



**Office of the Special Narcotics
Prosecutor for the City of New York
Bridget Brennan**

Prescription to Treat an Epidemic

STATE OF NEW YORK

THE LOUIS J. LEFKOWITZ
STATE OFFICE BUILDING

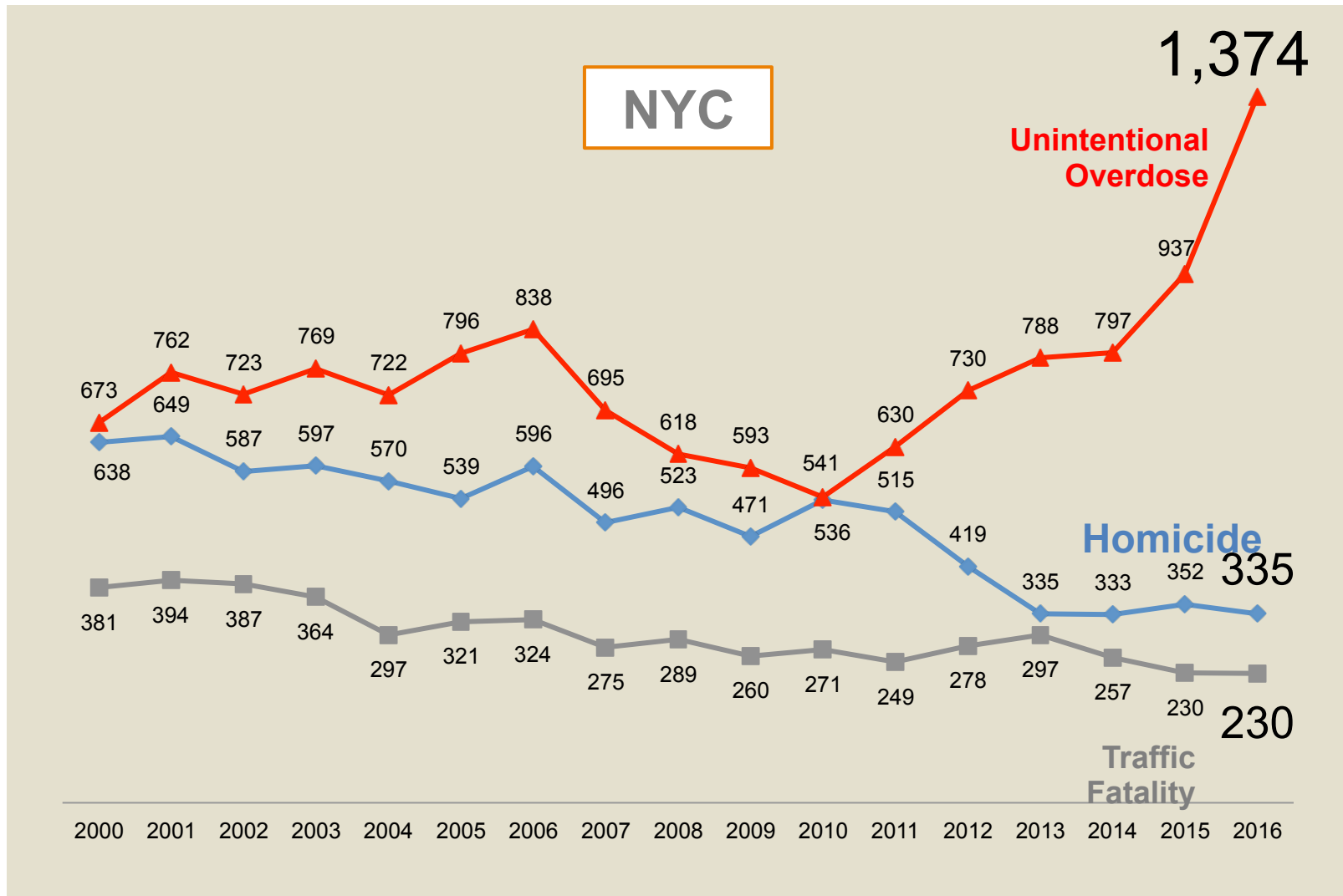
- High Impact Investigations
- Focus on High Volume Narcotics Organizations and Violence
- Rehabilitation
- Prevention

