Cannabis and Crashes:
Update on Trends in NM Crash Data

NMDOT Cannabis Traffic Safety Summit

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Collection of Drug-involved Crash Data

- Drug involvement is likely under-reported by officers
  - DUI can be for alcohol OR drugs
  - easier for officers to prove impairment by alcohol

- Data source is not a survey or driver reported
  - crash reports from law enforcement
  - supplemented with drug and alcohol test results (crash-related fatalities only)
  - drug type is not collected on the crash report
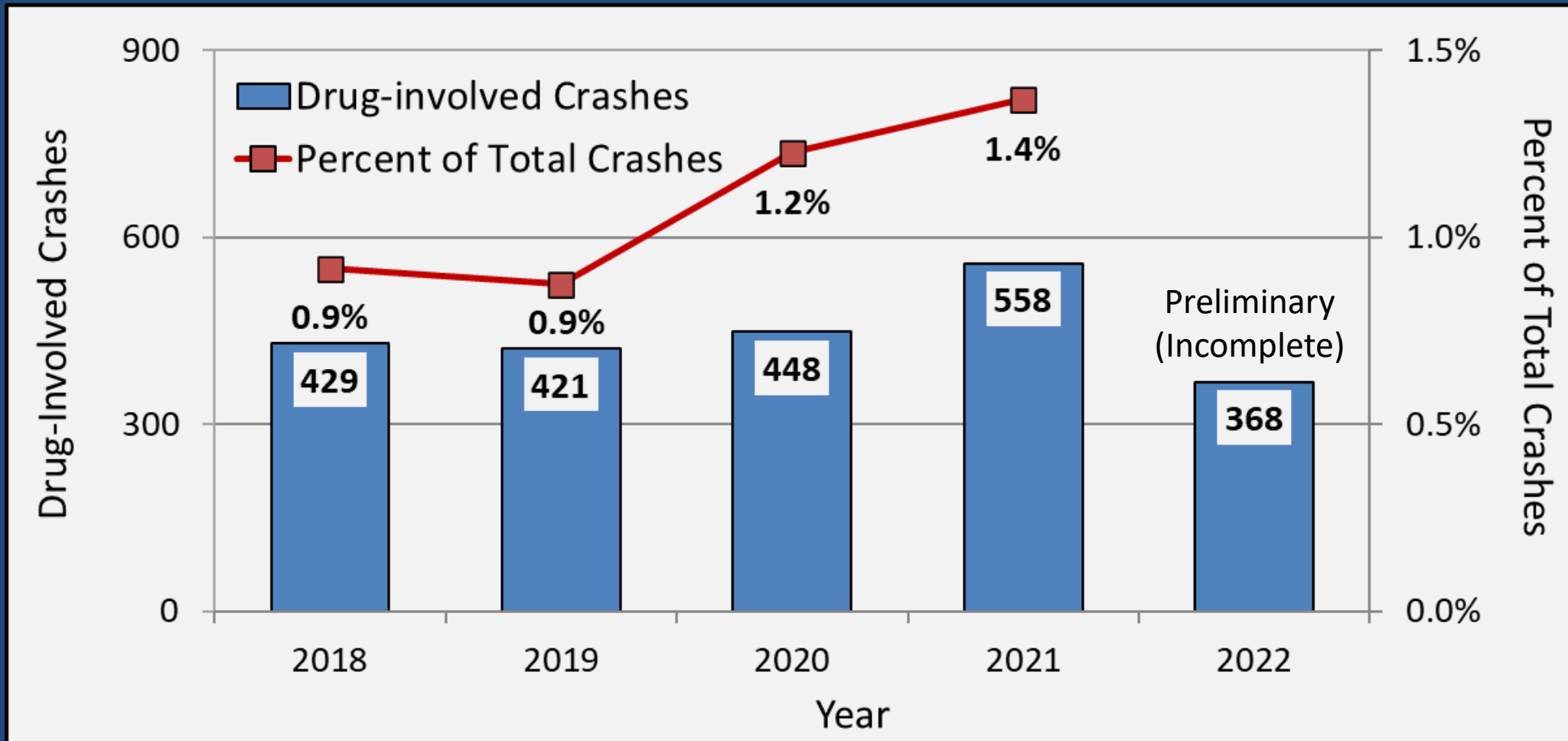
Cannabis-specific data

- Only collected for <u>crash-related fatalities</u>

- People killed in crashes with a blood alcohol content (BAC) above 0.08g/dL generally do not undergo drug testing

- Drug testing for fatalities expanded in 2018
(limited historical data)

- "Cannabis-involved" doesn't necessarily mean "Impaired"

