs. Near Fatal Ingestion Cases, SFY20-24*

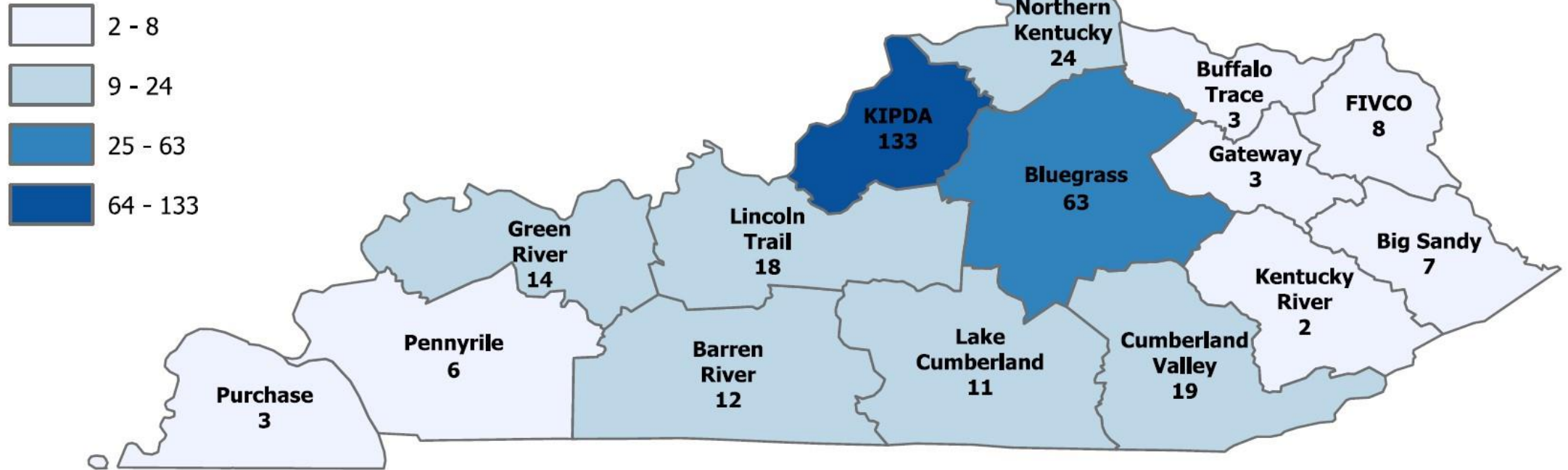


Age of Child



Overdose and Ingestion Cases Statewide

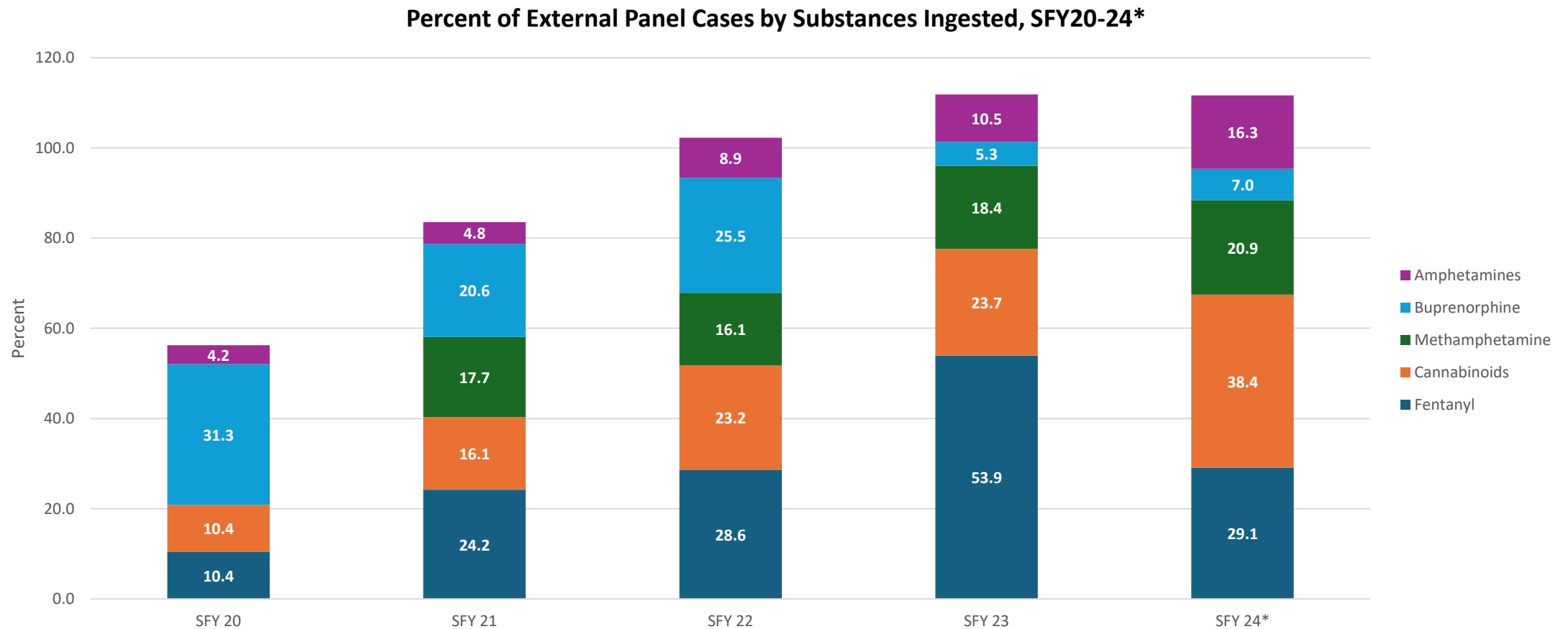
Number of Overdose and Ingestion External Panel Cases, by ADD, SFY20-SFY24*



