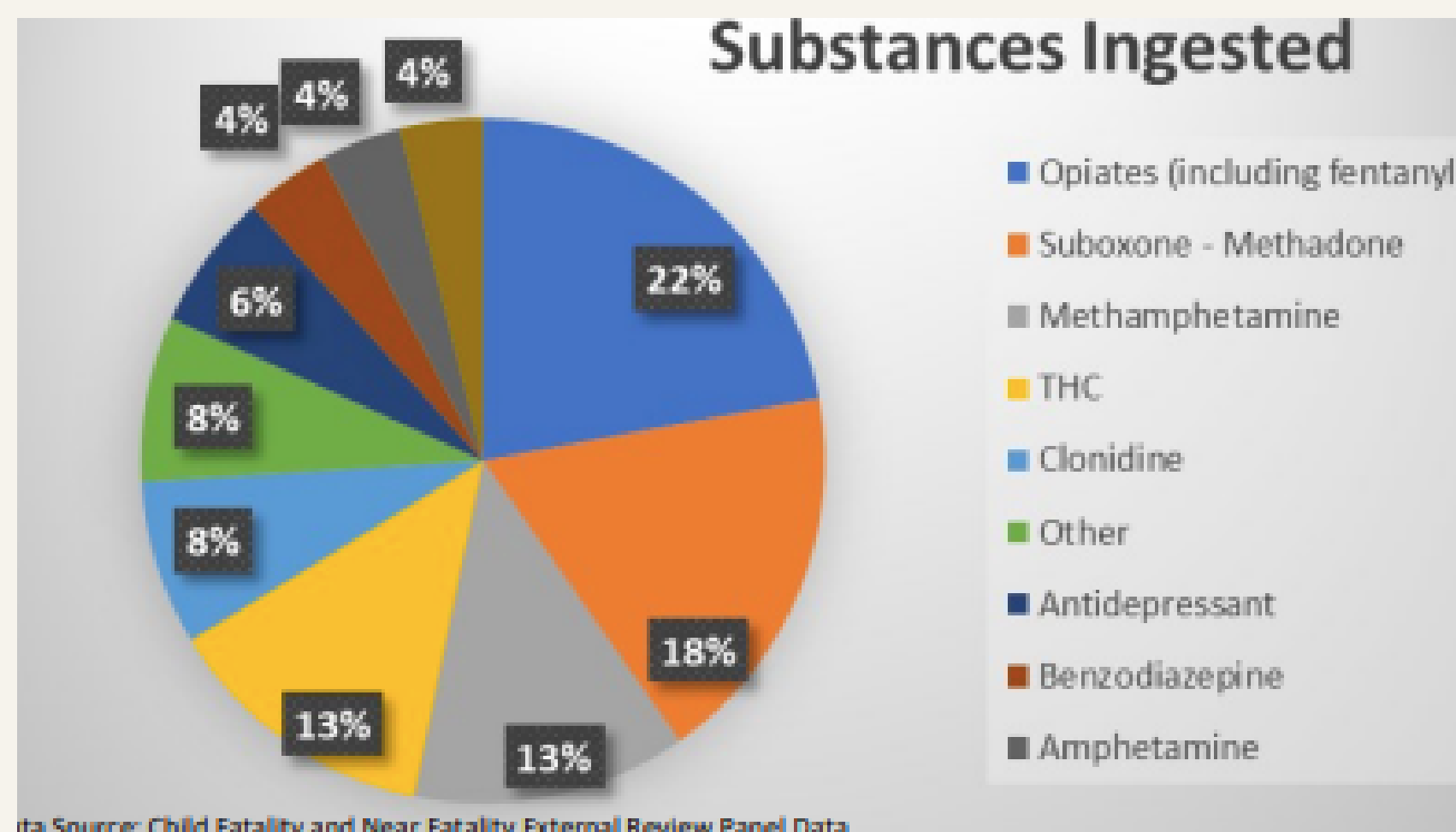


KENTUCKY ACCIDENTAL INGESTION FACT SHEET



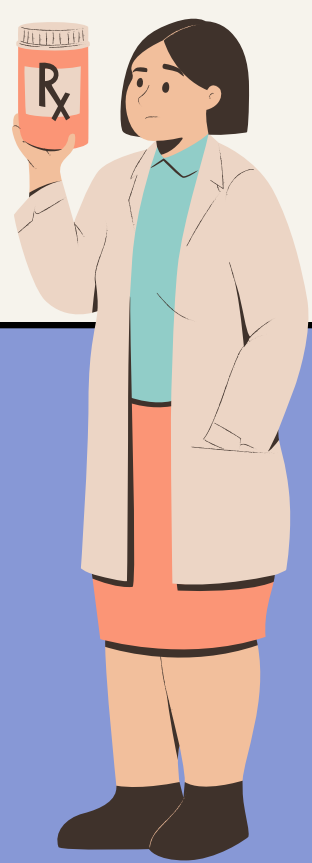
Substances Ingested

In 2021, opiate ingestions accounted for the majority of fatal and near fatal ingestions. When analyzing cases involving suboxone, buprenorphine, and methadone, 86% of these families were receiving Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT). Education of providers and families about the lethality of MAT in children is essential. Additionally, clonidine is commonly implicated in accidental ingestions due to being sweetened, and can be mistaken for candy by children.



Proper Storage

45% of cases involving older children were intentional and preventable with proper storage. Counsel patients, especially parents and grandparents, to put away medication after use and have visitors store bags and coats safely.



Did you know?

Since 2015, there has been a documented 350% increase in overdose/indigestion cases in children. 89% of these cases result in near-fatal injuries but we are seeing an increase in fatal ingestion cases.

Ages Affected

83% of cases occurred in children six years of age or younger. These cases are usually unintentional and preventable. Small children commonly mistake pills for candy, and the source is usually a caregiver, parent, or home visitor.

How can you help?

Strongly encourage patients to obtain medication lockboxes to prevent unintentional ingestions. Educate all patients on the importance of proper medication storage - for both prescriptions and OTC/vitamins/supplements. The CDC Up and Away campaign is a great resource for patients which provides valuable information about keeping medication up and out of reach of children.

Source: Kentucky's 2022 Annual Report - Child Fatality and Near Fatality External Review Panel

<https://justice.ky.gov/Boards-Commissions/cfnferp/Documents/Old%20Site/annual%20reports/2022%20Annual%20Report.pdf>