Today's Opioid Epidemic



“Spike in fatal drug overdoses in 2016 hit all race, gender, and age groups across five boroughs”
DAILY NEWS

Overdose Main Cause of Preventable Death



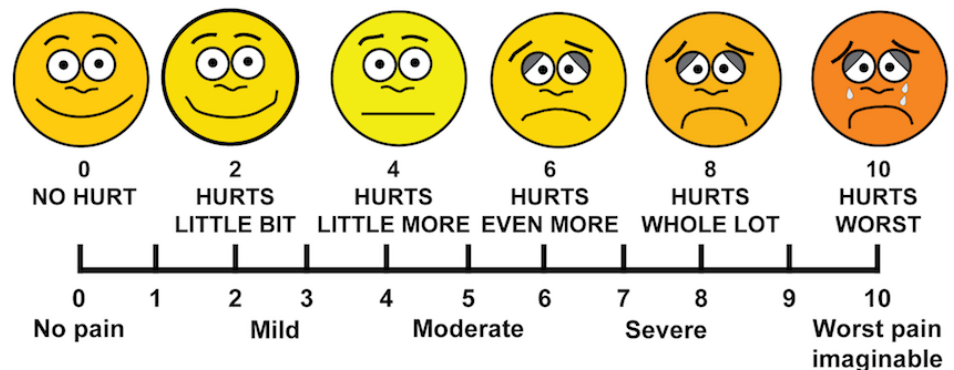
Corporate Strategies Stoke Addiction

- 1990's Pharmaceutical companies marketed opioid medications as safe and non-addictive.
- Marketing strategies: funding of “Pain Relief” organizations; doctor's compensation depends on patients' satisfaction with pain relief; payments to “experts” to give seminars on using pain medication.