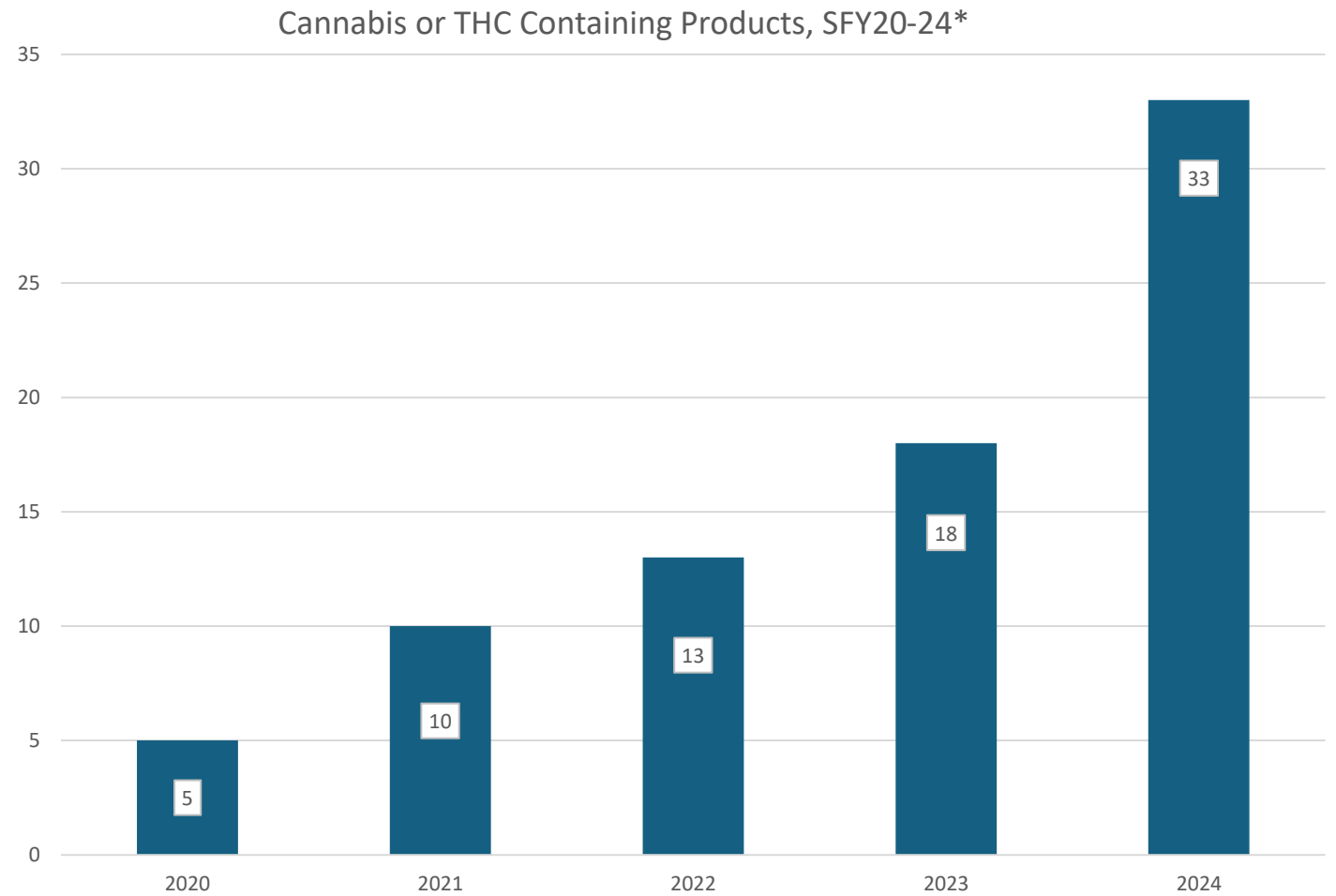
Data Source: External Panel

*SFY24 data is preliminary and only includes cases that have been reviewed by the Panel. This data will change as cases are finalized.