Cannabis-involved - a fatality that tested positive for cannabis. Not a measure of impairment.
Sources: NMDOT Crash Database and NMDOT Fatallog File, 2018-2022. Preliminary 2022. Drug testing reported by OMI.
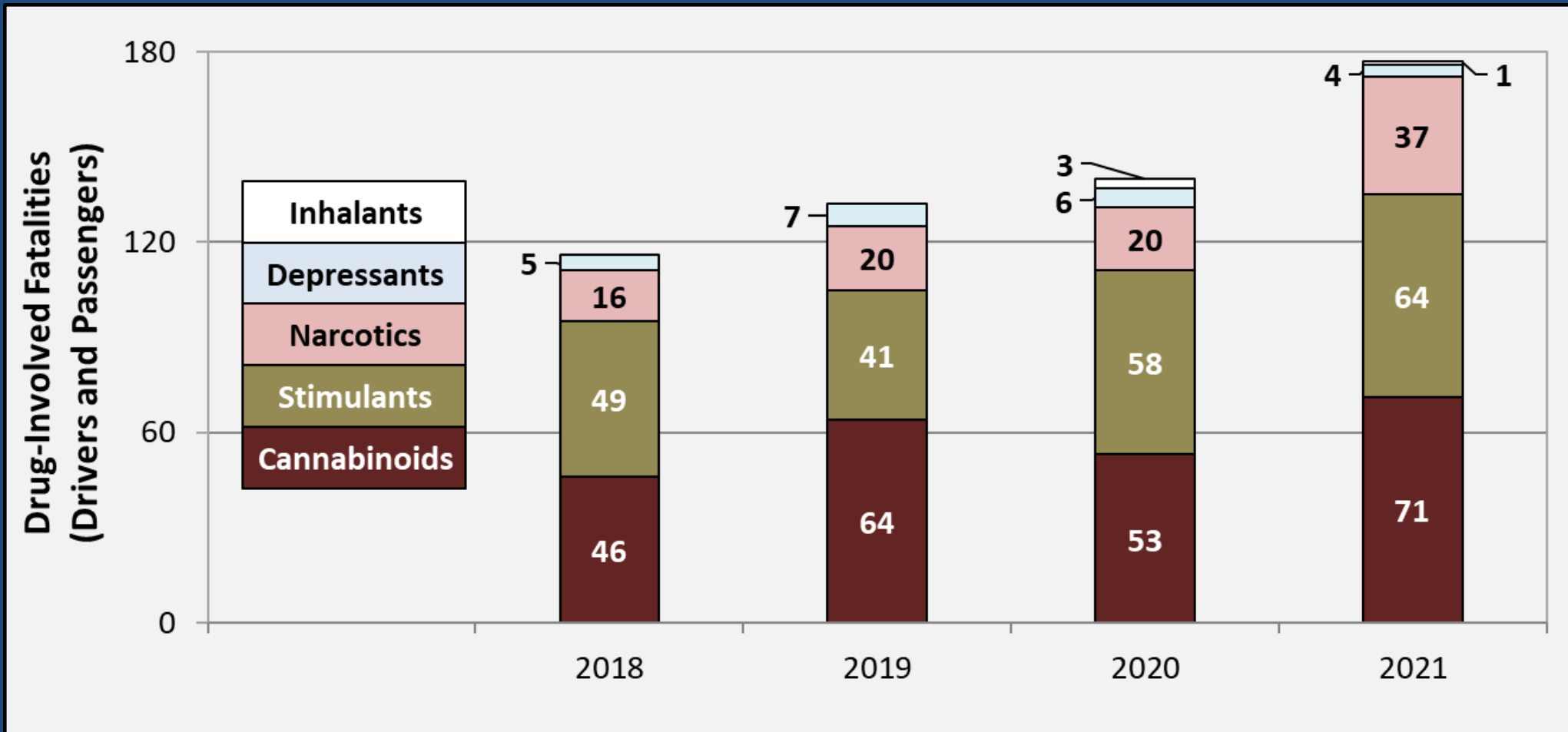Database only contains reportable crashes: crashes on a public roadway with a fatality, injury or greater than $500 in damages.

