



Substance Use Disorder Treatment Trends

Trends: Vermonters Receiving Substance Use Disorder Treatment by Providers Funded by Vermont Department of Health Division of Substance Use Programs

July 2024

Overview

This report includes information about Vermonters treated for substance use disorder (SUD) at providers funded by the Vermont Department of Health Division of Substance Use Programs (DSU). These services include outpatient treatment, intensive outpatient treatment, medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in specialty opioid treatment programs known as "hubs", and non-hospital based residential detoxification and treatment. Reporting comes from the providers and at times there are reporting gaps that impact trends.

Providers who are not funded by DSU are not required to submit treatment data. This report does not include SUD treatment provided by private practitioner licensed counselors, hospitals, and medical practitioners who provide SUD treatment. Office based opioid treatment, which is known as a "spoke" service in Vermont, is also excluded from this report.

For more comprehensive information about MOUD in the hub and spoke system, please search for [reports on our website](#) and access the [Substance Use Dashboard](#).

Key Takeaways 2022/2023

- COVID-19 disrupted in-person treatment options and resulted in limiting census in residential programs to prevent infection. Fewer Vermonters continue to be served compared to earlier years as providers continue to struggle to hire staff.
- Many providers changed electronic health records during this period, resulting in changes to data submission and some disruptions in data continuity. These changes continue to impact reporting timeliness.
- More Vermonters continue to receive treatment for opioid use disorder than for any other substance use disorder. Treatment rates are not aligned with use/misuse rates. Alcohol is the most misused substance in Vermont and Vermont has one of the highest rates of use of any state.
- The number of Vermonters under the age of 18 receiving treatment has been trending down.
- Treatment for cannabis has been decreasing even as Vermont began the process of legalizing adult sales of cannabis. Vermonters under 18 are most likely to receive treatment for cannabis.
- Treatment for cocaine/crack use increased 53% between 2021 and 2023.

Methods

Providers funded by DSU are required to report treatment admissions, services, and discharges each month to the Substance Abuse Treatment Information System (SATIS). Data are validated when uploaded into the system. Occasionally, data lags or missing data impact trends and when it is substantial, it is noted.

This report is based on the state fiscal year in which a person received treatment services unless otherwise noted. For clarity, this report reflects unduplicated numbers of Vermonters served so categories used reflect information associated with the person's most recent admission to care unless otherwise noted. The State of Vermont's fiscal year begins on July 1st and ends on June 30th of the following year.

Terminology has changed – we are now using the term “cannabis” in place of “marijuana/hashish”.

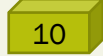
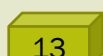

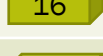
A person may have been admitted to treatment in a year before the reporting year but continue to receive services in additional years and would appear in each year in which they received service. Vermonters may also have been admitted more than once in a year and would appear only once in the report.

- The substance reported is the primary substance used at the time of the most recent admission. Vermonters often use more than one substance at once.
- Age is categorized as the person's lowest age during reporting year.
- County is based on the county of residence at the time of the most recent admission

Data are suppressed when fewer than five Vermonters are served.

If you have questions about this report, please contact AHS.VDHDSU@Vermont.gov.





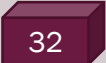


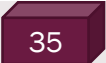

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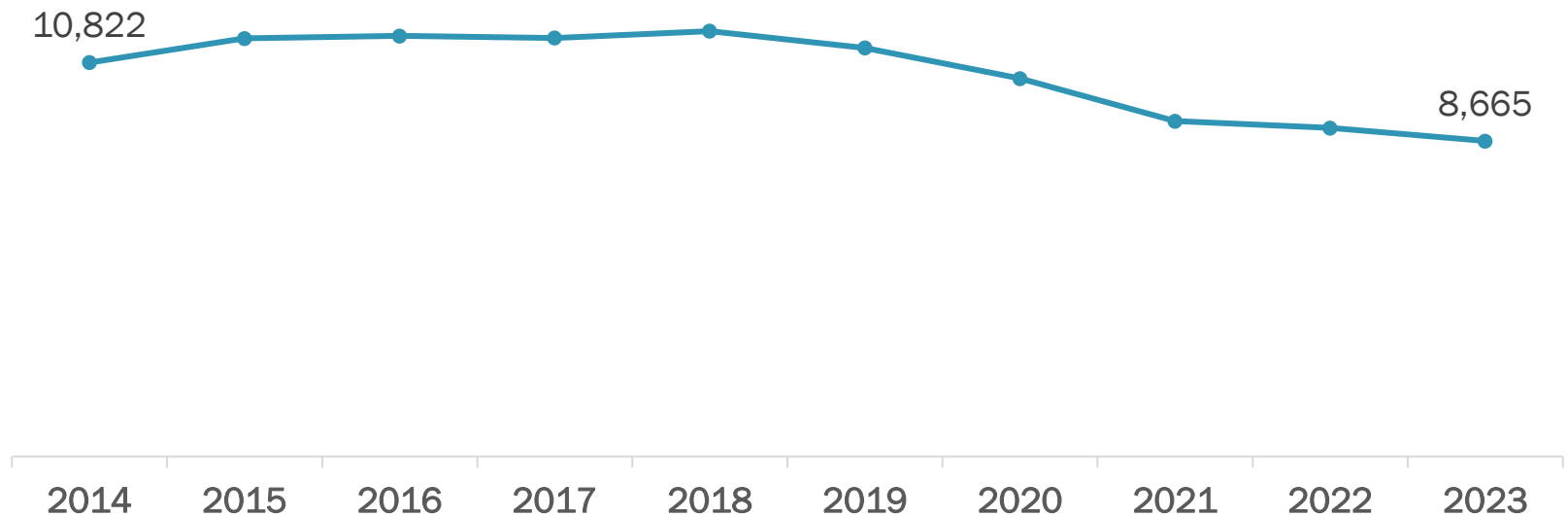
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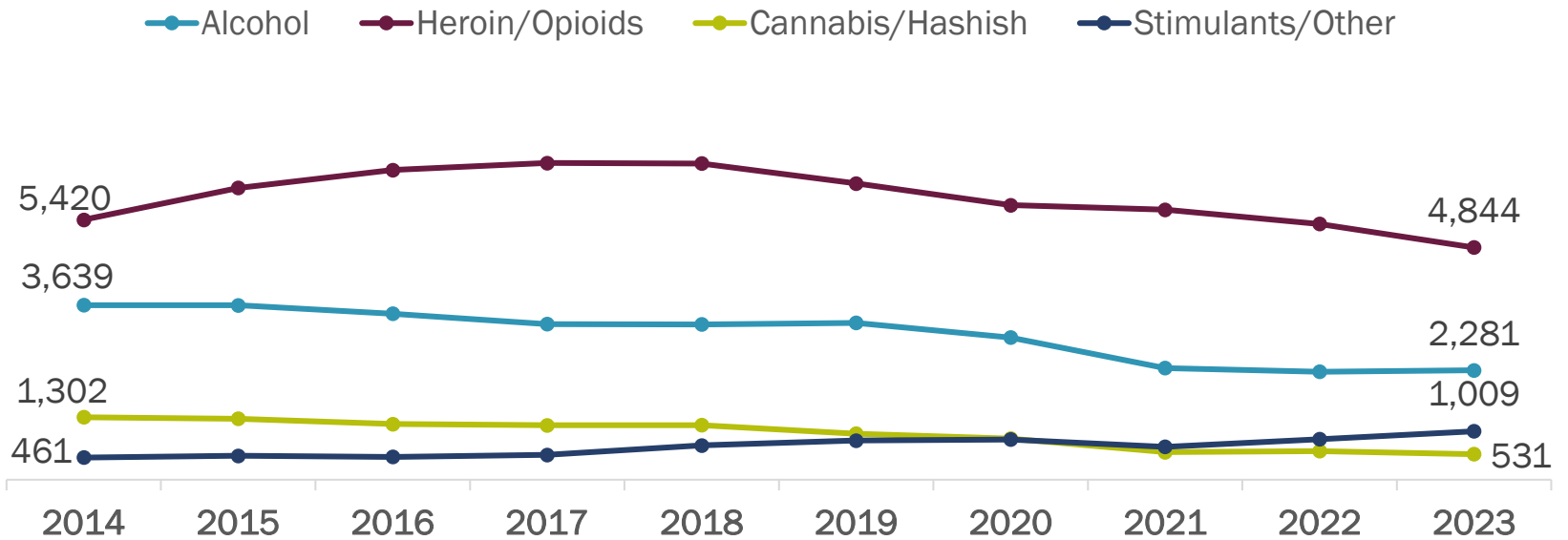
The number of Vermonters receiving treatment is trending downward

Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder by Fiscal Year



More Vermonters are receiving treatment for opioids than all other substances combined

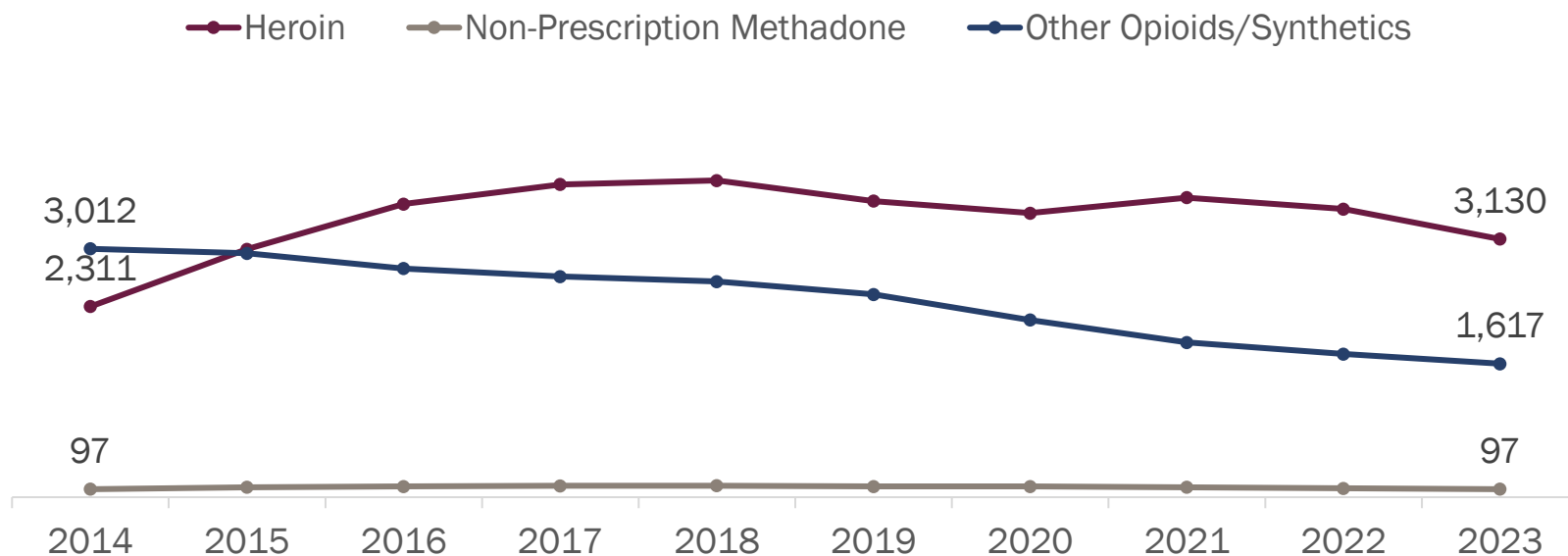
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance and Fiscal Year



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	3,639	3,635	3,461	3,244	3,240	3,270	2,966	2,328	2,251	2,281
Cannabis	1,302	1,269	1,160	1,133	1,138	959	858	572	594	531
Heroin/Opioids	5,420	6,084	6,456	6,605	6,594	6,178	5,724	5,629	5,335	4,844
Stimulants/Other	461	497	474	516	713	816	837	684	844	1,009

Heroin remains the primary opioid used at the time the person is admitted to treatment

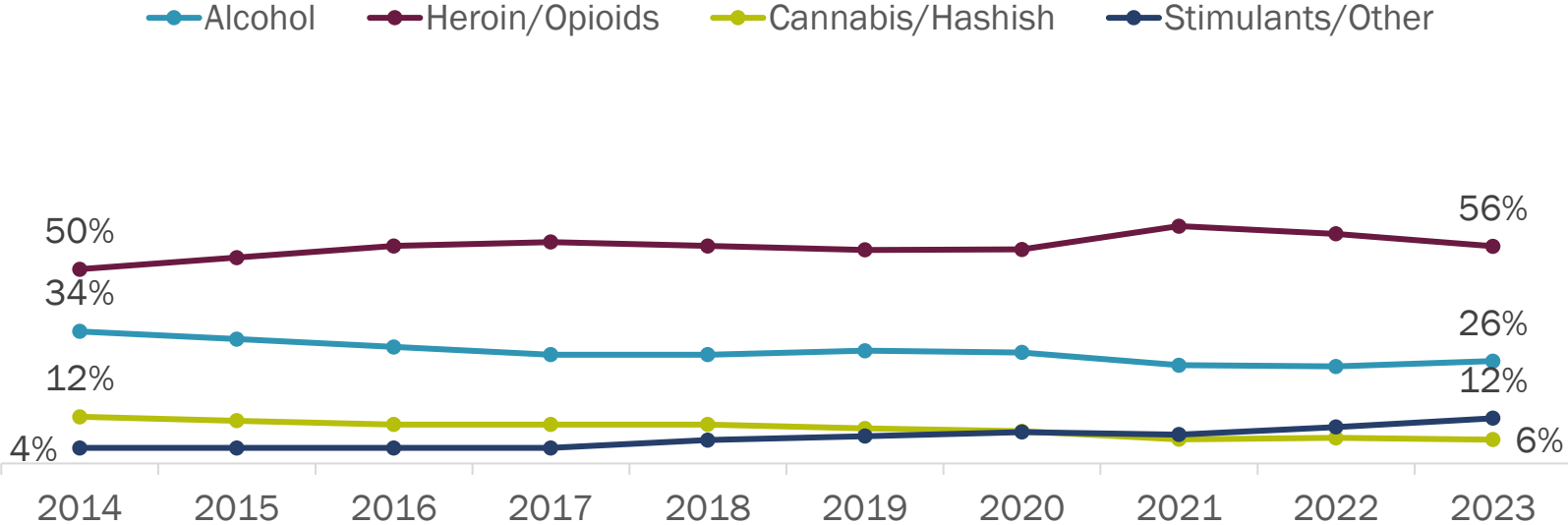
Vermonters Treated for Opioid Use Disorder in Vermont by Fiscal Year



