

Drug Cases Submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science Calendar Year 2017

A Joint Report by the Virginia Departments of
Forensic Science
and
Criminal Justice Services

Drug Cases Submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science

- DFS receives tens of thousands of drug submissions every year.
- This report defines “cases” differently from how DFS uses the term internally. For purposes of this report, if multiple drugs are identified in a single submission, each drug is counted separately as one “case.” For example, a submission that includes both heroin and cocaine will be counted once as a heroin case and once as a cocaine case.
- Data presented here are for select drug categories of interest
 - Cocaine
 - Heroin
 - Methamphetamine
 - Marijuana
 - Cannabimimetic Agents¹
 - “Club Drugs”²
 - Prescription Opioids³
 - Prescription Stimulants
 - Benzodiazepines
 - Illicit Synthetic Opioids⁴

1- Cannabimimetic agents were previously labeled “synthetic cannabinoids.”

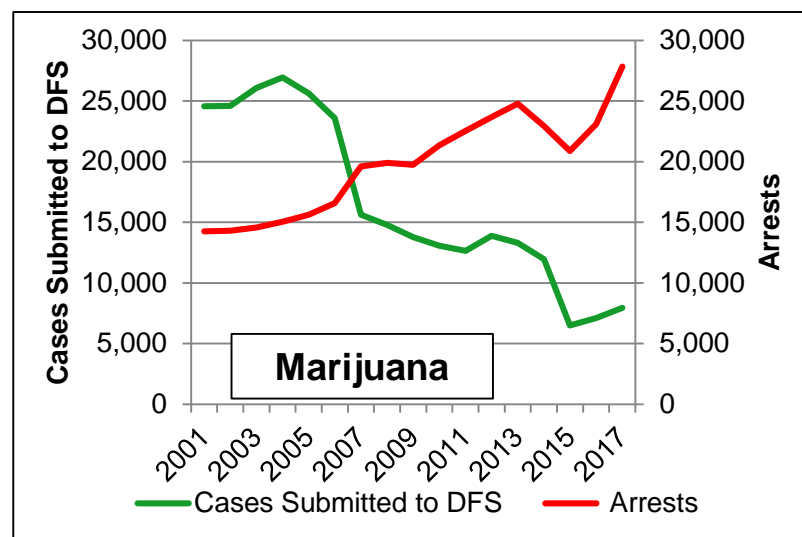
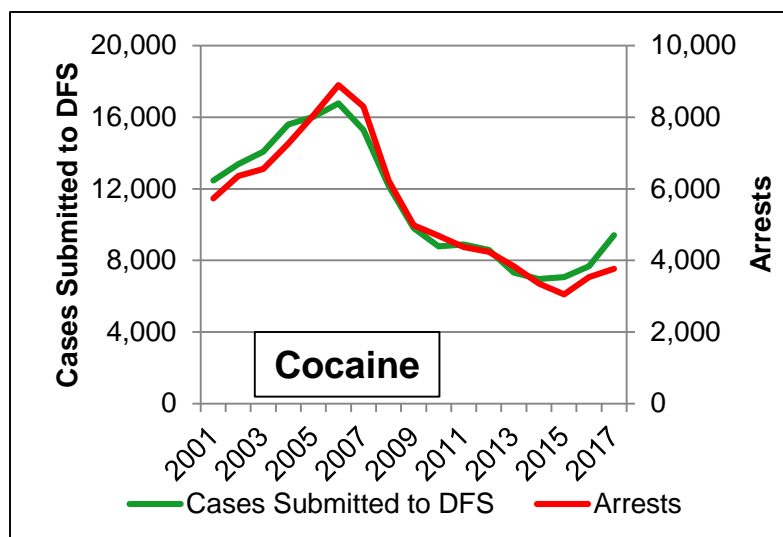
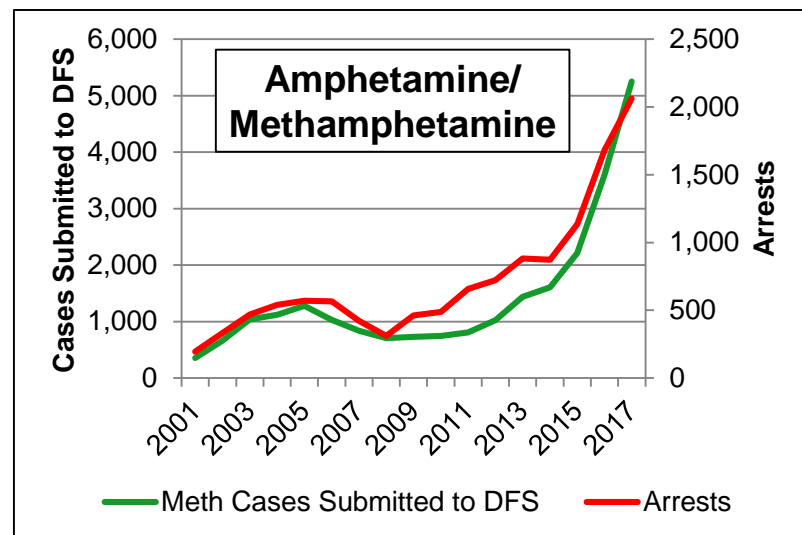
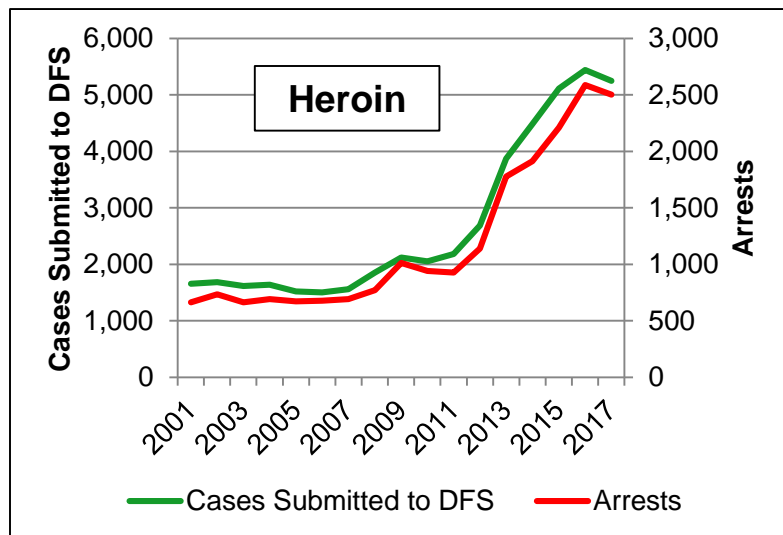
2- Includes various designer and other drugs including MDMA (“Ecstasy”), Ketamine, Phenethylamines, Tryptamines, Piperazines, substituted cathinones (“bath salts”), and others. Use of these drugs is not limited to clubs or parties, and in fact some of these designer drugs might not be identified as “club drugs” *per se*, but in lieu of a better category label, they are included here. Any drug listed specifically above is not included in this category.

3- Fentanyl submissions identified as being in the form of a transdermal patch are counted with other prescription opioids. All other forms of fentanyl and fentanyl derivatives are counted as “illicit” for purposes of this report.

4- Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Comparing DFS Cases to Arrest Data

Select drug types, calendar years 2001-2017

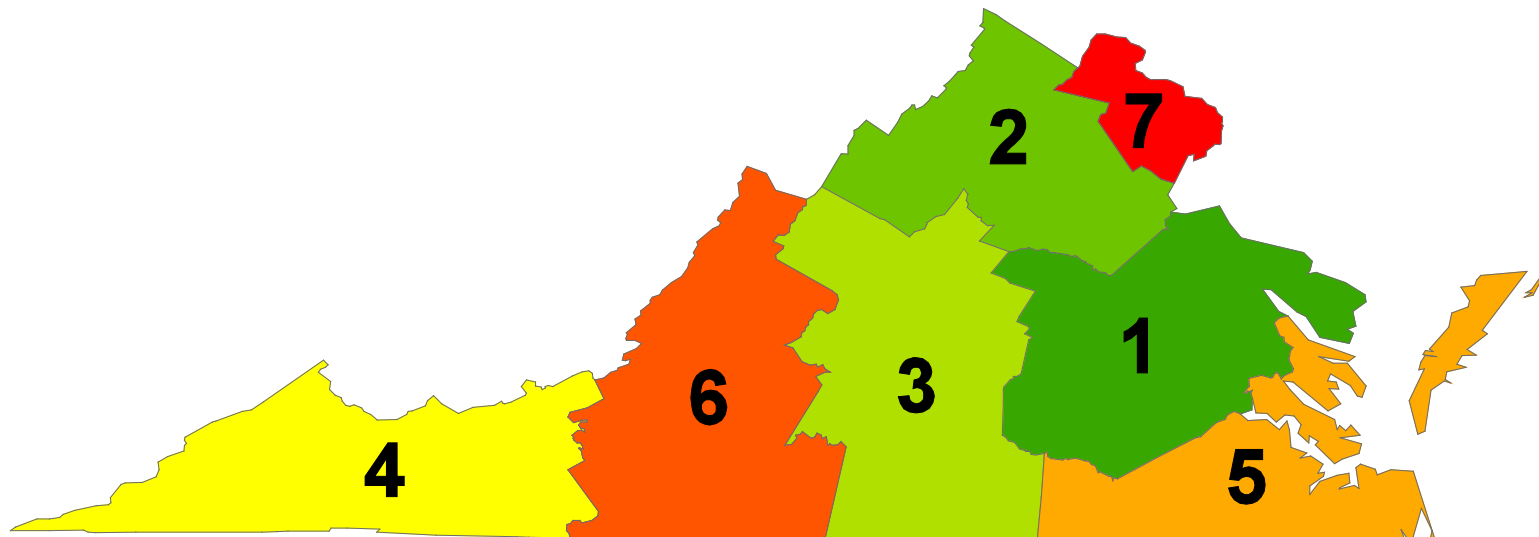


Comparing DFS Cases to Arrest Data

Select drug types, calendar years 2001-2017

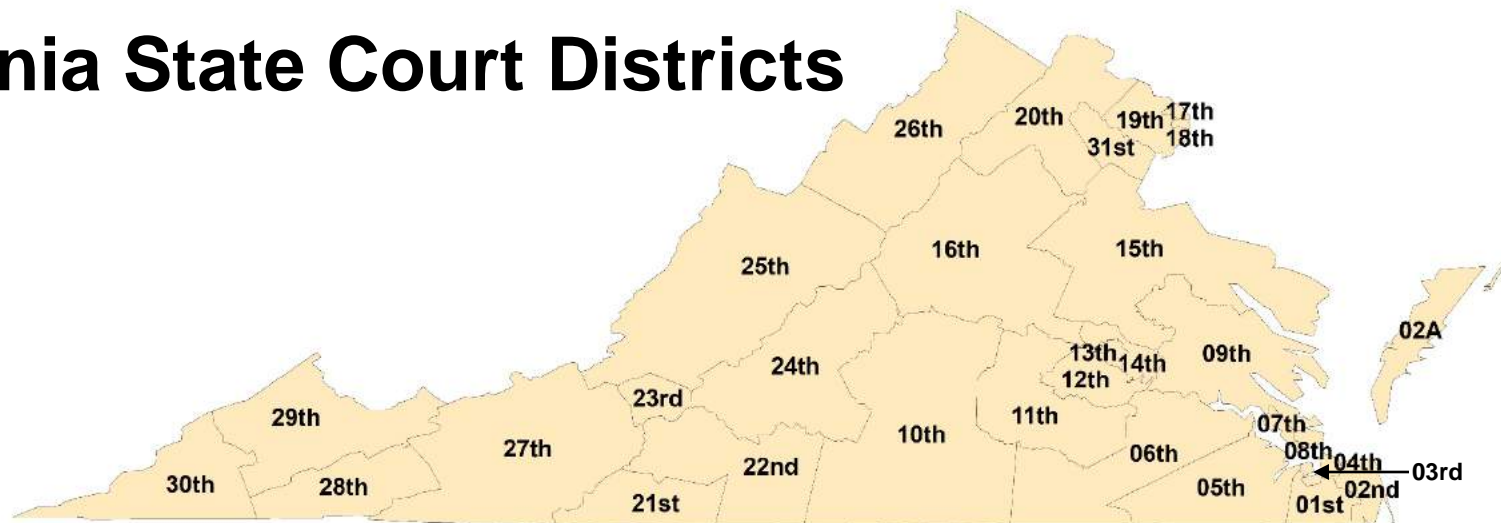
- For cocaine, heroin, and amphetamine/methamphetamine, DFS cases and VSP arrest data show a similar pattern.
 - The number of DFS cases (the left axis and the green line in each chart) is consistently about double the number of arrests (right axis, red line). Note that a single arrest could involve multiple drugs, but the arresting officer might not be able to specifically identify each drug type. An individual might be arrested for possessing cocaine, and DFS might later determine that heroin was also present.
- DFS cases and VSP arrest data for marijuana do *not* share a similar pattern. There is a clear break in the series of data for both DFS cases (left axis, green line) and arrests (right axis, red line).
 - Changes in the *Code of Virginia* relating to law enforcement testimony with regard to marijuana field test kits (beginning July 2006) coincided with an increase in marijuana arrests and a decrease in marijuana cases submitted to DFS.
 - Marijuana case data before and after this change cannot be compared. Because of this, marijuana cases are given less focus in this report.

Virginia State Police Divisions



<u>Division 1</u>		<u>Division 2</u>		<u>Division 3</u>		<u>Division 4</u>		<u>Division 5</u>		<u>Division 6</u>		<u>Division 7</u>	
Amelia County	Lancaster County	Clarke County	Albemarle County	Bland County	Accomack County	York County	Alleghany County	Roanoke County	Arlington County				
Caroline County	Louisa County	Culpeper County	Amherst County	Buchanan County	Brunswick County	Chesapeake City	Bath County	Rockbridge County	Fairfax County				
Charles City County	New Kent County	Fauquier County	Appomattox County	Carroll County	Gloucester County	Emporia City	Bedford County	Bedford City	Loudoun County				
Chesterfield County	Northumberland County	Frederick County	Augusta County	Dickenson County	Greensville County	Franklin City	Botetourt County	Buena Vista City	Prince William County				
Dinwiddie County	Nottoway County	Madison County	Buckingham County	Giles County	Isle of Wight County	Hampton City	Craig County	Danville City	Alexandria City				
Essex County	Powhatan County	Orange County	Campbell County	Grayson County	James City County	Newport News City	Floyd County	Lexington City	Fairfax City				
Goochland County	Prince George County	Page County	Charlotte County	Lee County	Mathews County	Norfolk City	Franklin County	Martinsville City	Falls Church City				
Hanover County	Richmond County	Rappahannock County	Cumberland County	Pulaski County	Middlesex County	Poquoson City	Henry County	Radford City	Manassas City				
Henrico County	Westmoreland County	Rockingham County	Fluvanna County	Russell County	Northampton County	Portsmouth City	Highland County	Roanoke City	Manassas Park City				
King and Queen County	Colonial Heights City	Shenandoah County	Greene County	Scott County	Southampton County	Suffolk City	Montgomery County	Salem City					
King George County	Hopewell City	Spotsylvania County	Halifax County	Smyth County	Surry County	Virginia Beach City	Patrick County						
King William County	Petersburg City	Stafford County	Lunenburg County	Tazewell County	Sussex County	Williamsburg City	Pittsylvania County						
	Richmond City	Warren County	Mecklenburg County	Washington County									
		Fredericksburg City	Nelson County	Wise County									
		Harrisonburg City	Prince Edward County	Wythe County									
		Winchester City	Charlottesville City	Bristol City									
			Lynchburg City	Galax City									
			Staunton City	Norton City									
			Waynesboro City										

Virginia State Court Districts



Court District	Locality
1st	Chesapeake City
2A	Accomack County
	Northampton County
2nd	Virginia Beach City
3rd	Portsmouth City
4th	Norfolk City
5th	Franklin City
	Isle of Wight County
	Southampton County
	Suffolk City
6th	Brunswick County
	Emporia City
	Greensville County
	Hopewell City
	Prince George County
	Surry County
	Sussex County
7th	Newport News City
8th	Hampton City
9th	Charles City County
	Gloucester County
	James City County
	King and Queen County
	King William County
	Mathews County
	Middlesex County
	New Kent County
	Poquoson City
	Williamsburg City
	York County

Court District	Locality
10th	Appomattox County
	Buckingham County
	Charlotte County
	Cumberland County
	Halifax County
	Lunenburg County
	Mecklenburg County
	Prince Edward County
11th	Amelia County
	Dinwiddie County
	Nottoway County
	Petersburg City
	Powhatan County
12th	Chesterfield County
	Colonial Heights City
13th	Richmond City
14th	Henrico County
15th	Caroline County
	Essex County
	Fredericksburg City
	Hanover County
	King George County
	Lancaster County
	Northumberland County
	Richmond County
	Spotsylvania County
	Stafford County
	Westmoreland County

