



Center for  
Health  
Information  
and Research

Arizona State  
University

# Youth Substance Use Diagnosis and Treatment in Arizona



# Acknowledgements

- The data for the ACJC dashboards was created by the talented data scientists at CHiR, especially Osi Ikharebha and Nell Robbins
- The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) claims and encounter data used in this study were provided by the Arizona State University, Center for Health Information Research (CHiR).
- Many thanks to Matt Bileski and his team at the AZ Criminal Justice Commission for taking CHiR's data and making something meaningful with it
- Funding from the AZ Substance Abuse Partnership with a Partnership for Success Grant from the Governor's Office is greatly appreciated

# Presentation Outline

- **Project Overview**
- **Key Data Elements Overview**
- **Dashboard Results**

# Background

- **Motivation:**
  - The Arizona Criminal Justice Commission (ACJC) is mandated by Arizona statute yearly to coordinate, monitor, and report on Arizona criminal justice programs.
  - The Statistical Analysis Center (SAC) of ACJC produces visuals and reports that are shared with stakeholders as well as the public.
- **Study Goals:**
  - ACJC is interested in public health aspects of the criminal justice system as it pertains to the youth in AZ.



# Youth with Diagnostic Indicators of Non-Opioid Substance Use Disorders and Treatment

## Overview:

The goal was to determine the number of youths who were diagnosed and/or received treatment for a substance use disorder (SUD)\*.

## Impact:

Understanding the number of youths who have or are being treated for an SUD can help guide initiatives to reduce substance abuse among youths.

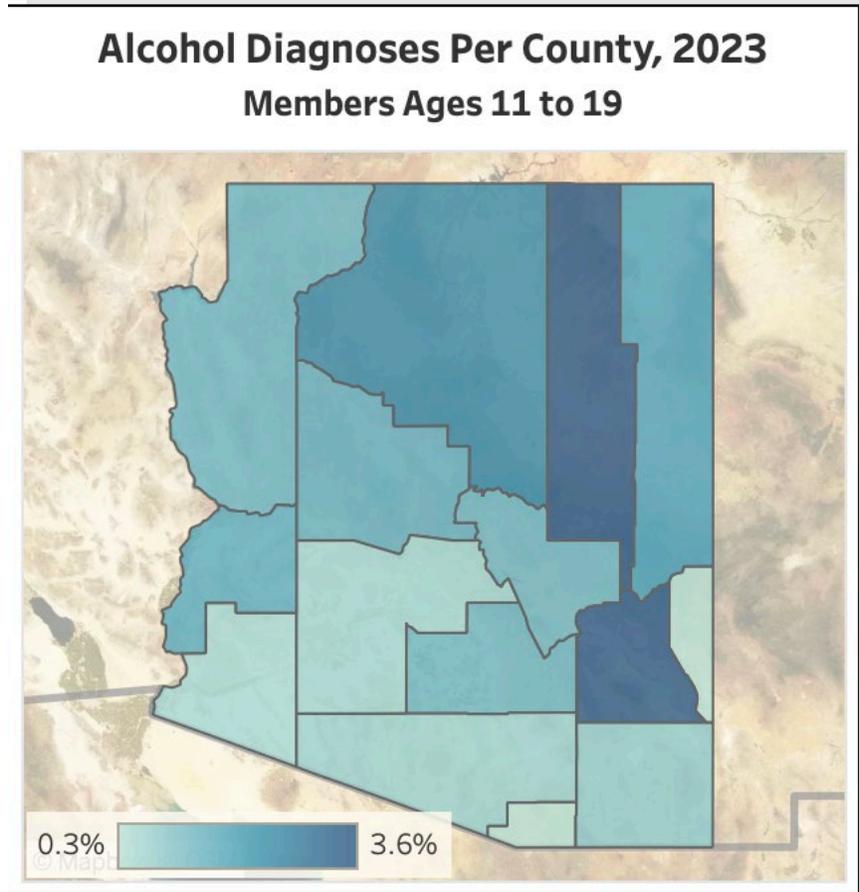
## Methodology:

- Diagnosis: ICD-10CM Codes
- Treatment: NDC, HCPCS, CPT, ICD-10PCS Codes
- Using AHCCCS claims data, rates of diagnosis and treatment for each SUD were calculated and broken out by different demographic factors.