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Heroin	2,311	3,007	3,554	3,792	3,840	3,591	3,445	3,633	3,494	3,130
Non-Prescription Methadone	97	120	129	137	139	129	130	120	106	97
Other Opioids/Synthetics	3,012	2,957	2,773	2,676	2,615	2,458	2,149	1,876	1,735	1,617

Over half of Vermonters receiving treatment primarily use opioids at the time of admission

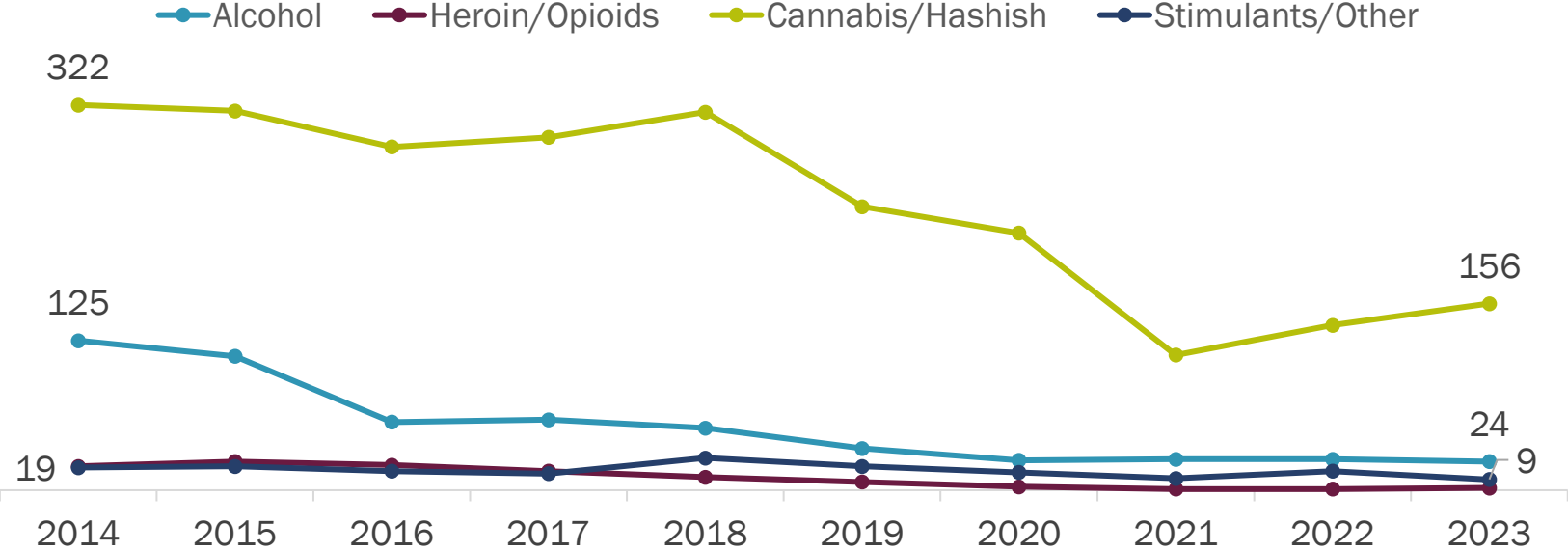
Vermonters Treated by Substance of Abuse and Fiscal Year by Percent of Treatment Population



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	34%	32%	30%	28%	28%	29%	29%	25%	25%	26%
Heroin/Opioids	50%	53%	56%	57%	56%	55%	55%	61%	59%	56%
Cannabis/Hashish	12%	11%	10%	10%	10%	9%	8%	6%	7%	6%
Stimulants/Other	4%	4%	4%	4%	6%	7%	8%	7%	9%	12%

The number of Vermont adolescents (<18) receiving care has generally decreased

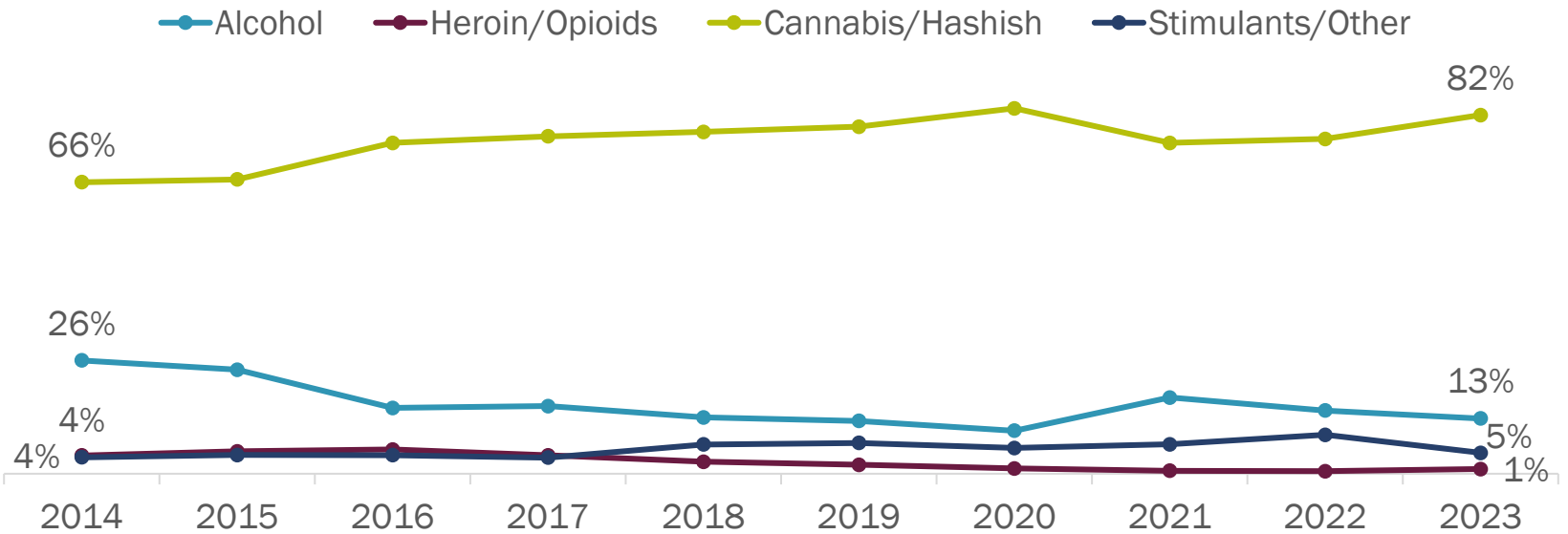
Adolescents (<18) Treated by Substance of Abuse and Fiscal Year



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	125	112	57	59	52	35	25	26	26	24
Heroin/Opioids	20	24	21	16	11	12	11	6	<5	<5
Cannabis/Hashish	322	317	287	295	316	237	215	113	138	156
Stimulants/Other	19	21	18	19	27	20	15	10	16	9

Cannabis is the primary substance Vermont adolescents use at admission

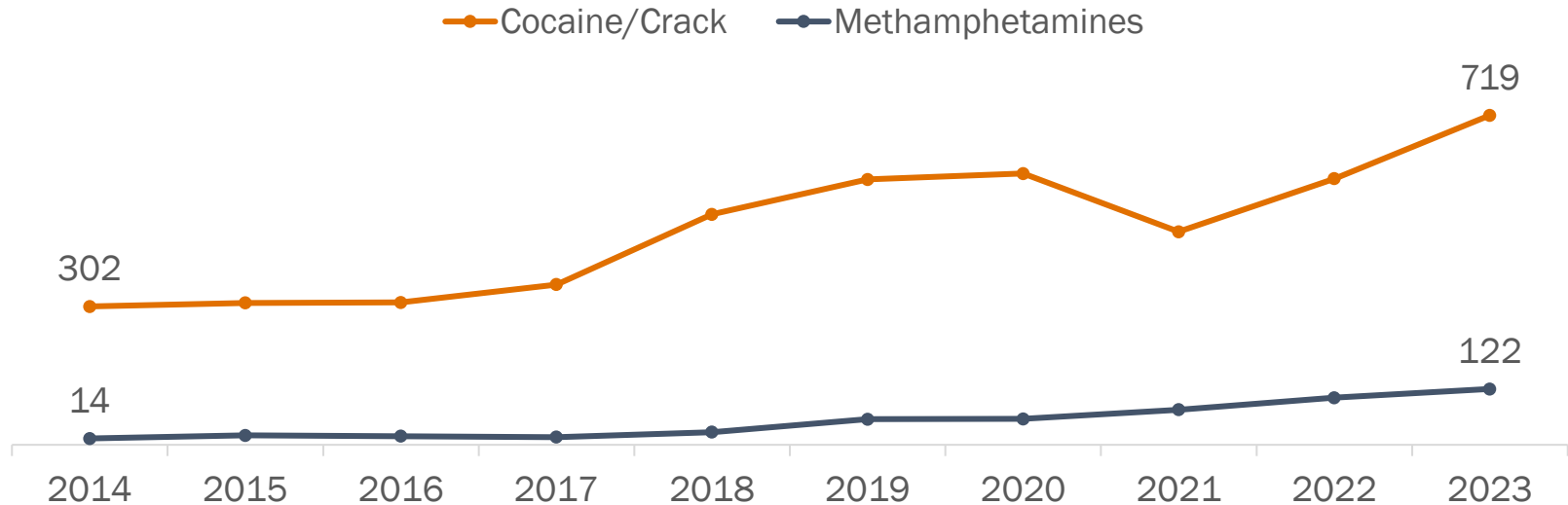
Adolescents (<18) Treated by Substance of Abuse and Fiscal Year by Percent of Adolescent Treatment Population



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	26%	24%	15%	15%	13%	12%	10%	17%	14%	13%
Heroin/Opioids	4%	5%	6%	4%	3%	2%	1%	1%	1%	1%
Cannabis/Hashish	66%	67%	75%	77%	78%	79%	83%	75%	76%	82%
Stimulants/Other	4%	4%	4%	4%	7%	7%	6%	7%	9%	5%

More Vermonters are receiving treatment for primary stimulant use including cocaine/crack and methamphetamines

Vermonters Treated for Potential Substances of Concern by Fiscal Year

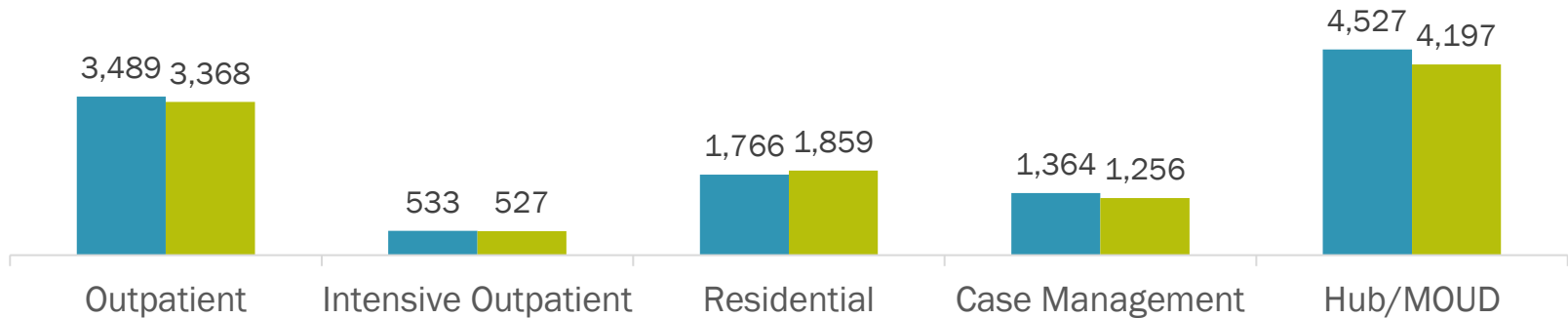


Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cocaine/Crack	302	310	311	350	503	579	592	465	581	719
Methamphetamines	14	21	19	17	28	56	57	77	103	122

More Vermonters receive Hub/MOUD services or other Outpatient (OP) treatment than other types of care

Type of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Received By Clients in Fiscal Years 2022 & 2023

■ 2022 ■ 2023



Note: Clients may receive more than one type of treatment in the year

State Fiscal Year	Outpatient	Intensive Outpatient	Residential	Case Management	Hub/MOUD	Total Clients
2022	3,489	533	1,766	1,364	4,527	9,024
2023	3,368	527	1,859	1,256	4,197	8,665

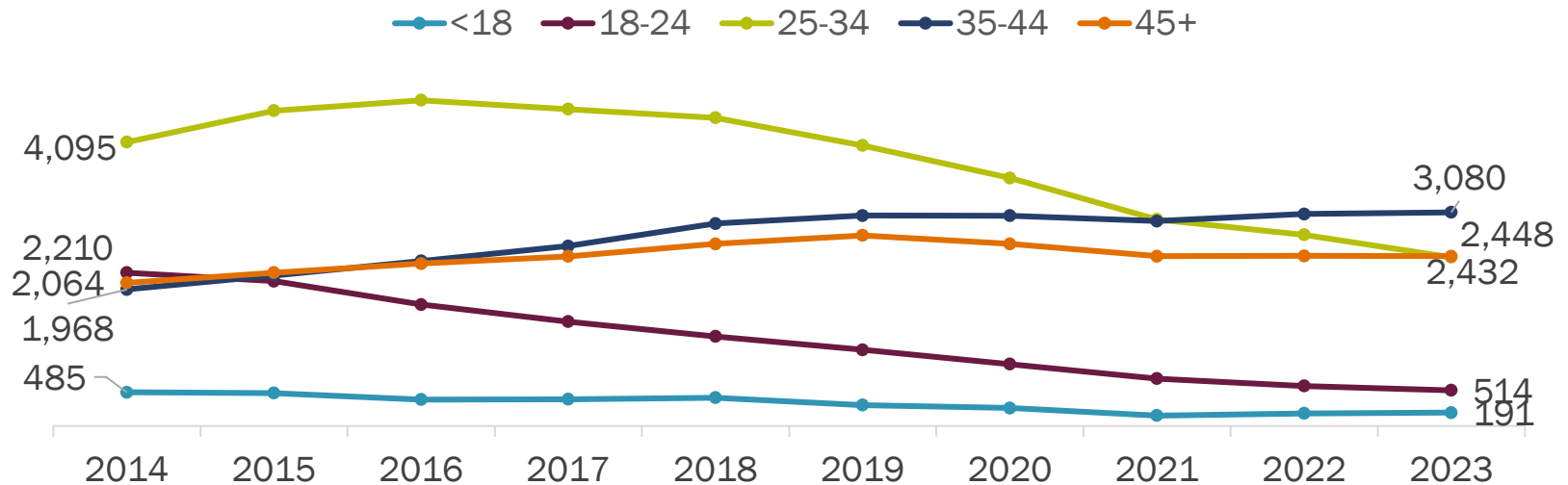
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The number of younger Vermonters receiving treatment is decreasing

Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year

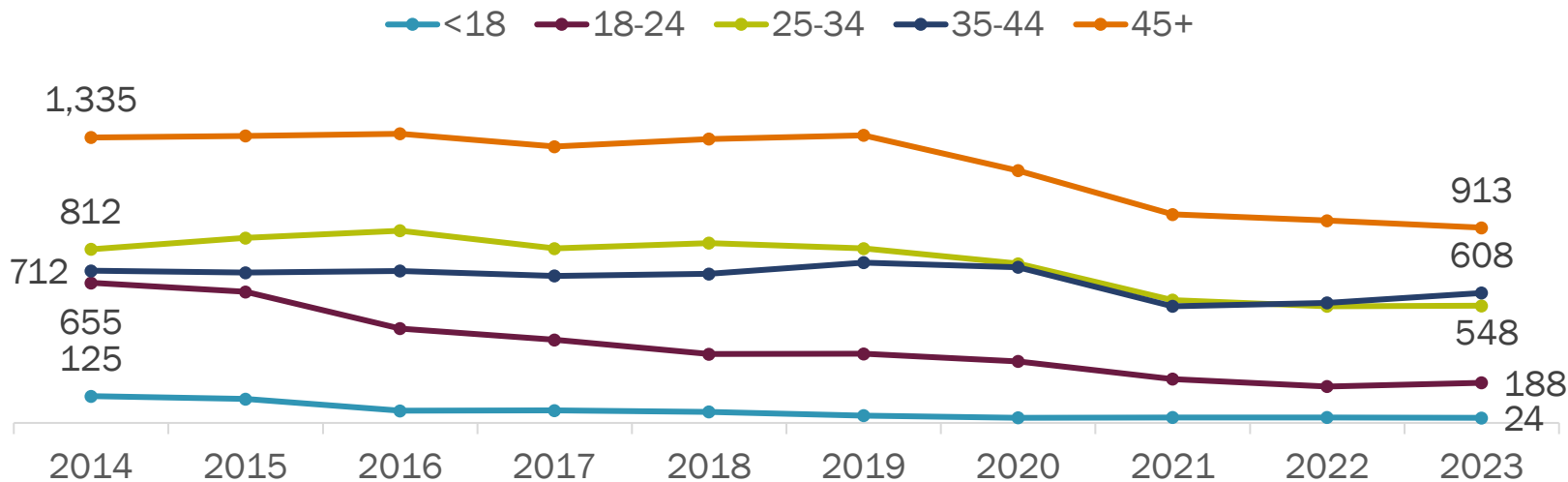


Note: Fewer than 260 Vermonters age 65+ are treated per year, most for alcohol and opioids

Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	485	473	381	384	406	299	258	150	181	191
18-24	2,210	2,087	1,751	1,505	1,290	1,097	891	681	576	514
25-34	4,095	4,548	4,698	4,569	4,446	4,046	3,577	2,979	2,757	2,432
35-44	1,968	2,167	2,380	2,594	2,918	3,034	3,033	2,955	3,057	3,080
45+	2,064	2,210	2,342	2,446	2,625	2,747	2,626	2,448	2,453	2,448

More Vermonters aged 45 and up receive treatment for alcohol use disorder than any other age group

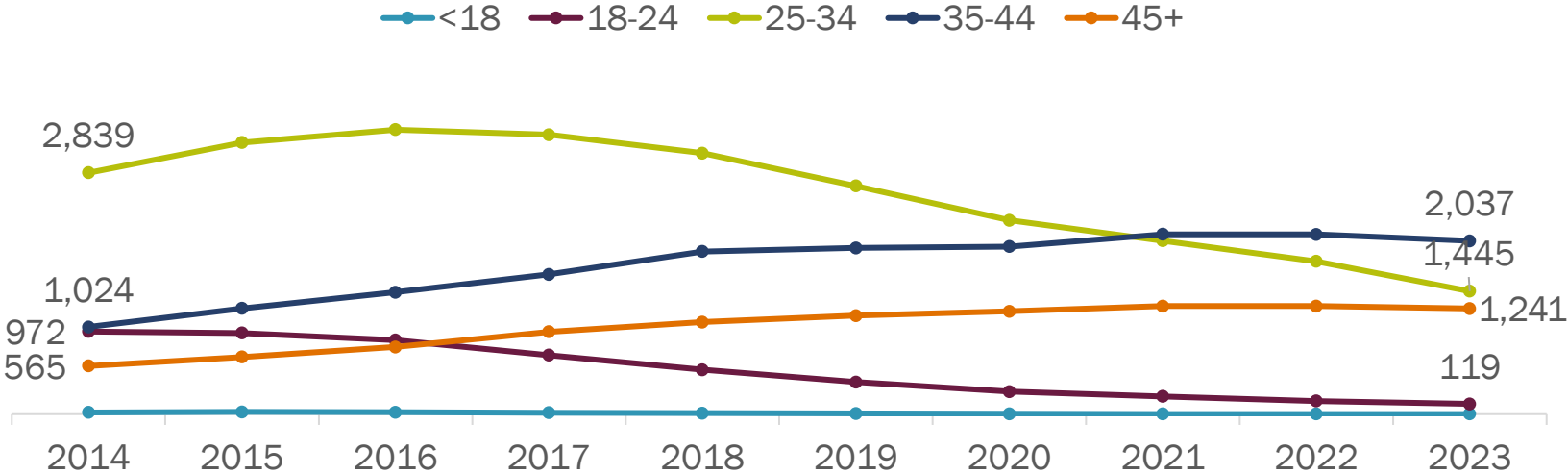
Vermonters Treated for Alcohol Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	125	112	57	59	52	35	25	26	26	24
18-24	655	613	442	389	322	324	288	206	171	188
25-34	812	865	899	816	841	816	745	575	546	548
35-44	712	703	711	688	697	750	728	546	562	608
45+	1,335	1,342	1,352	1,292	1,328	1,345	1,180	975	946	913

In 2021, Vermonters aged 35-44 became the largest age group of Vermonters receiving care for opioid use disorder

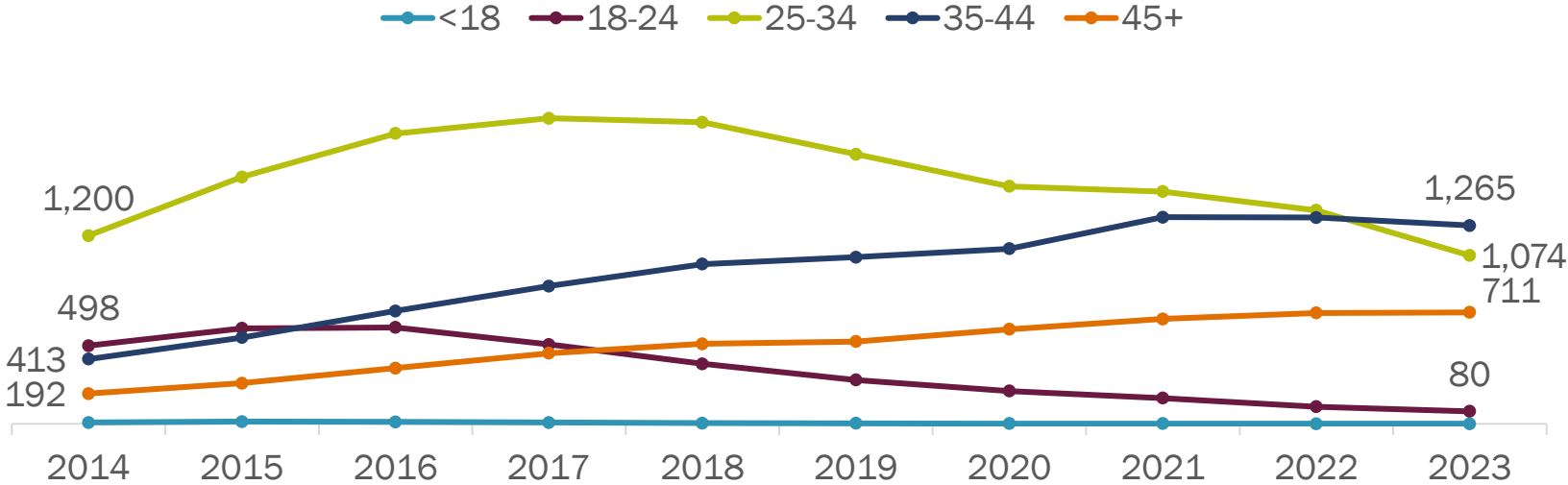
Vermonters Treated for Opioid Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	20	24	21	16	11	7	<5	<5	<5	<5
18-24	972	953	870	692	520	376	263	207	154	119
25-34	2,839	3,194	3,345	3,286	3,069	2,683	2,280	2,038	1,797	1,445
35-44	1,024	1,243	1,432	1,643	1,912	1,954	1,970	2,114	2,113	2,037
45+	565	670	789	968	1,082	1,158	1,208	1,269	1,270	1,241

In 2023, Vermonters aged 35-44 became the largest age group of people receiving care for heroin use disorder

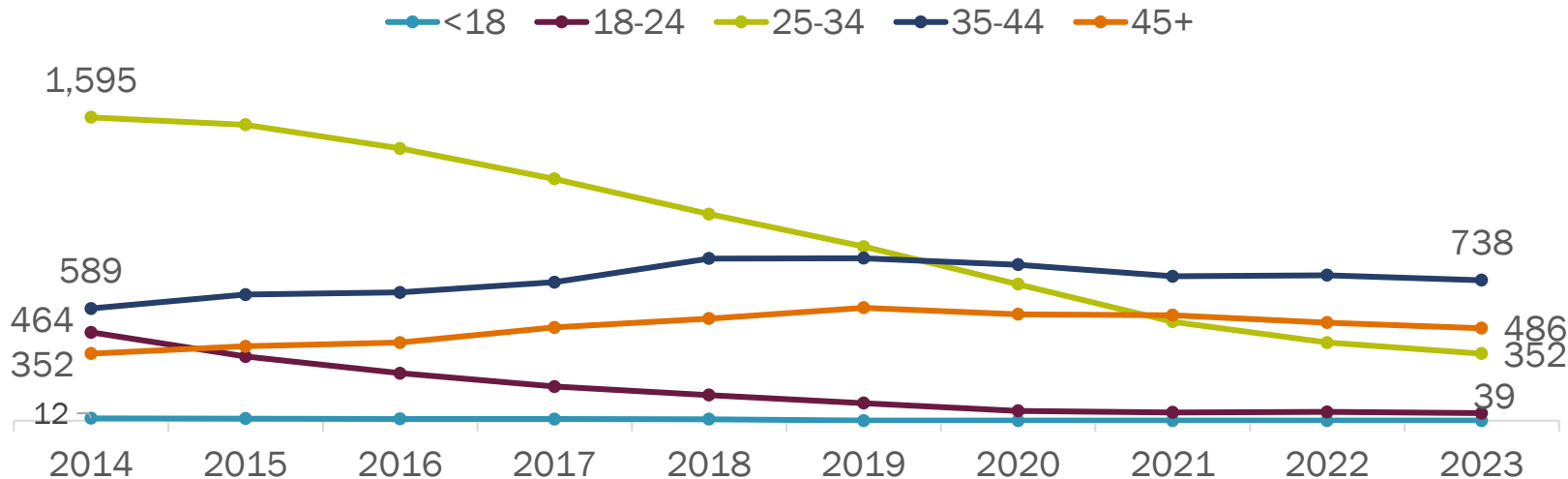
Vermonters Treated for Heroin Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	8	14	12	8	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
18-24	498	609	615	506	383	280	209	164	109	80
25-34	1,200	1,575	1,852	1,949	1,924	1,720	1,515	1,481	1,362	1,074
35-44	413	550	720	879	1,019	1,063	1,117	1,318	1,316	1,265
45+	192	259	355	450	510	525	603	669	707	711

The number of Vermonters receiving treatment for other opioids, primarily prescription drugs or illicit fentanyl, is decreasing