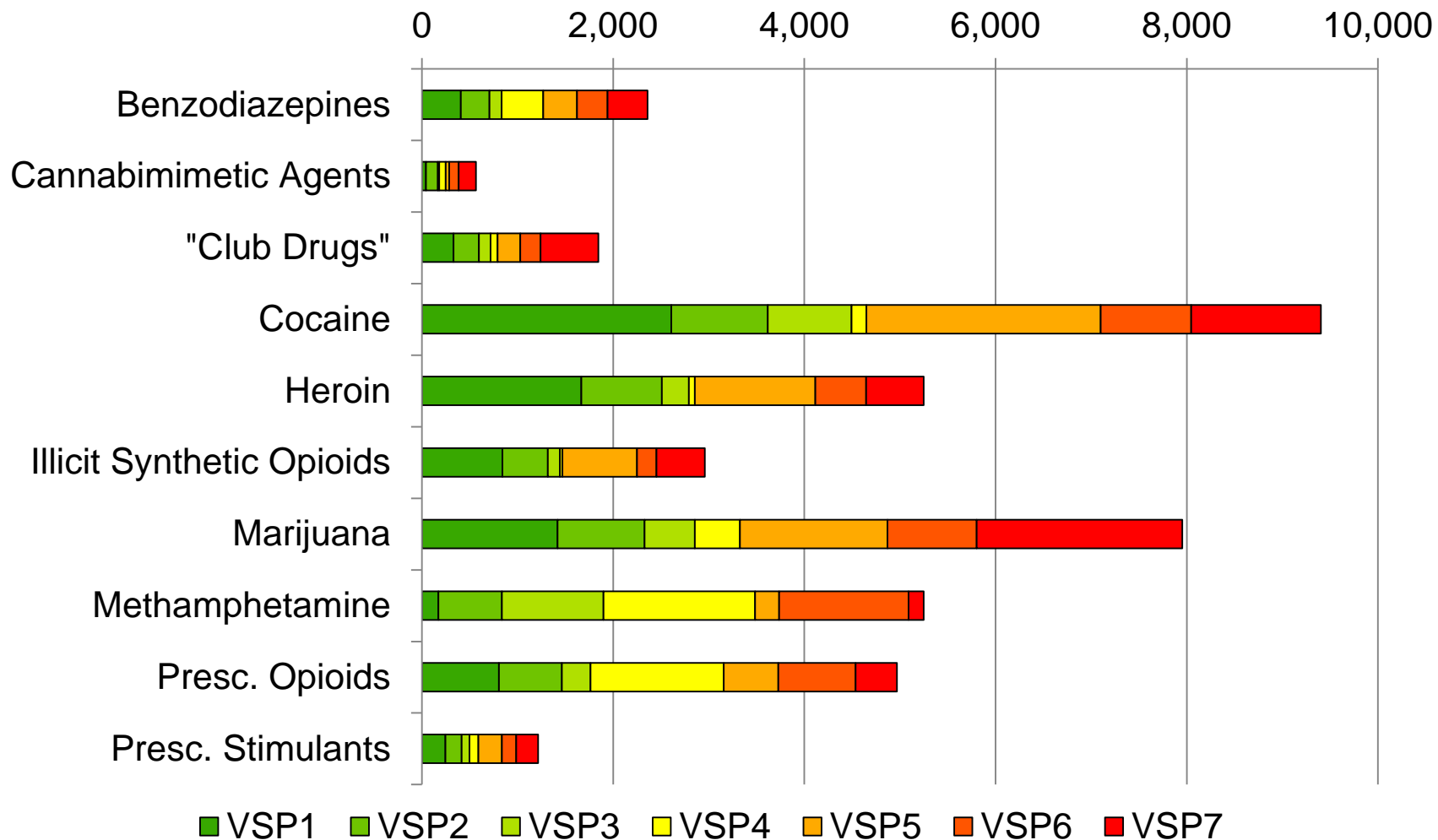
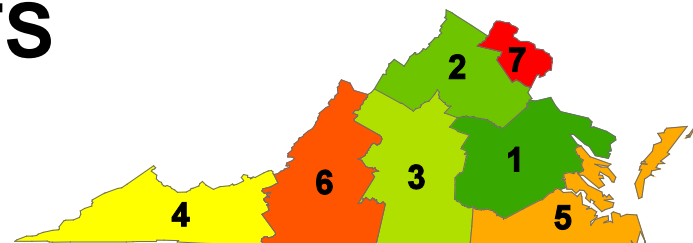
Court District	Locality
16th	Albemarle County
	Charlottesville City
	Culpeper County
	Fluvanna County
	Goochland County
	Greene County
	Louisa County
	Madison County
	Orange County
17th	Arlington County
	Falls Church City
18th	Alexandria City
19th	Fairfax City
	Fairfax County
20th	Fauquier County
	Loudoun County
	Rappahannock County
21st	Henry County
	Martinsville City
	Patrick County
22nd	Danville City
	Franklin County
	Pittsylvania County
23rd	Roanoke City
	Roanoke County
	Salem City

Court District	Locality
24th	Amherst County
	Bedford City
	Bedford County
	Campbell County
	Lynchburg City
	Nelson County
25th	Alleghany County
	Augusta County
	Bath County
	Botetourt County
	Buena Vista City
	Clifton Forge
	Covington City
	Craig County
	Highland County
	Lexington City
	Rockbridge County
	Staunton City
	Waynesboro City
26th	Clarke County
	Frederick County
	Harrisonburg City
	Page County
	Rockingham County
	Shenandoah County
	Warren County
	Winchester City

Court District	Locality
27th	Bland County
	Carroll County
	Floyd County
	Galax City
	Giles County
	Grayson County
	Montgomery County
	Pulaski County
	Radford City
	Wythe County
28th	Bristol City
	Smyth County
	Washington County
29th	Buchanan County
	Dickenson County
	Russell County
	Tazewell County
30th	Lee County
	Norton City
	Scott County
	Wise County
31st	Manassas City
	Manassas Park City
	Prince William County

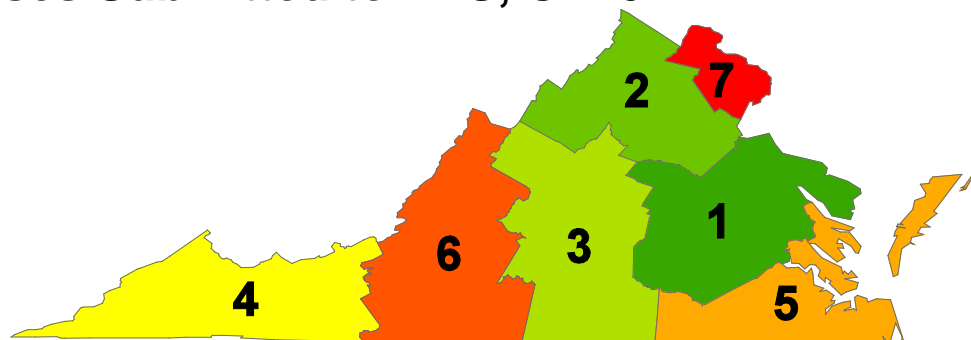
Drug Cases Submitted to DFS

Selected Drugs in CY2017, By VSP Division



Regional Variations in Drug Submissions

Distribution of Select Drug Cases Submitted to DFS, CY2017

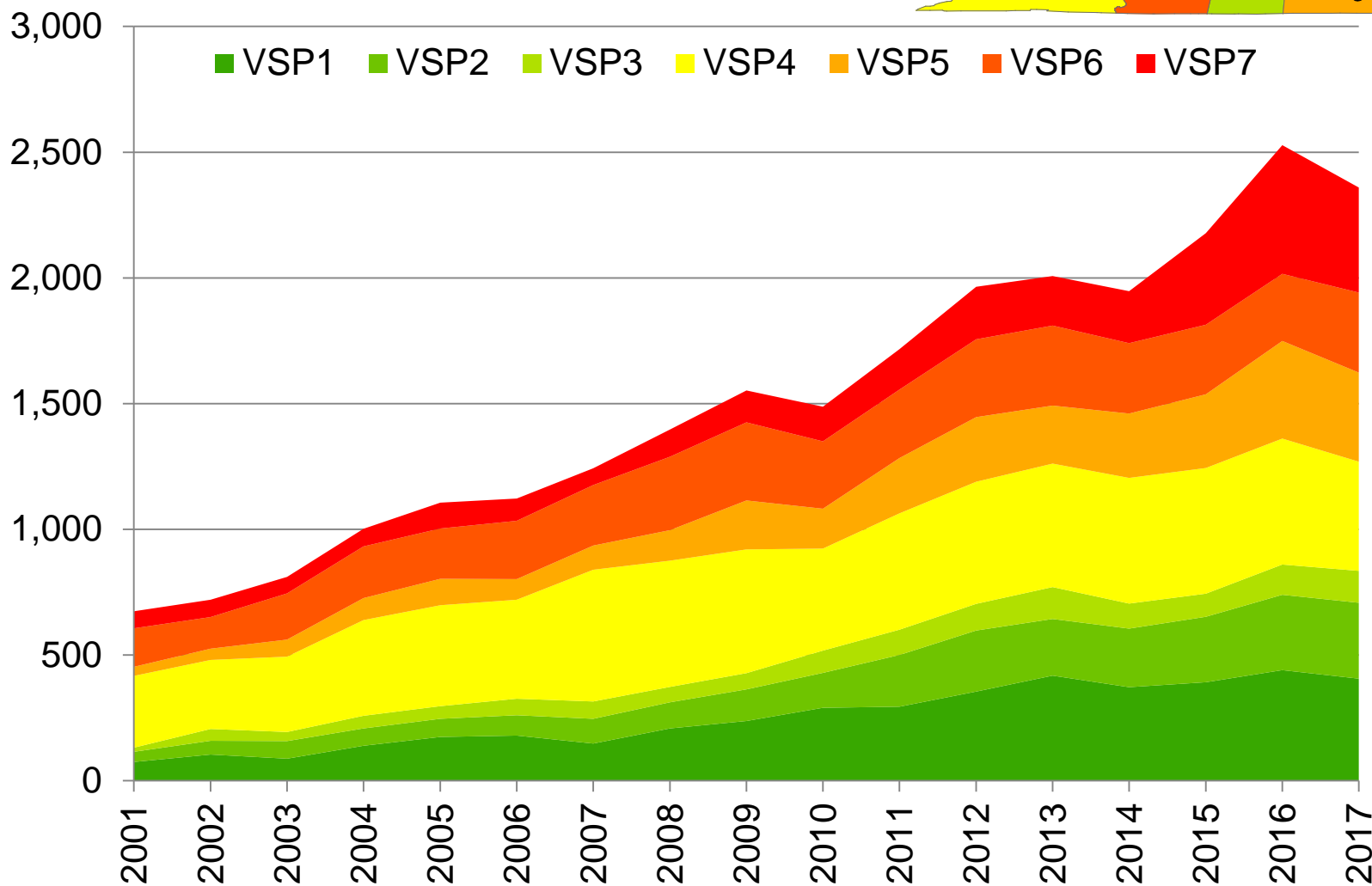
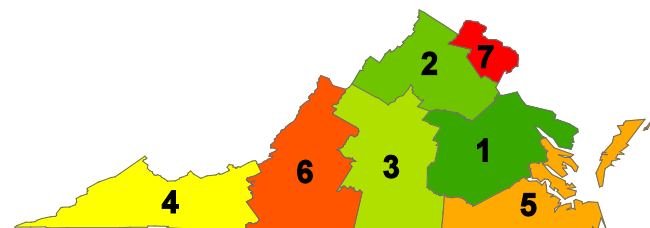


Drug Category	VSP1	VSP2	VSP3	VSP4	VSP5	VSP6	VSP7	TOTAL
Benzodiazepines	17%	13%	5%	18%	15%	13%	18%	100%
Cannabimimetic Agents	7%	22%	2%	12%	7%	17%	32%	100%
"Club Drugs"	18%	14%	7%	4%	13%	11%	33%	100%
Cocaine	28%	11%	9%	2%	26%	10%	14%	100%
Heroin	28%	16%	4%	1%	26%	7%	17%	100%
Illicit Synthetic Opioids	32%	16%	5%	1%	24%	10%	11%	100%
Marijuana	18%	11%	7%	6%	19%	12%	27%	100%
Methamphetamine	3%	13%	20%	30%	5%	26%	3%	100%
Presc. Opioids	16%	13%	6%	28%	11%	16%	9%	100%
Presc. Stimulants	20%	14%	7%	8%	20%	12%	19%	100%
Census Population	17%	10%	8%	5%	22%	9%	29%	100%

The table above presents the proportion of each of the selected drug types submitted by the individual VSP Divisions. The proportion of the state's population is also presented, for comparison. For example: 18% of benzodiazepine submissions in 2017 were submitted by Division 4, which had 5% of the state population.

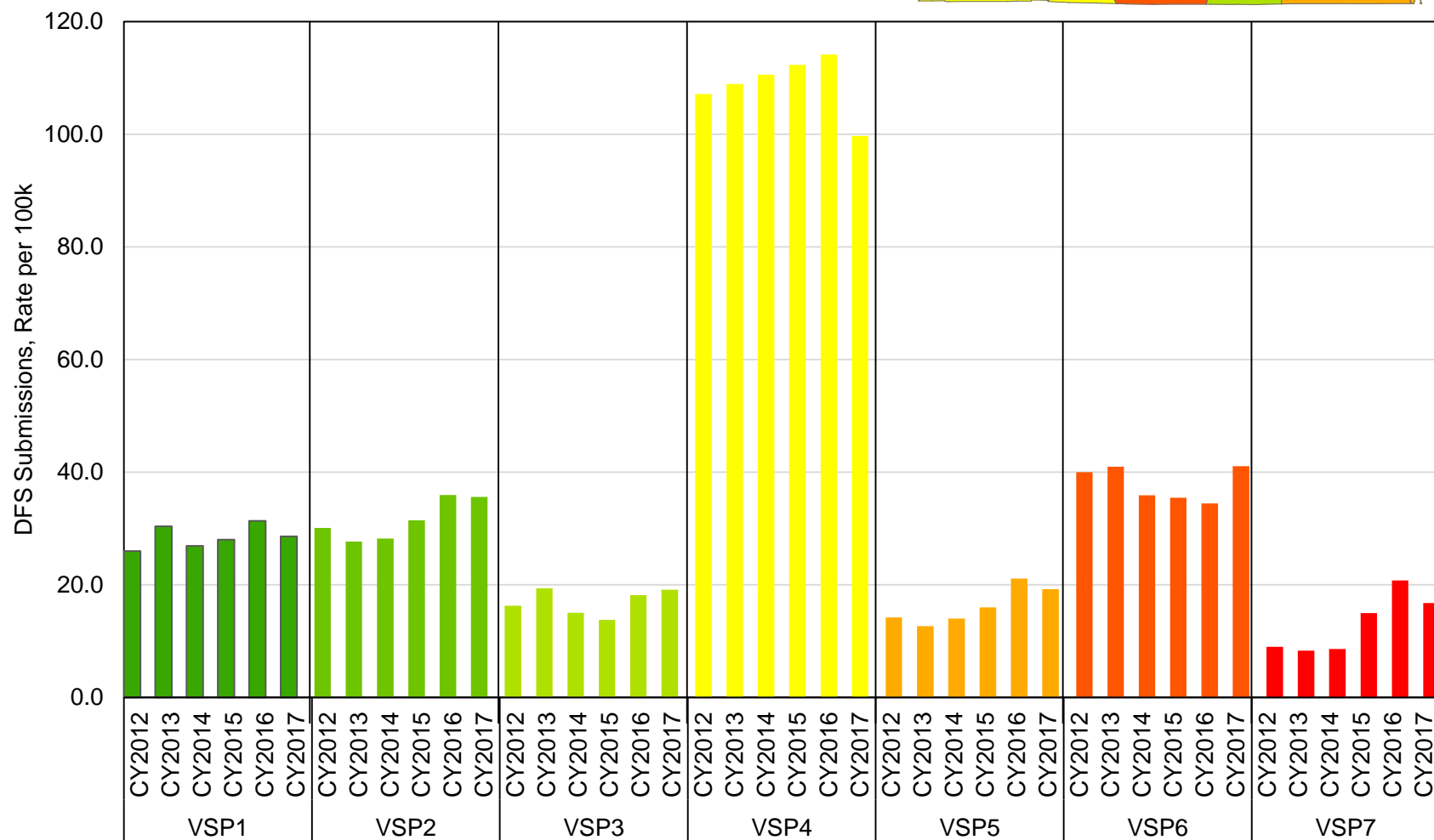
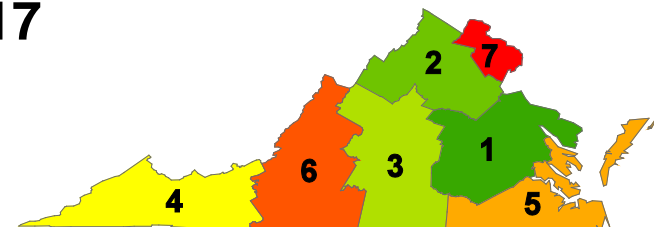
Benzodiazepine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Benzodiazepine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Benzodiazepine Summary

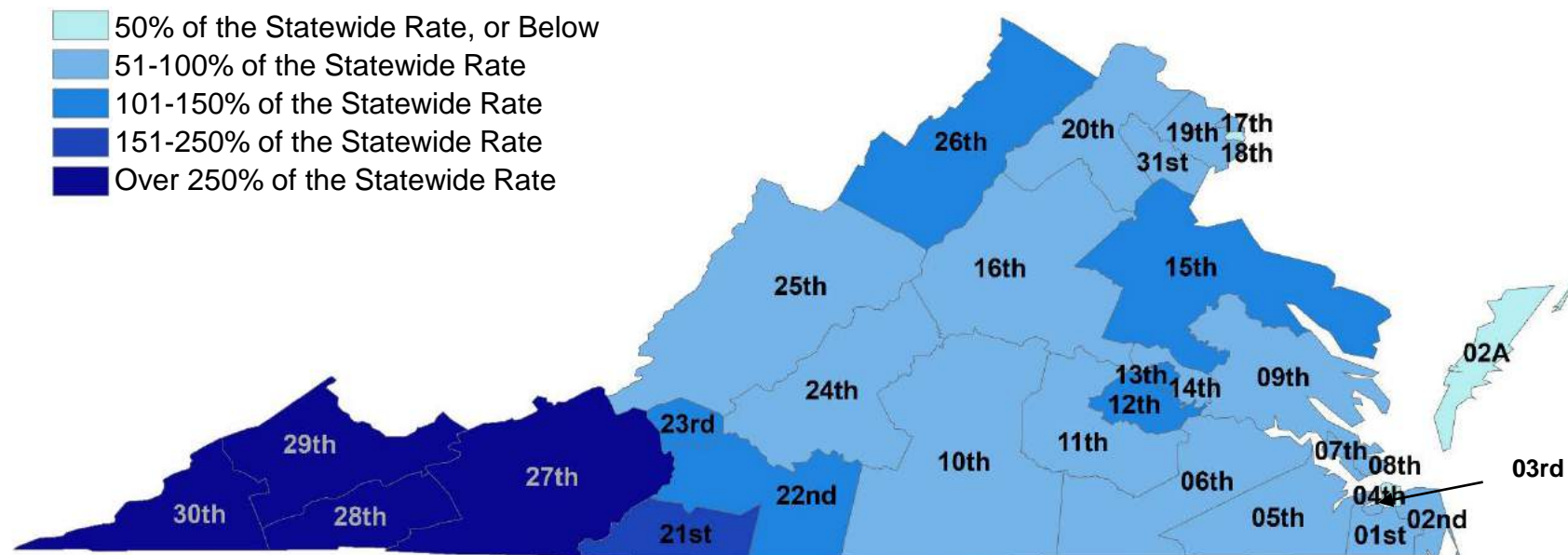
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of benzodiazepine case submissions:
 - Benzodiazepine cases submitted to DFS decreased 7% statewide between 2016 and 2017.
 - Between 2012 and 2017, benzodiazepine case submissions increased 20%.
 - VSP Divisions 4 and 7 reported the largest number of benzodiazepine cases in 2017 (each reporting 18% of the statewide total), followed by Division 1 (17%).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Although Divisions 4 and 7 reported approximately the same number of cases, their population sizes are very different. The 2017 *rate* of benzodiazepine cases submitted by Division 4 was more than twice that of any other Division, and almost six times as high as the rate for Division 7.
 - Between 2012 and 2017, Division 7 had the largest growth in the rate of benzodiazepine case submissions (87%), while Division 4 actually saw a decrease (7%).