Overview of Drug-involved Crashes

Drug-involved Crash – a crash where the officer selected "Under the Influence of Drugs or Medication", "Sobriety - Consumed a Controlled Substance", or "Sobriety - Consumed Medication" on the Uniform Crash Report for any motor vehicle driver, pedestrian or pedalcycle operator.
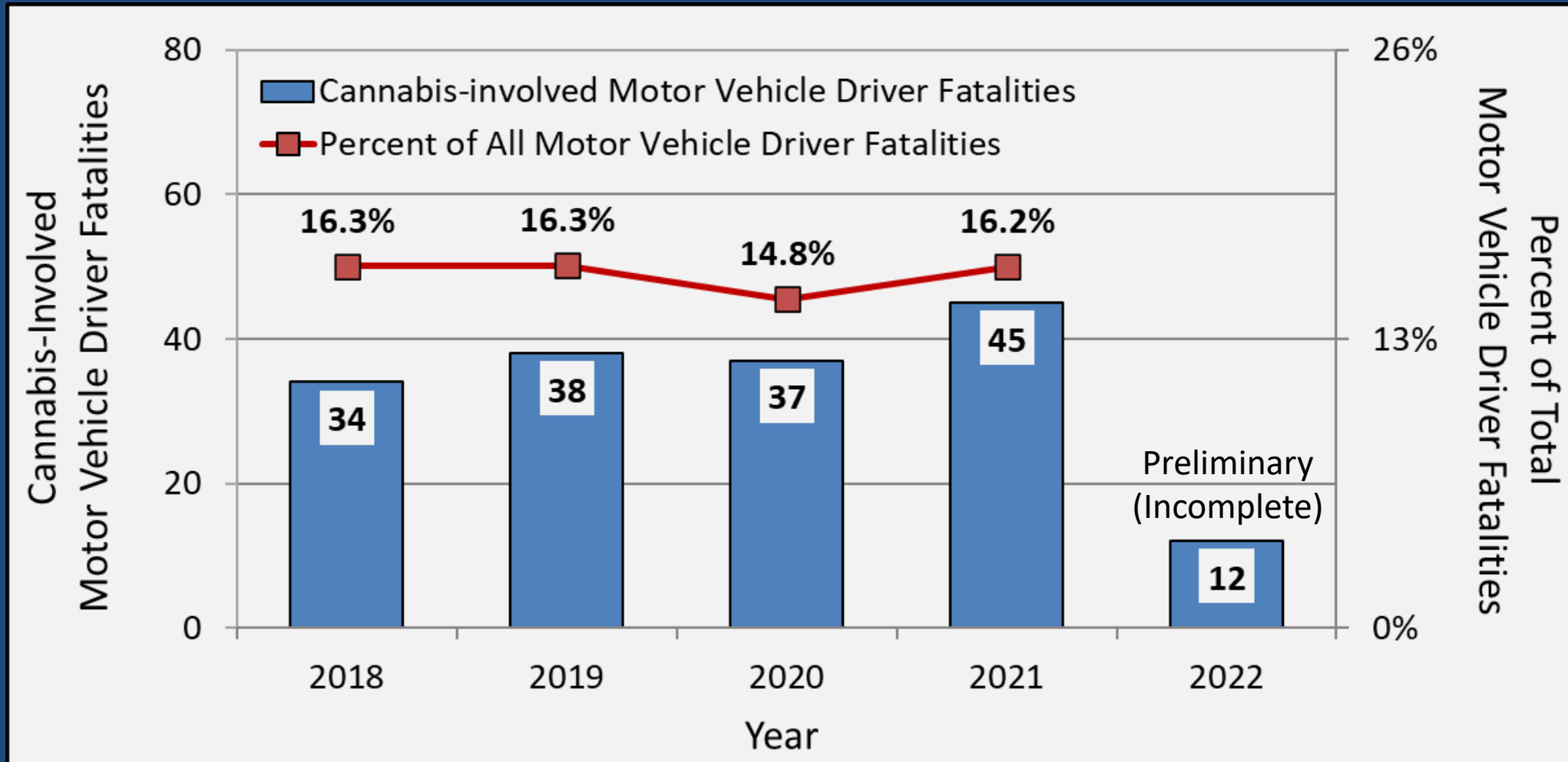
Overview of Drug-involved Fatalities by Drug Type