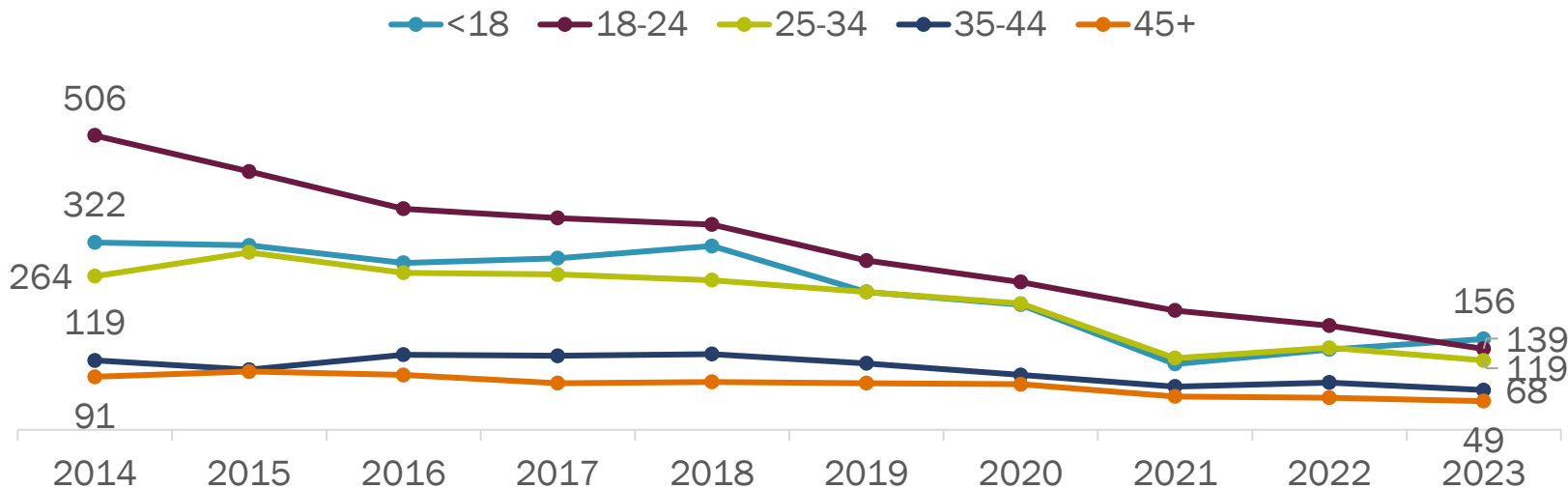
Vermonters Treated for Other Opioids and Synthetics Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	12	10	9	8	7	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5
18-24	464	337	249	179	134	92	51	43	45	39
25-34	1,595	1,556	1,431	1,271	1,086	915	717	520	410	352
35-44	589	663	674	728	852	854	820	759	764	738
45+	352	391	410	490	536	593	559	554	515	486

Fewer Vermonters are receiving treatment for cannabis/hashish

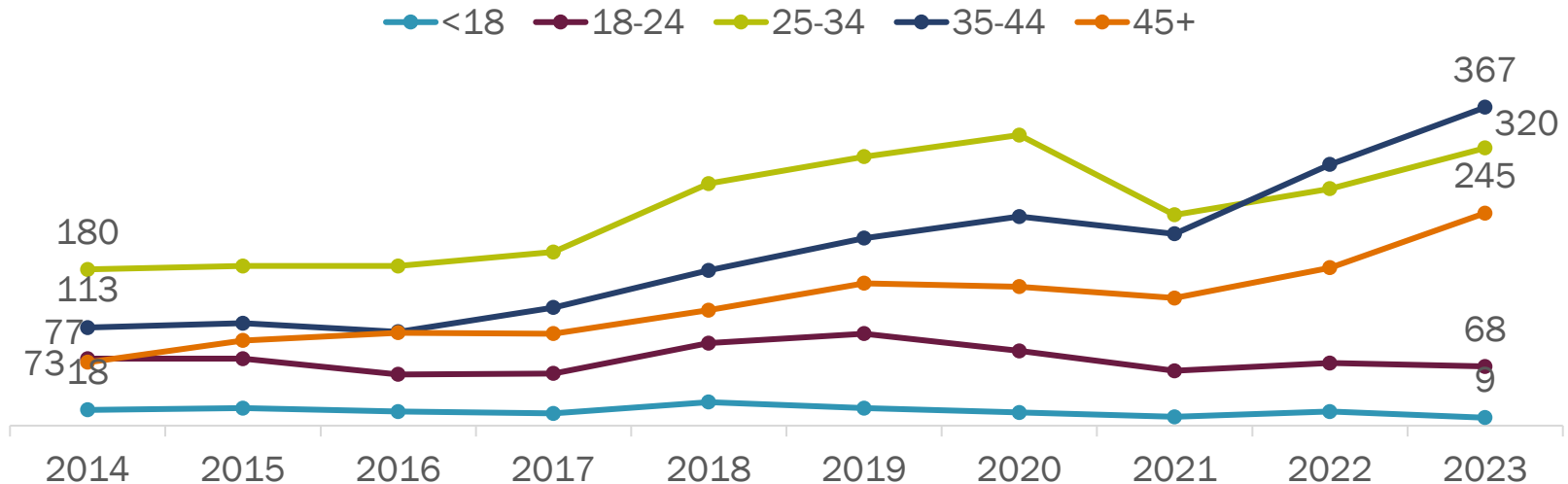
Vermonters Treated for Cannabis/Hashish Use Disorder by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	322	317	287	295	316	237	215	113	138	156
18-24	506	444	380	364	353	291	254	205	179	139
25-34	264	305	270	267	257	237	217	123	141	119
35-44	119	103	129	127	130	114	94	74	81	68
45+	91	100	94	80	82	80	78	57	55	49

Vermonters treated for substance use disorder other than alcohol, opioids, cannabis/hashish is going up. Stimulants are the main substances used.

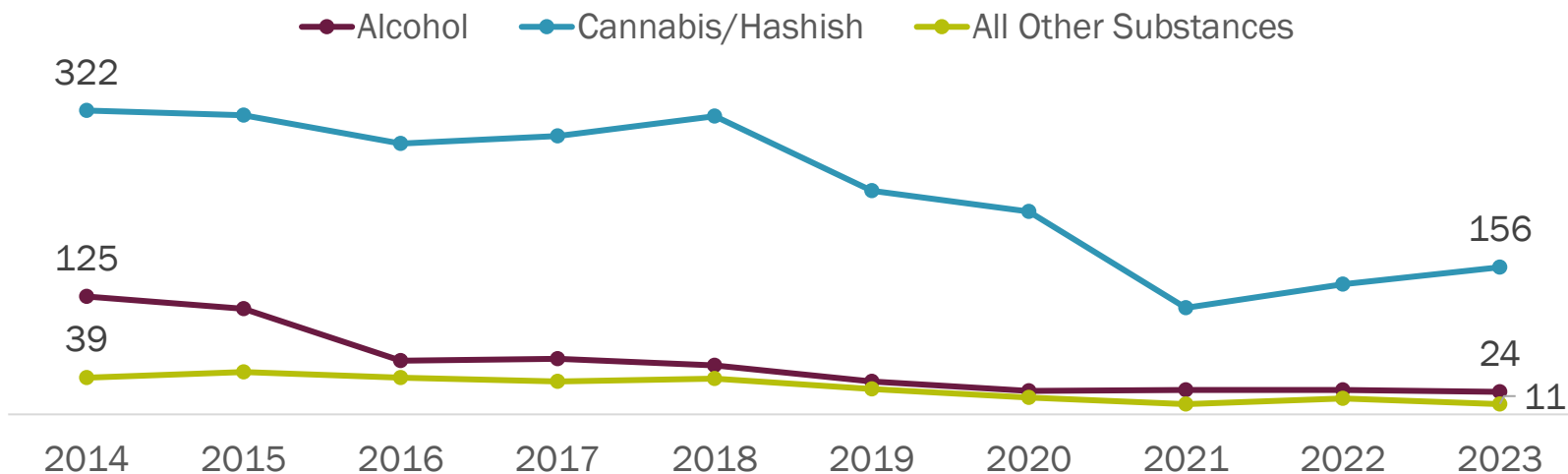
Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder Other Than Alcohol, Opioids, Marijuana/Hashish by Age and Fiscal Year



Age Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
<18	18	20	16	14	27	20	15	10	16	9
18-24	77	77	59	60	95	106	86	63	72	68
25-34	180	184	184	200	279	310	335	243	273	320
35-44	113	118	108	136	179	216	241	221	301	367
45+	73	98	107	106	133	164	160	147	182	245

Treatment for Vermonters under the age of 18 has decreased over time. They primarily receive treatment for cannabis/hashish.

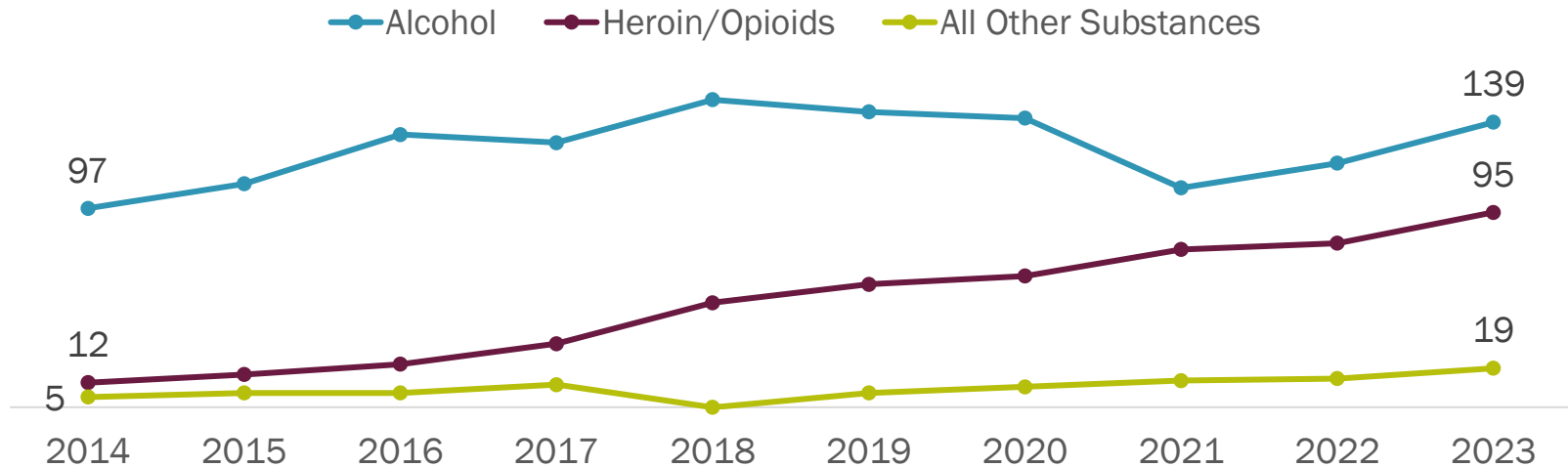
Primary Substance of Vermonters Under 18 Treated by Fiscal Year



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Cannabis/Hashish	322	317	287	295	316	237	215	113	138	156
Alcohol	125	112	57	59	52	35	25	26	26	24
All Other Substances	39	45	39	35	38	27	18	11	17	11

Treatment for Vermonters aged 65+ has increased in the past few years.

Primary Substance of Vermonters Aged 65+ Treated by Fiscal Year



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	97	109	133	129	150	144	141	107	119	139
Heroin/Opioids	12	16	21	31	51	60	64	77	80	95
All Other Substances	5	7	7	11	<5	7	10	13	14	19

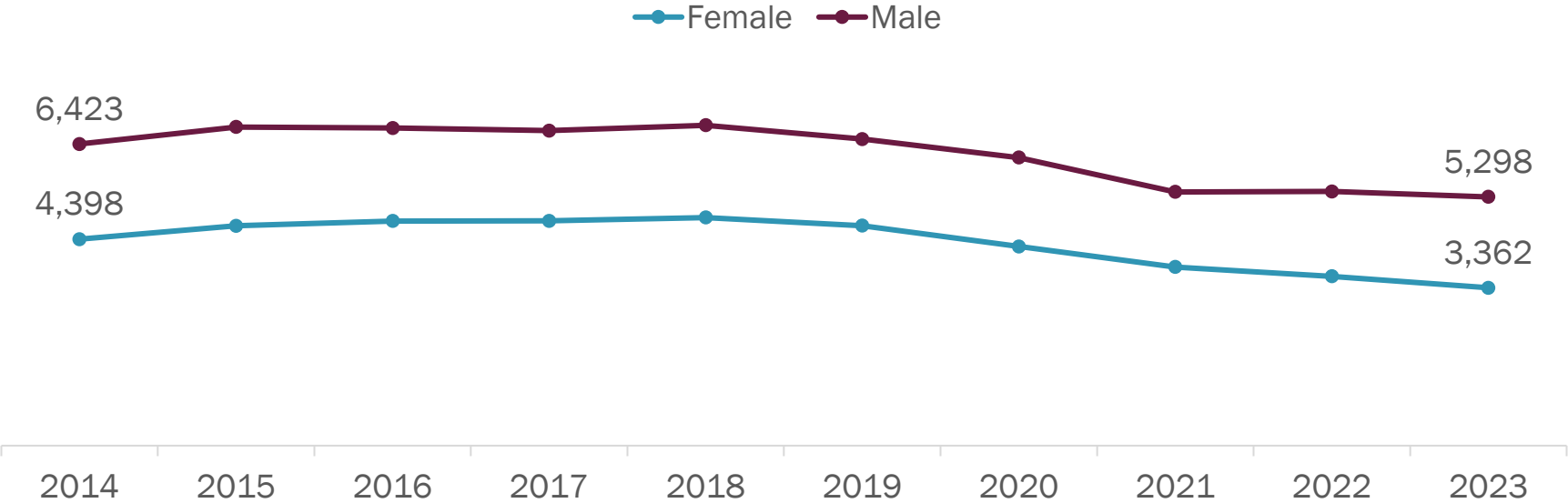
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More males receive substance use disorder treatment than females and both are trending downward

