

# STRENGTHENING

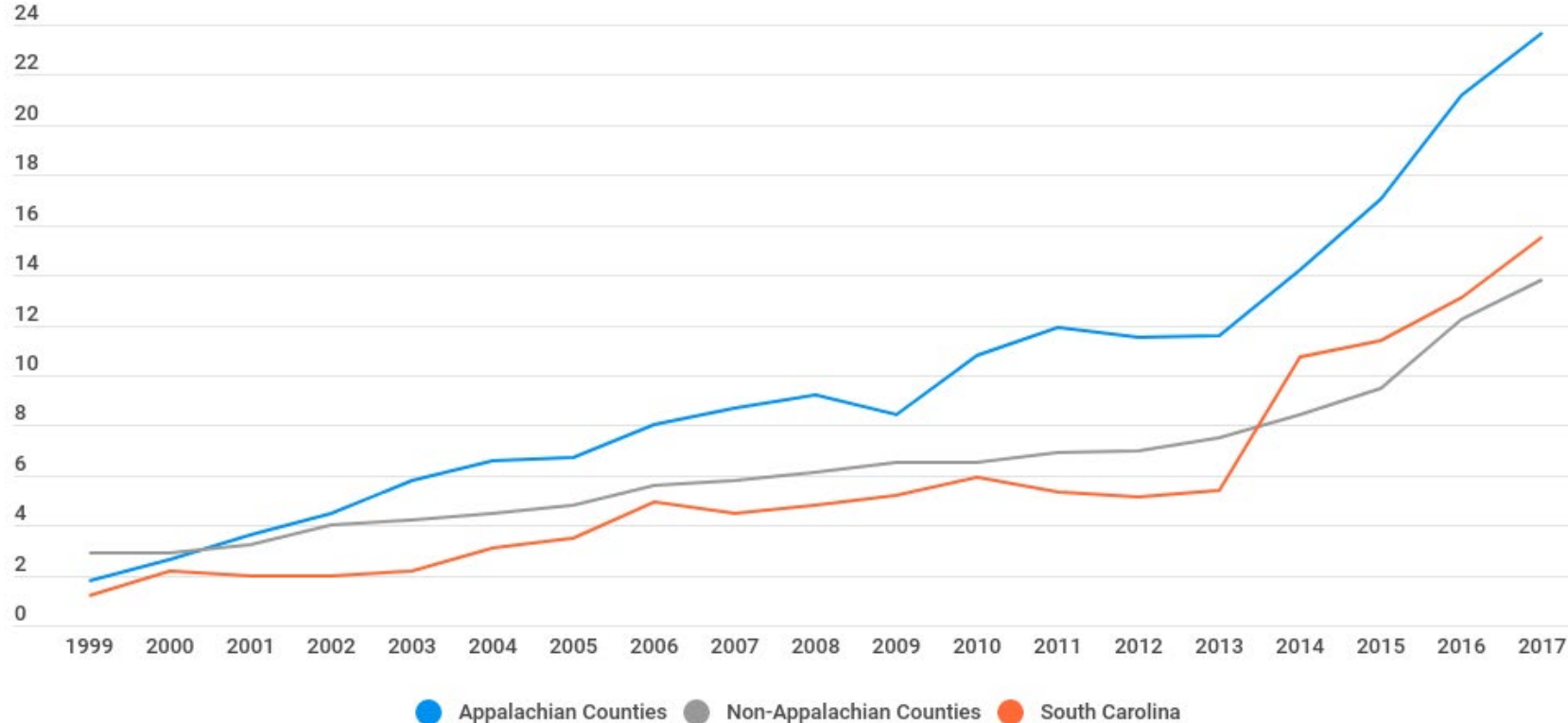
# THE LOCAL RESPONSE

## TO THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC IN SOUTH CAROLINA



# APPALACHIAN COUNTIES IN THE EYE OF THE STORM

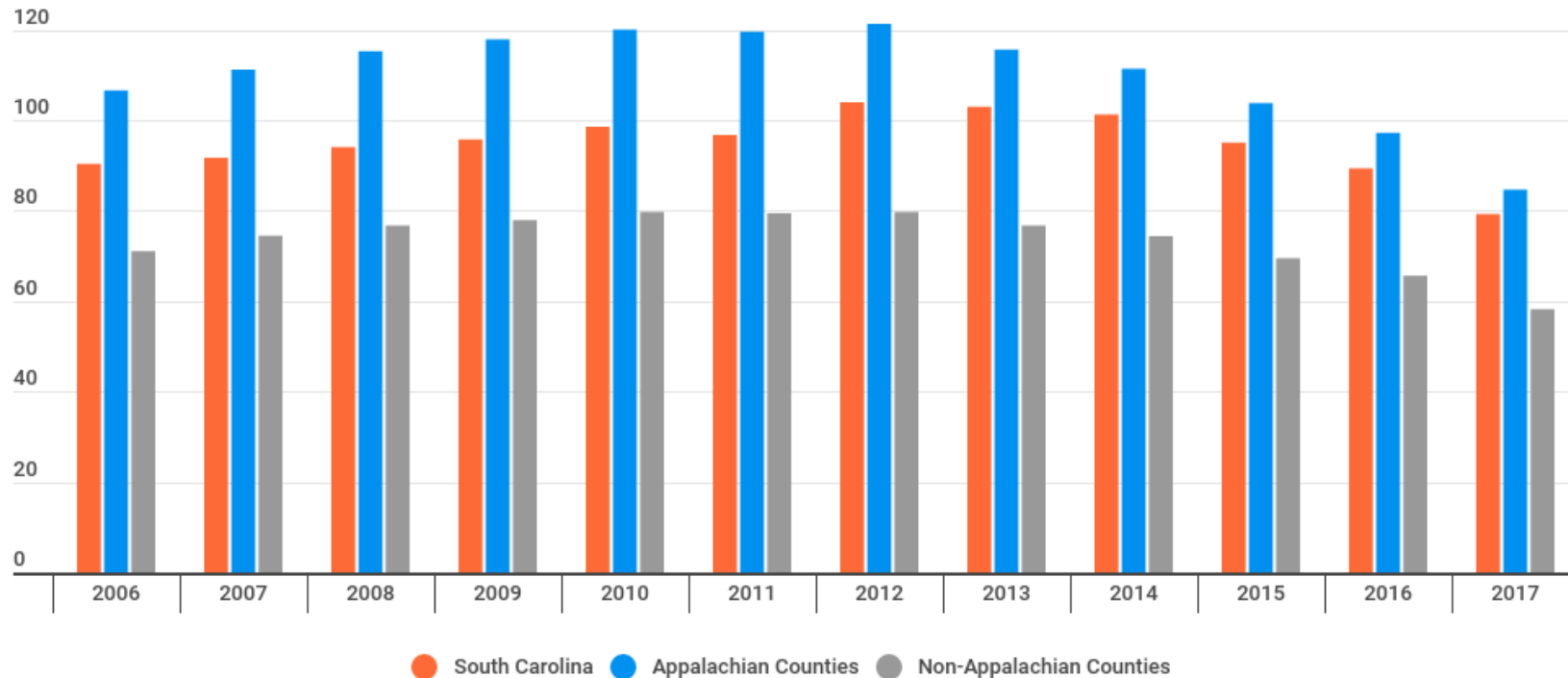
Age-Adjusted Opioid Overdose Death Rates, per 100,000 residents, 1999-2017



In 2017, the opioid overdose death rate was **72% higher** in Appalachian counties than in non-Appalachian counties.