Drug-involved - a fatality who tested drug-positive. Not a measure of impairment.
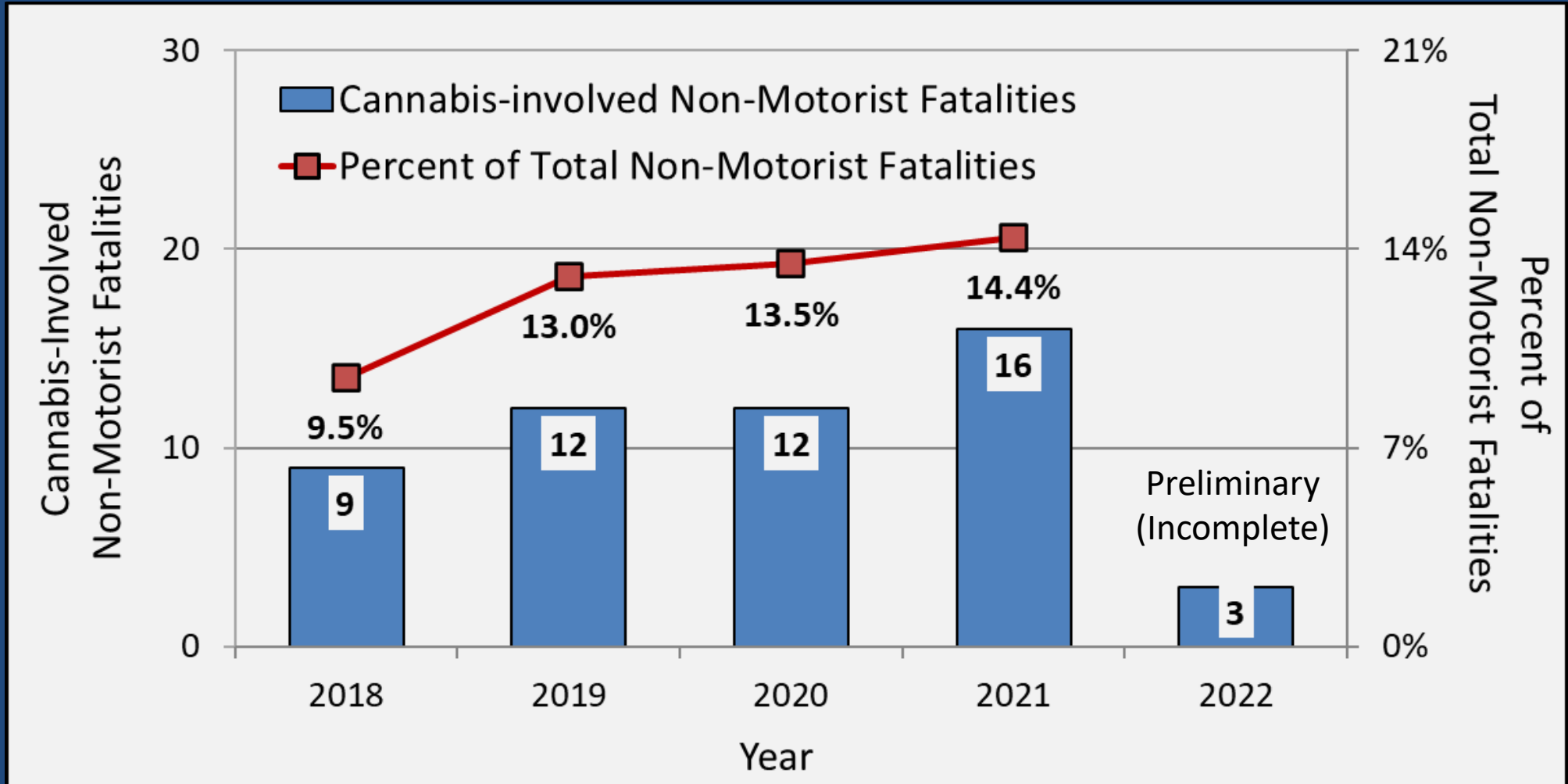Stimulants: cocaine, meth
Narcotics: opioids, heroin, oxycodone, fentanyl