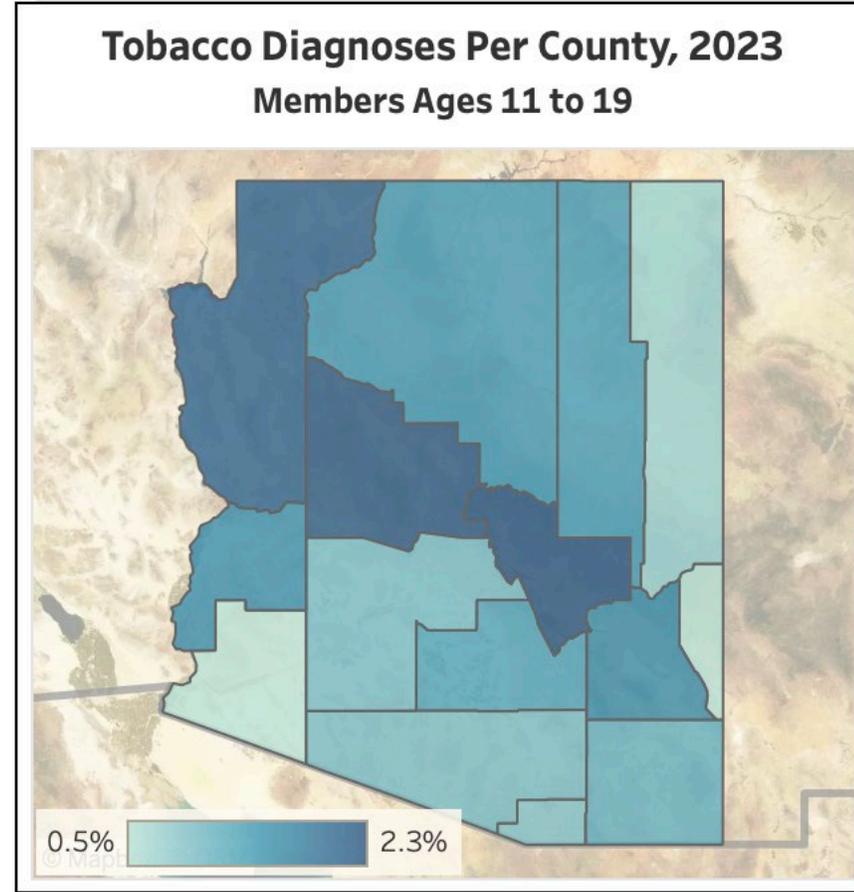
\* Youth with opioid use disorder were excluded from analysis to avoid overlap with ongoing work

# Prevalence rates as a % of AHCCCS-enrolled youth

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# Youth Substance Use Disorders and Treatment Results