Type of Substances Ingested

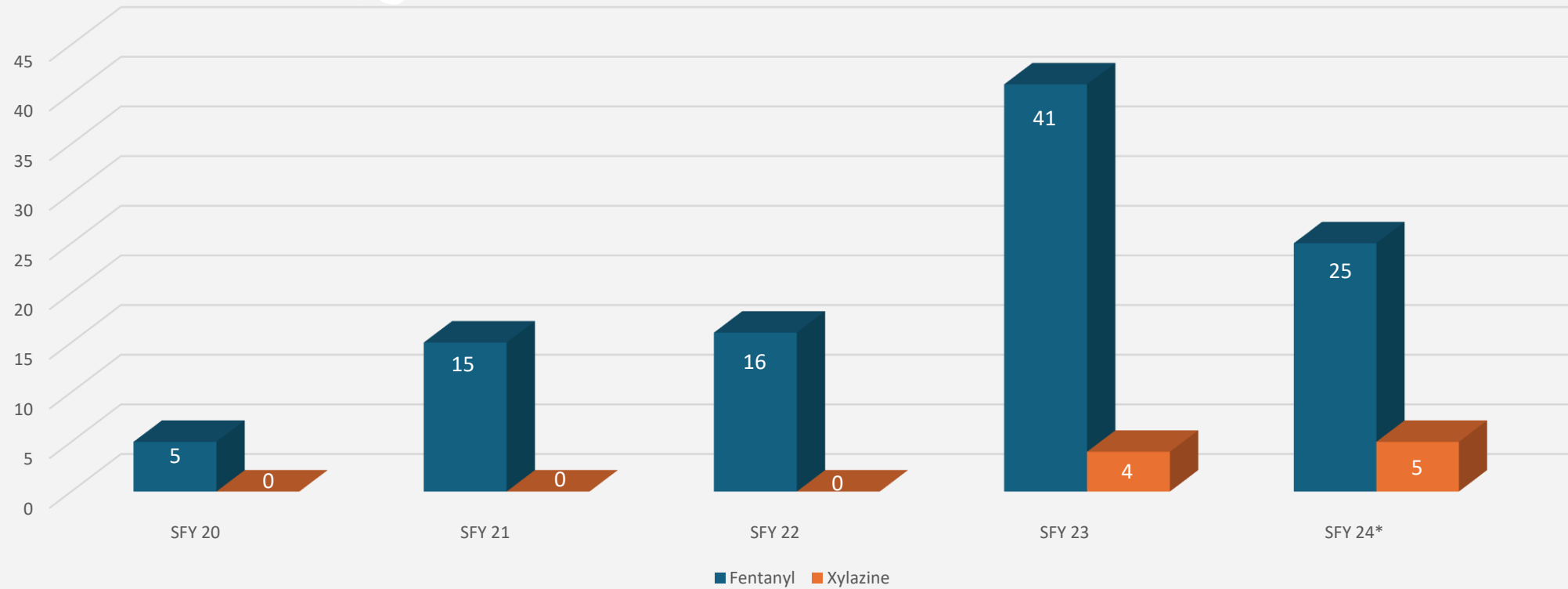


Cannabinoid Exposure

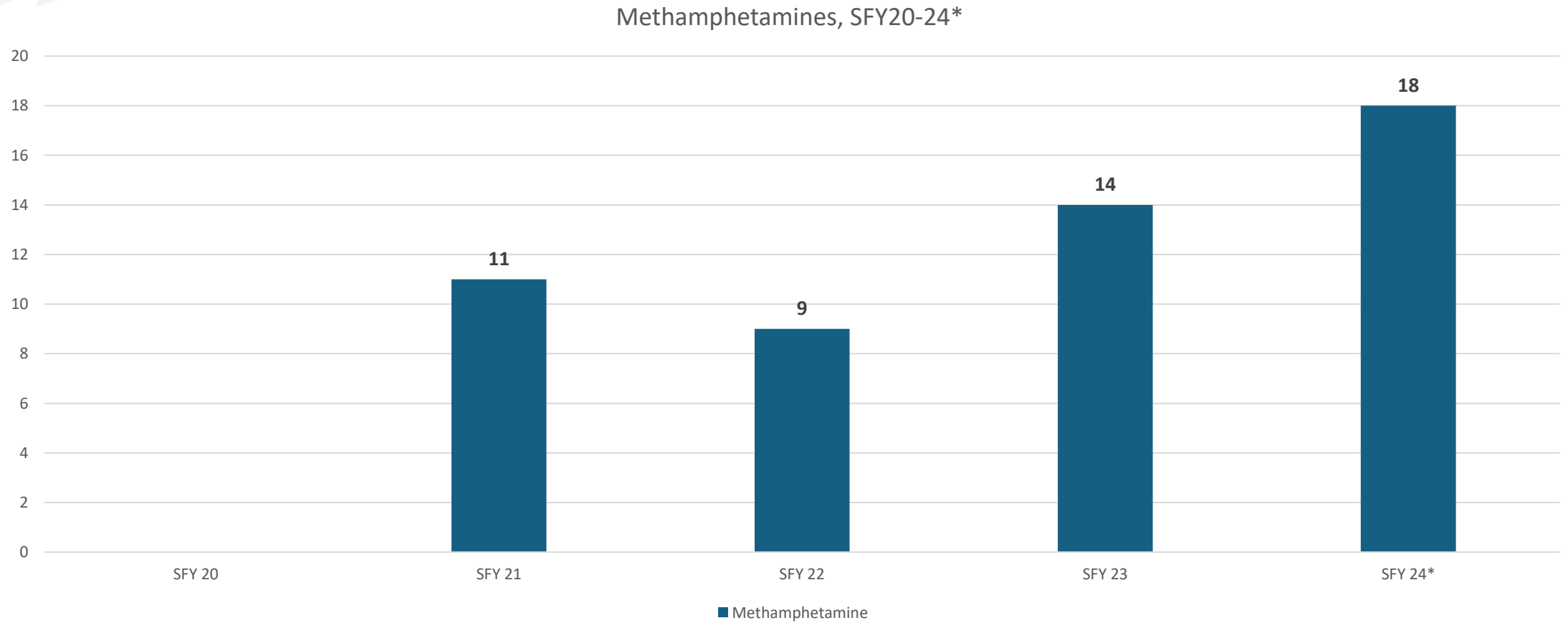