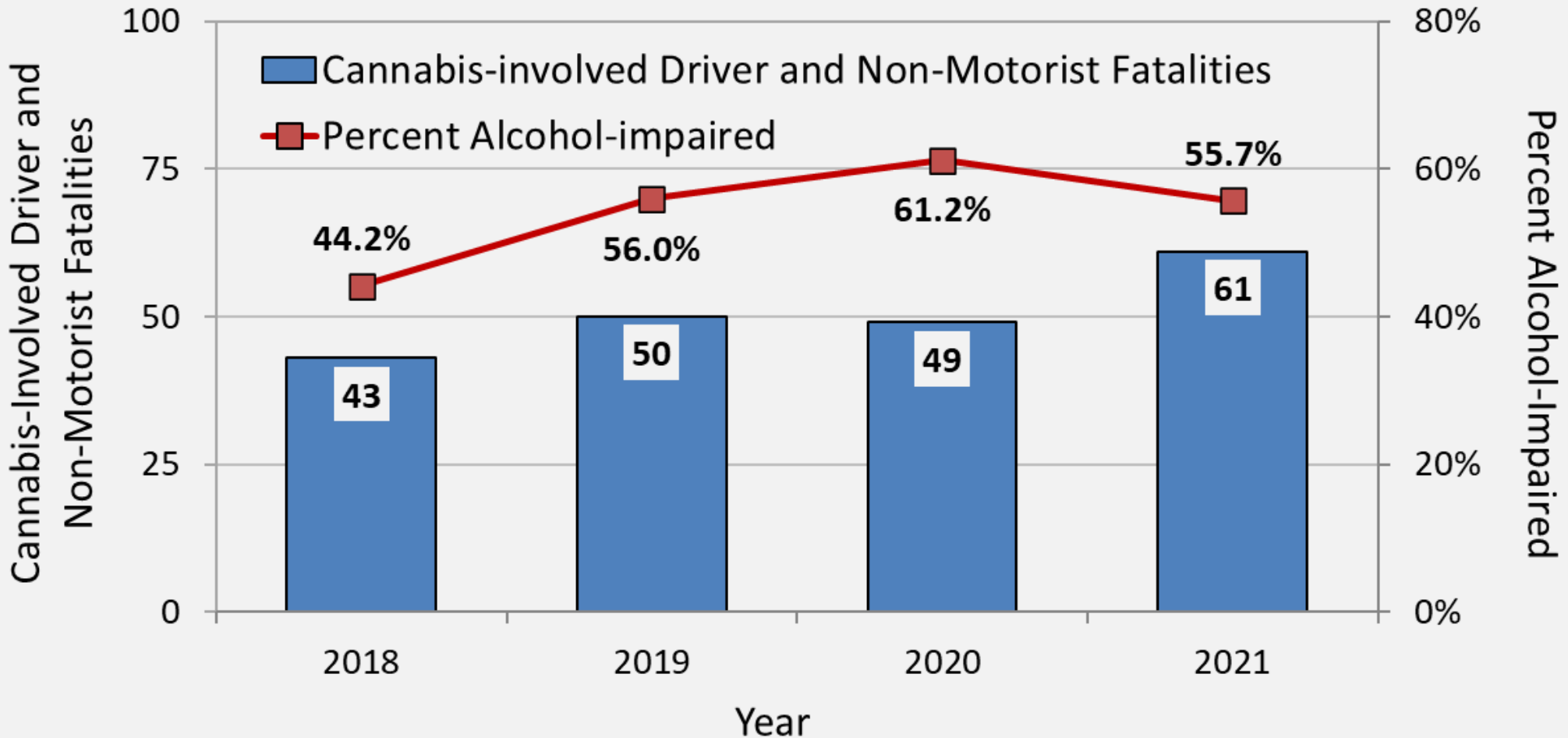# Cannabis-involved Motor Vehicle Driver Fatalities

Cannabis-involved - a fatality that tested positive for cannabis. Not a measure of impairment.

Cannabis-involved Non-Motorist Drivers (Pedestrians and Pedalcycle Operators)