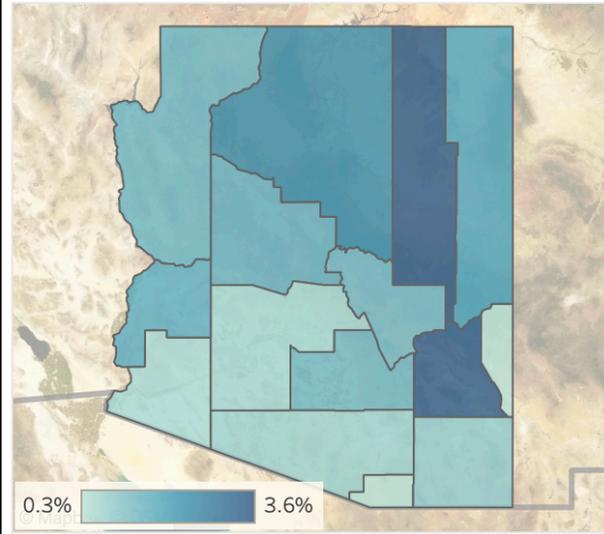
Data years: 2020 - 2023

Age group: 11 – 19

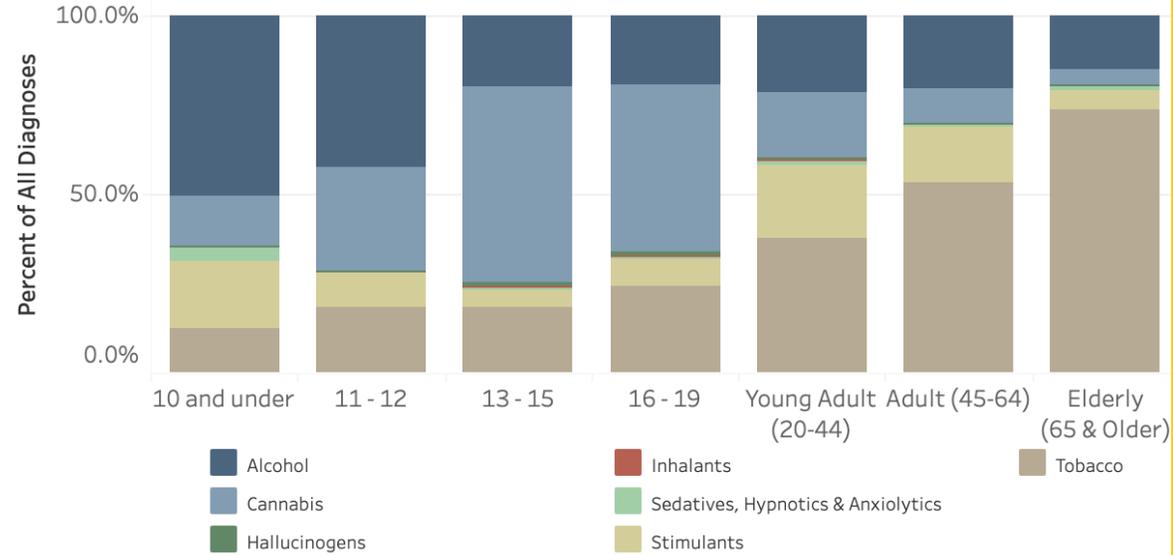
- For all SUDs, treatment was defined as one or more visits for psychosocial services during the year.
- In addition, alcohol and tobacco had condition-specific treatment modalities (e.g. prescription drugs, procedure codes) that were included in addition to psychosocial services.

# Dashboard link

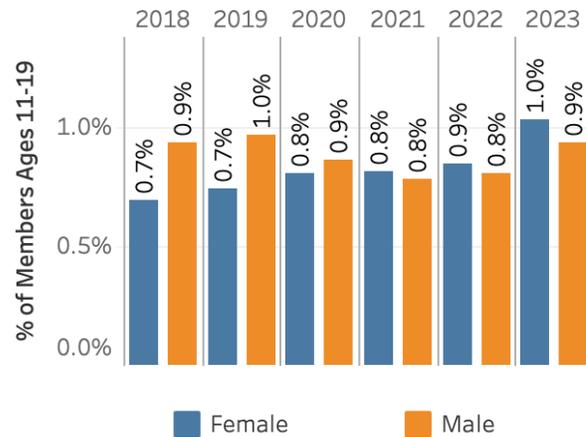
### Alcohol Diagnoses Per County, 2023 Members Ages 11 to 19



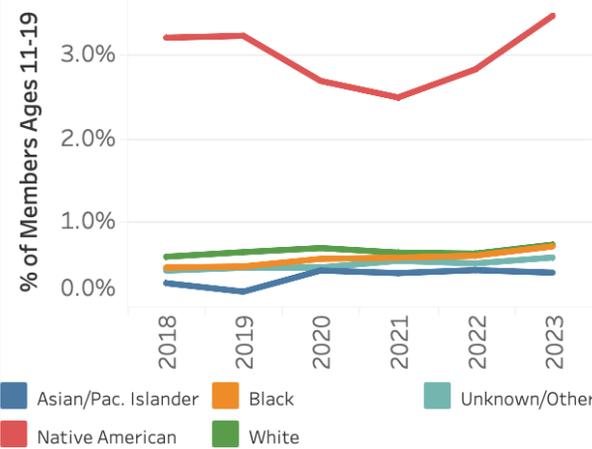
### Percent Substance Use Disorder Diagnoses by Age, 2023