Fentanyl and Xylazine Exposure

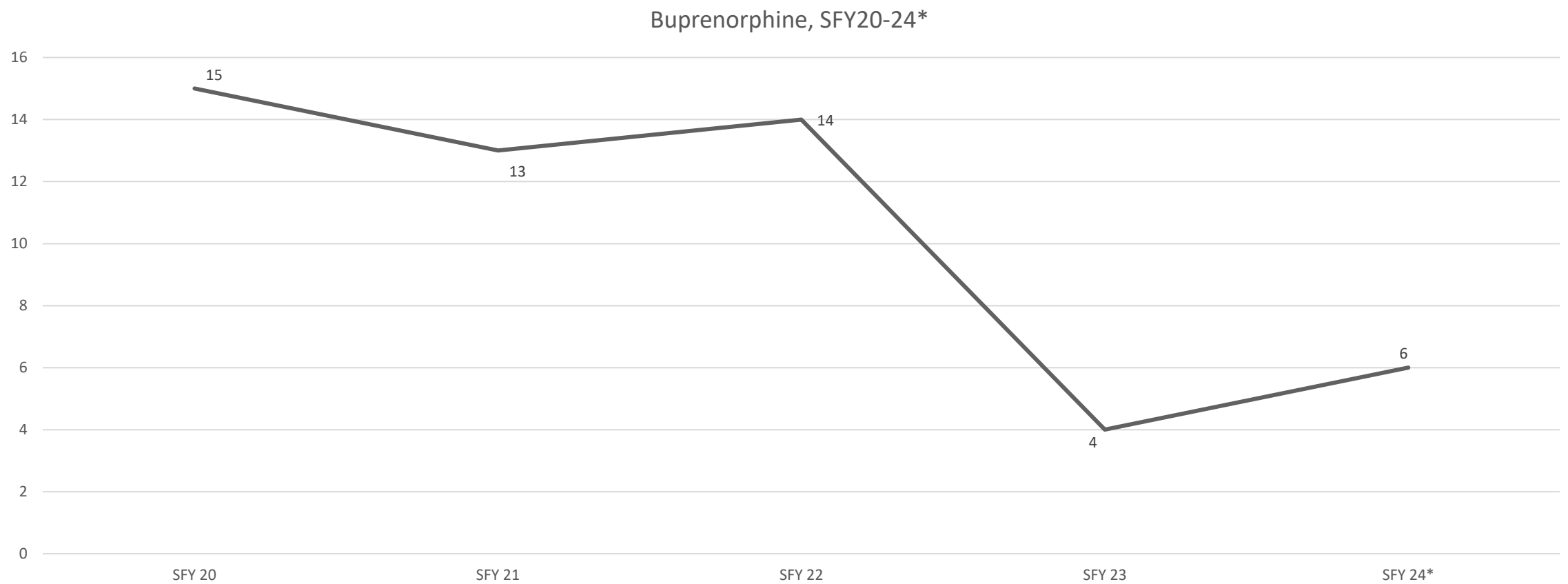
Fentanyl and Xylazine Exposure, SFY 20-24*