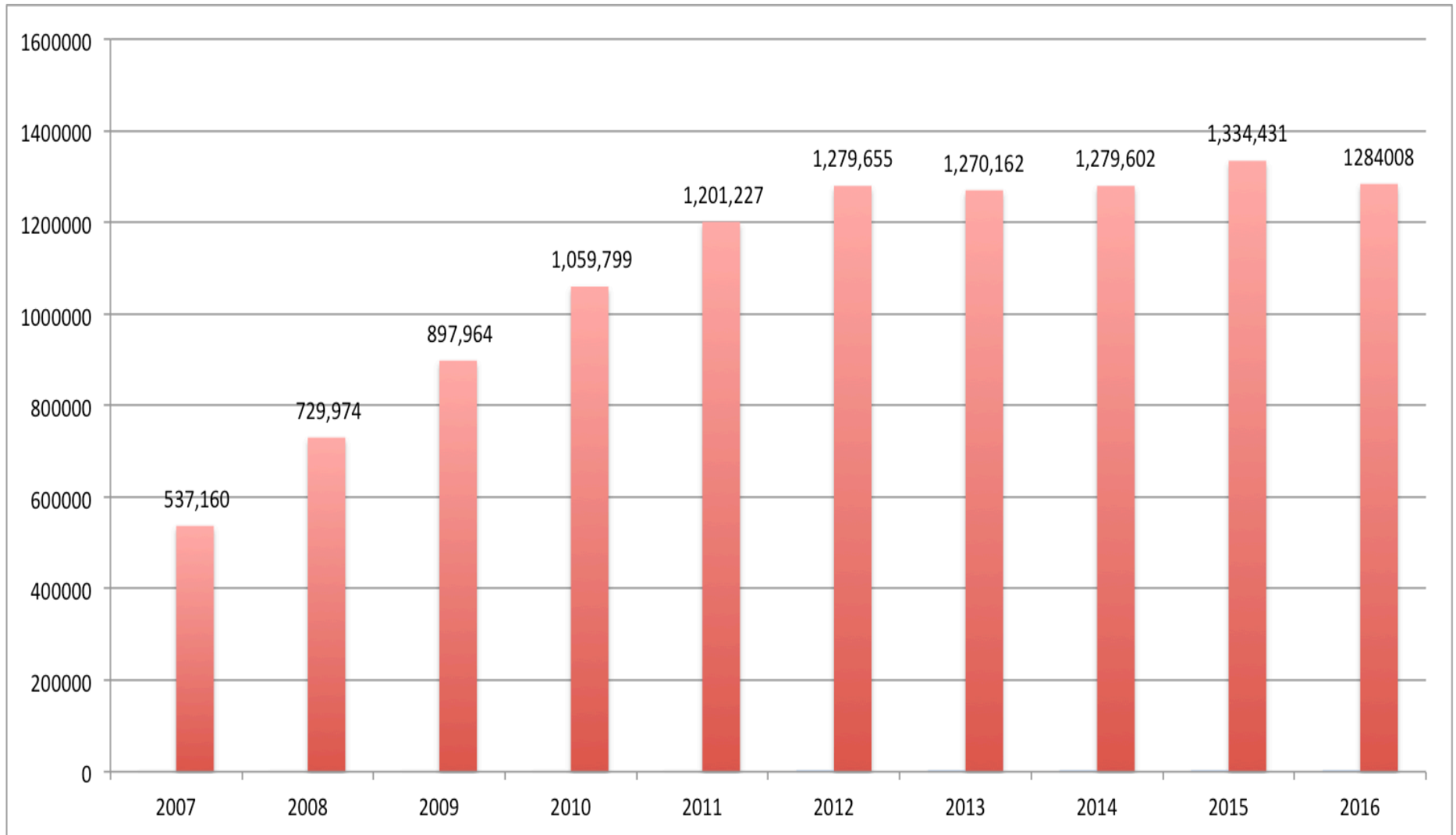


Earned \$3.1 Billion on Oxycontin in 2010; paid \$637 Million to settle federal criminal case in 2007

