



# The changing nature of opioid overdose deaths in Australia

Never Stand Still

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# Background



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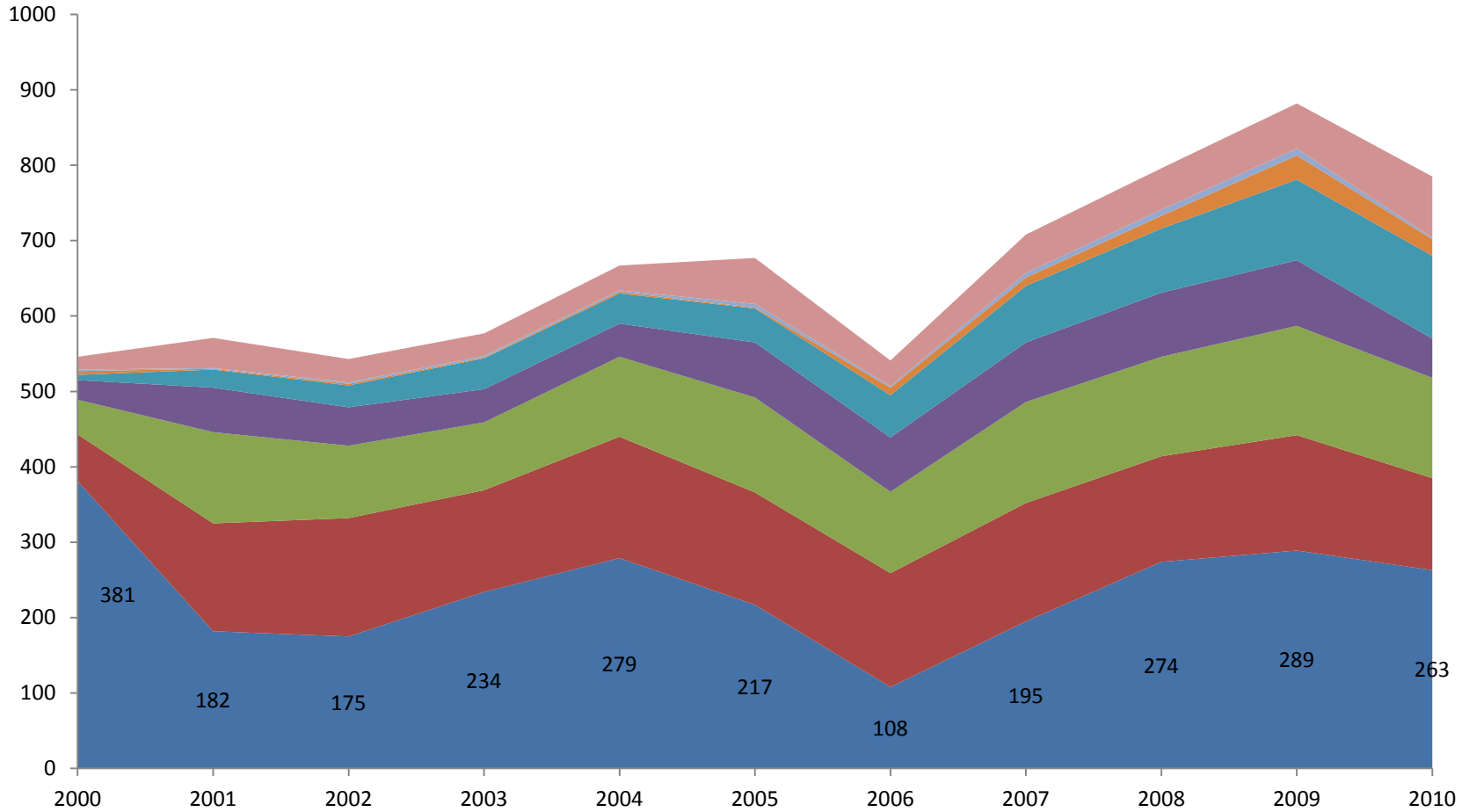