Cannabis-involved - a fatality that tested positive for cannabis. Not a measure of impairment.
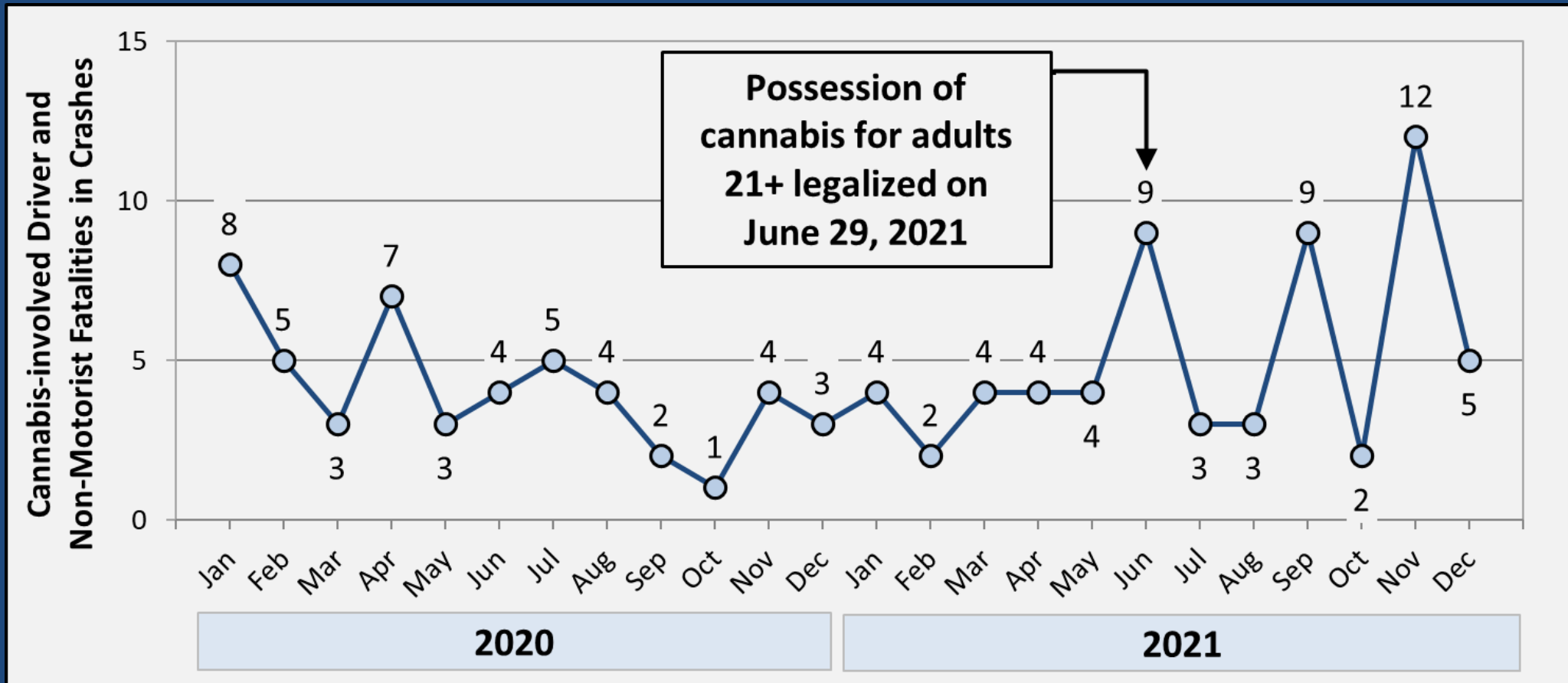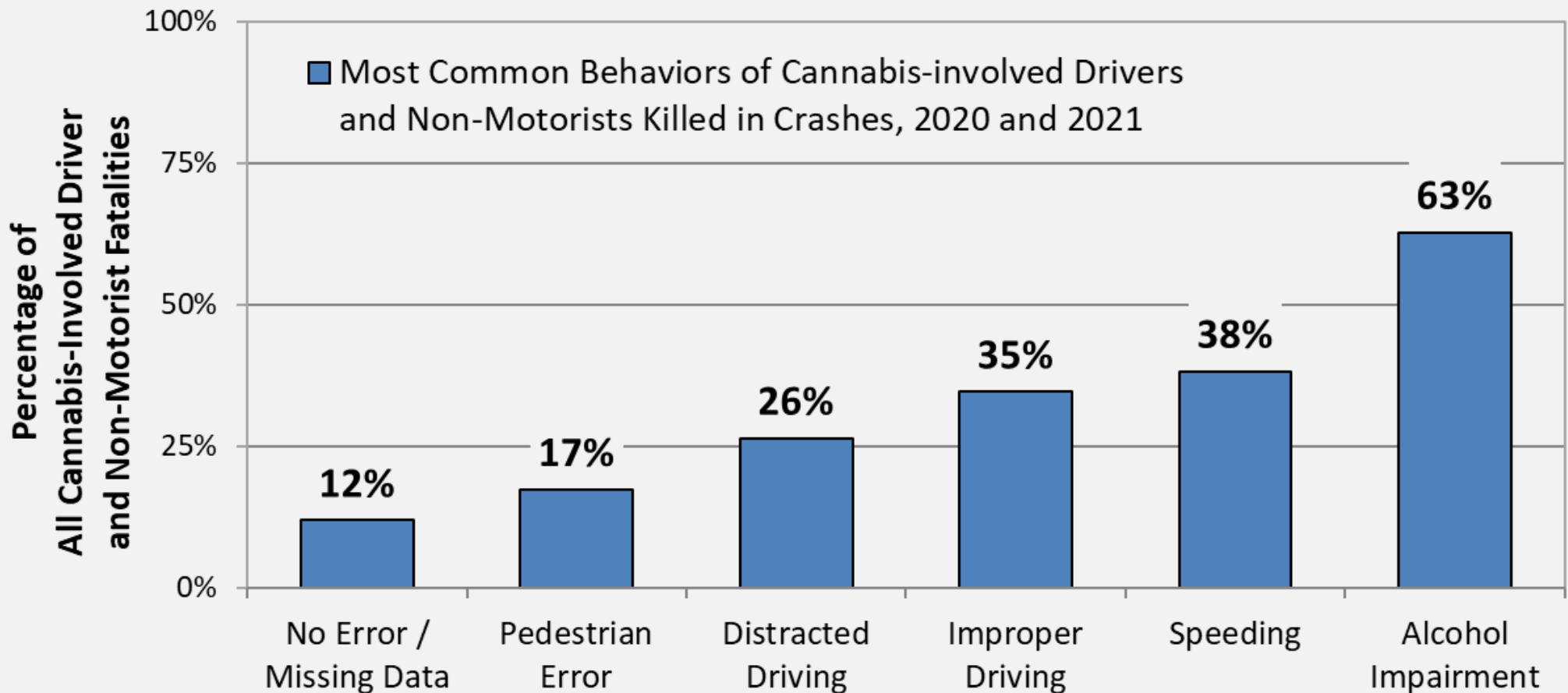
Cannabis Involvement and Alcohol Impairment

Cannabis-involved – a crash-related fatality that tested drug-positive. Not a measure of impairment.
Alcohol-Impaired - a fatality with a BAC of 0.08 or higher
(0.02+ for fatalities under age 21, 0.04+ for heavy truck drivers).