Benzodiazepine Data by Court District

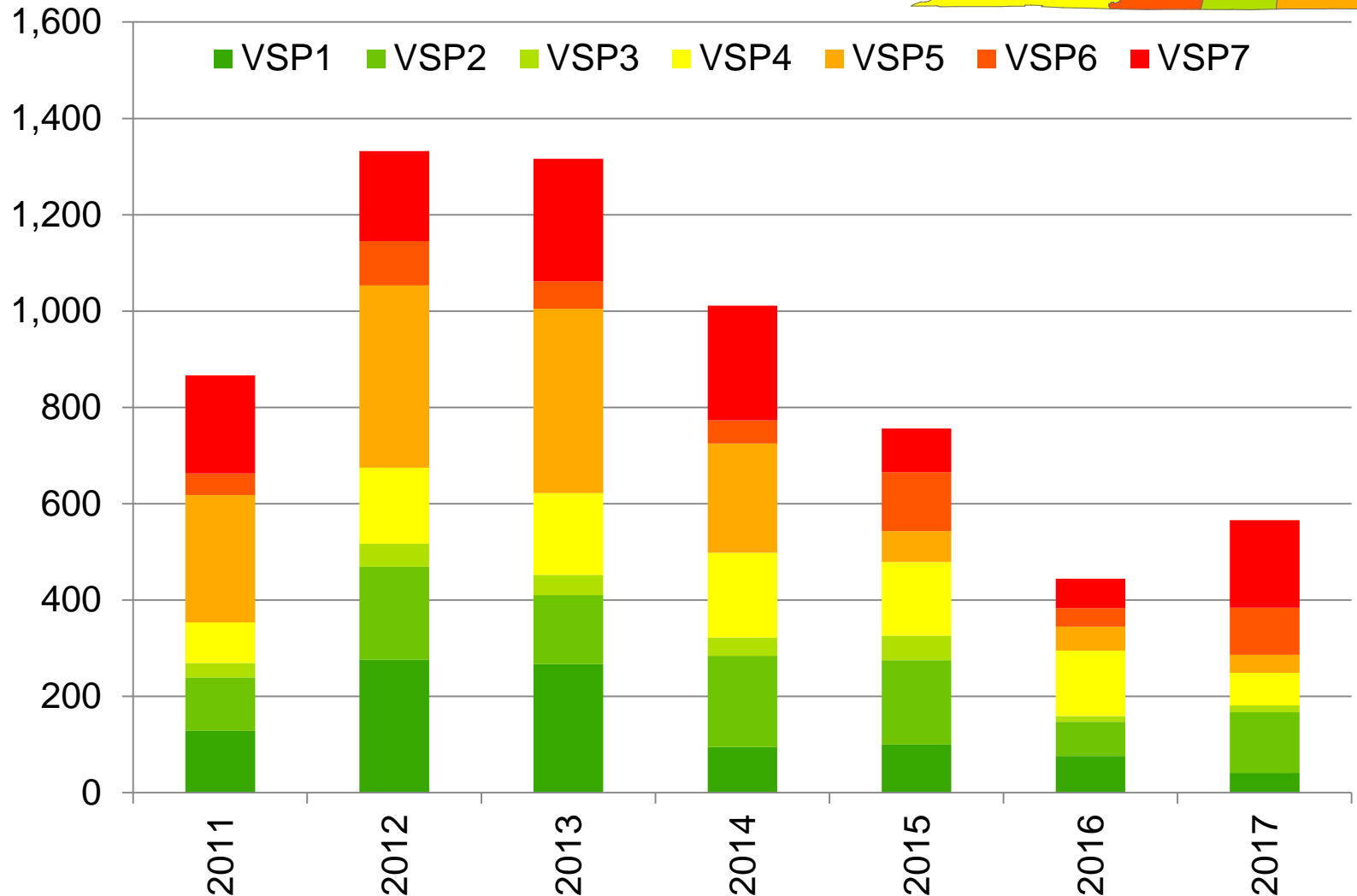
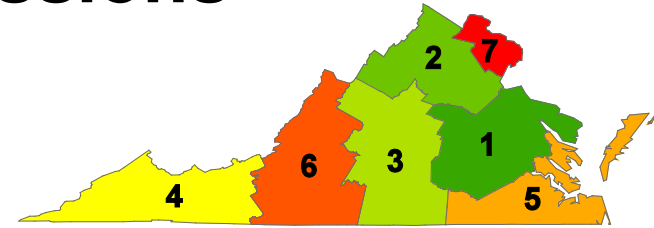
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of benzodiazepine submissions to DFS in 2017 was 27.9 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of benzodiazepine submissions in 2017 were the 30th (up 37% from 2016), 29th (down 13%), and 28th (down 13%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 21st (93%), 22nd (39%), and 30th (37%).



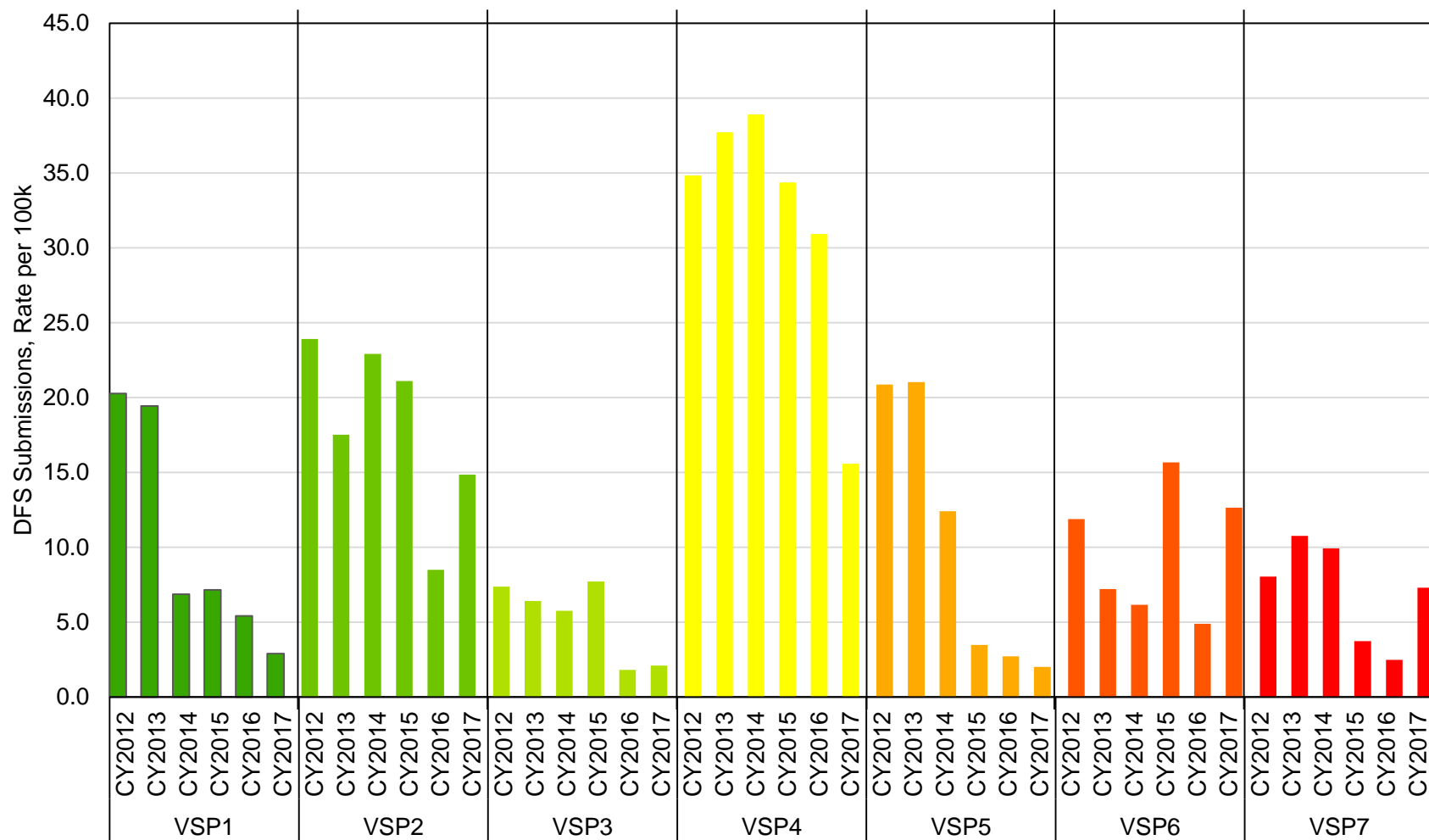
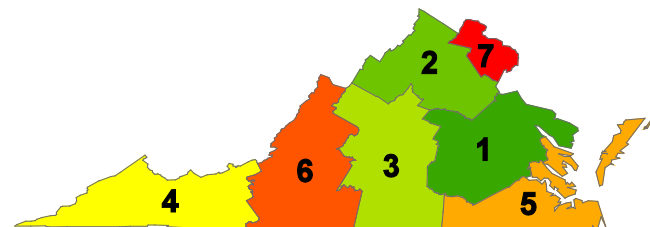
Cannabimimetic Agent Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2011-2017



Cannabimimetic Agent DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Cannabimimetic Agent Summary

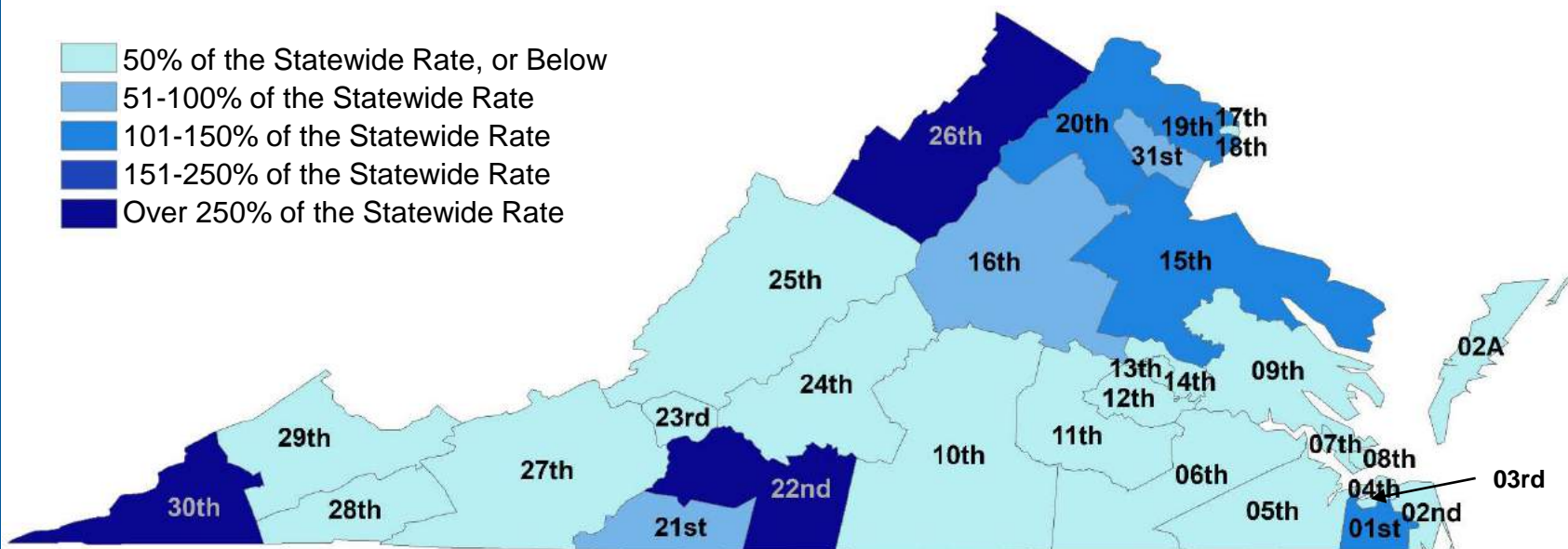
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of cannabimimetic agent case submissions:
 - Statewide, the number of cannabimimetic agent cases submitted to DFS increased 27% between 2016 and 2017.
 - This marked the first increase since 2012. Between 2012 and 2016, statewide submissions dropped 67%.
 - In 2016, almost one-third of submissions were from VSP Division 4. However, submissions from that Division dropped 50% in 2017.
 - VSP Divisions 7 and 6 saw the largest increase between 2016 and 2017 (198% and 158%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Despite the drop in the number of submissions from VSP Division 4, it still had the highest rate of submissions in 2017.
 - The 2017 rate of submissions from VSP Division 6 was 6% higher than the 2012 rate. The rate for other Divisions was lower in 2017 than in 2012.

Cannabimimetic Agent Data by Court District

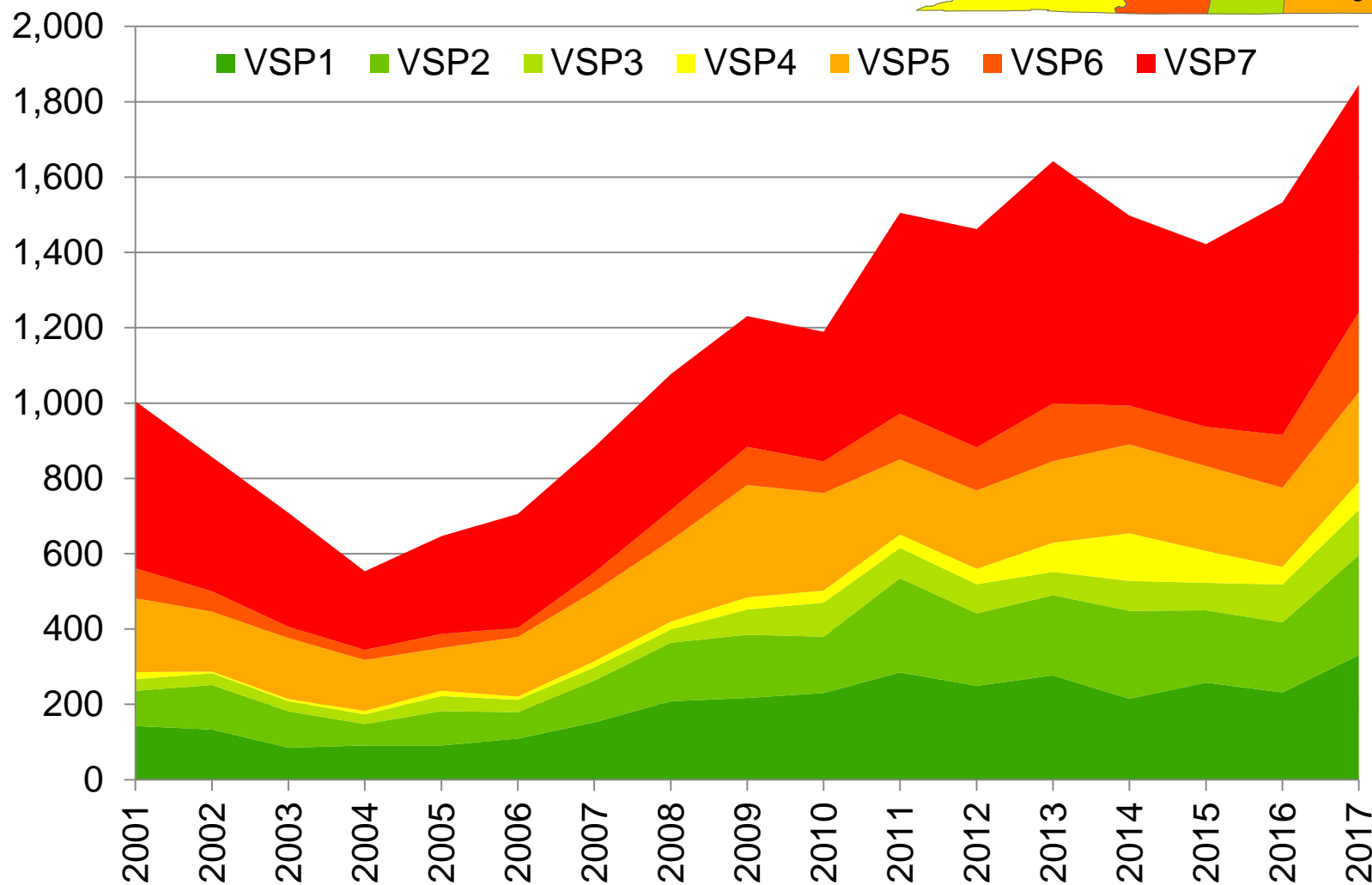
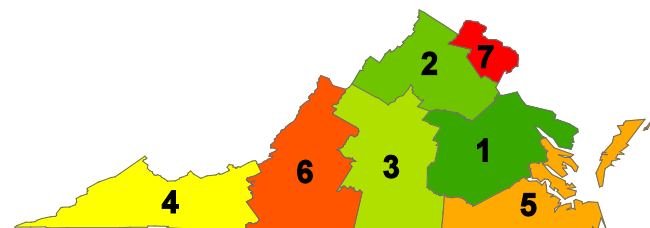
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of cannabimimetic agent submissions to DFS in 2017 was 6.7 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of cannabimimetic agent submissions in 2017 were the 30th (down 38% from 2016), 22nd (up 235%), and 26th (up 51%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 20th (375%), 19th (260%), and 22nd (235%).