PAIN MEASUREMENT SCALE



NYC Oxycodone Prescriptions 2007-2016

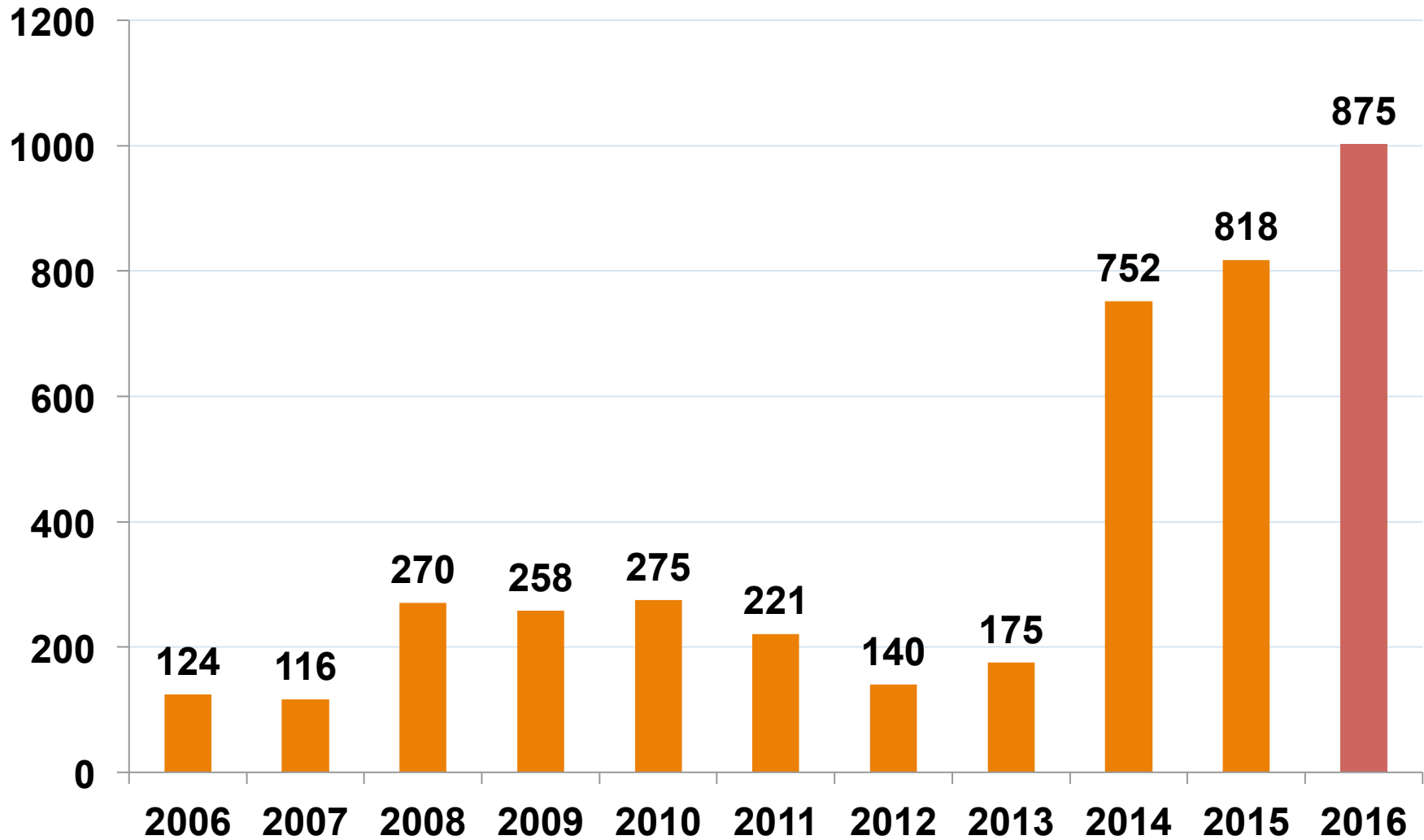


Pain Pills and Heroin

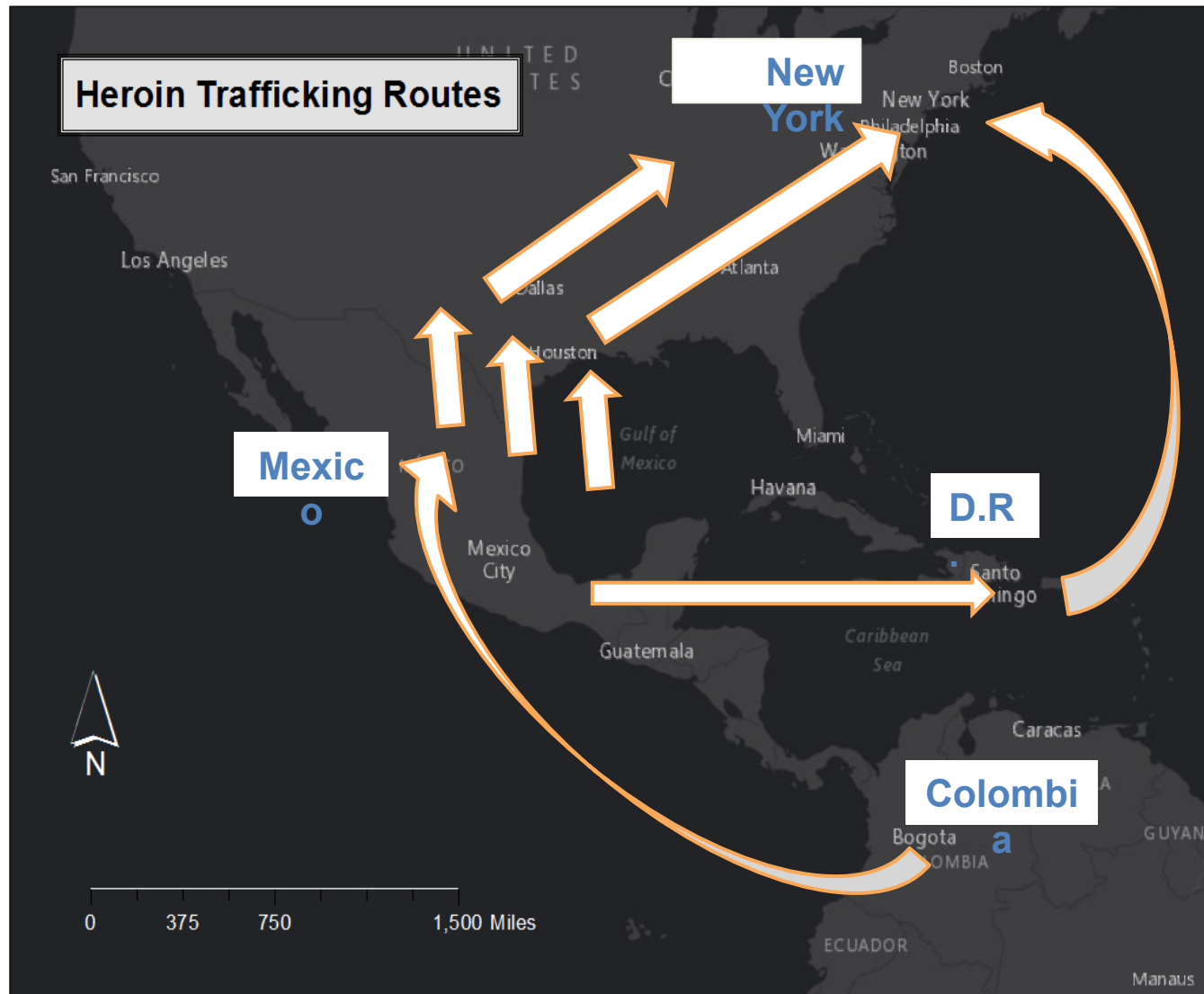


- Heroin refined from poppies
- Pain Pills are synthetic, formulated to have same effect on body as heroin
- Both suppress pain, emotion, respiration and heart rate
