

Drug Cases Submitted to the Virginia Department of Forensic Science

Calendar Year 2018

**A Joint Report by the Virginia Departments of
Forensic Science
&
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.”

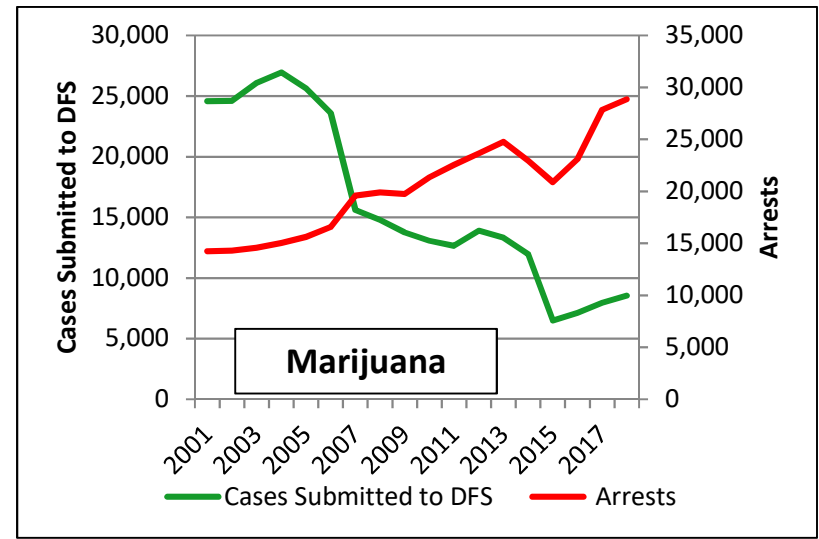
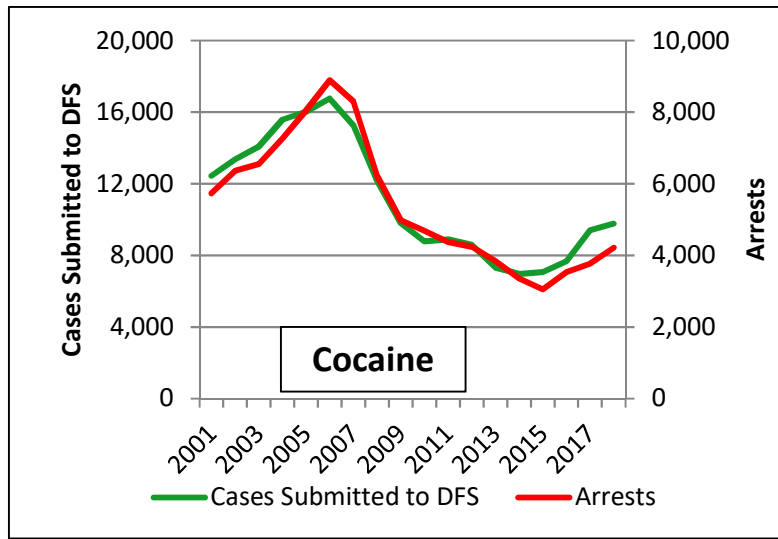
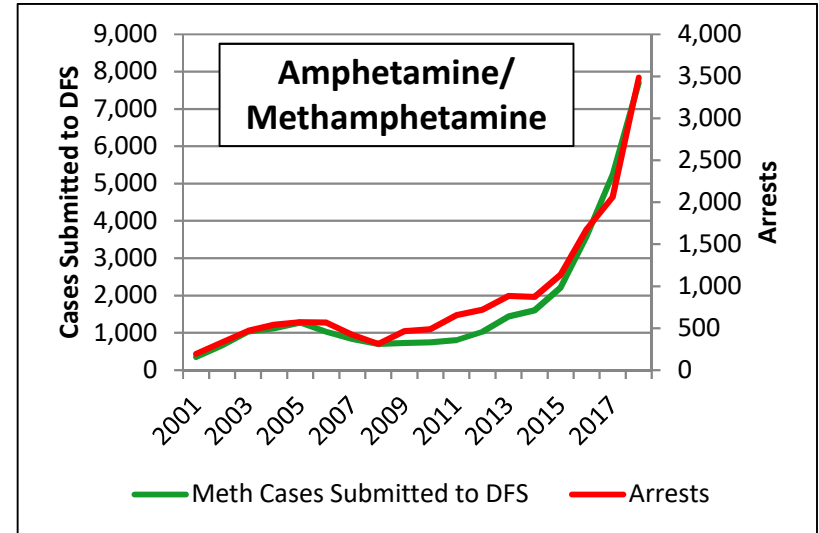
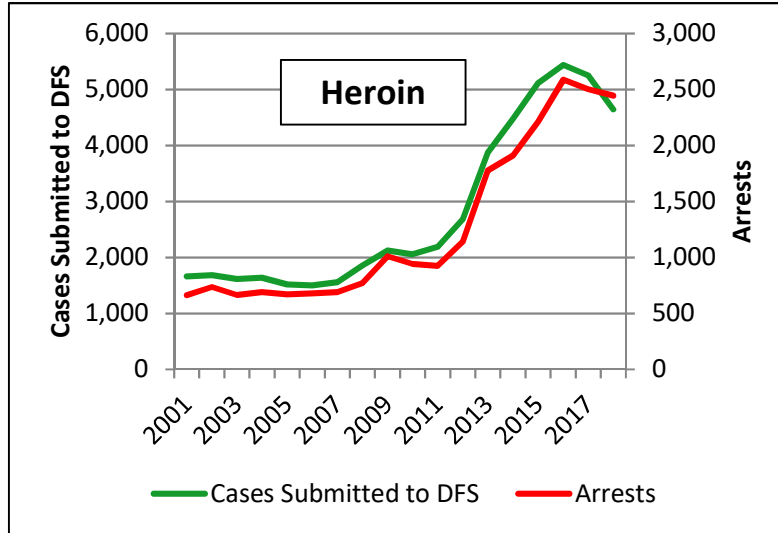
2- Includes various designer and other drugs including MDMA (“Ecstasy”), Ketamine, Phenethylamines, Tryptamines, Piperazines, substituted cathinones (“bath salts”), and others. Use of these drugs is not limited to clubs or parties, and in fact some of these designer drugs might not be identified as “club 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 2001-2018