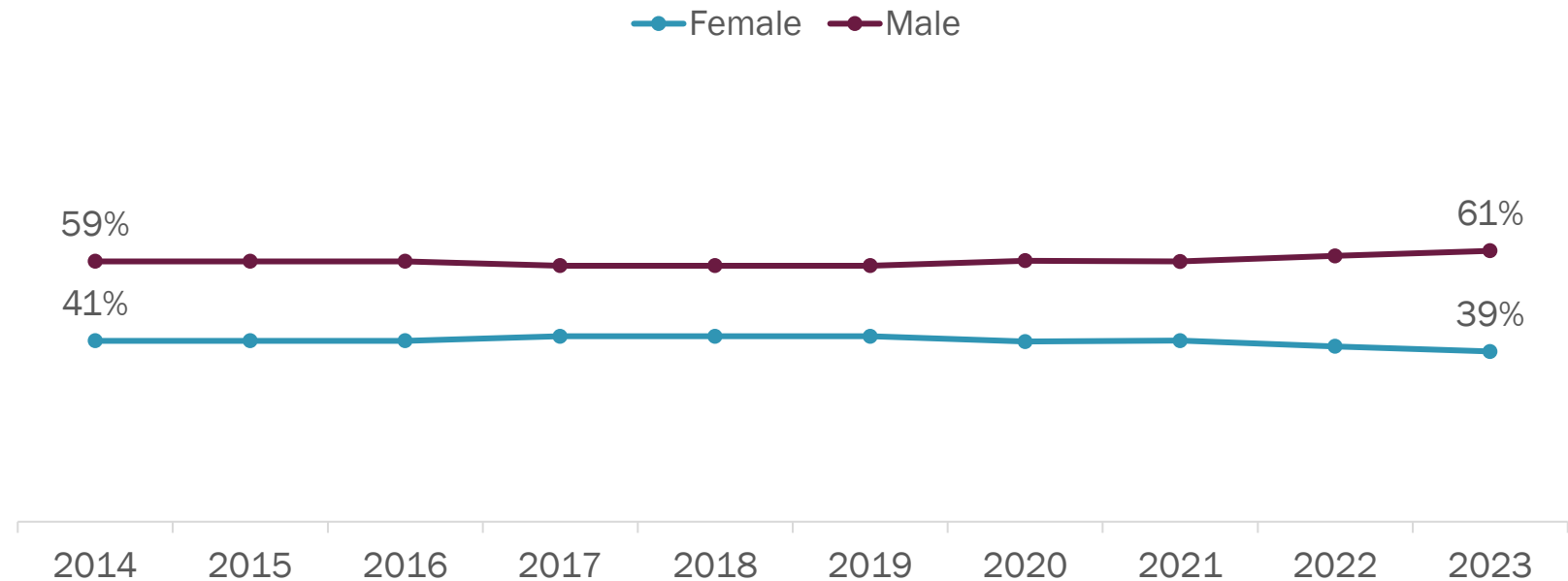
Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	4,398	4,683	4,783	4,788	4,858	4,684	4,243	3,806	3,607	3,362
Male	6,423	6,787	6,764	6,708	6,823	6,528	6,134	5,405	5,412	5,298

The ratio of males and females receiving treatment is relatively stable, with males accounting for approximately 60% of the treatment population

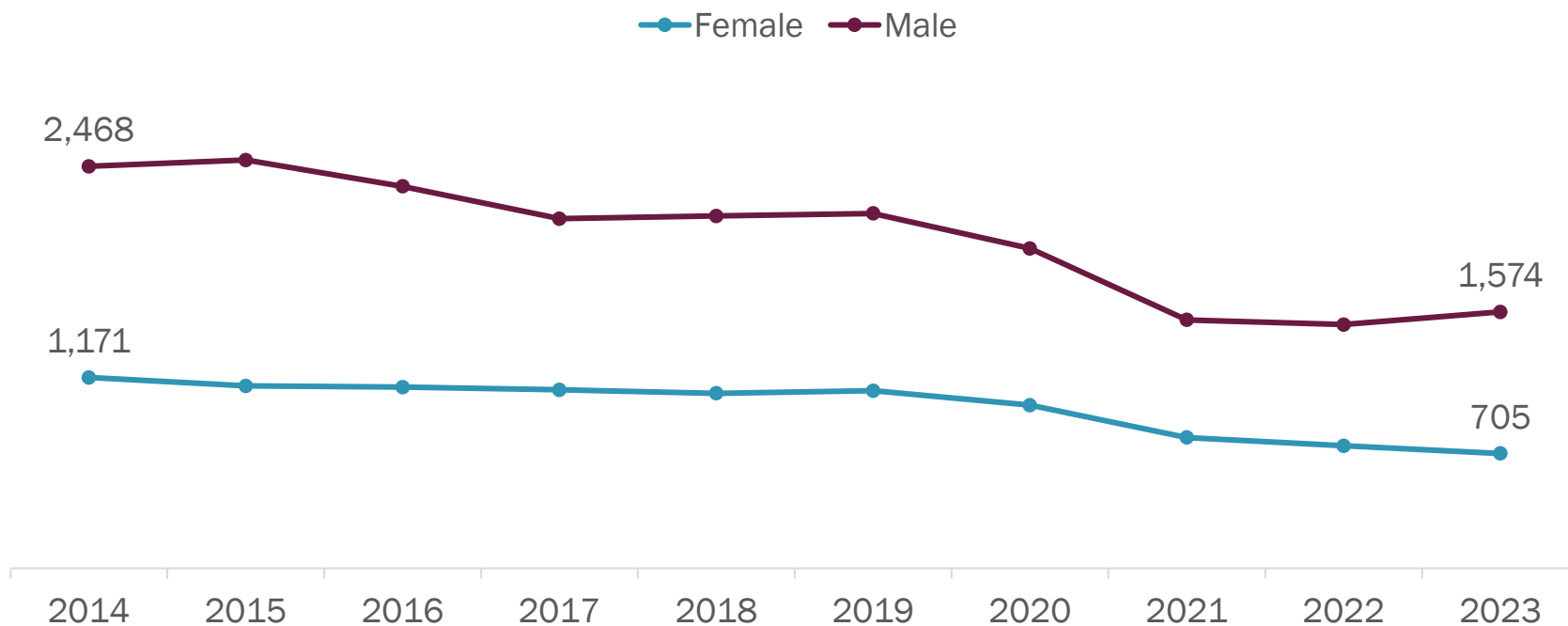
Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year by Percent of Treatment Population



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	41%	41%	41%	42%	42%	42%	41%	41%	40%	39%
Male	59%	59%	59%	58%	58%	58%	59%	59%	60%	61%

More than twice as many males receive alcohol use disorder treatment than females

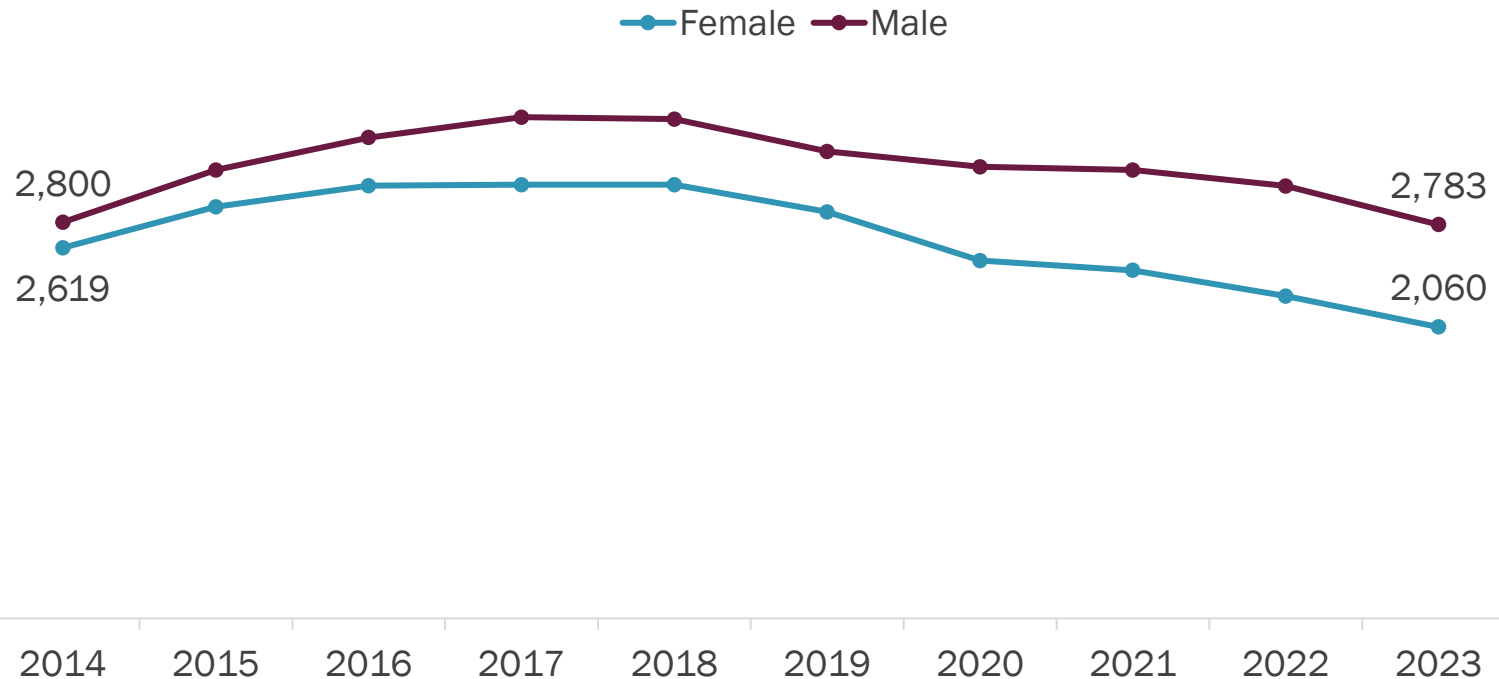
Vermonters Treated for Alcohol Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	1,171	1,120	1,112	1,096	1,074	1,090	1,001	803	752	705
Male	2,468	2,507	2,346	2,147	2,164	2,179	1,964	1,525	1,497	1,574

Approximately 58% of Vermonters receiving opioid use disorder treatment are male

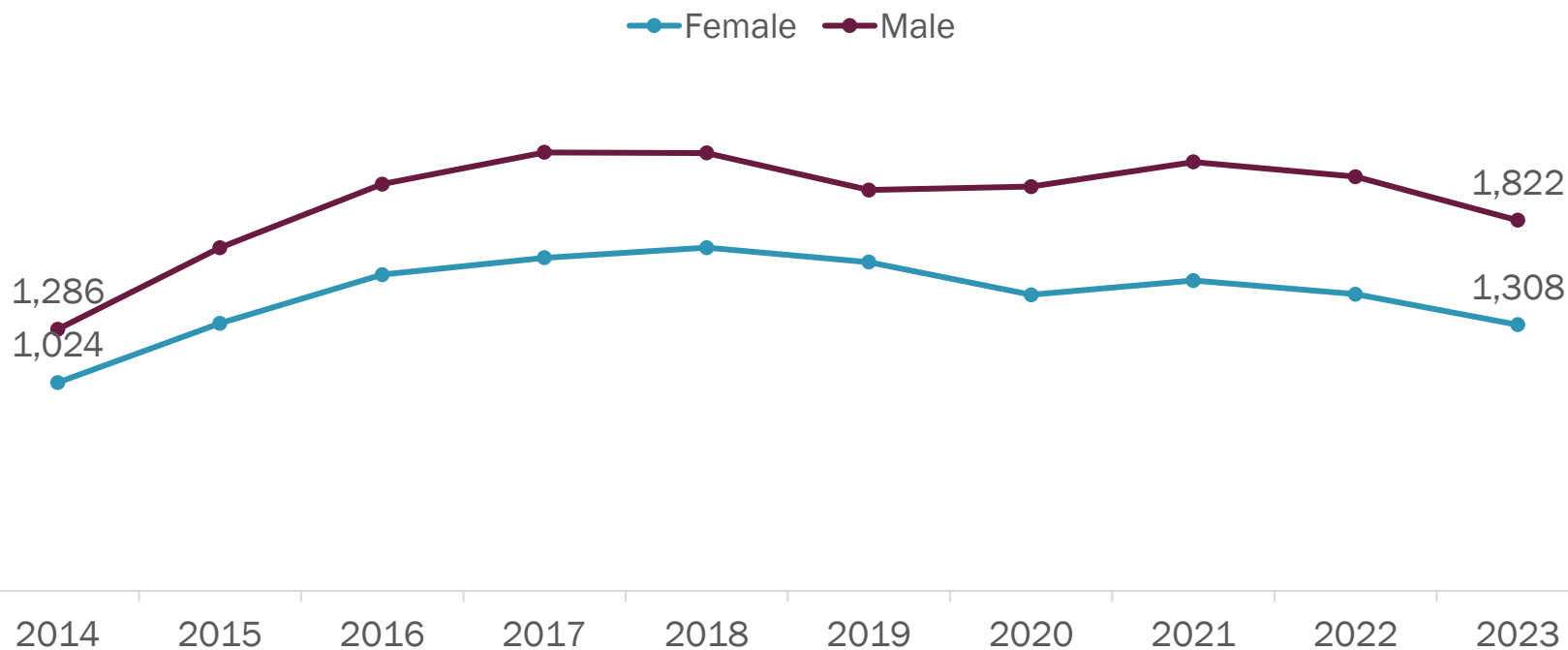
Vermonters Treated for All Opioid Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	2,619	2,909	3,058	3,064	3,065	2,872	2,529	2,460	2,278	2,060
Male	2,800	3,169	3,398	3,541	3,528	3,300	3,191	3,169	3,055	2,783