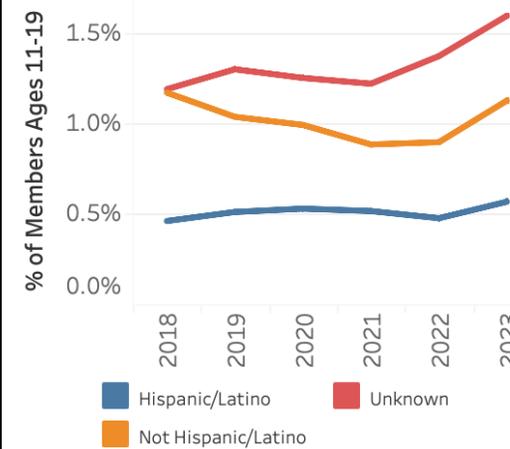
### Alcohol Diagnoses by Sex 2018-2023



### Alcohol Diagnoses by Race 2018-2023



### Alcohol Diagnoses by Ethnicity 2018-2023



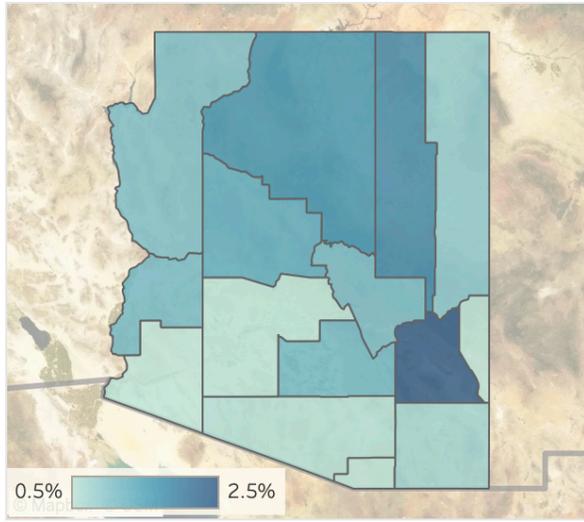
To prevent the public disclosure of personally identifying information, data points based on fewer than 11 counts are not displayed.

The Sedatives, Hypnotics & Anxiolytics substance use disorder diagnosis category refers to the 2024 ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code F13.

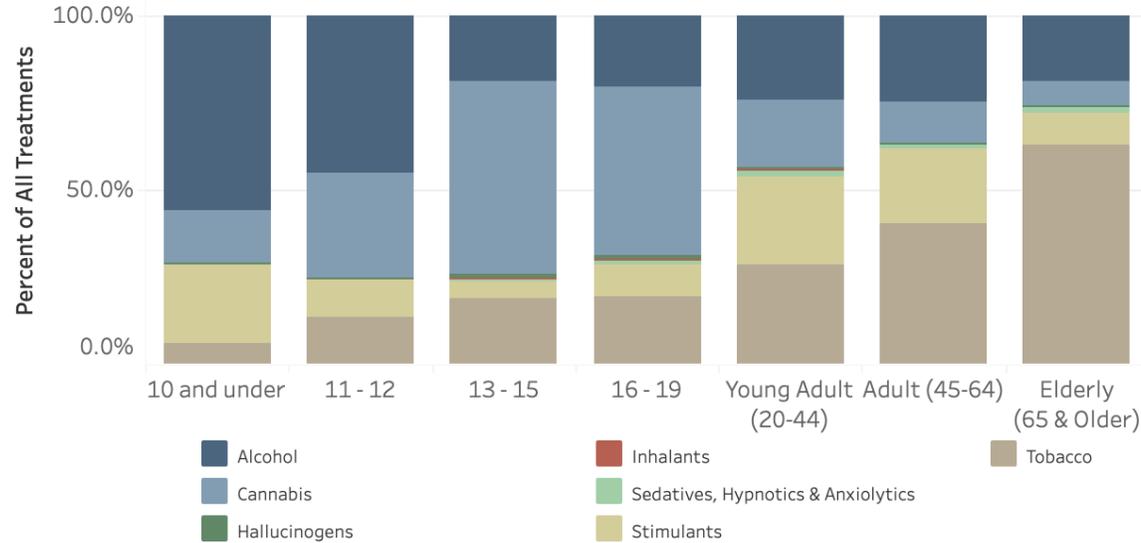
**NOTE:** Visualizations include only AHCCCS members from ages 11 to 19 unless otherwise specified in the visualization.