Methamphetamine Ingestions



Buprenorphine

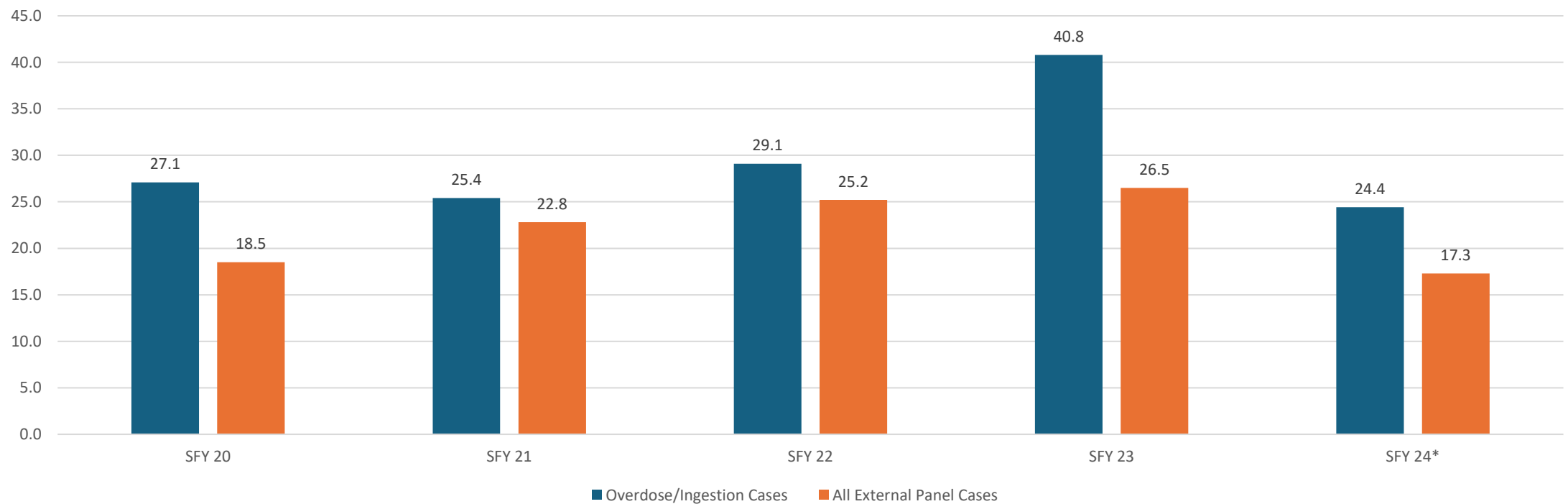


Case Example

- This case involved the death of a one-year-old child due to the ingestion of Fentanyl and Benadryl.
- According to the law enforcement report, maternal grandmother (MGM) was the sole caretaker for the child.
- DCBS accepted the report 25 days post fatality. Numerous attempts were made to contact the mother and MGM.
- DCBS relied on the information listed in the law enforcement records, including the collateral interviews.
- MGM reported she placed the child face down in a collapsible wagon with a pillow on the bottom.