- Whether medicine or recreation, extended use causes addiction
- Consistent use leads to tolerance; high dosage causes death
- Studies say pain pills gateway

SNP Heroin Seizures in Pounds 2006 –2016



Where does all that heroin come from?





Meet Fentanyl

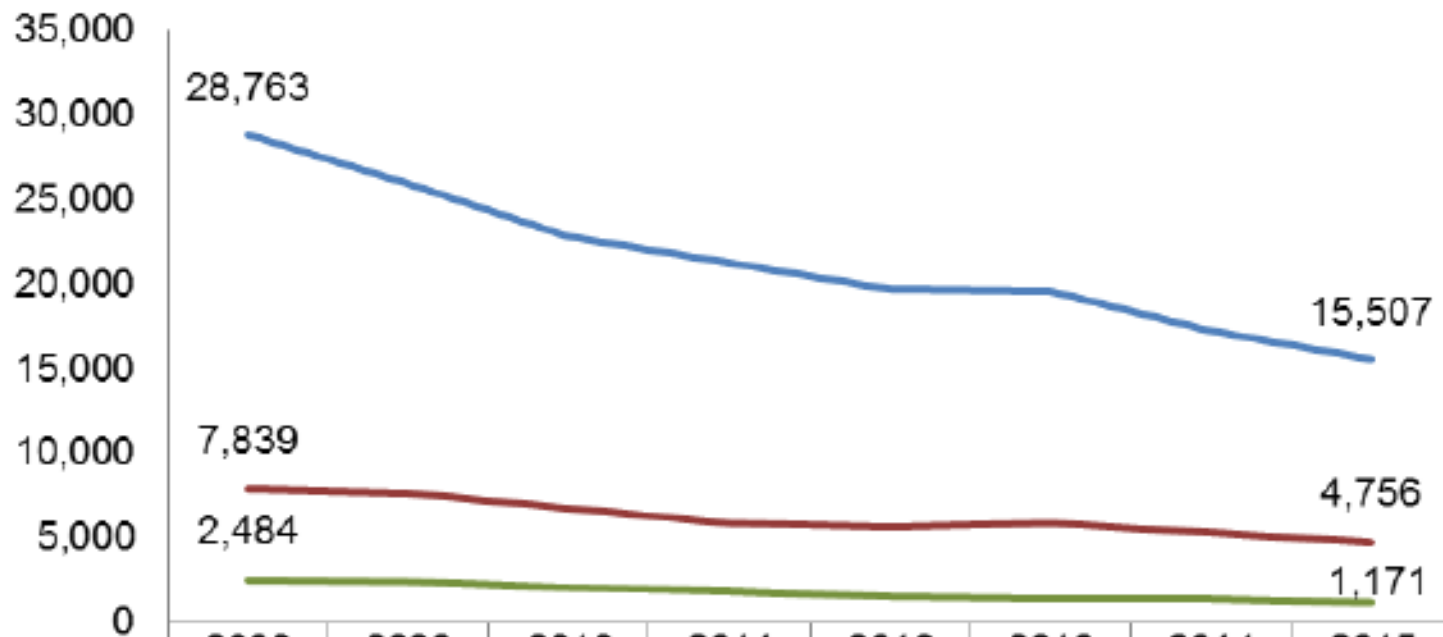


“Enough Fentanyl to Kill 32M People Seized in Single NYC Bust”