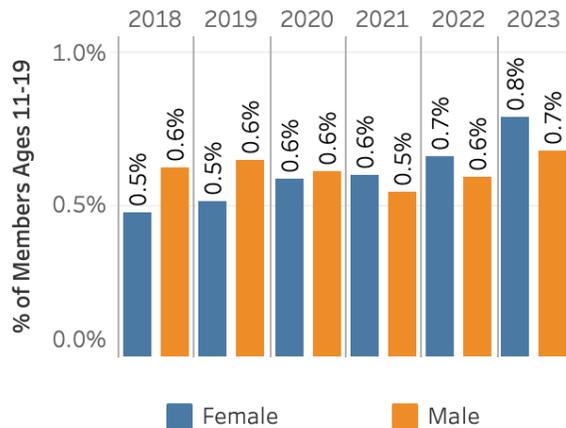
### Alcohol Treatments Per County, 2023 Members Ages 11 to 19



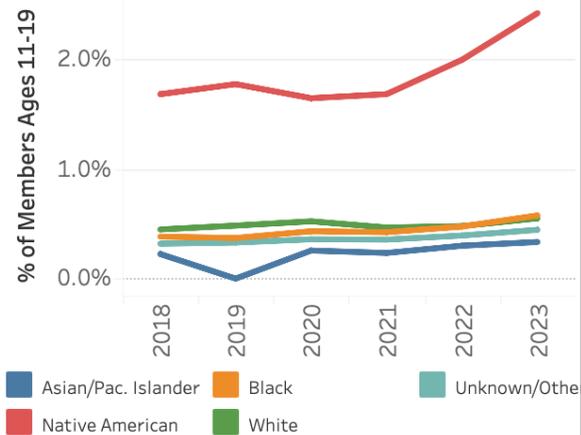
### Percent Substance Use Disorder Treatments by Age, 2023