- MGM was arrested during the investigation on unrelated warrants.
- The child's postmortem toxicology was positive for Fentanyl and Benadryl.
- The death certificate listed the cause of death due to combined drug intoxication, with the manner listed as accidental.
- Eleven months post fatality, law enforcement informed DCBS staff that no charges were filed on the mother or MGM and the case was closed.

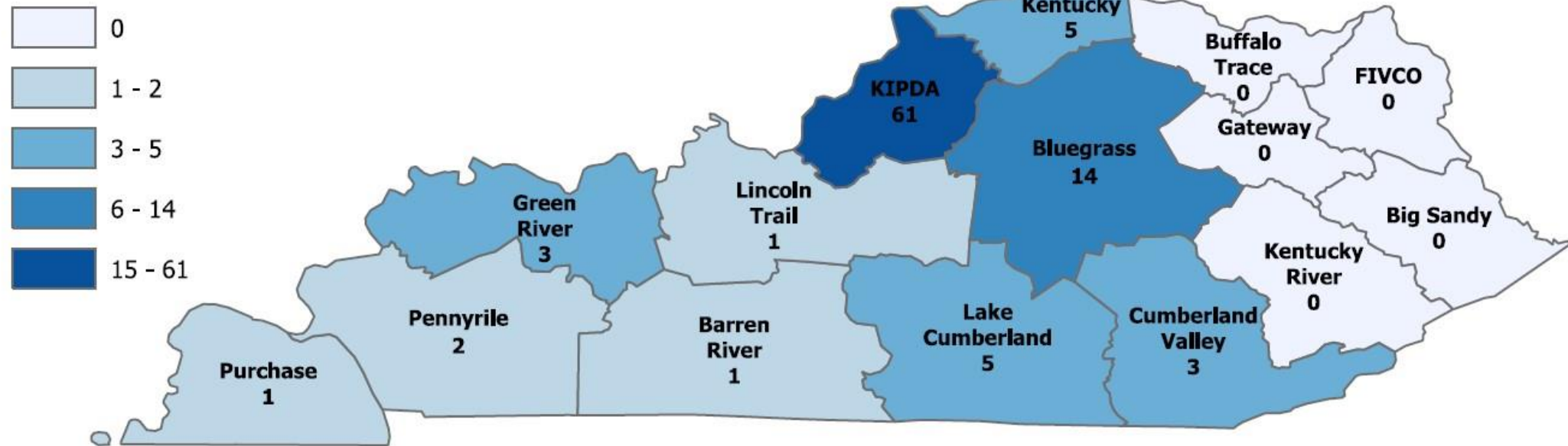
Law enforcement issues

Percent of Law Enforcement Issues in OD cases vs. All Panel Cases, SFY20-24*



Law enforcement Issues Statewide

Number of Overdose and Ingestion External Panel Cases with Law Enforcement Issues, by ADD, SFY20-SFY24*