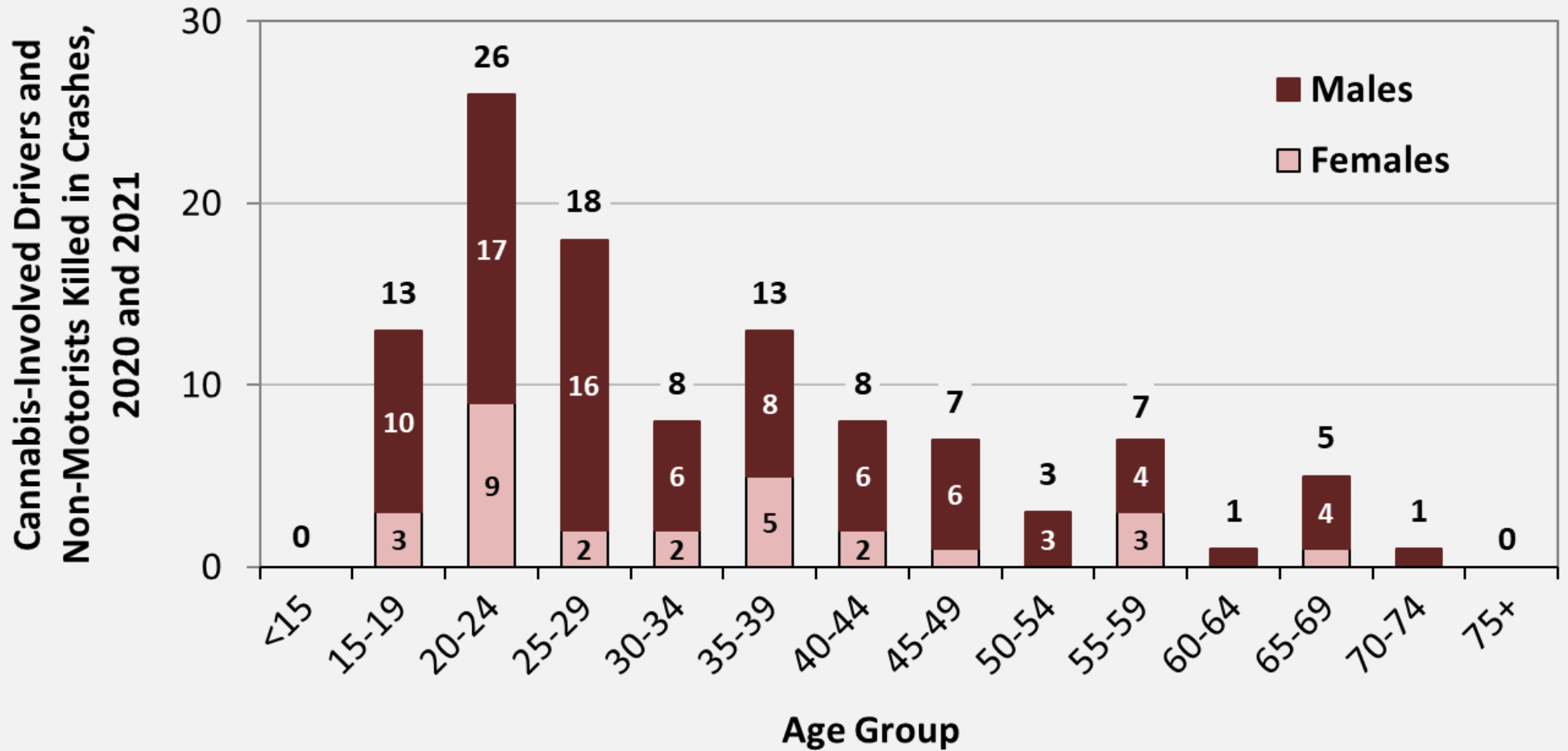# Legalization of Cannabis for Recreational Use: Before and After Trends
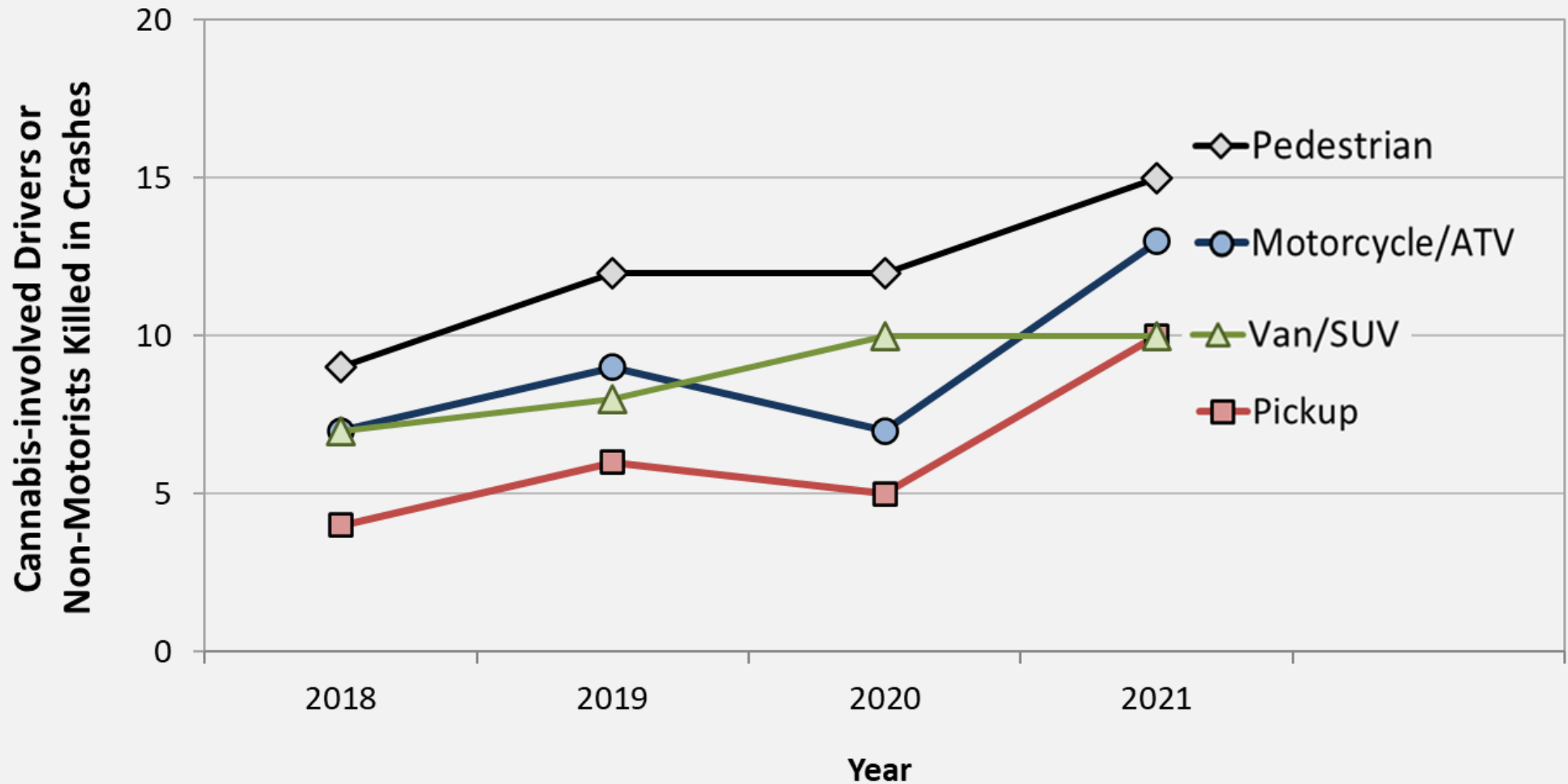
Driver and Non-Motorist Behaviors