Comparing DFS Cases to Arrest Data

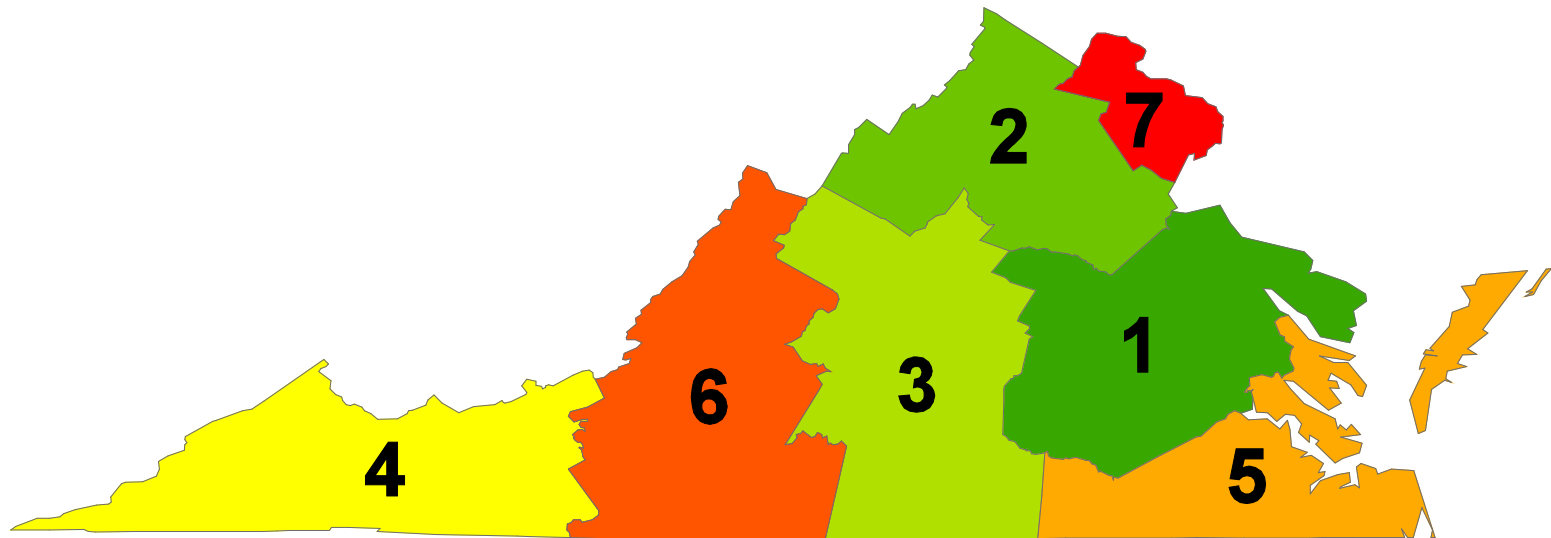
Select drug types, calendar years 2001-2018

