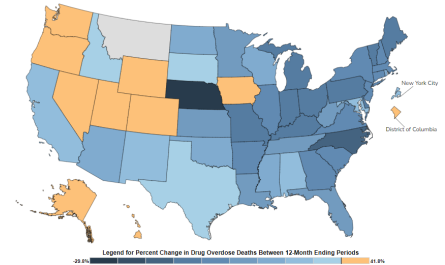


## Bonus Episode – “Falling Overdose Rates”

### Episode Overview

This episode discusses the recent 10% drop in drug overdose-related deaths across the U.S. It also explores seven popular hypotheses that experts give to explain this trend.



- For the first time since 2018, drug overdose incidents are declining instead of rising! Between 2023 and 2024, there was a roughly 10% drop in overdose related deaths.
- When we look at a map of the U.S., we can see that most of the drastically declining overdose rates are occurring in the East, and as we move to the Western states, we’re seeing less of a drop. In fact, in some states, we’re seeing an increase.

## TAKEAWAYS

### Seven popular hypotheses, all with mixed supporting evidence:

1. Increased prevalence of Naloxone (overdose-reversing drug)
2. Improved and expanded treatment for OUD
3. Targeted law enforcement and reduced drug supply
4. Cutting of drugs with Xylazine
5. Increases in tolerance / experience
6. Legalization of marijuana
7. End of the COVID-19 pandemic

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