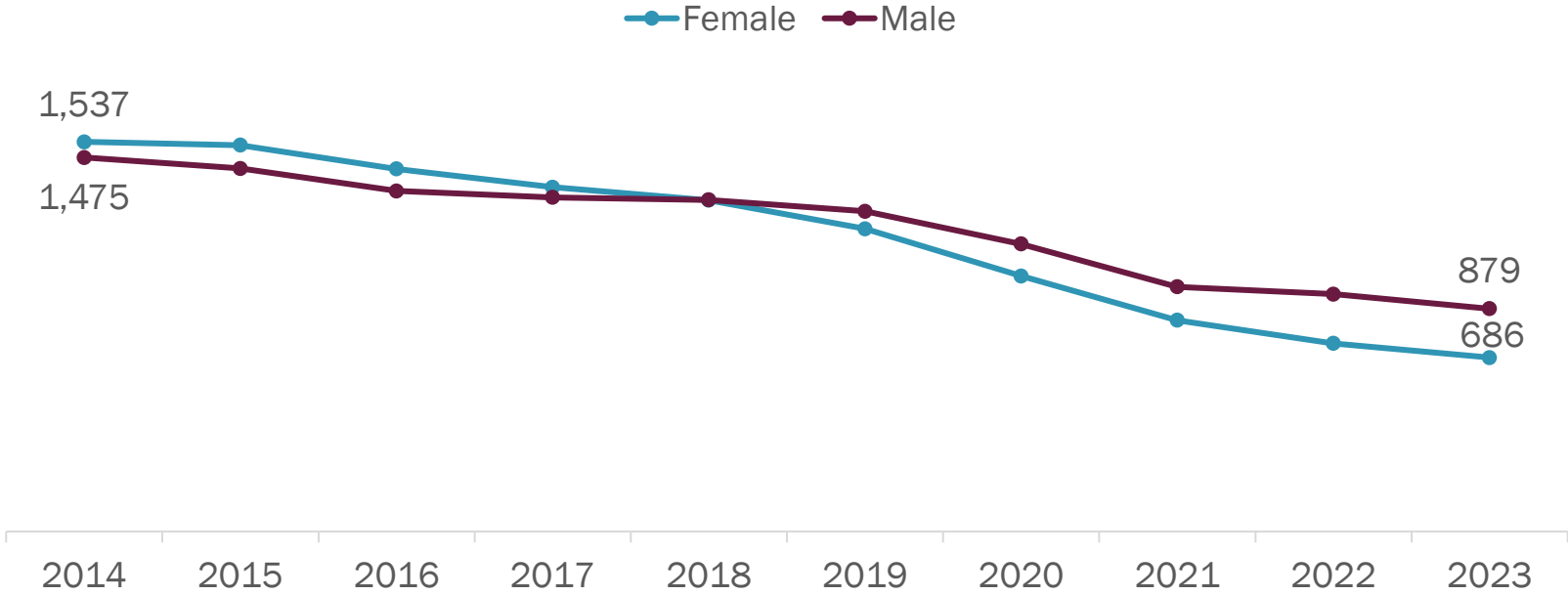
Vermonters receiving treatment for heroin use disorder are approximately 59% male

Vermonters Treated for Heroin Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year



The ratio of Vermonters using other opioids, typically prescription opioids or illicit fentanyl, changed from primarily female to primarily male in 2019 although the gap is smaller than with other substances

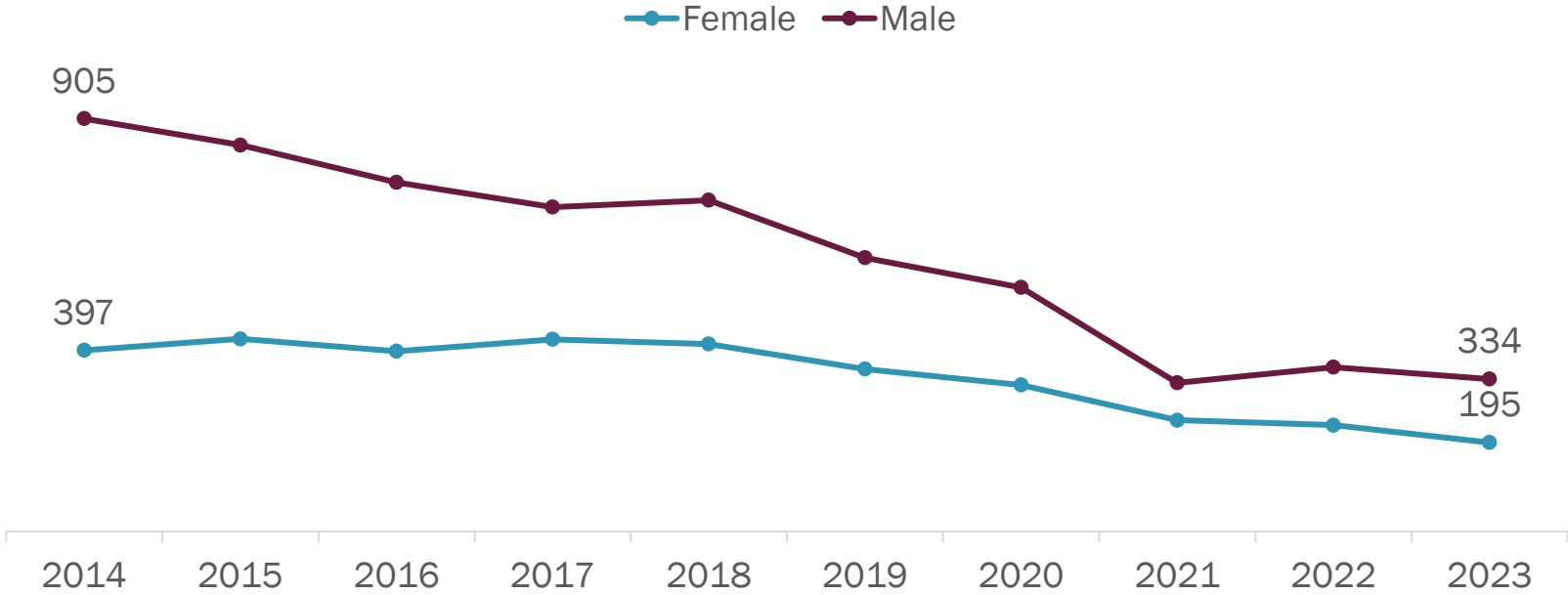
Vermonters Treated for Opioid Use Disorder for Other Opioids and Synthetics by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	1,537	1,524	1,430	1,358	1,307	1,194	1,013	880	773	710
Male	1,475	1,432	1,343	1,318	1,308	1,263	1,135	996	960	906

Fewer males and females are receiving treatment for cannabis/hashish use disorder

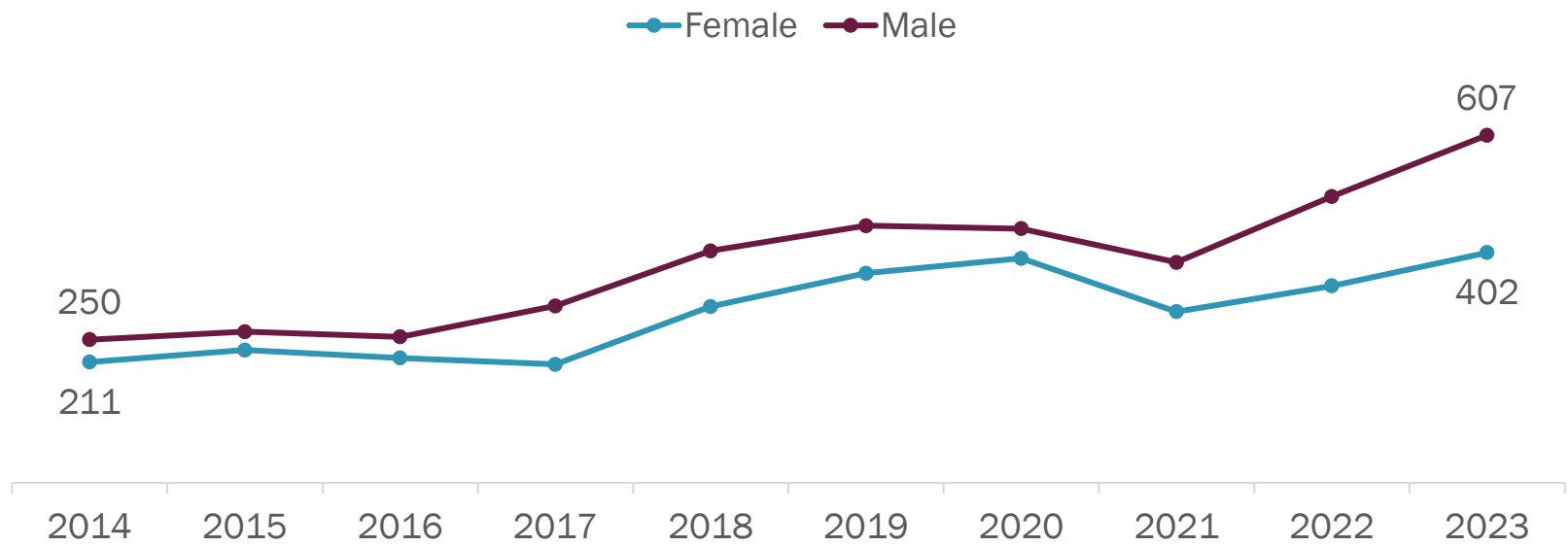
Vermonters Treated for Cannabis/Hashish Use Disorder by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	397	422	395	421	411	356	321	244	233	195
Male	905	847	765	711	726	600	535	326	360	334

Males and females being treated for substance use disorder other than alcohol, opioids, cannabis/hashish is going up. Stimulants are the main substances used.

Vermonters Treated for Substance Use Disorder Other Than Alcohol, Opioids, and Cannabis/Hashish by Gender and Fiscal Year



Gender	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Female	211	232	218	207	308	366	392	299	344	402
Male	250	264	255	309	405	449	444	385	500	607

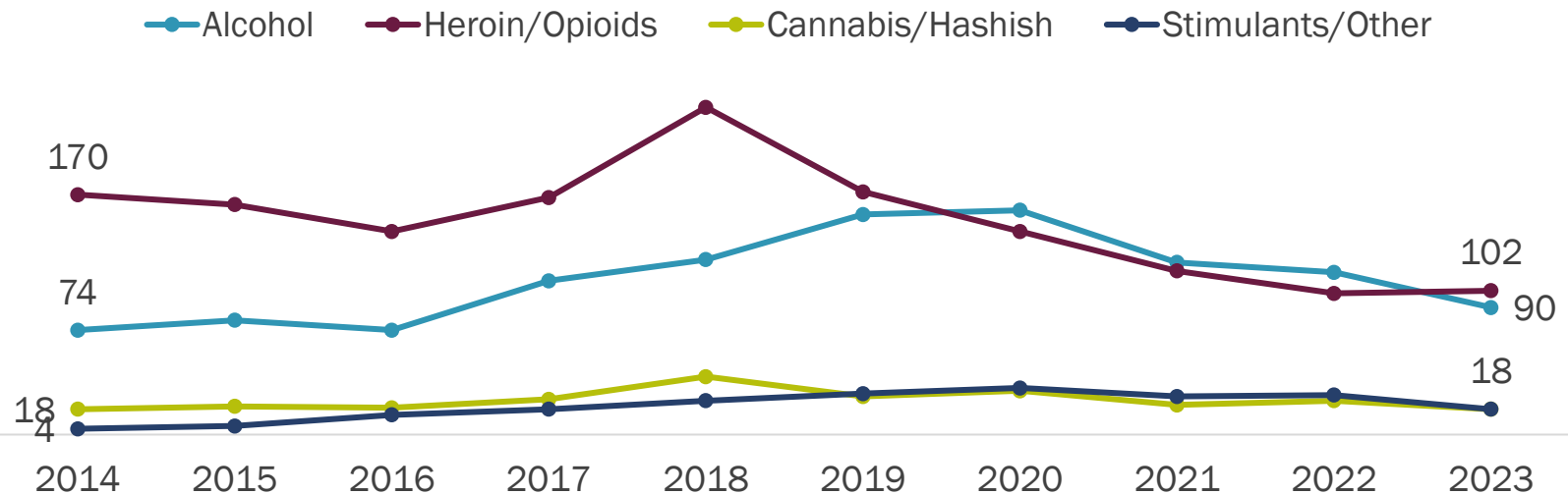
Vermonters Treated by COUNTY

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Alcohol and opioid treatment numbers in Addison County are now similar after many years where opioids were the primary substances

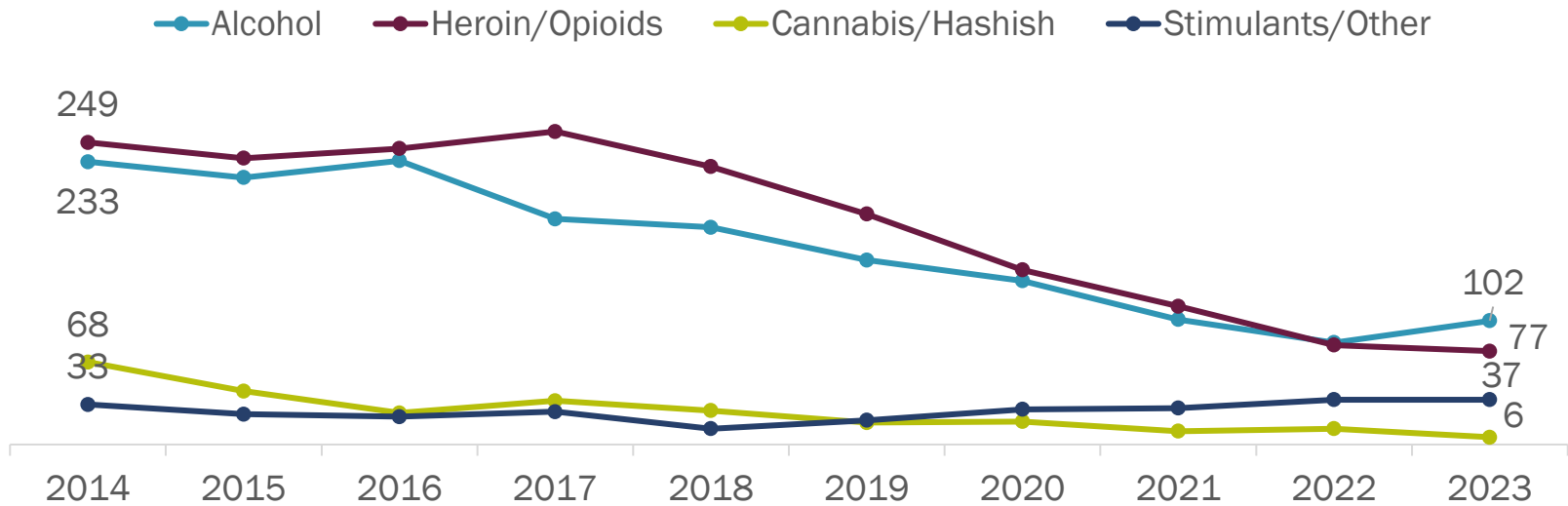
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Addison County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	74	81	74	109	124	156	159	122	115	90
Heroin/Opioids	170	163	144	168	232	172	144	116	100	102
Cannabis/Hashish	18	20	19	25	41	27	31	21	24	18
Stimulants/Other	4	6	14	18	24	29	33	27	28	18
Total	266	270	251	320	421	384	367	286	267	228

The number of Vermonters receiving treatment for alcohol overtook opioid treatment numbers in Bennington County in 2023 after many years where opioids were the primary substances

Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Bennington County

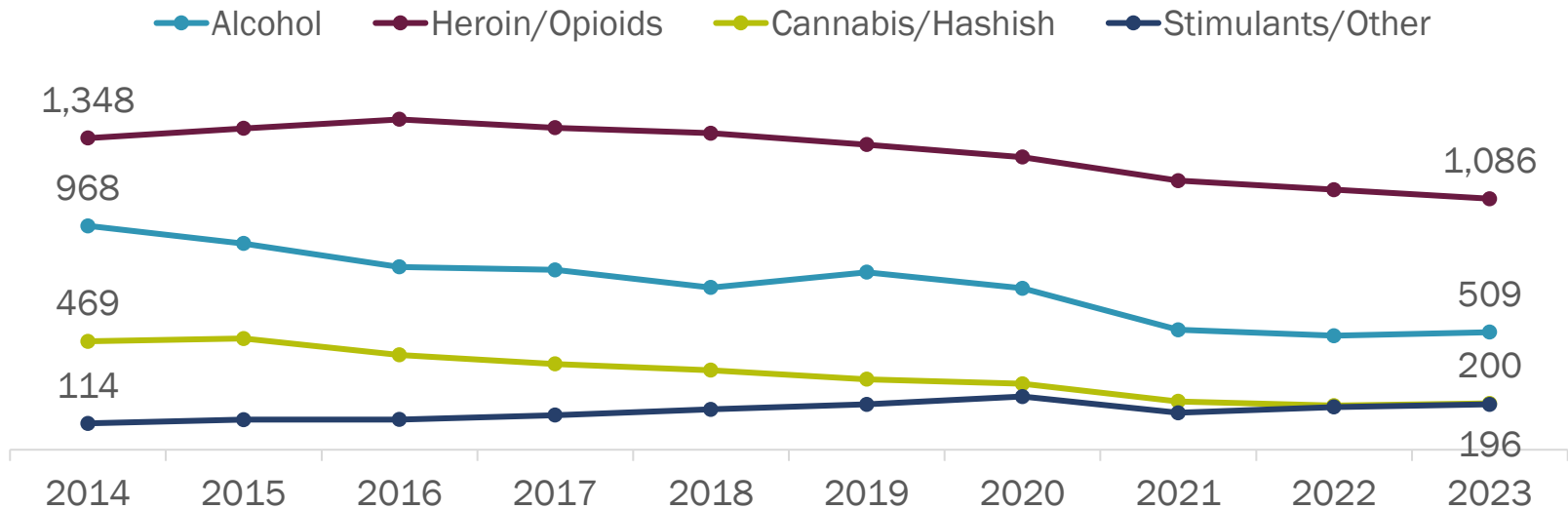


Note: Reporting from United Counseling Services of Benning County is incomplete so this may underestimate the number of people receiving services.

Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	233	220	234	186	179	152	135	103	84	102
Heroin/Opioids	249	236	244	258	229	190	144	114	82	77
Cannabis/Hashish	68	44	26	36	28	18	19	11	13	6
Stimulant/Other	33	25	23	27	13	20	29	30	37	37
Total	583	525	527	507	449	380	327	258	216	222

More than twice as many Vermonters in Chittenden County are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance

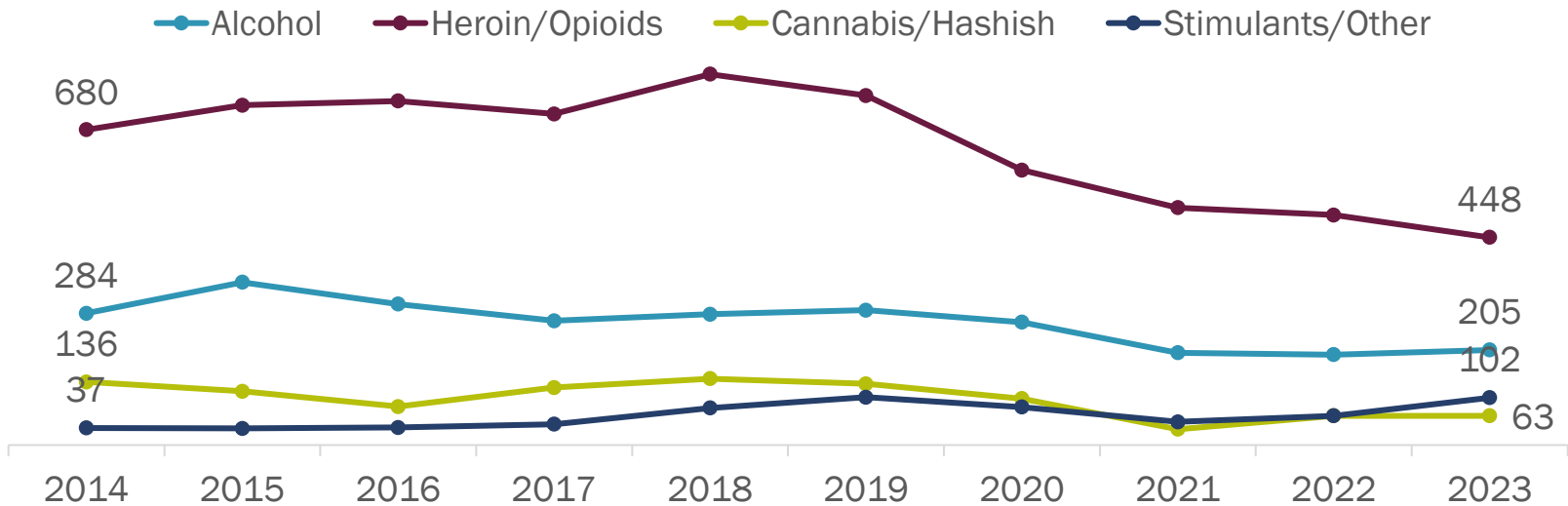
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Chittenden County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	968	892	791	778	702	768	698	519	493	509
Heroin/Opioids	1,348	1,390	1,429	1,393	1,369	1,320	1,266	1,164	1,125	1,086
Cannabis/Hashish	469	481	410	371	344	305	285	209	191	200
Stimulant/Other	114	130	131	150	175	196	230	160	185	196
Total	2,899	2,893	2,761	2,692	2,590	2,589	2,479	2,052	1,994	1,991

More than twice as many Vermonters in Franklin and Grand Isle Counties are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance

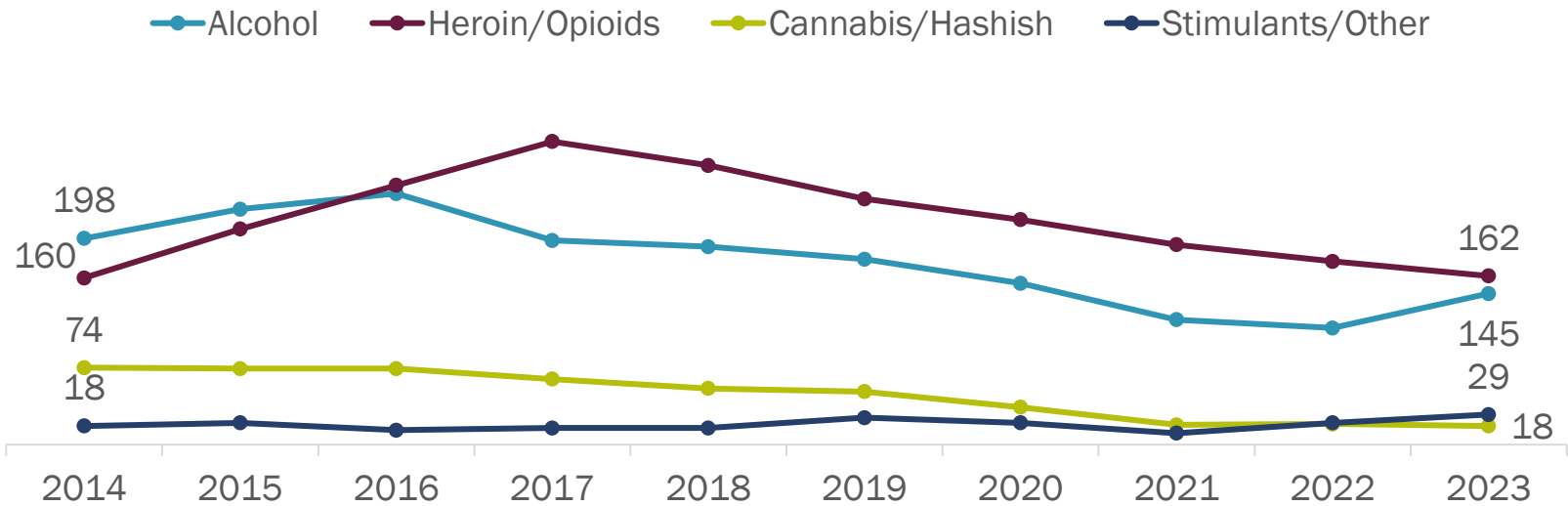
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Franklin and Grand Isle Counties



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	284	351	304	268	282	291	265	199	195	205
Heroin/Opioids	680	733	742	714	800	754	593	512	496	448
Cannabis/Hashish	136	116	83	124	143	132	100	34	63	63
Stimulant/Other	37	36	38	45	80	103	82	50	63	102
Total	1,137	1,236	1,167	1,151	1,305	1,280	1,040	795	817	818

The number of Vermonters receiving treatment for alcohol are close to the number receiving treatment for opioid use in Lamoille County in 2023 after many years where opioids were the primary substances

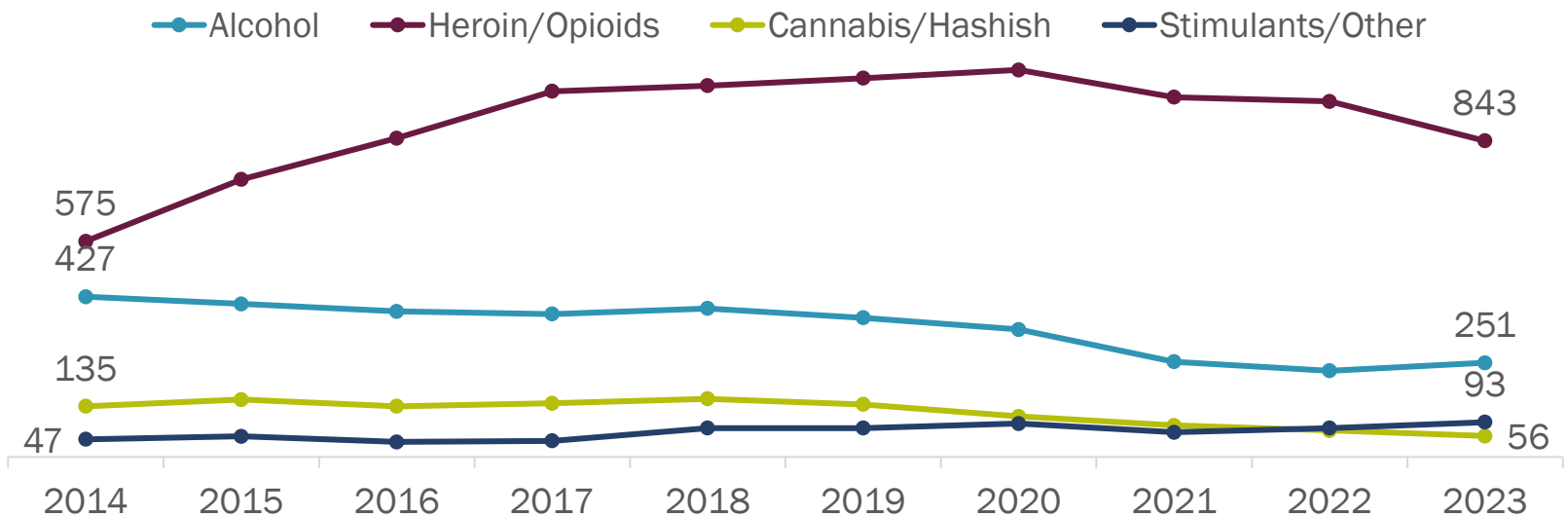
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Lamoille County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	198	226	241	196	190	178	155	120	112	145
Heroin/Opioids	160	207	249	291	268	236	216	192	176	162
Cannabis/Hashish	74	73	73	63	54	51	36	19	20	18
Stimulant/Other	18	21	14	16	16	26	21	11	21	29
Total	450	527	577	566	528	491	428	342	329	354

The number of Vermonters receiving treatment for opioid use is more than three times the number receiving treatment for alcohol use in the Northeast Kingdom

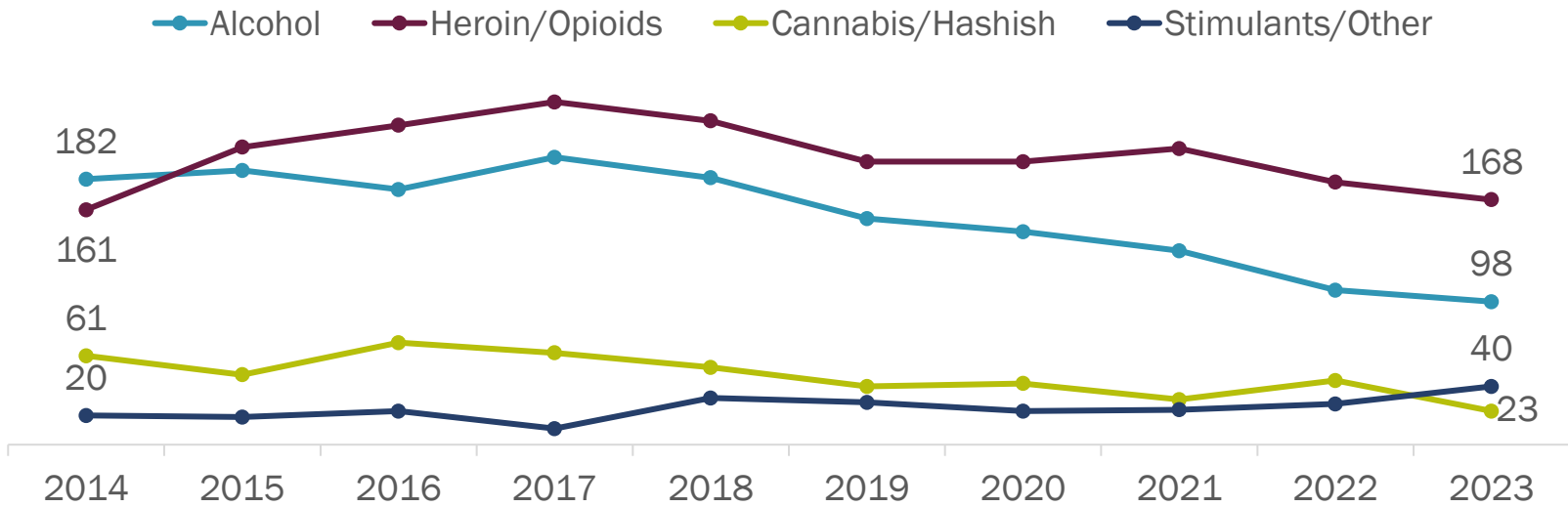
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Caledonia, Essex, and Orleans Counties