- 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.



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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
Caroline County	Louisa County	Culpeper County	Amherst County	Buchanan County	Brunswick County	Chesapeake City	Bath County
Charles City County	New Kent County	Fauquier County	Appomattox County	Carroll County	Gloucester County	Emporia City	Bedford County
Chesterfield County	Northumberland County	Frederick County	Augusta County	Dickenson County	Greensville County	Franklin City	Botetourt County
Dinwiddie County	Nottoway County	Madison County	Buckingham County	Giles County	Isle of Wight County	Hampton City	Craig County
Essex County	Powhatan County	Orange County	Campbell County	Grayson County	James City County	Newport News City	Floyd County
Goochland County	Prince George County	Page County	Charlotte County	Lee County	Mathews County	Norfolk City	Franklin County
Hanover County	Richmond County	Rappahannock County	Cumberland County	Pulaski County	Middlesex County	Poquoson City	Henry County
Henrico County	Westmoreland County	Rockingham County	Fluvanna County	Russell County	Northampton County	Portsmouth City	Highland County
King and Queen County	Colonial Heights City	Shenandoah County	Greene County	Scott County	Southampton County	Suffolk City	Montgomery County
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				

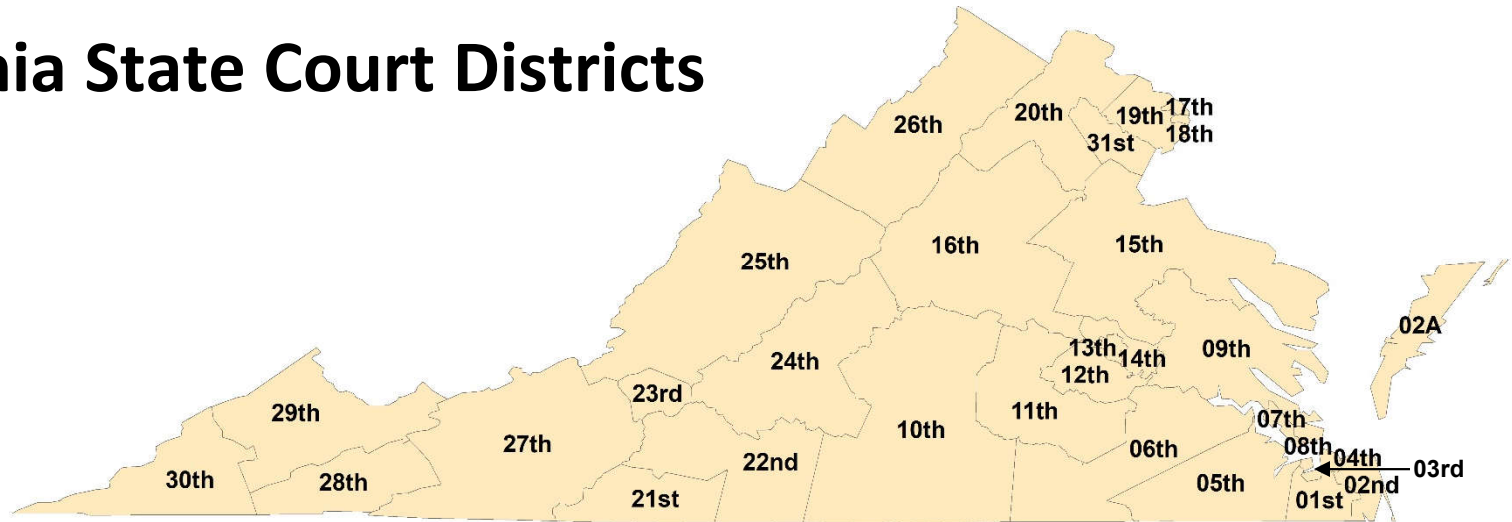


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Virginia State Court Districts



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

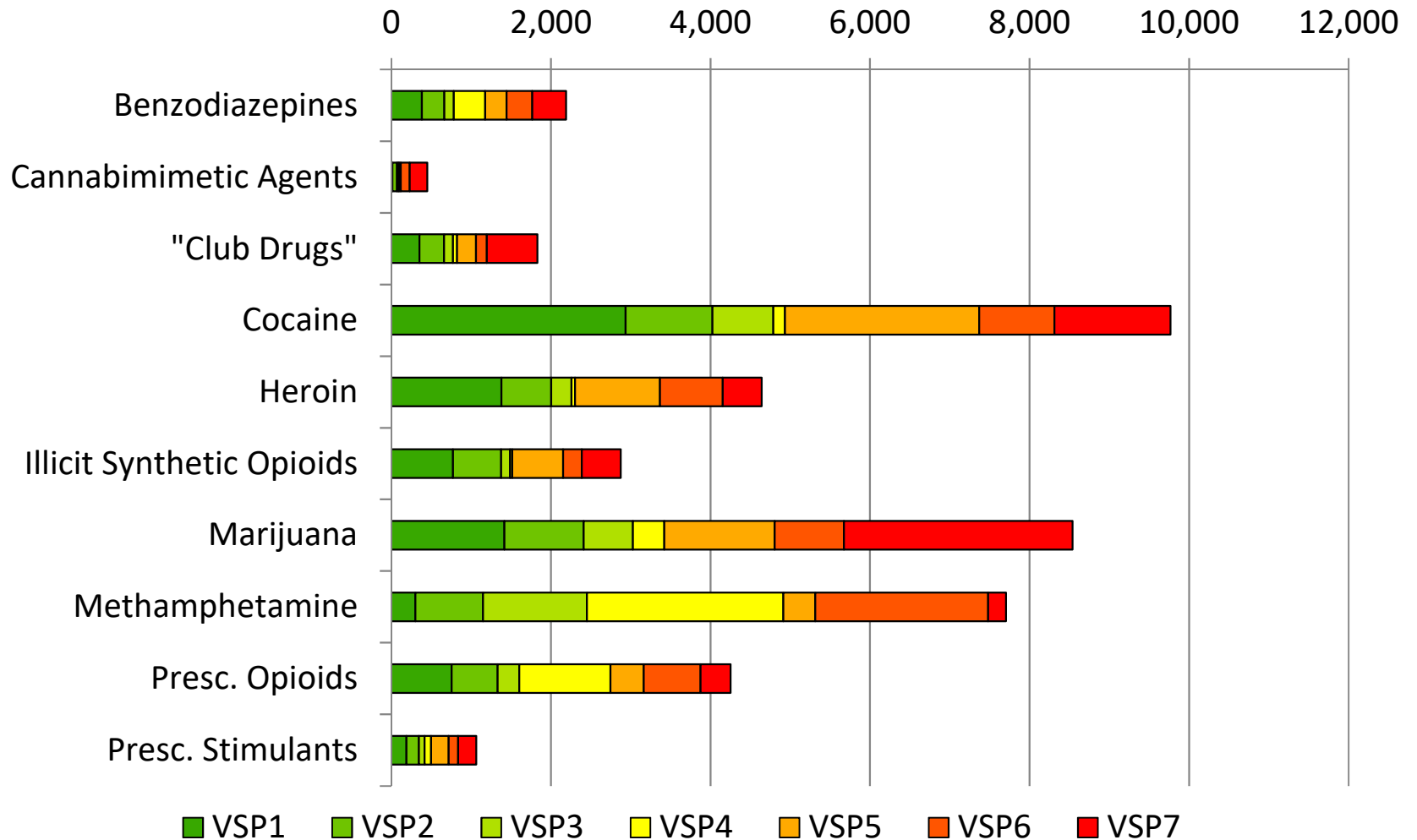
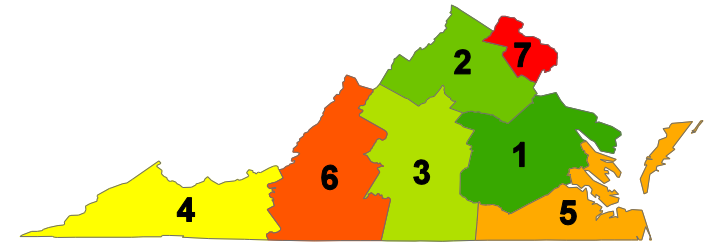
Court District	Locality
27th	Bland County
	Carroll County
	Floyd County
	Galax City
	Giles County
	Grayson County
	Montgomery County
	Pulaski County
	Radford City
	Wythe County
28th	Bristol City
	Smyth County
	Washington County
29th	Buchanan County
	Dickenson County
	Russell County
	Tazewell County
30th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