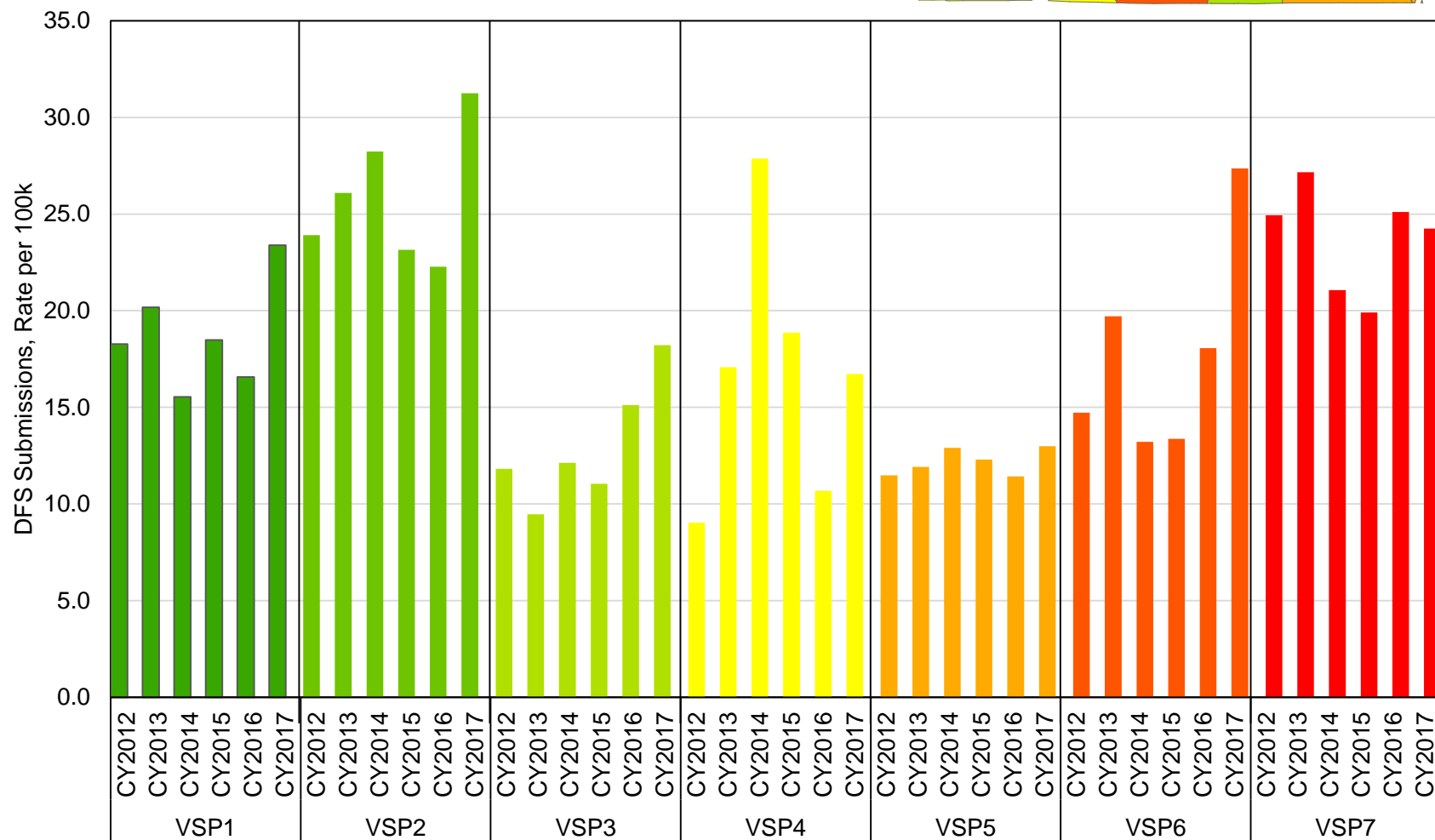
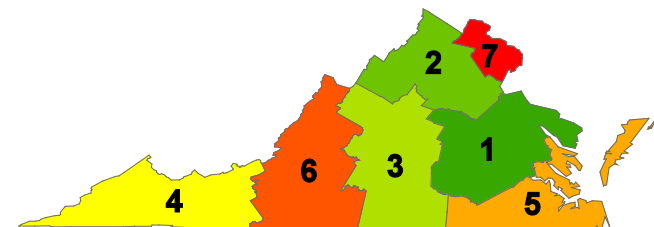
“Club Drug” Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional “Club Drug” DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



“Club Drug” Summary

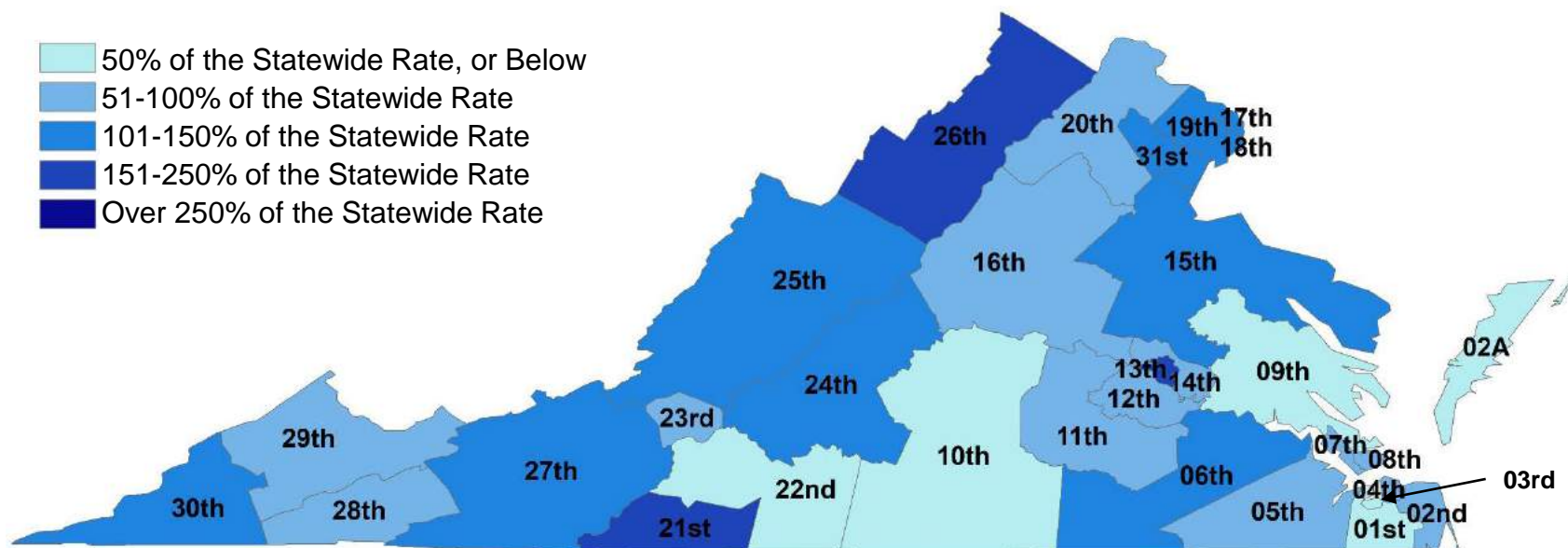
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of “club drug” case submissions:
 - Statewide, “club drug” cases submitted to DFS increased 20% between 2016 and 2017.
 - VSP Division 7 reported the largest proportion (33%) of the statewide total number of “club drug” cases in 2017. However, the number of cases in Division 7 actually dropped 2% between 2016 and 2017.
 - Relatively few cases were submitted in 2016 by Divisions 4 or 3 (4% and 7% of the statewide total, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Divisions 2 and 6 had the highest rates of “club drug” case submissions in 2017 (up 40% and 52%, respectively, from 2016).
 - The spike in Division 4 in 2014 was driven by a large number of arrests for alpha-PVP, also known as “flakka,” a stimulant with hallucinogenic properties.

“Club Drug” Data by Court District

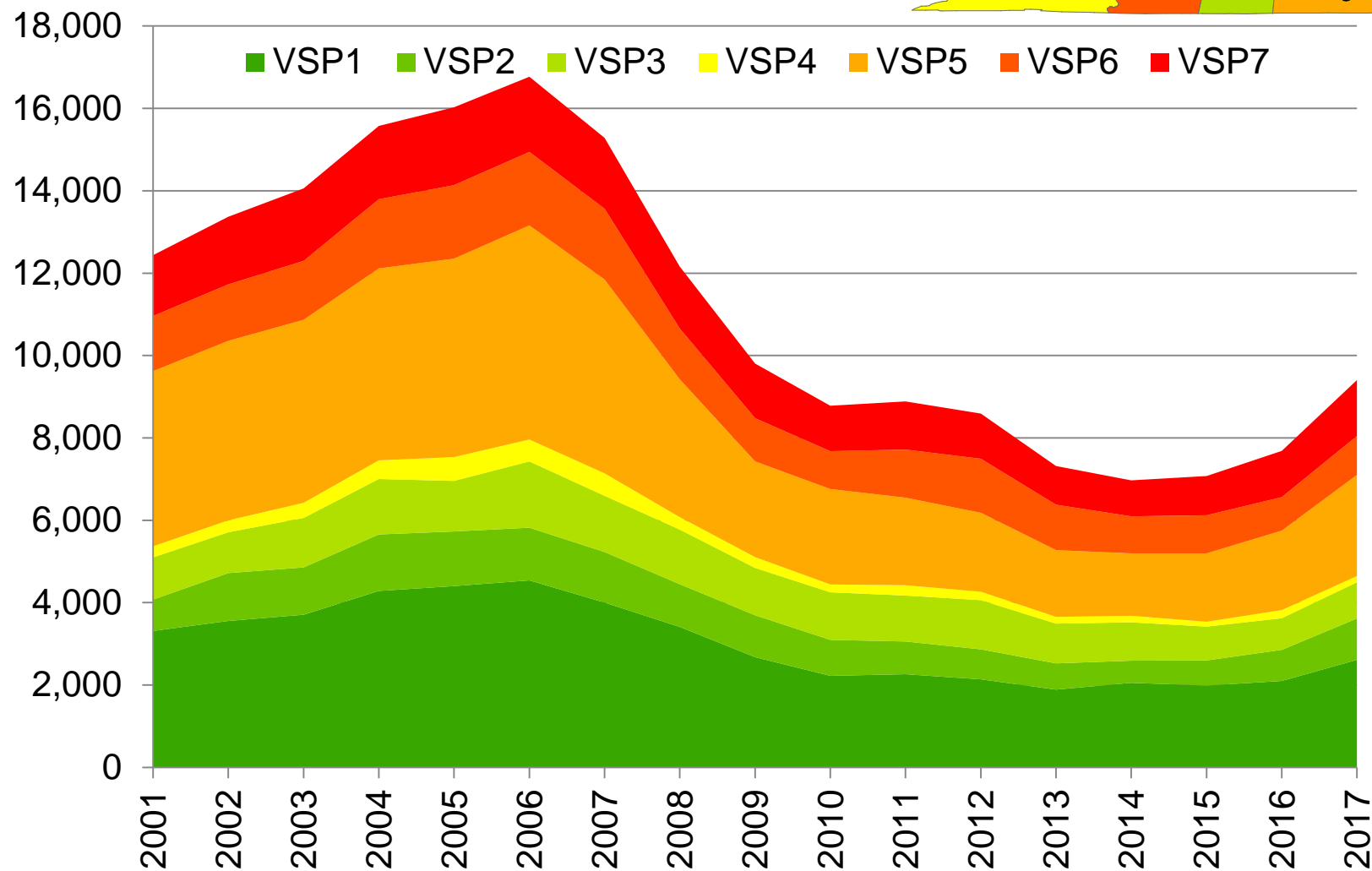
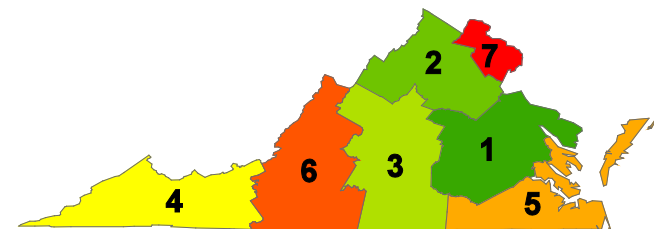
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of “club drug” submissions to DFS in 2017 was 21.8 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of “club drug” submissions in 2017 were the 21st (up 92% from 2016), 26th (up 67%), and 13th (up 28%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 29th (511%), 30th (365%), and 25th (125%).



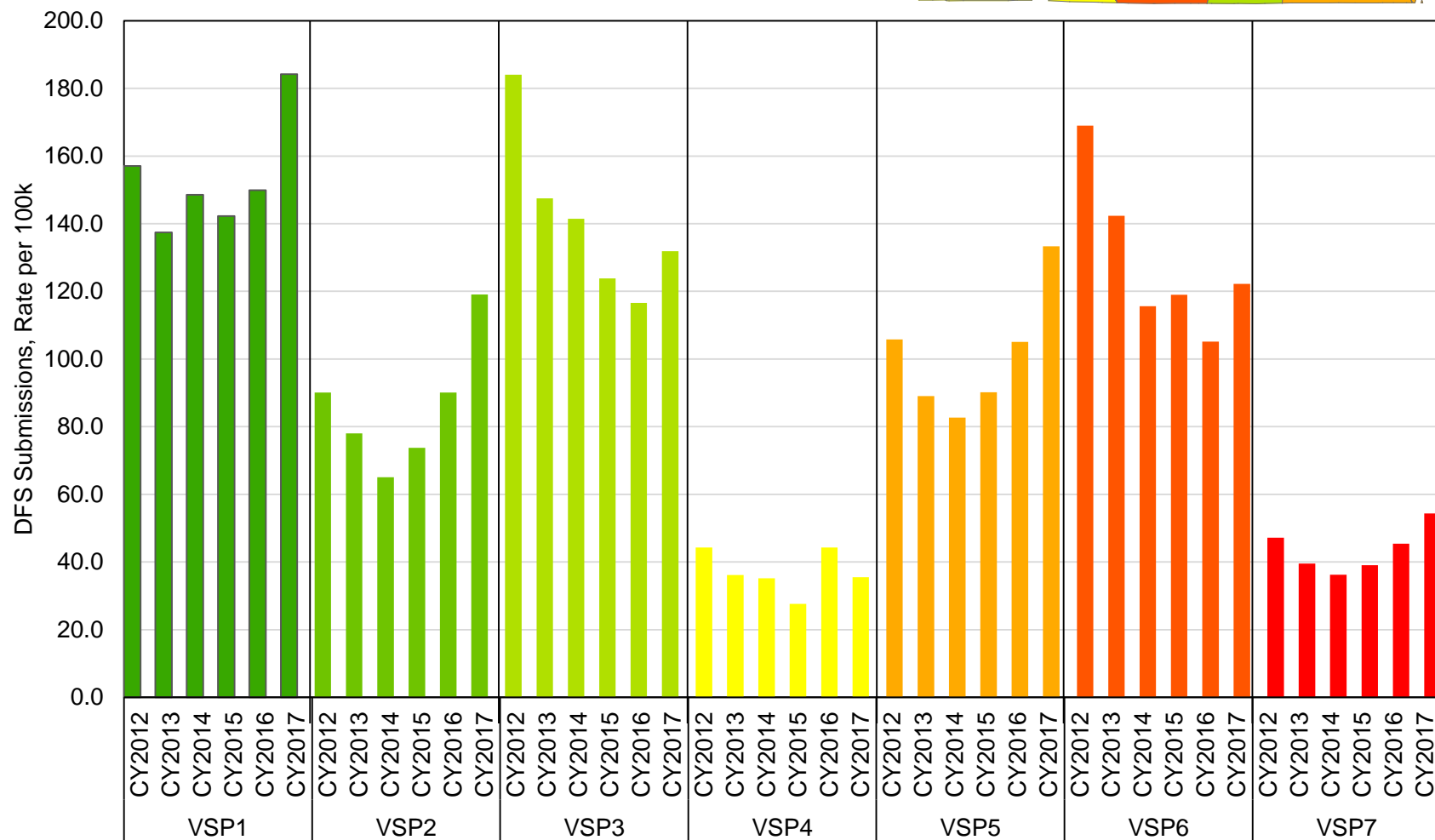
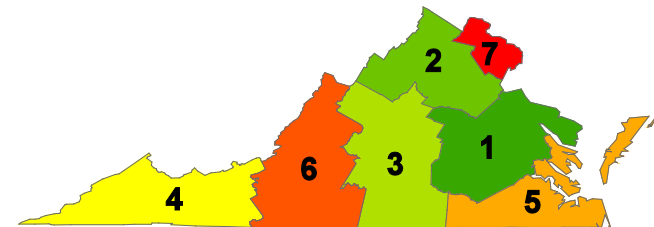
Cocaine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Cocaine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Cocaine Summary

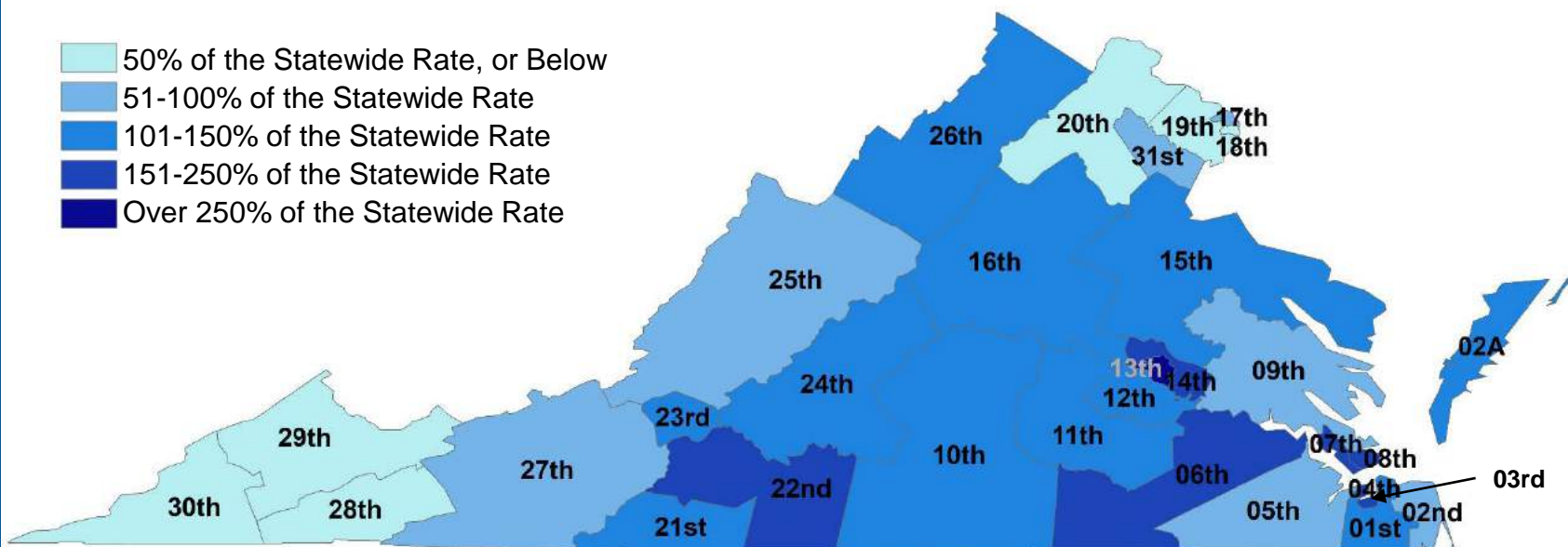
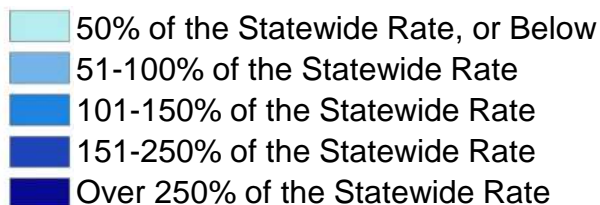
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of cocaine case submissions:
 - Statewide, cocaine cases submitted to DFS increased 22% between 2016 and 2017. Since 2014, statewide cocaine cases have increased 35%.
 - VSP Divisions 1 and 5 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of cocaine cases in 2017 (28% and 26%, respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Division 4 (2% of the statewide total).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - The rate of cocaine submissions in VSP Division 4 dropped 20% between 2016 and 2017. The rate for all of the other Divisions increased.
 - VSP Division 1 had highest rate of cocaine submissions in 2017 (up 23% from 2016).