# Methods

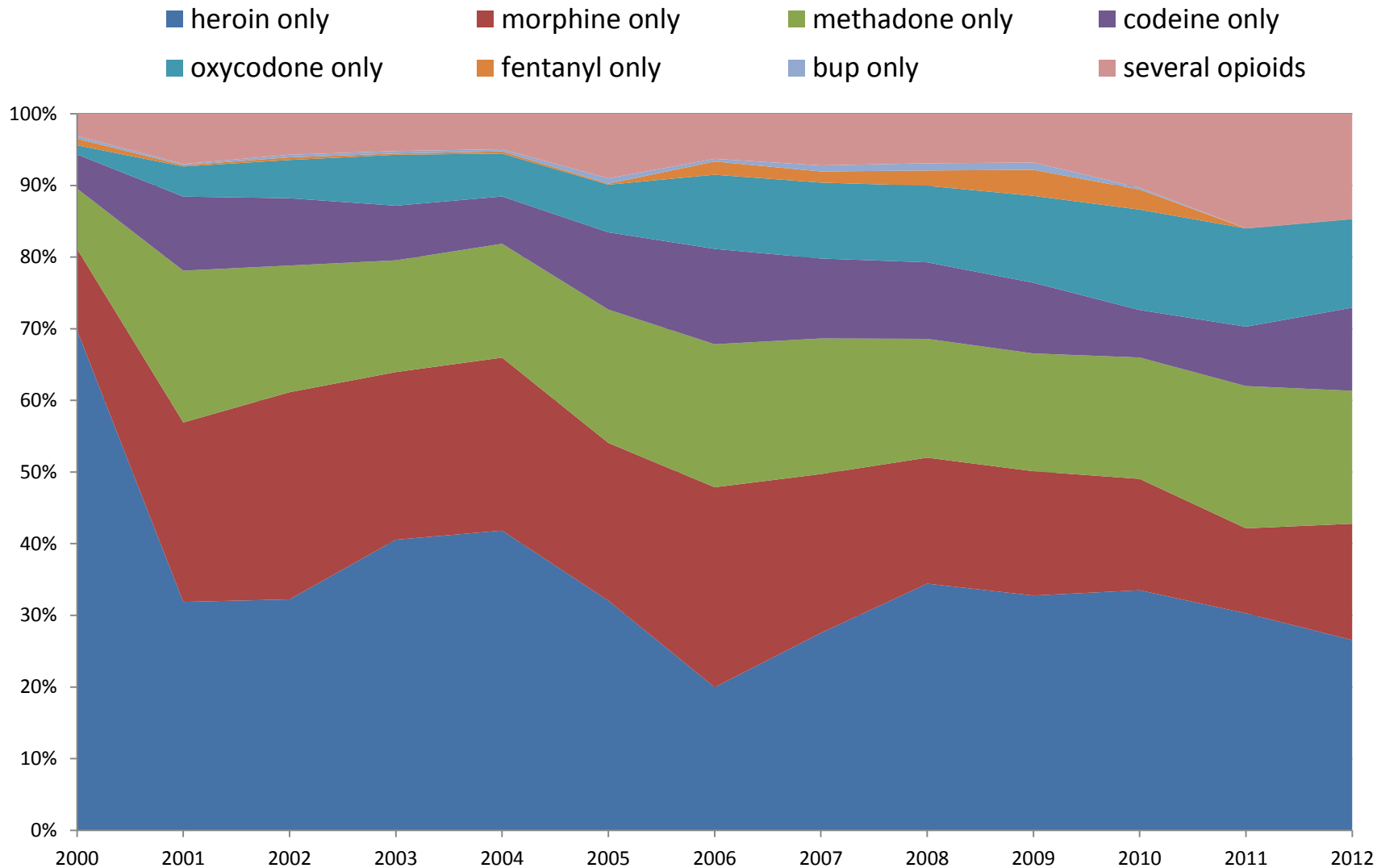
- Extracted data from the National Coronial Information System
- Complexity of heroin morphine and codeine deaths
- Forensic toxicologist advice to differentiate between these deaths
- Heroin deaths underestimated?

# Results

- heroin only
- morphine only
- methadone only
- codeine only
- oxycodone only
- fentanyl only
- bup only
- several opioids



# Results



# Discussion

## Summary:

- Opioids other than heroin comprise a larger proportion of opioid overdose deaths in 2012 compared to the 1990s
- Pharmaceutical opioids combined constituted the largest proportion (70%) of deaths in 2012
- Although heroin deaths on their own still comprise 30%
- Heroin deaths are still increasing



# Discussion

## Future work:

- Standardising deaths to population rates
- Standardising by prescribing – DDD per million
- What is driving the trend?
  - Is it people who inject drugs?
  - People with chronic pain?
  - Intentional or accidental overdose?
- All of these issues will have an impact on how we respond to the increasing trend in opioid overdose deaths in Australia