A New Era: Public Health Leads Response to Crisis

2008 - 2015 Felony Drug Trends: NYC



	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
— Arrests	28,763	25,957	22,792	21,206	19,680	19,502	17,207	15,507
— Indict./SCIs	7,839	7,638	6,733	5,797	5,607	5,877	5,289	4,756
— Commitments	2,484	2,339	2,019	1,813	1,500	1,336	1,349	1,171

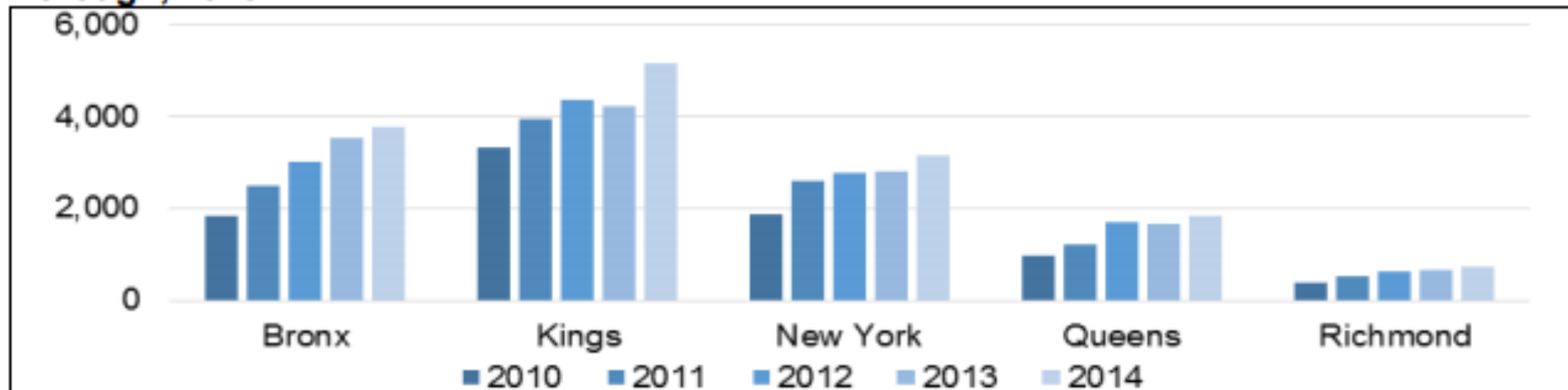
Sources: DCJS, DOCCS

First Responders Administer Naloxone



Hospital Visits Continue to Increase

Figure 4: Frequency of Opioid-Related Outpatient Emergency Department Visits, by NYC Borough, 2010-2014