Cocaine Data by Court District

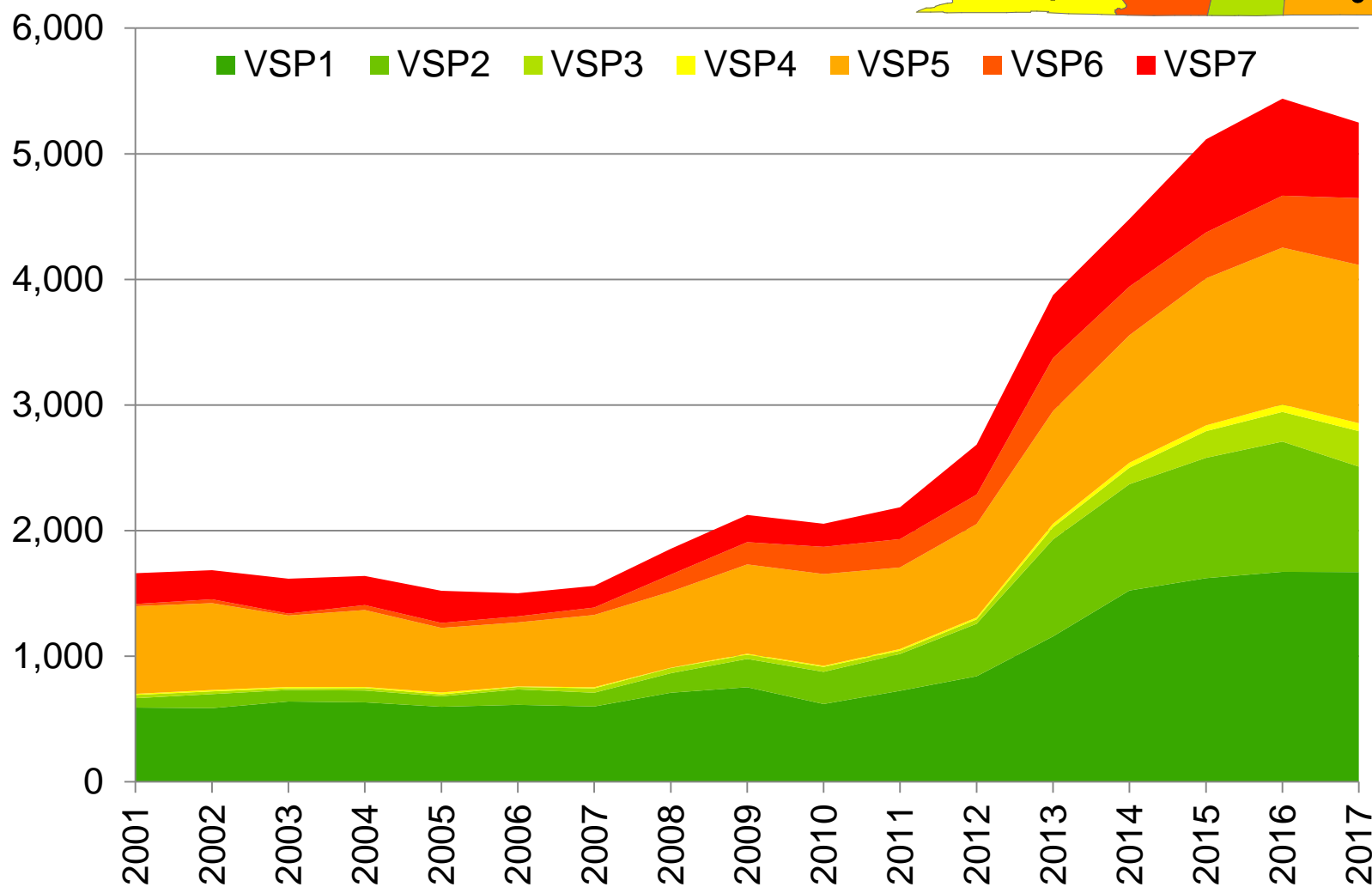
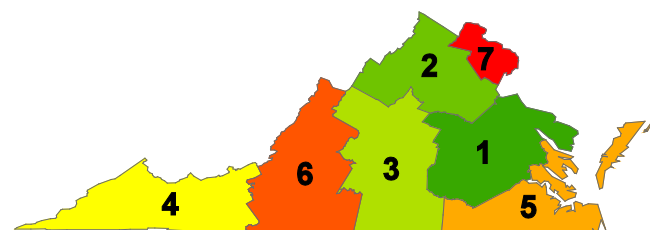
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of cocaine submissions to DFS in 2017 was 111.0 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of cocaine submissions in 2017 were the 13th (up 11% from 2016), 7th (up 29%), 6th (up 21%), and 3rd (up 27%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 25th (63%), 8th (62%), and 24th (57%).



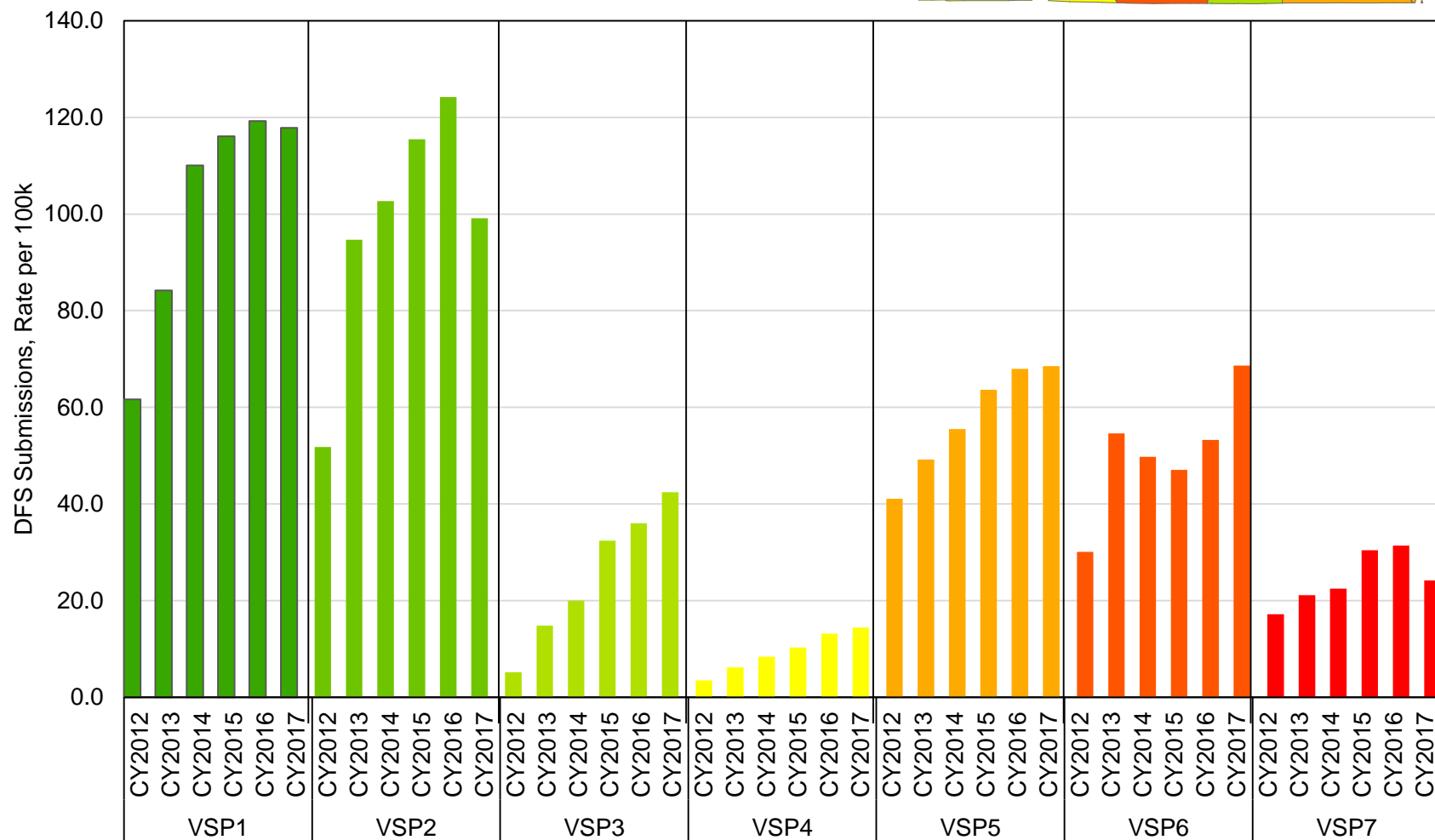
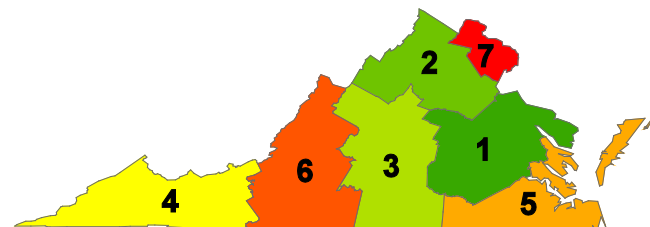
Heroin Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Heroin DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Heroin Summary

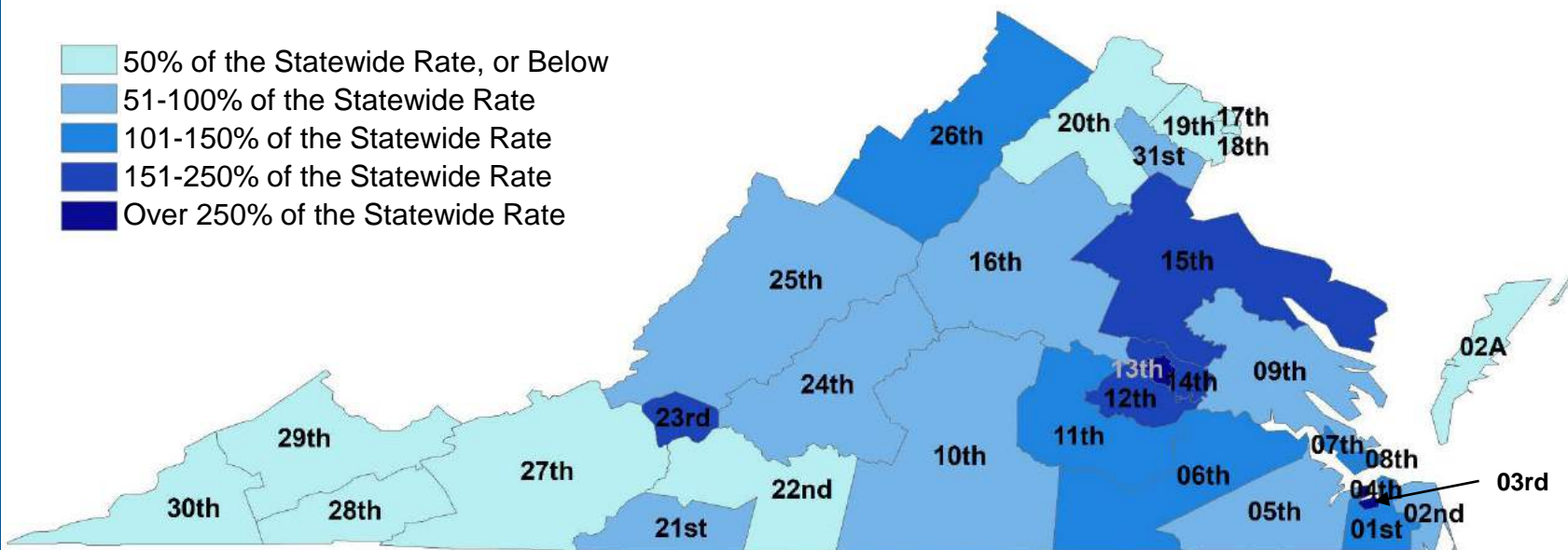
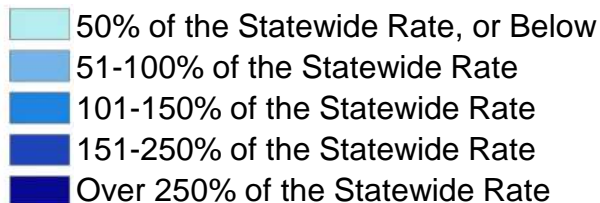
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of heroin case submissions:
 - Statewide, heroin cases submitted to DFS decreased 3% statewide between 2016 and 2017. This follows six years of consistent growth (165% between 2010 and 2016).
 - VSP Divisions 1 and 5 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of heroin cases in 2017 (32% and 24%, respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Divisions 4 and 3 in 2017 (1% and 5%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - The rate of heroin cases submitted from Division 2 decreased 20% between 2016 and 2017.
 - Although the statewide rate dropped 4% between 2016 and 2017, Divisions 6, 3, and 4 each saw an increase (29%, 18%, and 9%, respectively).

Heroin Data by Court District

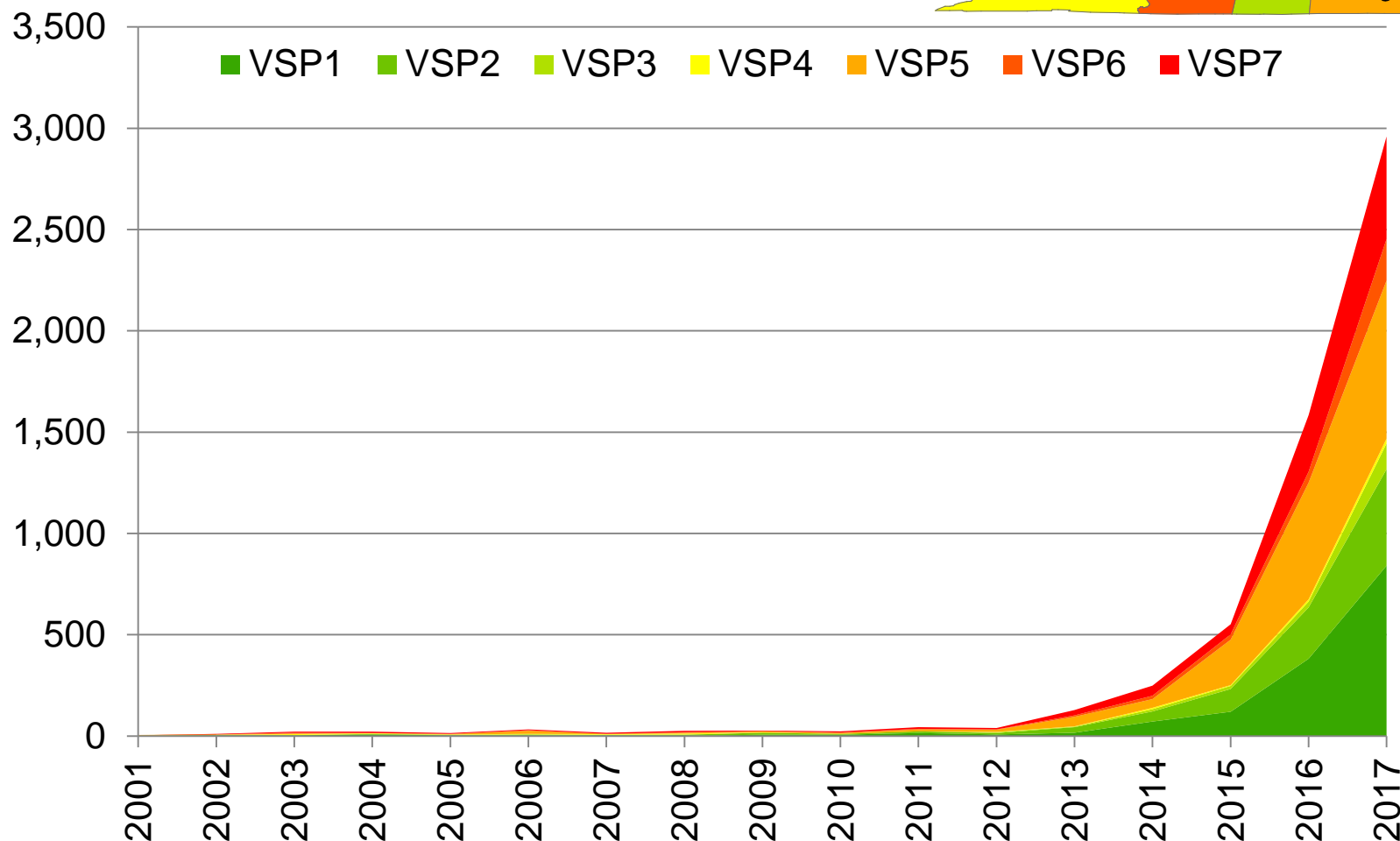
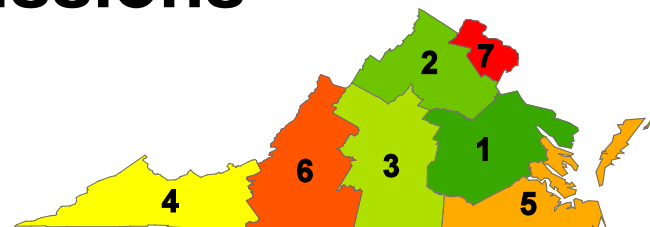
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of heroin submissions to DFS in 2017 was 62.0 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of heroin submissions in 2017 were the 13th (down 8% from 2016), 3rd (up less than 1%), 23rd (up 10%), and 14th (down 3%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 22nd (310%), 21st (125%), and 24th (90%).



Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017

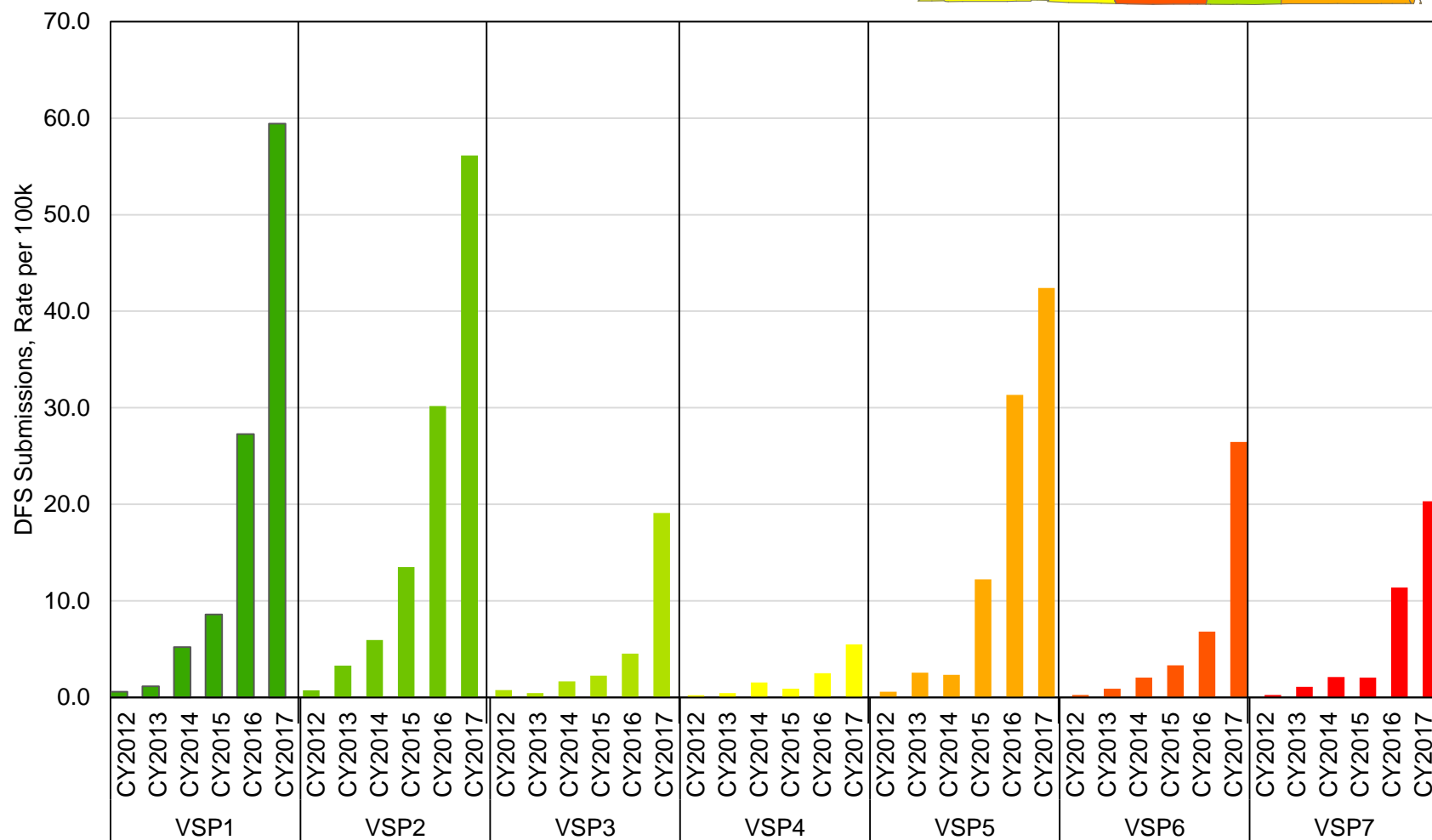
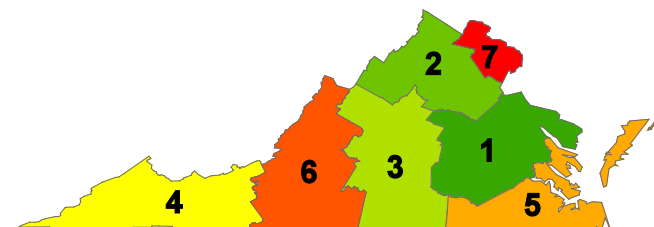


*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Regional Illicit Synthetic Opioid* DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

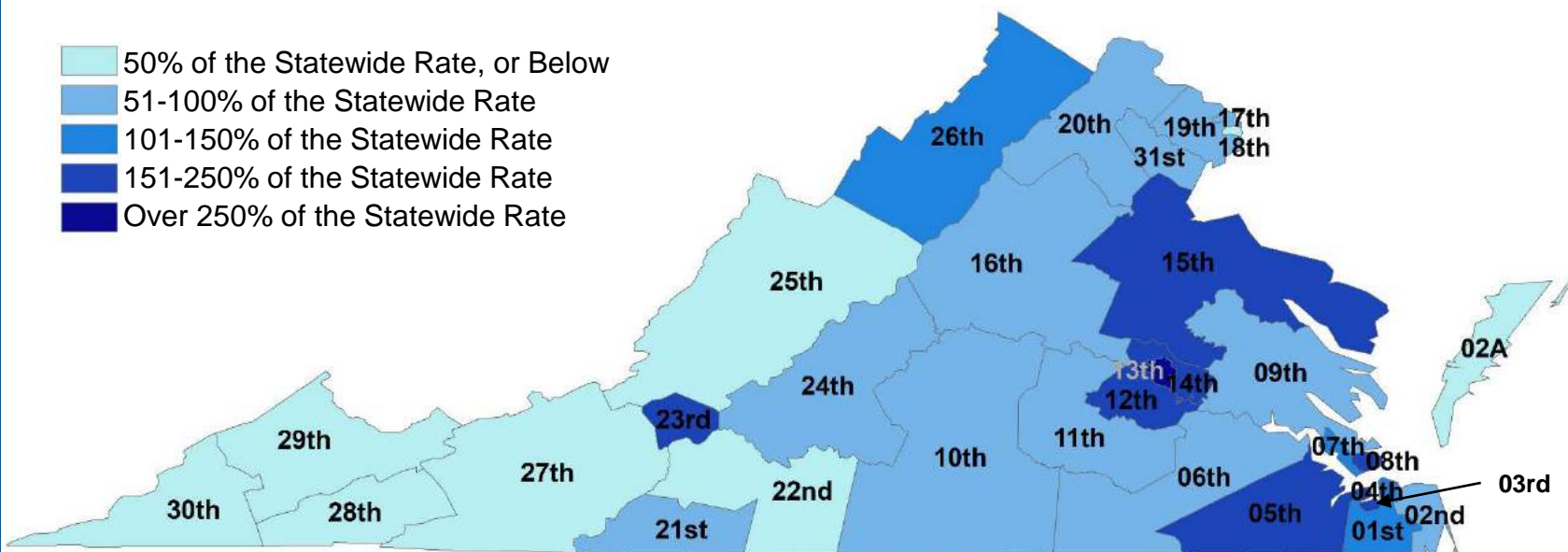
- Number of illicit synthetic opioid case submissions:
 - Illicit synthetic opioid cases submitted to DFS increased 87% statewide between 2016 and 2017.
 - Illicit synthetic opioid cases began increasing rapidly in 2013. Between 2013 and 2017, cases increased 2,212%.
 - VSP Divisions 1 and 5 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of illicit fentanyl cases in 2017 (28% and 26% of the statewide total, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Divisions 1 and 2 had the highest rate of illicit synthetic opioid case submissions in 2017 (up 118% and 86%, respectively, from 2016).
 - Divisions 3 and 6 saw the largest increase in the rate of submissions between 2016 and 2017 (321% and 287%, respectively).

*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Data by Court District

Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of illicit synthetic opioid submissions to DFS in 2017 was 34.9 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of illicit synthetic opioid submissions in 2017 were the 13th (up 142% from 2016), 3rd (up 6%), and 14th (up 131%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 21st (1,512%), 10th (663%), and 24th (612%).

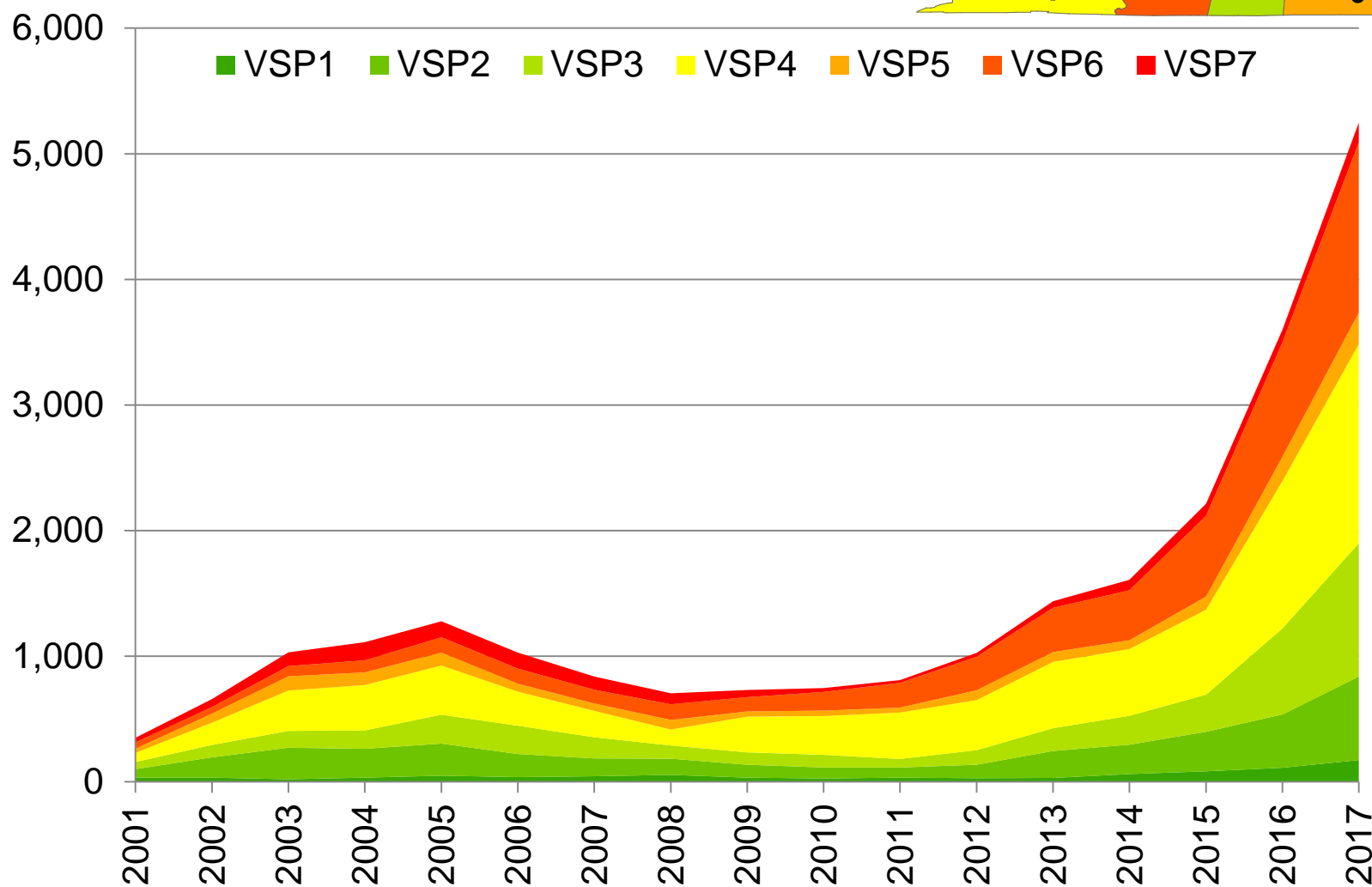
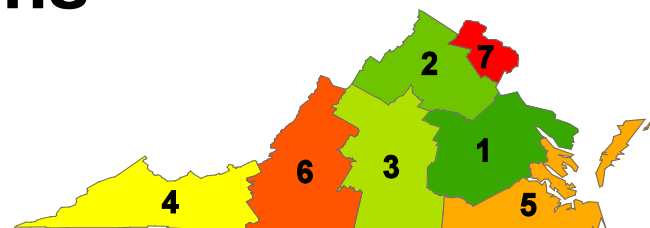


*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

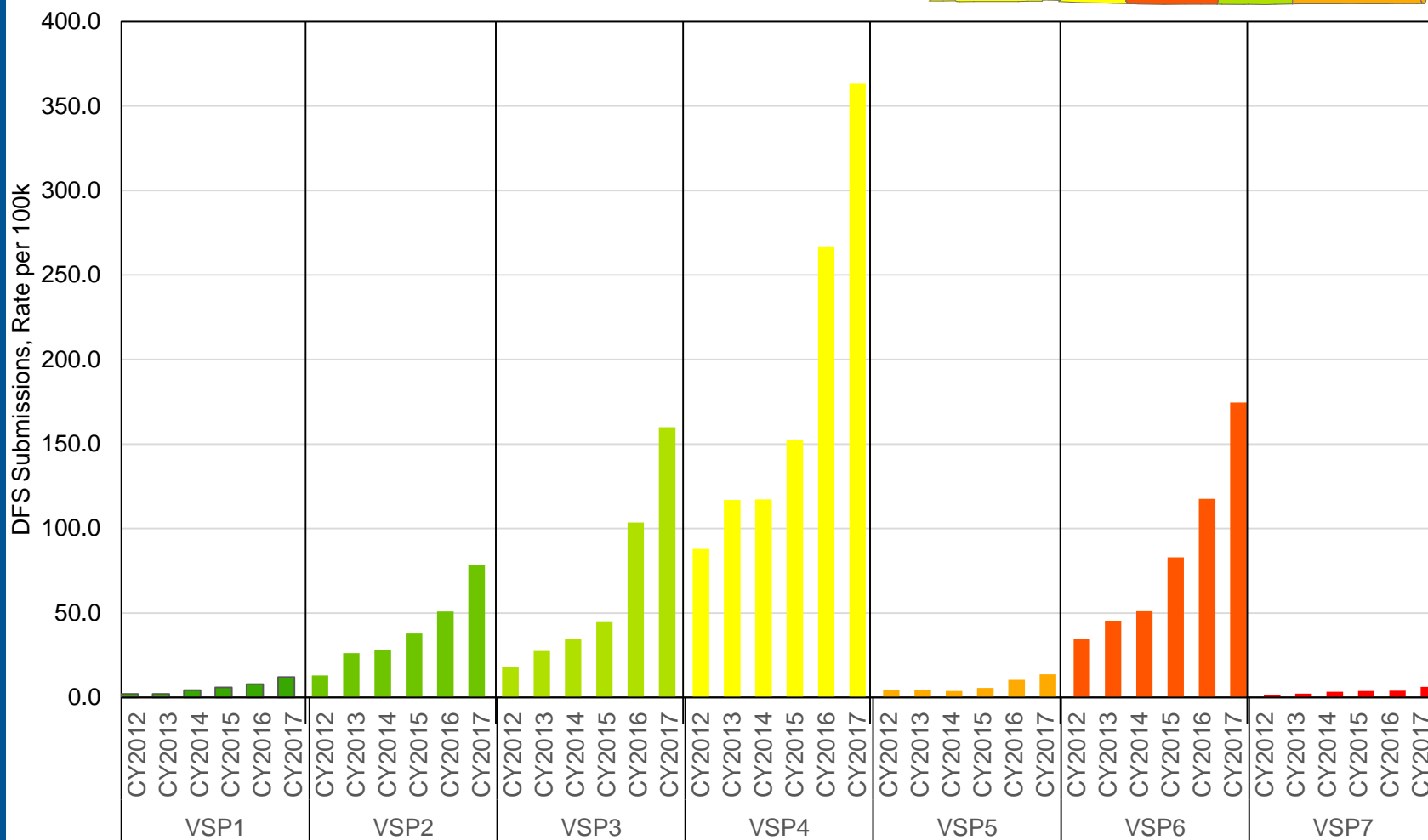
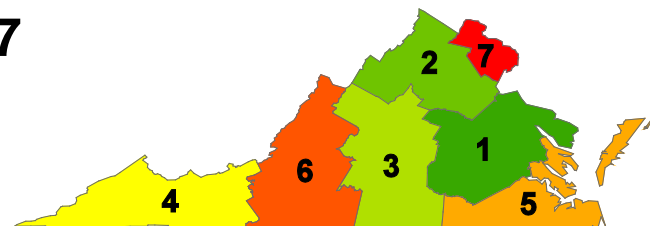
Methamphetamine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Methamphetamine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Methamphetamine Summary

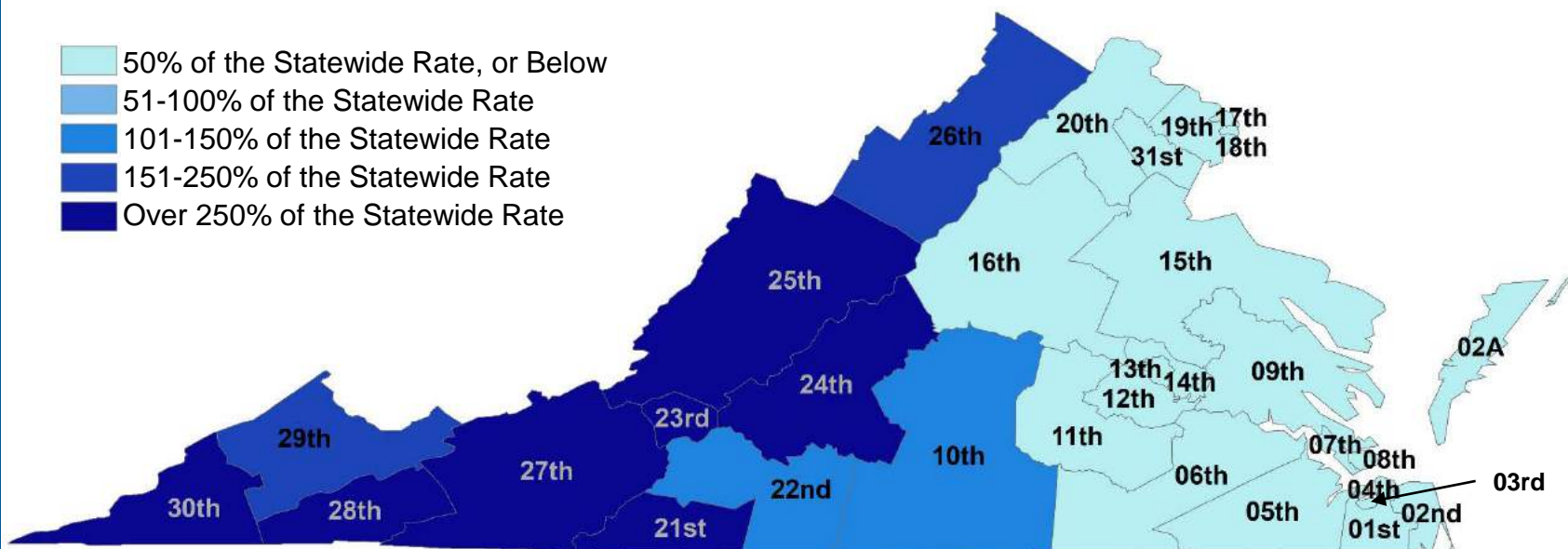
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of methamphetamine case submissions:
 - Statewide, methamphetamine cases submitted to DFS increased 46% between 2016 and 2017.
 - Between 2012 and 2017, methamphetamine submissions increased 412% statewide.
 - VSP Divisions 4, 6, and 3 submitted three quarters of the statewide total number of methamphetamine cases in 2017 (30%, 26%, and 20% respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Divisions 1, 7, and 5 in 2017 (3%, 3%, and 5%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - In 2017, the rate of methamphetamine cases submitted from Division 4 was over twice the rate from Divisions 3 and 6, which were each over twice as high as any other Division.