# OPIOID EPIDEMIC: SUPPLY SIDE

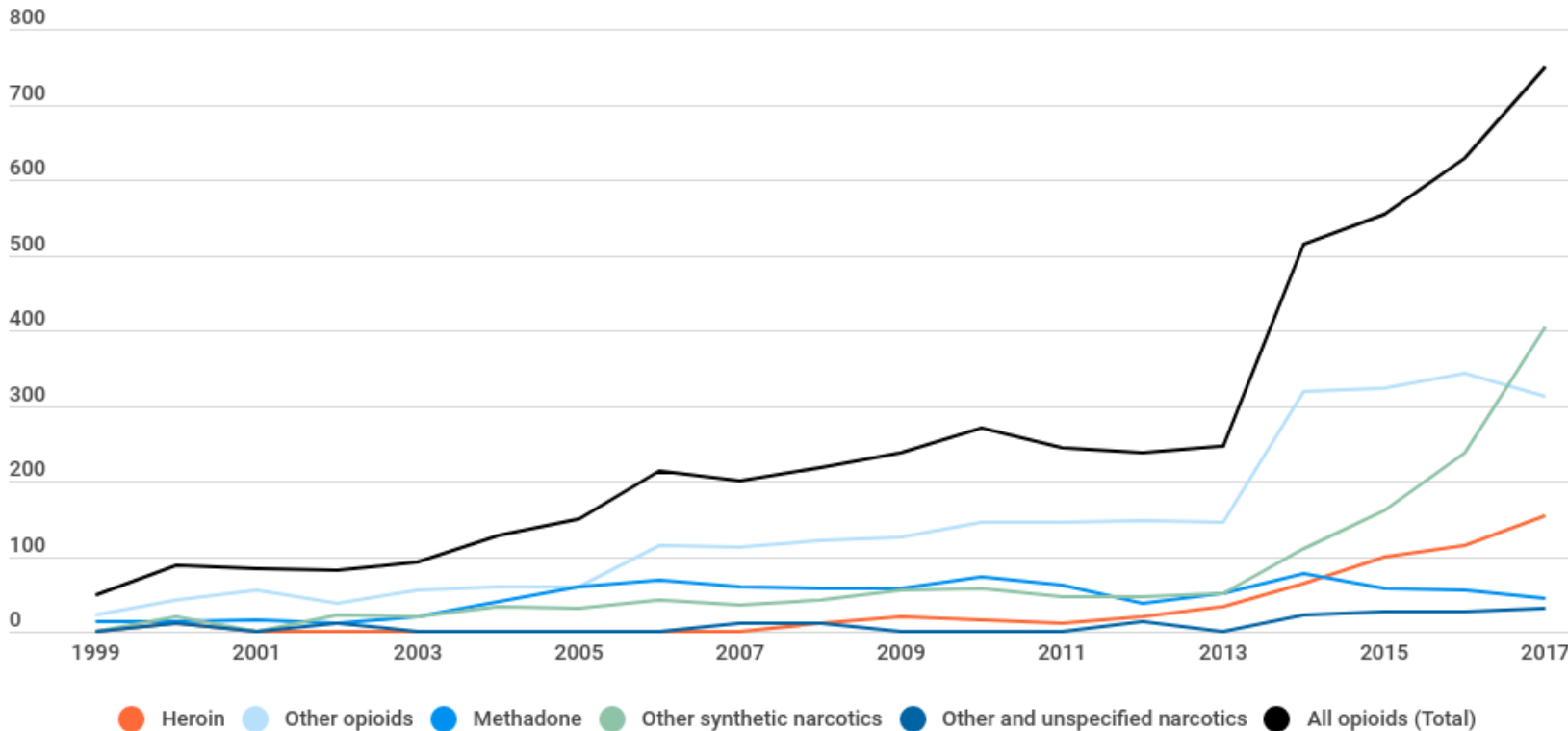
Opioid Prescription Rates, per 100 residents, 2006-2017



In 2017, the opioid prescription rate in South Carolina was 79.3 prescriptions per resident - **36% higher** than in non-Appalachian counties.

# OPIOID EPIDEMIC: DEMAND SIDE

Total Opioid Overdose Deaths, by Type of Opioid, 1999-2017



From 1999-2017, opioid abuse progressed from legal, prescription opioids to **illegal opioids**, like heroin and fentanyl.

# WHY COUNTIES?

**Counties are on the frontlines due to their involvement in:**



**HEALTH**



**HUMAN  
SERVICES**



**JUSTICE & PUBLIC  
SAFETY**



**ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT**

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 1. Exercise strategic local leadership

- Set a tone of compassion
- Opioid Task Forces
- Regional cooperation

*Case Studies: Ross County, Ohio and Mercer County, W.Va.*

## 2. Emphasize preventive and educational initiatives

- Safe disposal sites
- Community outreach
- Data and technology

*Case Study: Allegany County, Md.*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

## 3. Expand access to addiction treatments

- Naloxone and MAT
- Telemedicine
- Mental health treatment

*Case Studies: Project Lazarus (Wilkes County, N.C.)*

## 4. Criminal justice response to illegal opioids sales; treatment and services to justice-involved individuals

- Reduce illicit opioids
- Treatment and workforce training in jails
- Housing and employment opportunities

*Case Studies: A New Beginning (Campbell County, Tenn.)*

# RECOMMENDATIONS

5. **Mitigate local economic impacts and consider new economic development strategies**
  - Collaborate with educational institutions
  - Help businesses learn to work with individuals in recovery
  - Reinforce safety net services
  - Expand entrepreneurial opportunities

*Case Studies:*

*Housing Development Alliance (Perry County, Ky.)*

*Coalfield Development Corporation (Lincoln, McDowell, Mingo and Wayne Counties, W.Va.)*



# CONCLUSION

- **45,000** deaths due to opioid overdoses nationwide in 2017
- **5,600** of these deaths were in Appalachia
- Counties must partner with states, with the federal government and regionally with municipalities and other counties to pool their resources and develop solutions together.

# QUESTIONS?

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[www.NACo.org/OpioidsInAppalachia](http://www.NACo.org/OpioidsInAppalachia)

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