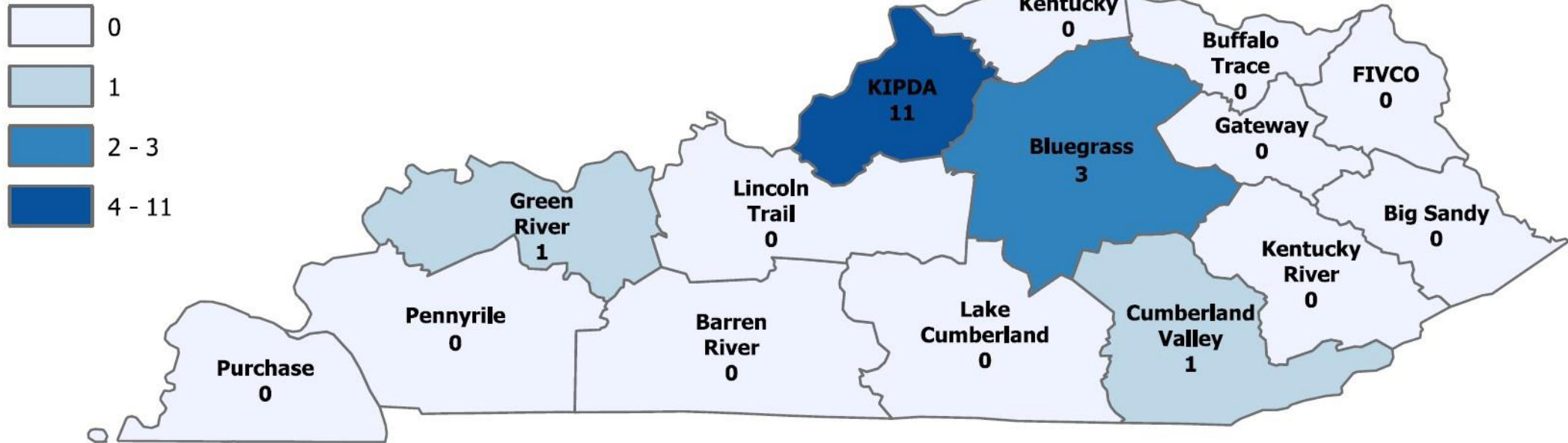


Data Source: External Panel

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Commonwealth Attorney Issues

Number of Overdose and Ingestion External Panel Cases with Commonwealth/County Attorney Issues, by ADD, SFY20-SFY24*