Methamphetamine Data by Court District

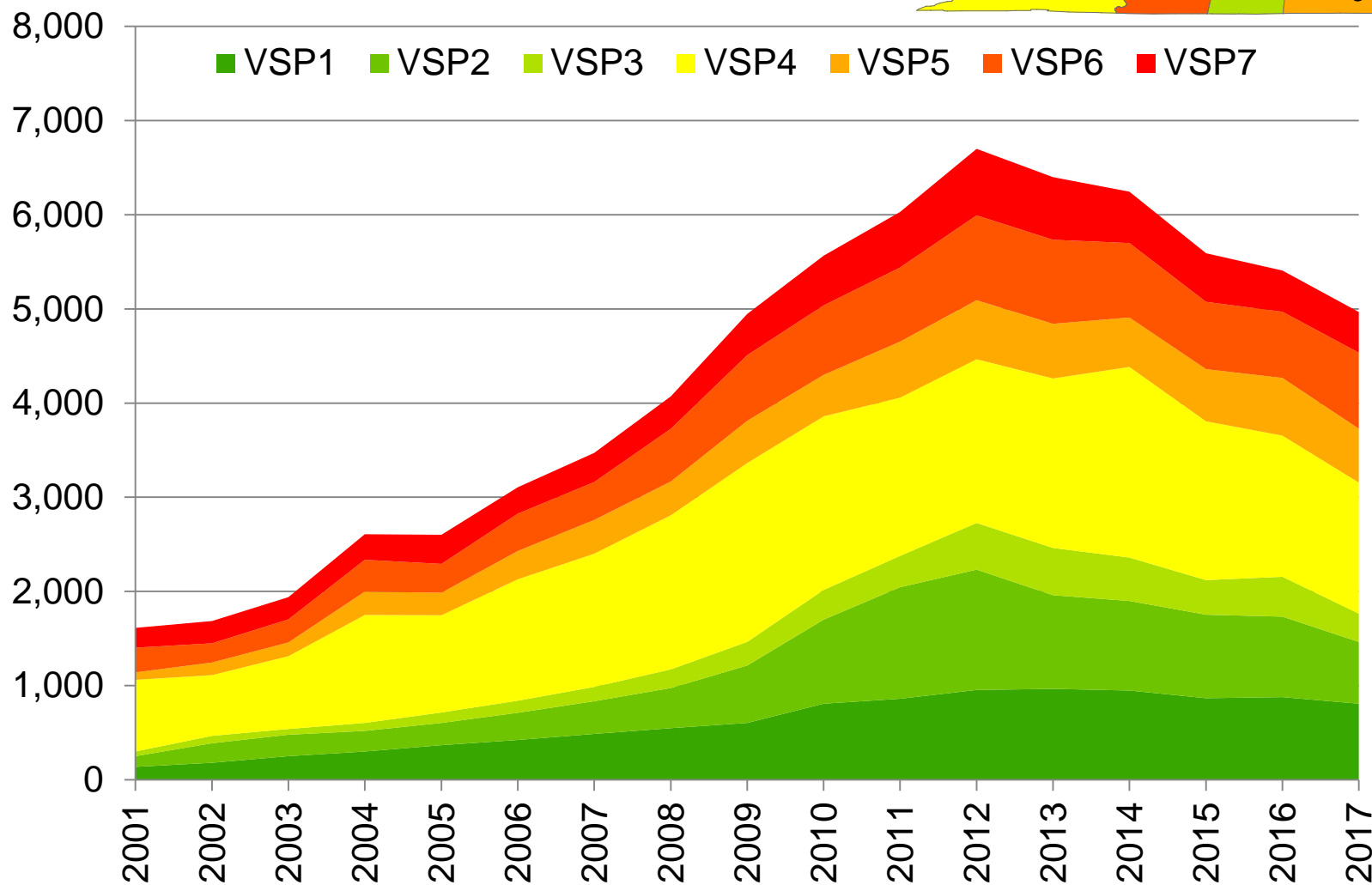
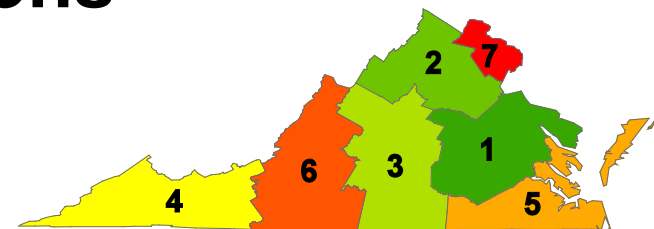
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of methamphetamine submissions to DFS in 2017 was 62.0 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of methamphetamine submissions in 2017 were the 28th (up 26% from 2016), 25th (up 39%), and 30th (up 139%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 18th (793%), 9th (376%), and 31st (234%).



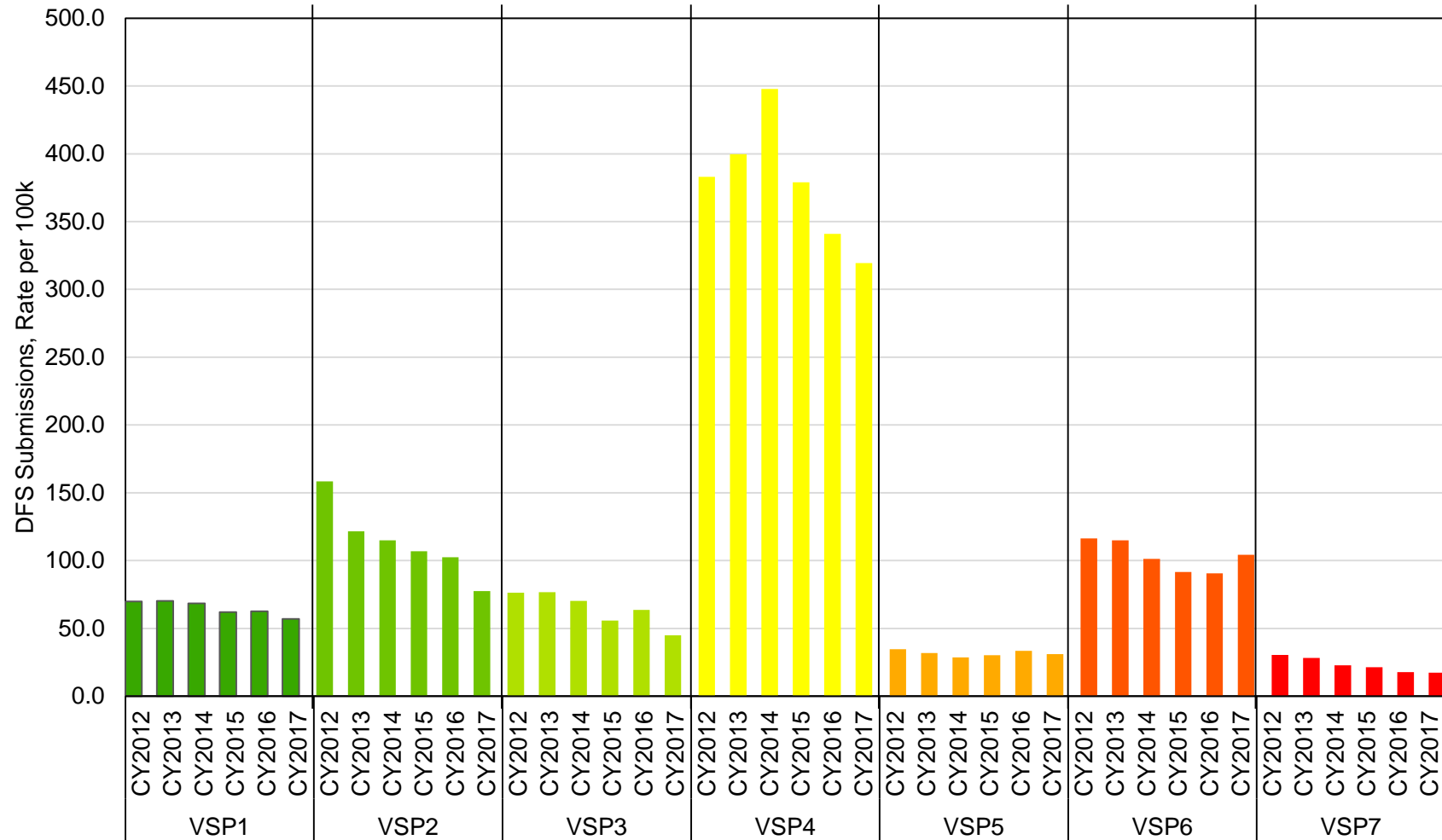
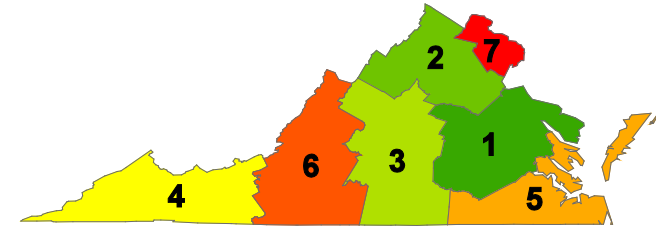
Prescription Opioid Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Prescription Opioid DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Prescription Opioid Summary

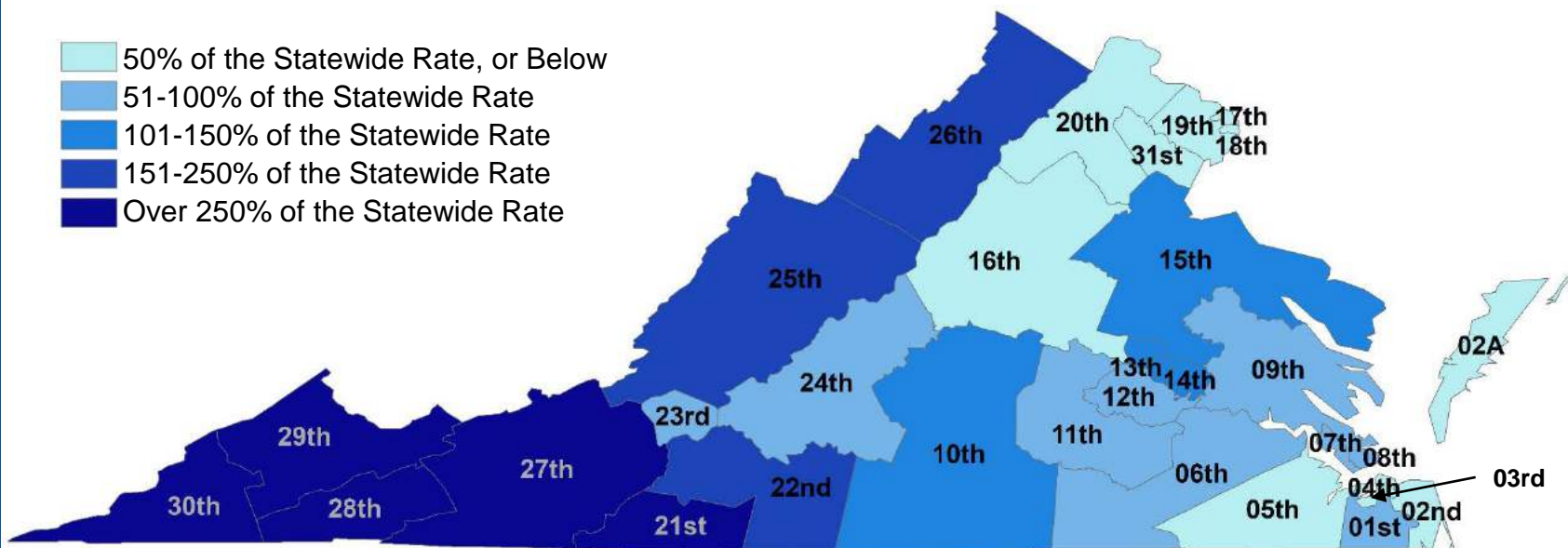
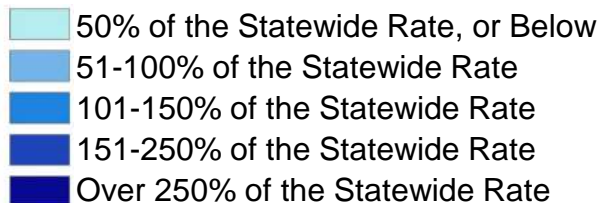
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of prescription opioid case submissions:
 - Statewide, the number of prescription opioid cases submitted to DFS decreased 8% between 2016 and 2017.
 - After peaking in 2012, the number of prescription opioid submissions dropped each year. Between 2012 and 2017, submissions dropped 26% statewide.
 - VSP Division 4 has consistently submitted the most prescription opioid cases. In 2017, 28% of the statewide prescription opioid cases were from Division 4.
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - In 2017, the rate of prescription opioid submissions from Division 4 was more than three times higher than any other Division.

Prescription Opioid Data by Court District

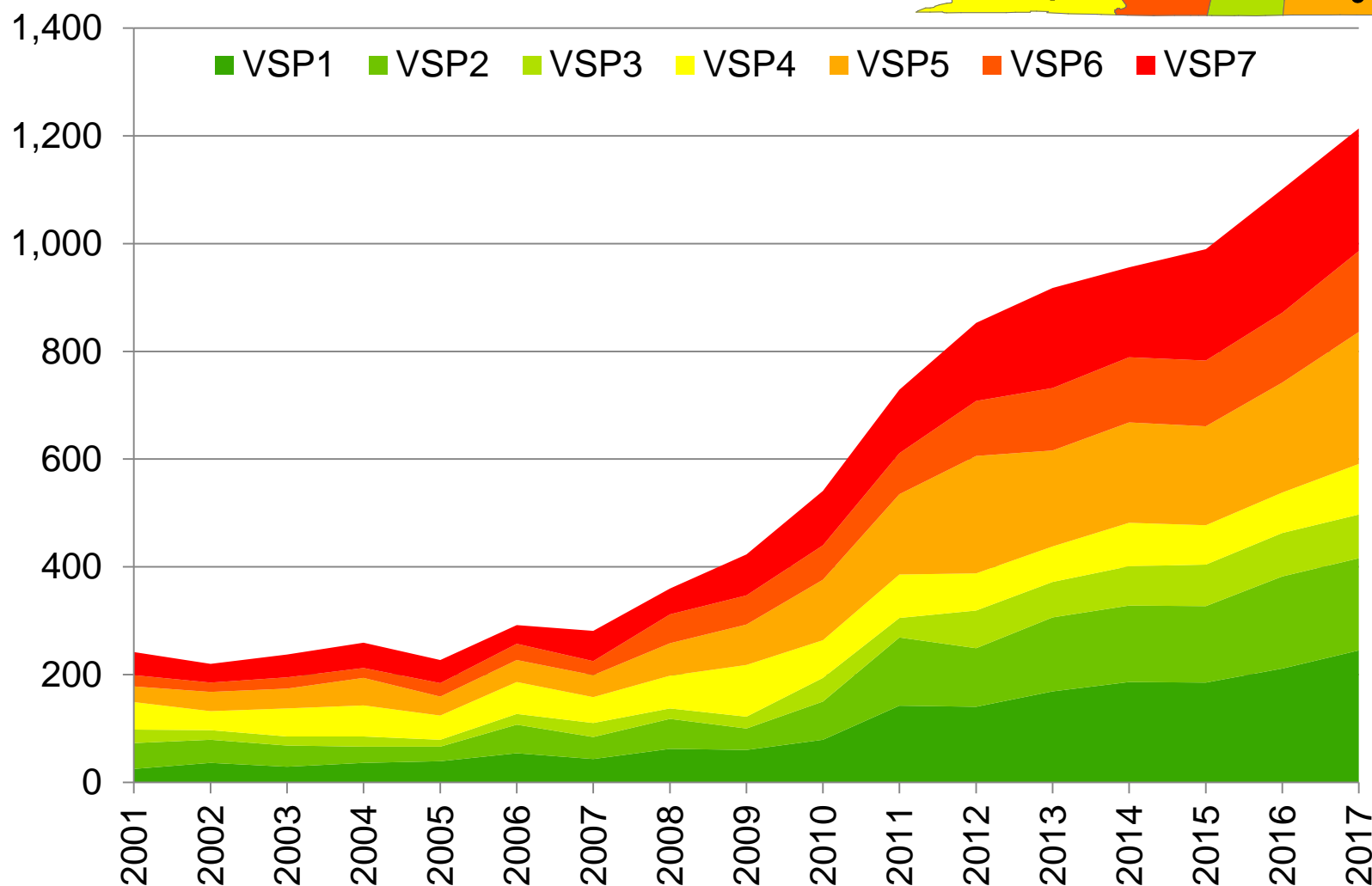
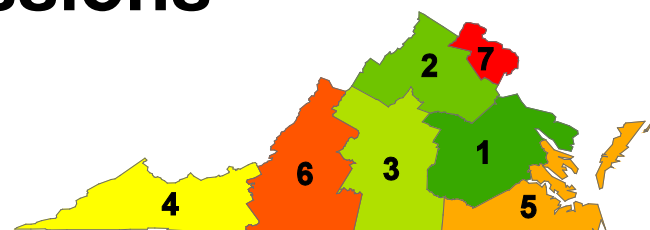
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of prescription opioid submissions to DFS in 2017 was 58.7 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of prescription opioid submissions in 2017 were the 29th (down 3% from 2016), 30th (up 2%), and 28th (up 11%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 21st (26%), 22nd (25%), and 31st (18%).