Improper driving: primarily other improper driving, drove left of center, and failure to yield.
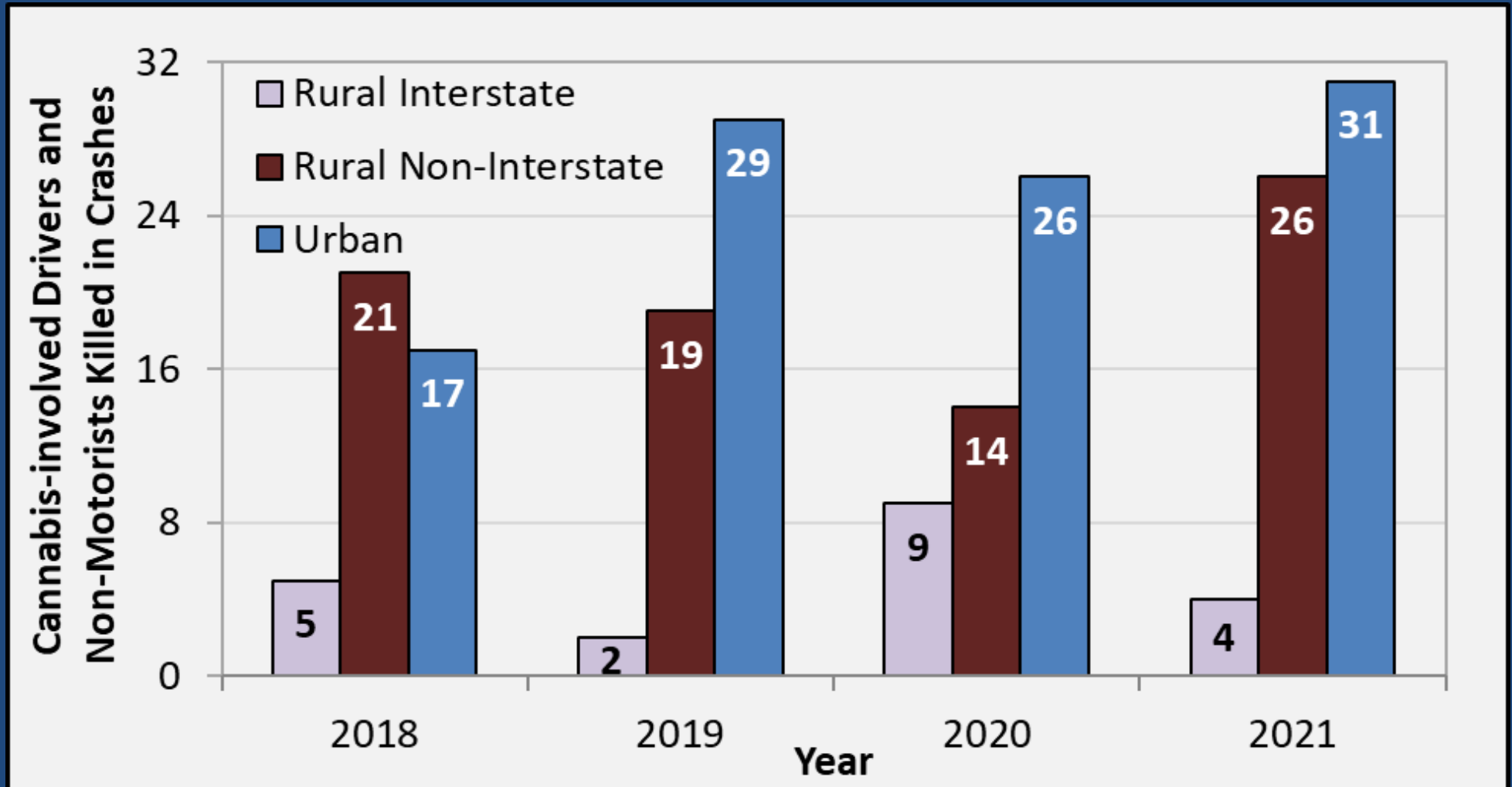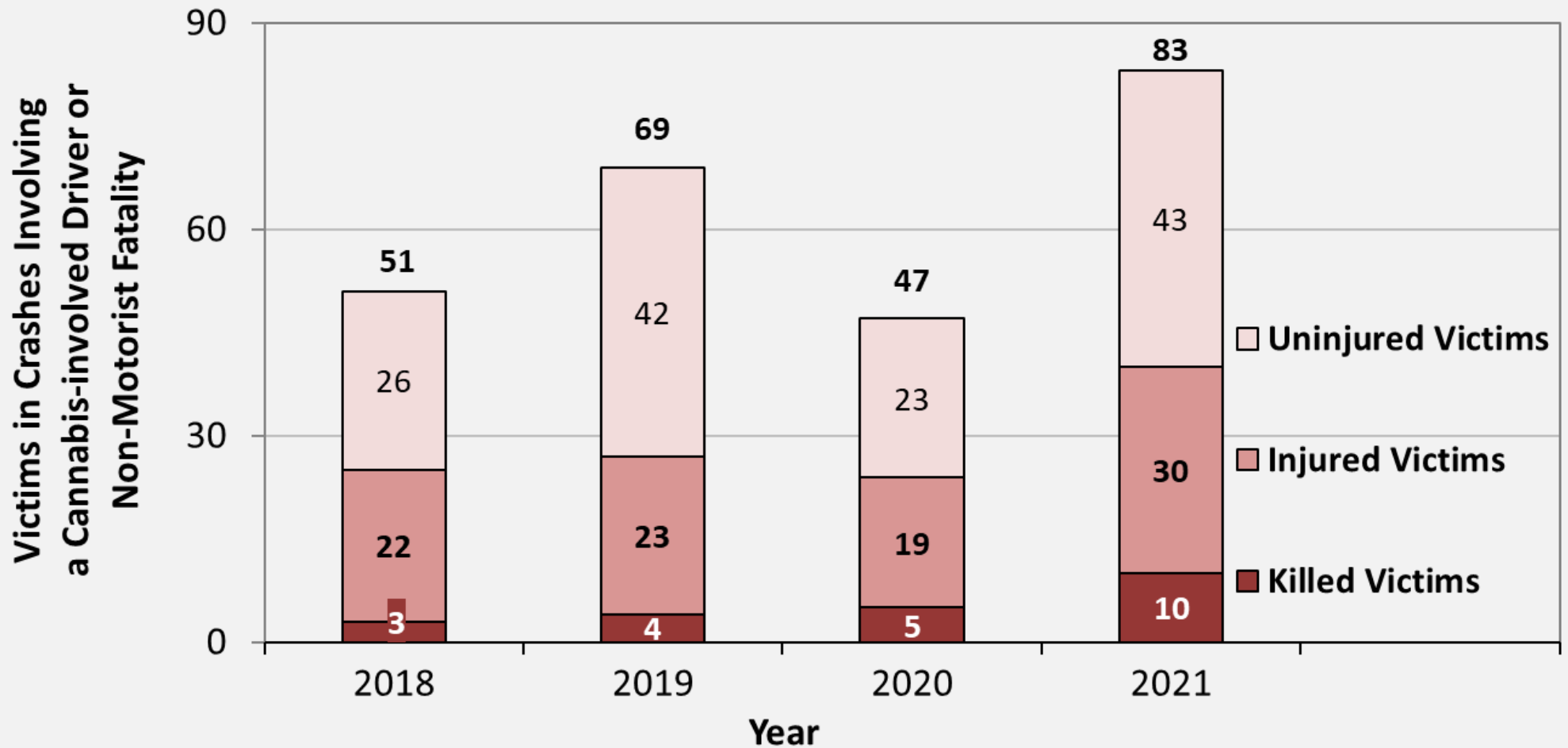
Age and Sex

Vehicle Type

These are vehicle types that showed an increase in cannabis involvement

Cannabis-involved Driver and Non-Motorist Fatalities By Roadway Type

Victims

"Victims" are people in crashes that involved a cannabis-involved driver or non-motorist fatality except the cannabis-involved driver/non-motorist fatality.

Questions?

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