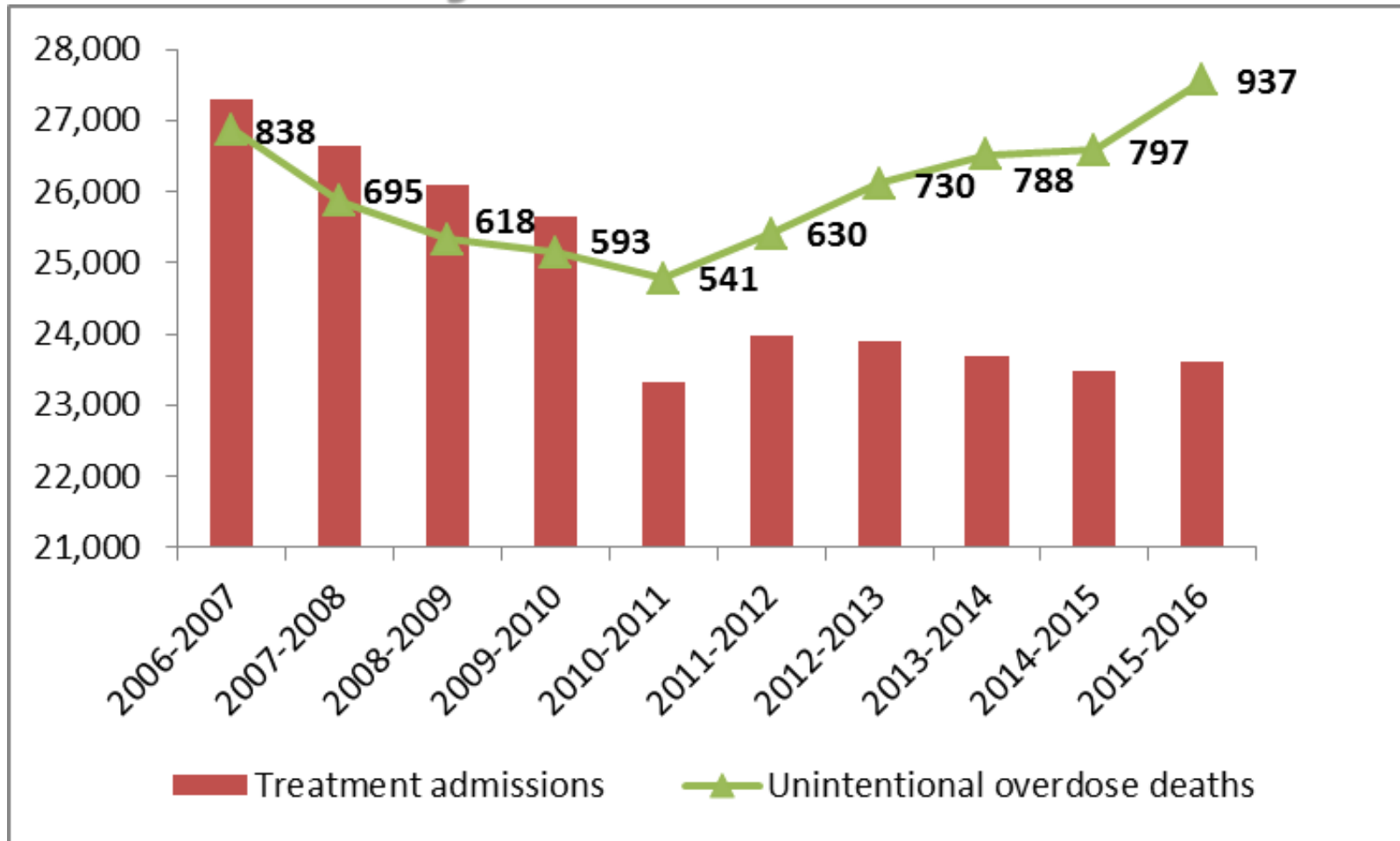


Source: SPARCS, June 2015. Prepared by NYSDOH, AIDS Institute.