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	427	408	388	381	396	371	340	254	230	251
Heroin/Opioids	575	740	850	975	990	1010	1,032	959	948	843
Cannabis/Hashish	135	153	135	143	155	140	108	84	71	56
Stimulants/Other	47	55	40	43	77	77	89	66	77	93
Total	1,184	1,356	1,413	1,542	1,618	1,598	1,569	1,363	1,326	1,243

More Vermonters receive treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance in Orange County

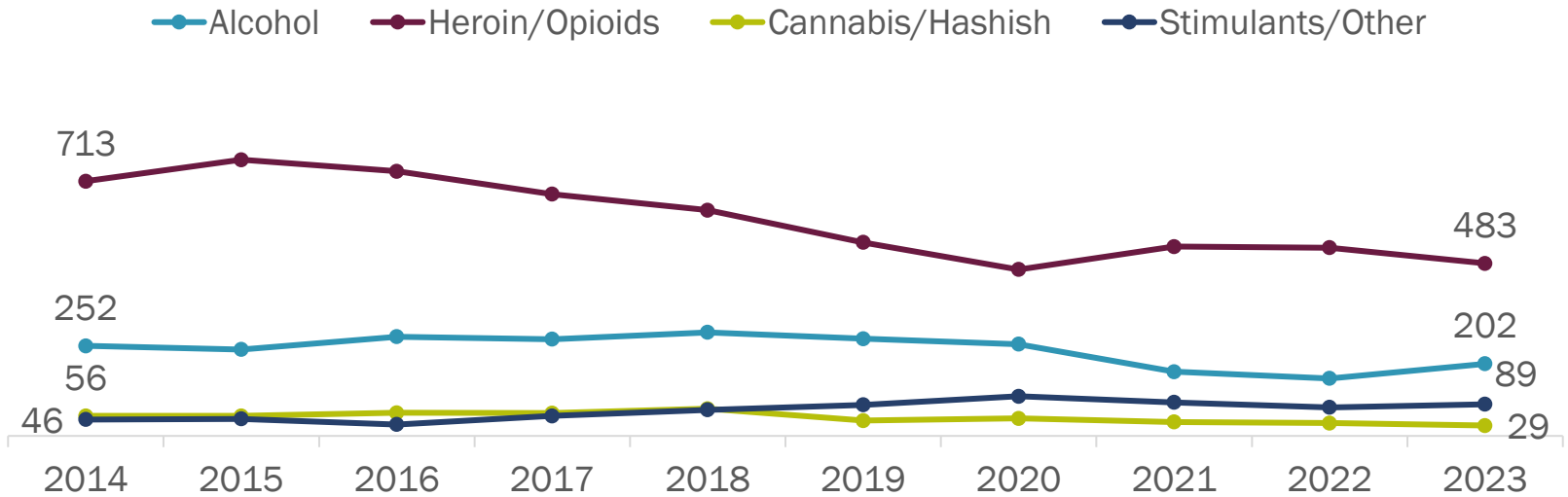
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Orange County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	182	188	175	197	183	155	146	133	106	98
Heroin/Opioids	161	204	219	235	222	194	194	203	180	168
Cannabis/Hashish	61	48	70	63	53	42	42	31	44	23
Stimulants/Other	20	19	23	11	32	29	23	24	28	40
Total	424	459	487	506	490	418	405	391	358	329

More than twice as many Vermonters in Rutland County are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance

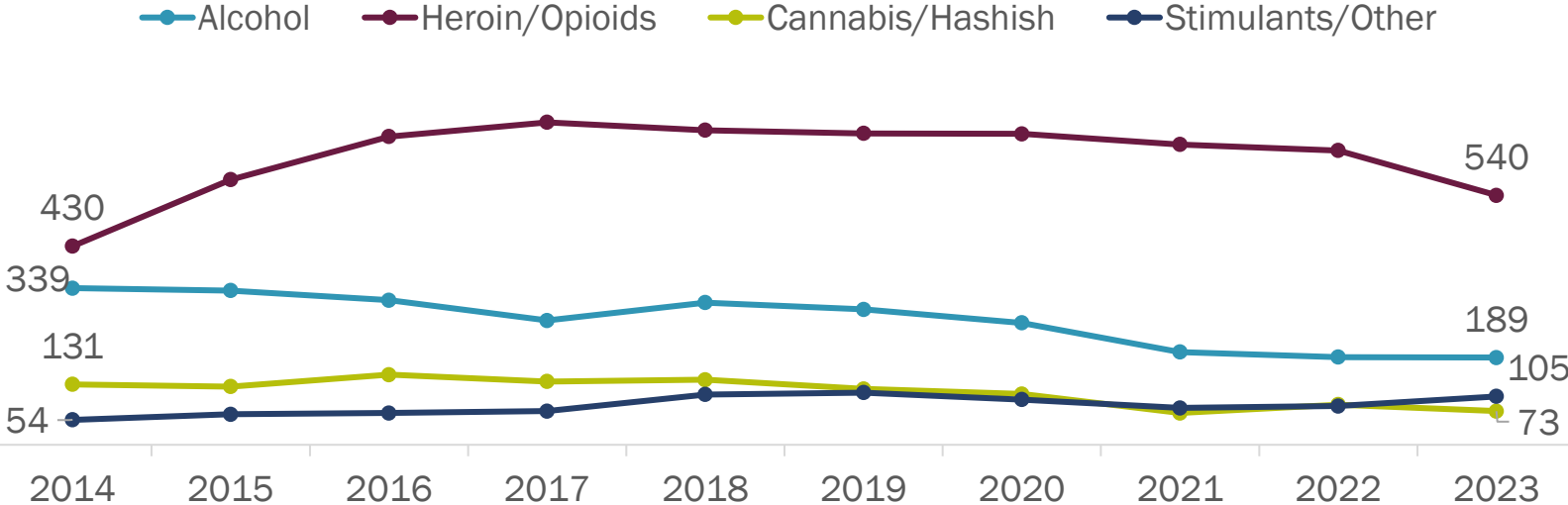
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Rutland County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	252	242	278	271	290	272	257	180	161	202
Heroin/Opioids	713	773	741	677	632	542	466	530	527	483
Cannabis/Hashish	56	56	65	64	76	43	49	39	36	29
Stimulants/Other	46	48	32	56	73	87	111	94	80	89
Total	1,067	1,119	1,116	1,068	1,071	944	883	843	804	803

More than twice as many Vermonters in Washington County are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance

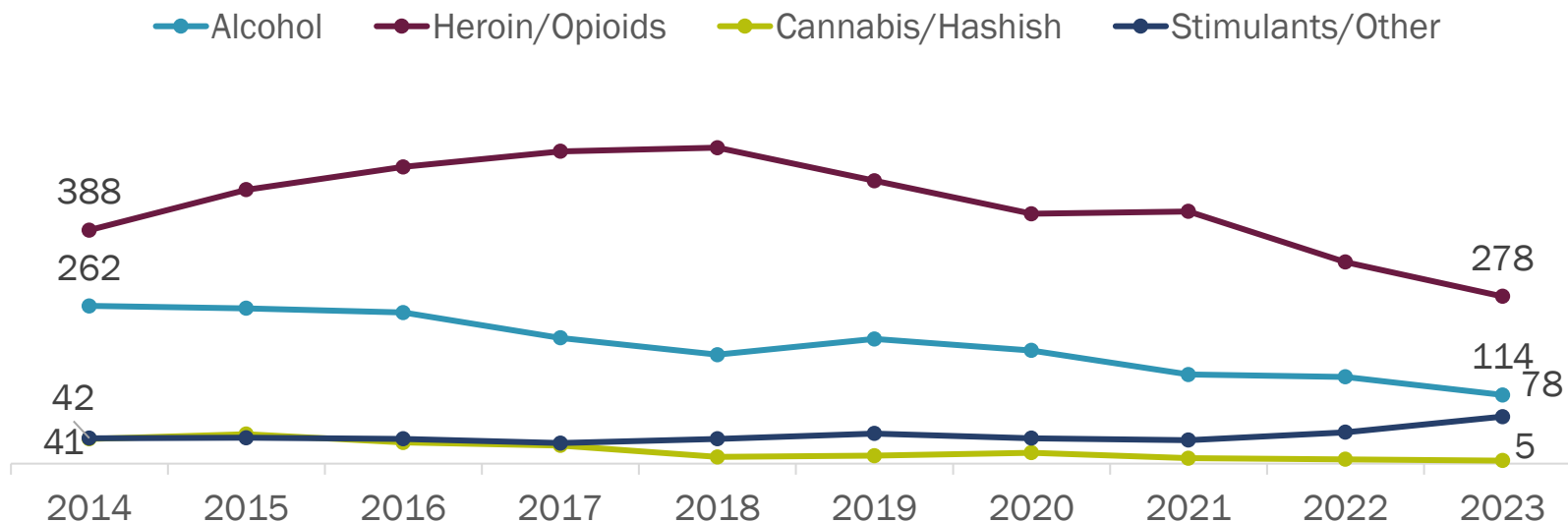
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Washington County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	339	334	313	269	308	293	264	201	190	189
Heroin/Opioids	430	574	667	698	681	674	673	650	637	540
Cannabis/Hashish	131	126	152	137	141	121	110	69	87	73
Stimulants/Other	54	66	69	73	109	113	98	80	84	105
Total	954	1,100	1,201	1,177	1,239	1,201	1,145	1,000	998	907

Nearly twice as many Vermonters in Windham County are receiving treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance

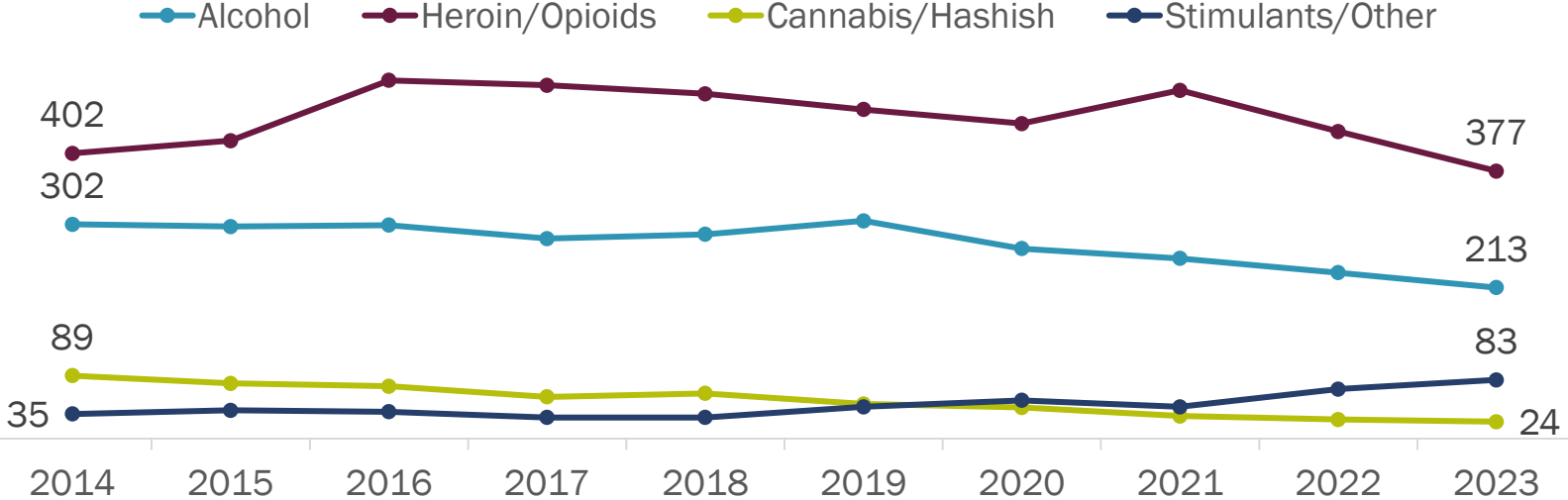
Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Windham County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	262	258	251	209	181	207	188	148	144	114
Heroin/Opioids	388	455	493	519	525	470	415	419	335	278
Cannabis/Hashish	41	49	35	30	11	13	18	9	7	5
Stimulants/Other	42	43	41	34	41	50	42	39	52	78
Total	733	805	820	792	758	740	663	615	538	475

More Vermonters receive treatment for opioid use disorder than any other substance in Windsor County

Vermonters Treated by Primary Substance Used and Fiscal Year - Windsor County



Substance	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Alcohol	302	299	301	282	288	307	268	254	234	213
Heroin/Opioids	402	420	505	498	486	464	444	491	433	377
Cannabis/Hashish	89	78	74	59	64	49	44	32	27	24
Stimulants/Other	35	40	38	30	30	45	54	45	70	83
Total	828	837	918	869	868	865	810	822	764	697

Additional Resources

Vermont [Substance Use Dashboard](#)



Vermont Department of Health Division of Substance Use Programs [Scorecard](#)

Vermont Department of Health Division of Substance Use Programs [Data and Reports](#) Page

If you or someone you love is seeking help for substance use visit VT [Helplink](#).



VT Helplink
Alcohol & drug support center



Thank you!

Let's stay in touch.

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