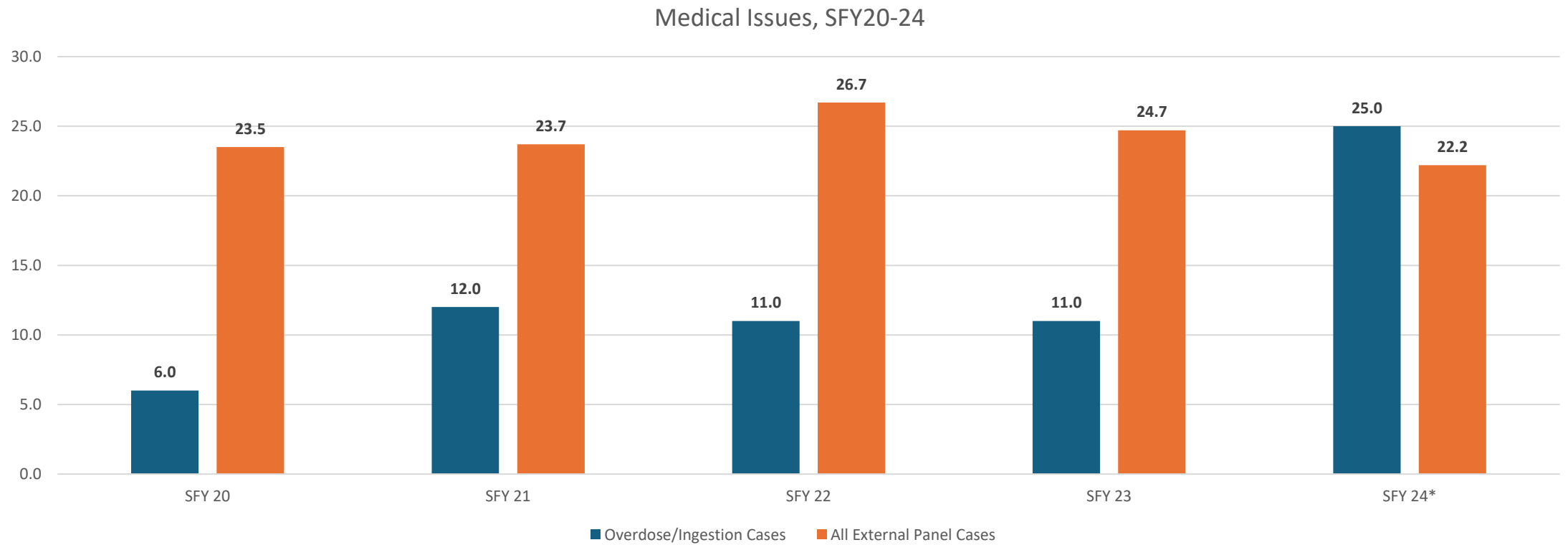
Data Source: External Panel

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Case Example

- This case involved the fatal ingestion in a two-year-old child. UDS and hair toxicology indicated the child had been exposed to multiple substances including fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine, Tramadol, and THC.
- On the day of the event, the child was staying with mother and paramour. Mother reported checking on the child several hours later and discovering the child lifeless in the bed.
- According to medical records mother reported the child was found in a “pile of white powder” which mother said was her “dude’s heroin”.
- Law enforcement requested DCBS staff not interview the mother or paramour at the onset of the investigation due to potential criminal charges.
- Paternal aunt had custody of the child and had been allowing the mother to spend time with the child. Mother had three children, all of which were placed in relative care.
- It was reported the aunt was tired of providing care for the child, and on some occasions was reluctant to take the child back into her home.
- The autopsy determined the death was due to anoxic encephalopathy, secondary to fentanyl intoxication. The manner was undetermined.
- A year after the death, DCBS contacts with law enforcement indicated the Commonwealth Attorney was consulted.
- At the time of this writing (three years after the death), there is no record of criminal charges in AOC for any party involved.

Medical Issues



Case example

- This case involved the near fatal ingestion of THC gummies by a four-year-old child.
- The child presented to the Children's Hospital as a transfer from an outside hospital with altered mental status.
- On the day of the event, the father notified the mother at work that the child was unresponsive.
- Mother returned home, reportedly around 12:30p.m., and took the child to urgent care.
- Upon review of the medical records, the child arrived at the urgent care around 3pm, then transported to the local ED around 3:15pm, and the child arrived at the Children's Hospital around 9:15pm.
- The parents transported the child to each location due to a delay in ambulance services and poor weather conditions. The Children's Hospital was approximately 1.5 hours from their residence.
- The child was admitted to the PICU and UDS was positive for THC. The delay in medical treatment caused the child's medical condition to worsen.

Case Example

- This case involved the near fatal ingestion of THC in a ten-month-old child.
- On the day of the event, mother reported the child was choking while attempting to feed the child. The child became unresponsive, and EMS was called.
- Upon EMS arrival, the child was given Narcan and transported to the local children's hospital. The child tested positive for THC.
- Mother denied using drugs in the home but admitted to occasionally smoking marijuana for anxiety. Father admitted to smoking marijuana daily.
- The mother, father, and index child were temporarily staying with MGM at the time of the event. The conditions of the home were described as hazardous.
- Law enforcement and DCBS interviewed all family members.
- Mother was found guilty of Criminal Abuse 2nd Degree – Child under 12, Wanton Endangerment 1st Degree, and Endangering the Welfare of a Minor.



Questions

Thank you!