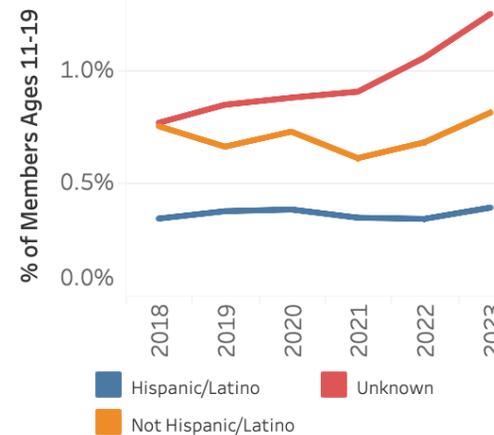
### Alcohol Treatments by Sex 2018-2023



### Alcohol Treatments by Race 2018-2023



### Alcohol Treatments by Ethnicity 2018-2023



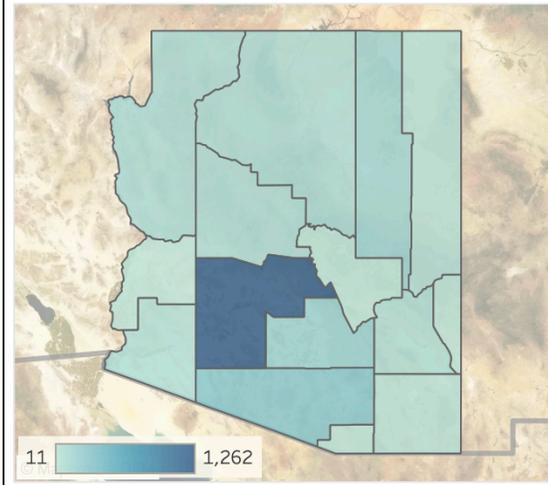
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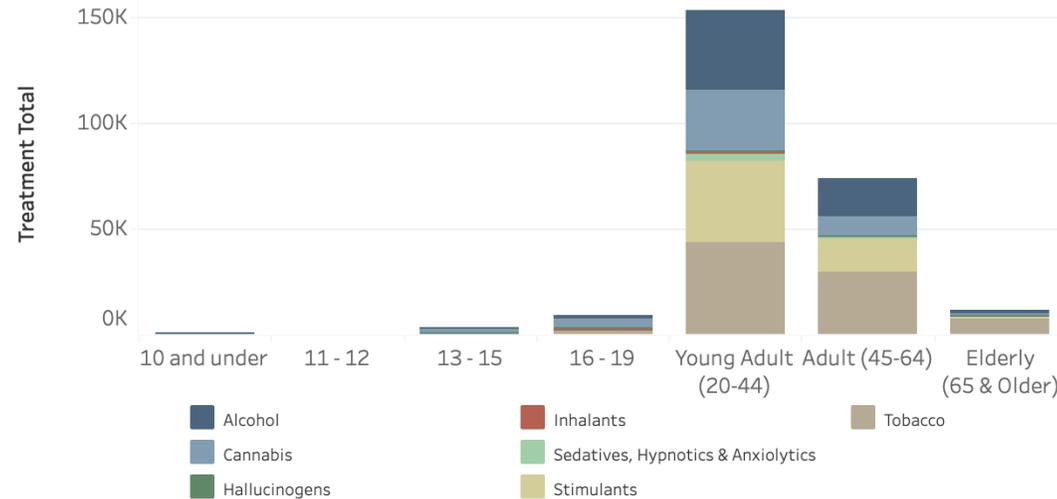
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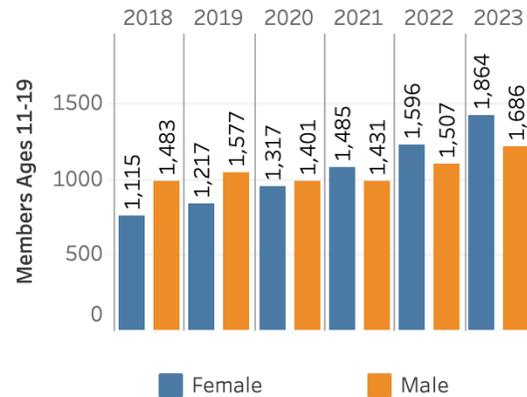
### Treatments Per County, 2023 Members Ages 11 to 19



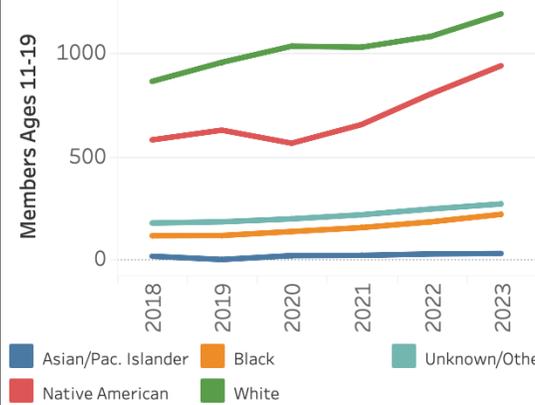
### Substance Use Disorder Treatments by Age, 2023



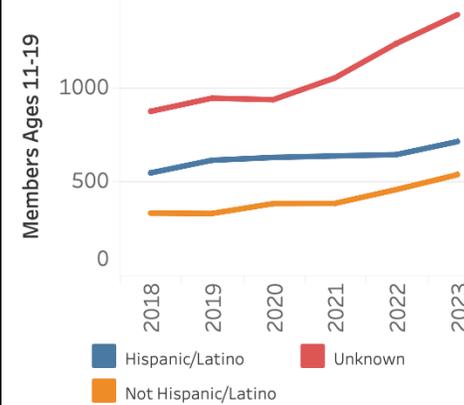
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# Limitations and Conclusions

## .Limitations

- Substance use disorder diagnoses substantially undercount people with SUD conditions since they require recognition and reporting by an AHCCCS-paid provider
- Results may not generalize outside the AHCCCS population
- However, AHCCCS is one of the largest sources of insurance coverage for children, covering more than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of Arizona children

## Conclusions

- Administrative data can round out survey data by providing information on children (and adults) with recognized substance use disorders
- Rates of substance use disorder diagnosis are low among children for most substances
  - Stimulant use appears to be increasing
- Treatment use rates are also low with some increases noted