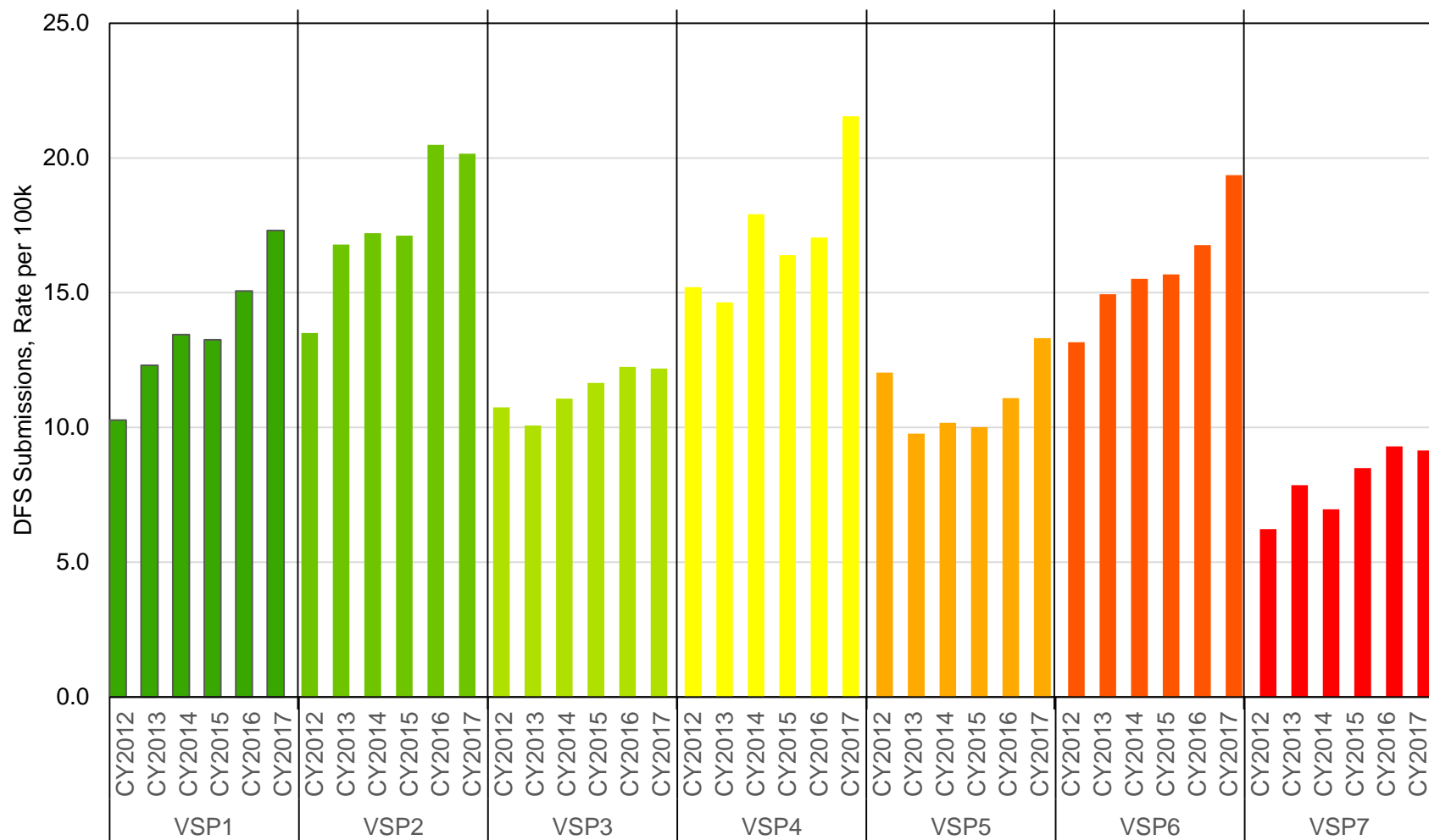
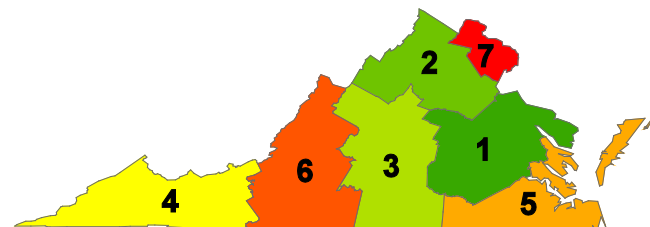
Prescription Stimulant Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2017



Regional Prescription Stimulant DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2012-2017



Prescription Stimulant Summary

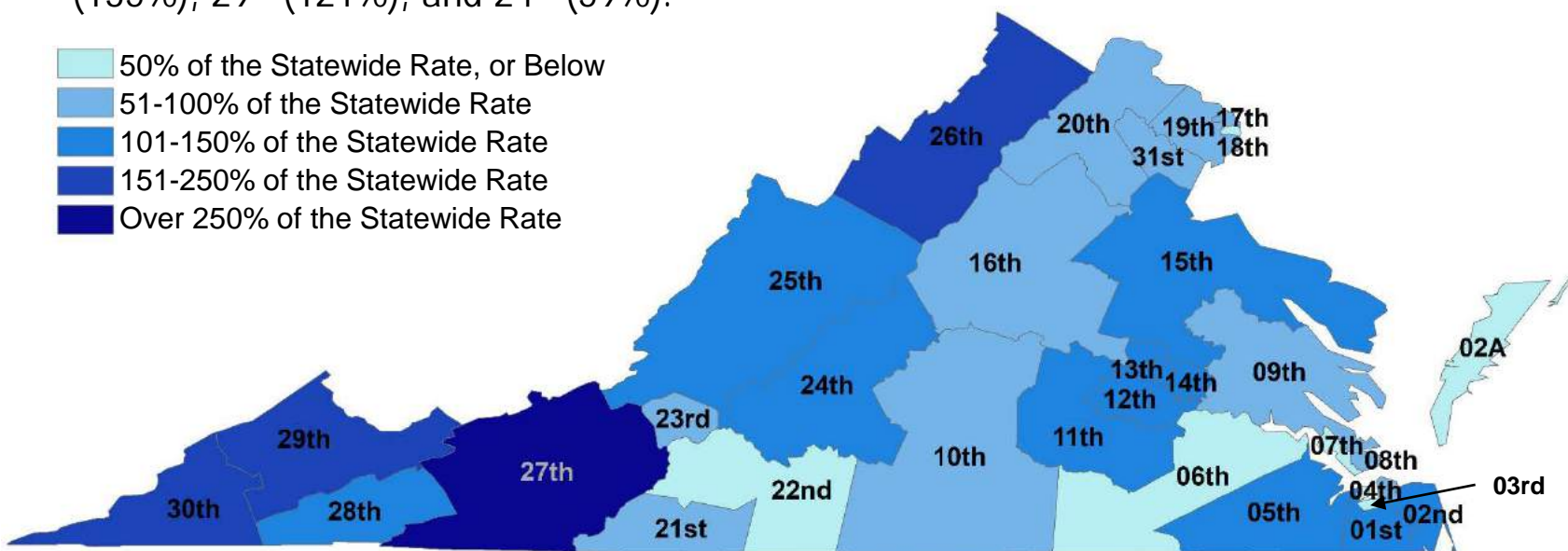
Statewide and by VSP Division

- Number of prescription stimulant case submissions:
 - Statewide, the number of prescription stimulant cases submitted to DFS increased 10% between 2016 and 2017.
 - The number of prescription stimulant cases has increased consistently for over a decade. Between 2007 and 2017, statewide submissions increased 332%.
 - VSP Divisions 1, 5, and 7 submitted almost three-fifths of the statewide total in 2017 (20%, 20%, and 19%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - The rate of prescription stimulant cases submitted to DFS in 2017 was highest in VSP Divisions 4 (up 26% from 2016), 2 (down 2%), and 6 (up 15%).
 - Between 2007 and 2017, Divisions 5, 6, and 1 had the greatest increase in submission rates (472%, 463%, and 420%, respectively).

Prescription Stimulant Data by Court District

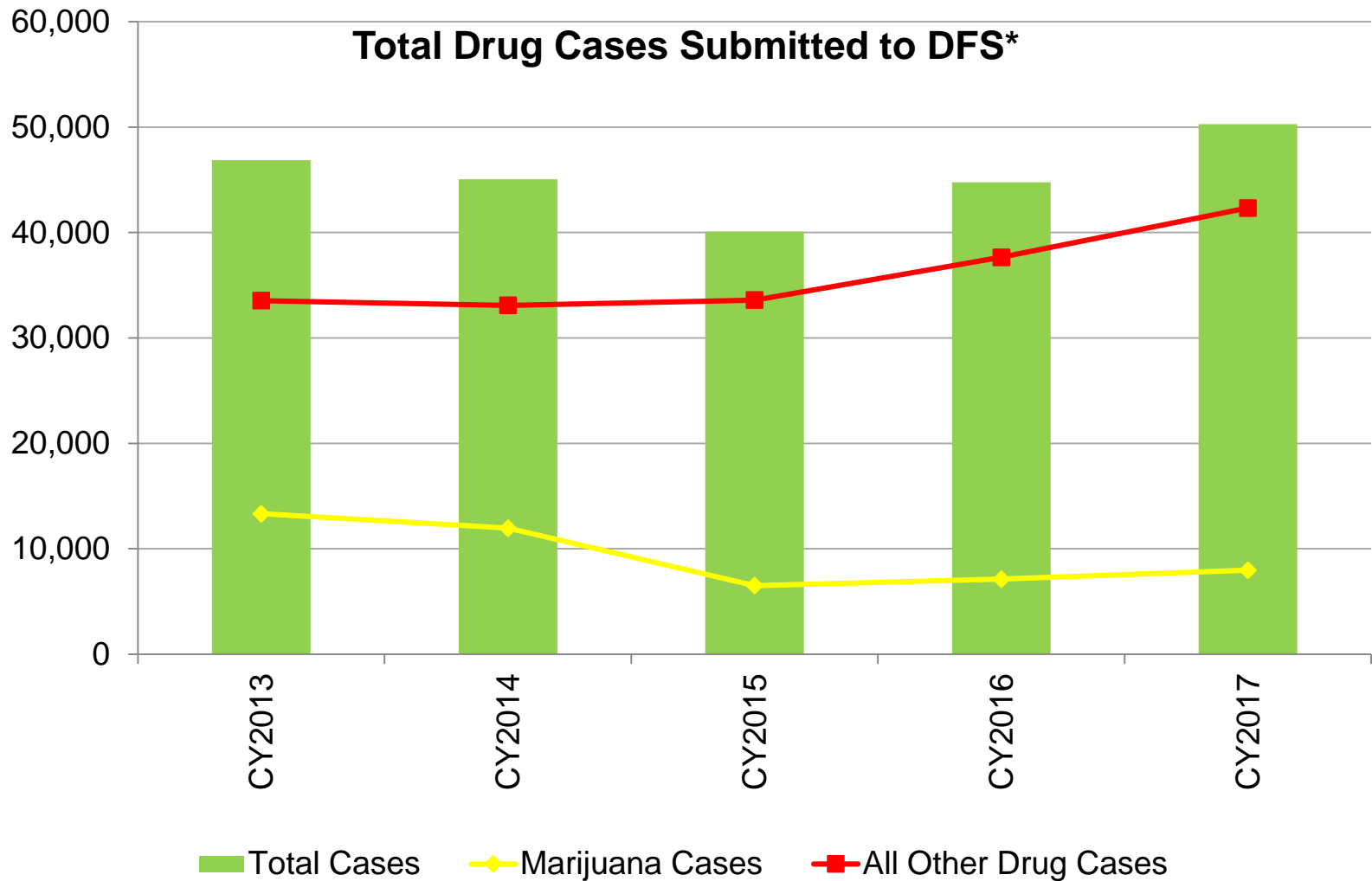
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2017

- Statewide, the rate of prescription stimulant submissions to DFS in 2017 was 14.3 per 100,000 population.
- The Court Districts with the highest rates of prescription stimulant submissions in 2017 were the 27th (up 28% from 2016), 26th (up 1%), 30th (up 37%), and 29th (up 121%).
- The Court Districts that saw the largest growth between 2016 and 2017 were the 5th (135%), 29th (121%), and 24th (59%).



Combined Drug Cases*

CY2013-2017



*Includes all substances, including those not presented in this report. Note that if a single submission by a law enforcement agency includes multiple substances, it will be counted as multiple submissions (cases) for purposes of this report.

 Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Combined Drug Cases*

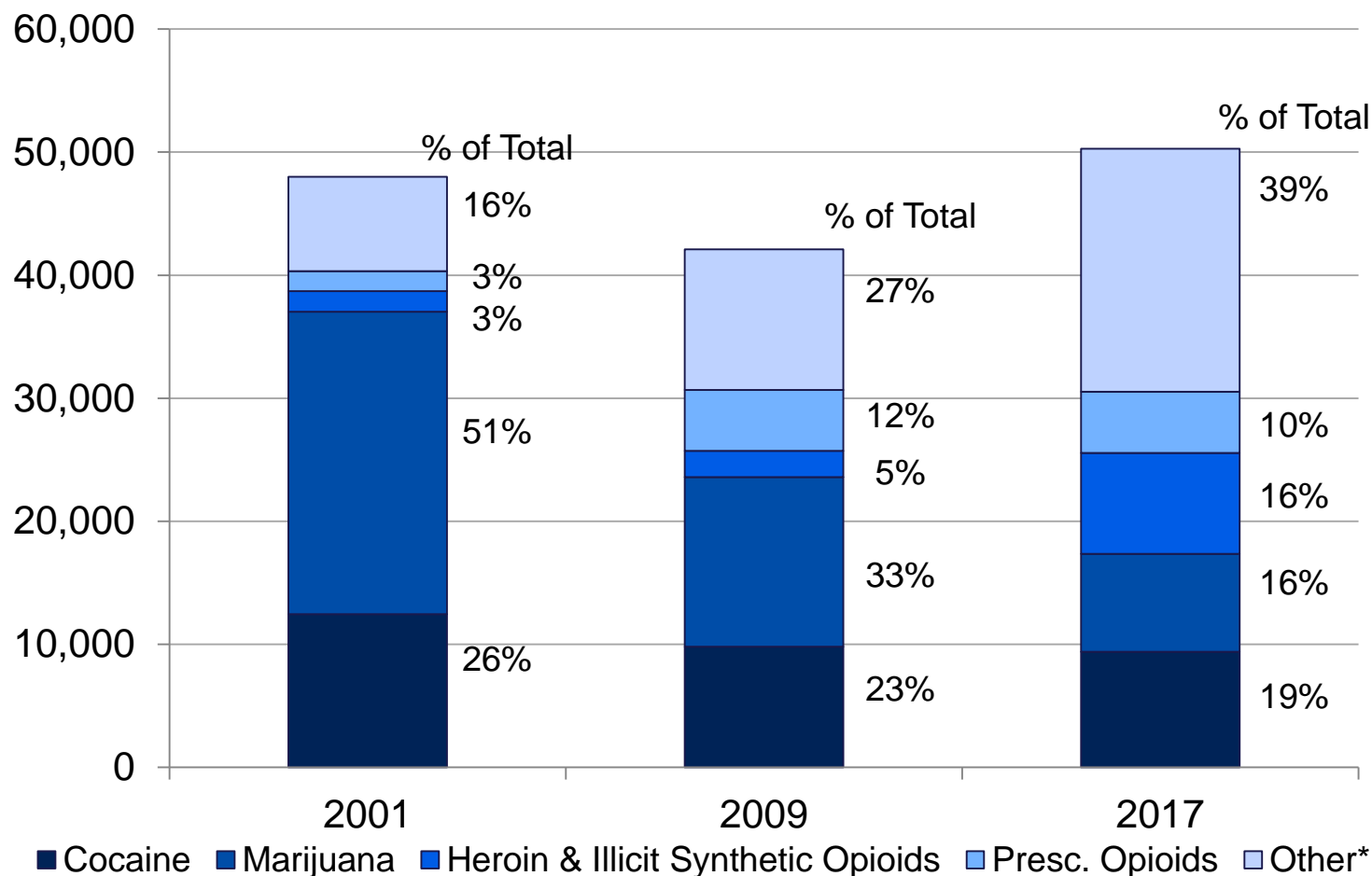
CY2013-2017

- Beginning January 2015, DFS stopped accepting plant material for testing in simple possession of marijuana cases without a court order. In simple possession of marijuana cases, law enforcement officers can provide testimony at trial as to the results of field tests. This appears to have resulted in a substantial decrease in marijuana cases submitted to DFS since 2015.
- In 2014, marijuana cases represented the largest percentage (27%) of cases submitted to DFS. In 2017, marijuana cases made up only 16% of the cases. This substantial drop in marijuana cases should have had a noticeable impact on the overall number of drug cases.
- However, a recent increase in submissions of other, more complicated, substances has more than offset the reduction in marijuana cases.
- Between 2015 and 2017, the total number of drug cases submitted to DFS increased 25%.

*Includes all substances, including those not presented in this report. Note that if a single submission by a law enforcement agency includes multiple substances, it will be counted as multiple submissions (cases) for purposes of this report.

Combined Drug Submissions

Selected Drug Types



In 2001, cocaine and marijuana made up 77% of DFS cases. In 2017, they were only 35% of the total. During this same period of time, heroin, prescription opioids, and illicit synthetic opioids grew from 7% to 26% of the total.

*Includes all substances other than those listed, including those not presented in this report. Note that if a single submission by a law enforcement agency includes multiple substances, it will be counted as multiple submissions (cases) for purposes of this report. Totals may not add to 100%, due to rounding.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Data Sources

Drug submission data for this report were provided by DFS, using information collected for the National Forensic Laboratory Information System. This report defines “cases” differently from how DFS uses the term internally. For purposes of this report, if multiple drugs are identified in a single submission, each drug is counted separately as one “case.” For example, a submission that includes both heroin and cocaine will be counted once as a heroin case and once as a cocaine case.

Annual totals presented here may be slightly lower than previous reports. Some submissions (fewer than 1%) had been previously double-counted, in cases in which two different forms of the same substance were submitted as part of the same case. For example, in a case that involved a submission of tablets and powder, if both were identified as heroin, this would have been counted as two heroin submissions. In this report it would be counted as a single heroin submission. The differences in the annual totals are small, and do not change reported trends.

Arrest data were taken from the annual *Crime in Virginia* reports prepared by the Virginia State Police (VSP), http://www.vsp.state.va.us/Crime_in_Virginia.shtm.

Population data used to calculate rates were provided by the Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, <http://www.coopercenter.org/demographics>.

Data analysis was provided by the DCJS Criminal Justice Research Center.