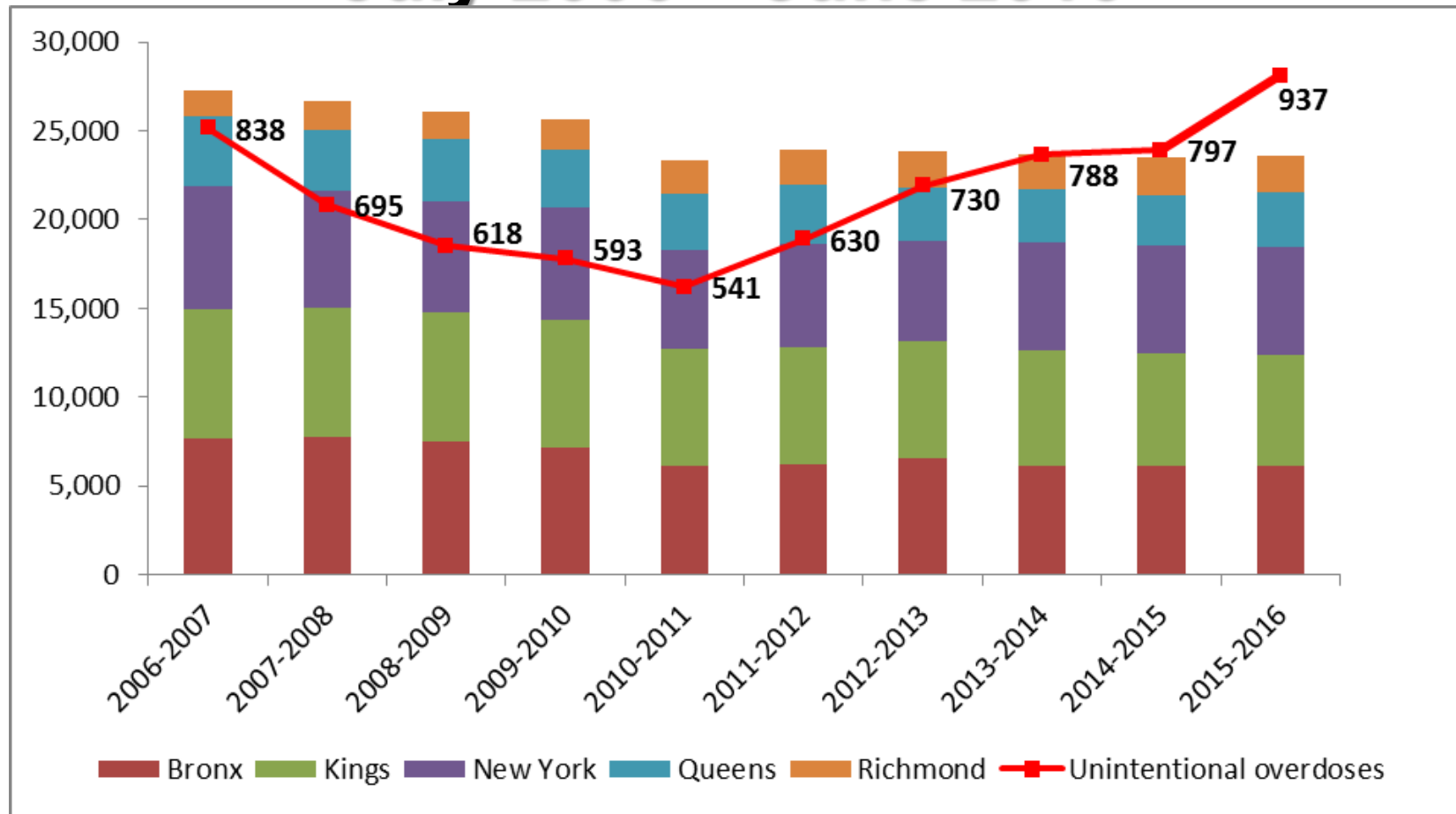
BUT Fewer Enter Treatment Through Criminal Justice or Voluntary Admissions

- In **2006**, on SNP cases, **14%** of defendants chose treatment as a sentence option
- In **2015**, **6%** of defendants chose treatment
- In **2006**, **46,097** city wide admissions to **OASAS** tracked treatment programs for opioids (including heroin) and cocaine
- In **2015**, **31,168** admissions for city wide **OASAS** tracked treatment programs for opioids (including heroin) and cocaine– **32% decline**
- **Overdoses increased 12% over same period**

OASAS treatment admissions vs. unintentional overdose deaths in NYC, July 2006-June 2016



OASAS treatment admissions by county vs. unintentional overdose deaths in NYC, July 2006 – June 2016



Controlling the epidemic:

A Three-pronged Approach

- **Reduce supply** from pill mills and black market: Improve law enforcement coordination and strategic targeting
- **Treat** people who are already addicted: Revise and broaden outreach strategies by trained social work professionals to reach diverse substance abusing demographics
- **Prevent** new cases of opioid addiction: Robust informational campaigns designed to reach potential users **BEFORE** addiction

NEED *BALANCED APPROACH* TO END CRISIS

- **Employ most effective tools from Public Health and Law Enforcement**
- **Provide the public with clear factual information on dangerous drugs on black market, and in the medicine cabinet**
- **Design comprehensive prevention strategy modeled after anti smoking campaign**
- **Develop educational programs for children – starting in middle school – focus on healthy lifestyles and dangers of legal and illegal drugs**

Canadian Prevention Campaign

IT'S NEVER GOING TO BE YOU...

UNTIL IT IS.

Fentanyl may be hiding in the
drugs you're using.

www.drugsfool.ca