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Drug Cases Submitted to DFS

Selected Drugs in CY2018, By VSP Division

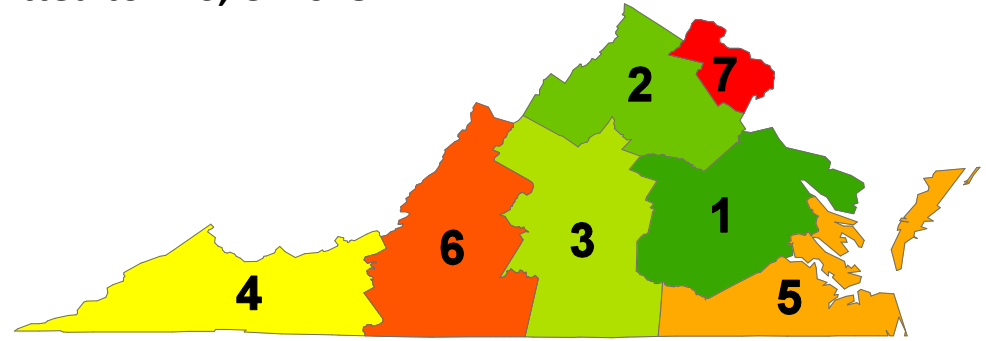


"Illicit Synthetic Opioids" includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Regional Variations in Drug Submissions

Distribution of Select Drug Cases Submitted to DFS, CY2018



Drug Category	VSP1	VSP2	VSP3	VSP4	VSP5	VSP6	VSP7	TOTAL
Benzodiazepines	17%	13%	5%	18%	12%	15%	19%	100%
Cannabimimetic Agents	3%	13%	4%	2%	4%	25%	49%	100%
Club Drugs"	19%	17%	6%	3%	13%	7%	35%	100%
Cocaine	30%	11%	8%	1%	25%	10%	15%	100%
Heroin	27%	21%	4%	1%	22%	8%	17%	100%
Illicit Synthetic Opioid	30%	13%	5%	1%	23%	17%	11%	100%
Marijuana	17%	12%	7%	5%	16%	10%	34%	100%
Methamphetamine	4%	11%	17%	32%	5%	28%	3%	100%
Presc. Opioids	18%	14%	6%	27%	10%	17%	9%	100%
Presc. Stimulants	18%	15%	7%	8%	21%	11%	21%	100%
Census Population	17%	10%	8%	5%	22%	9%	30%	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 2018 were submitted by Division 4, which had 5% of the state population.

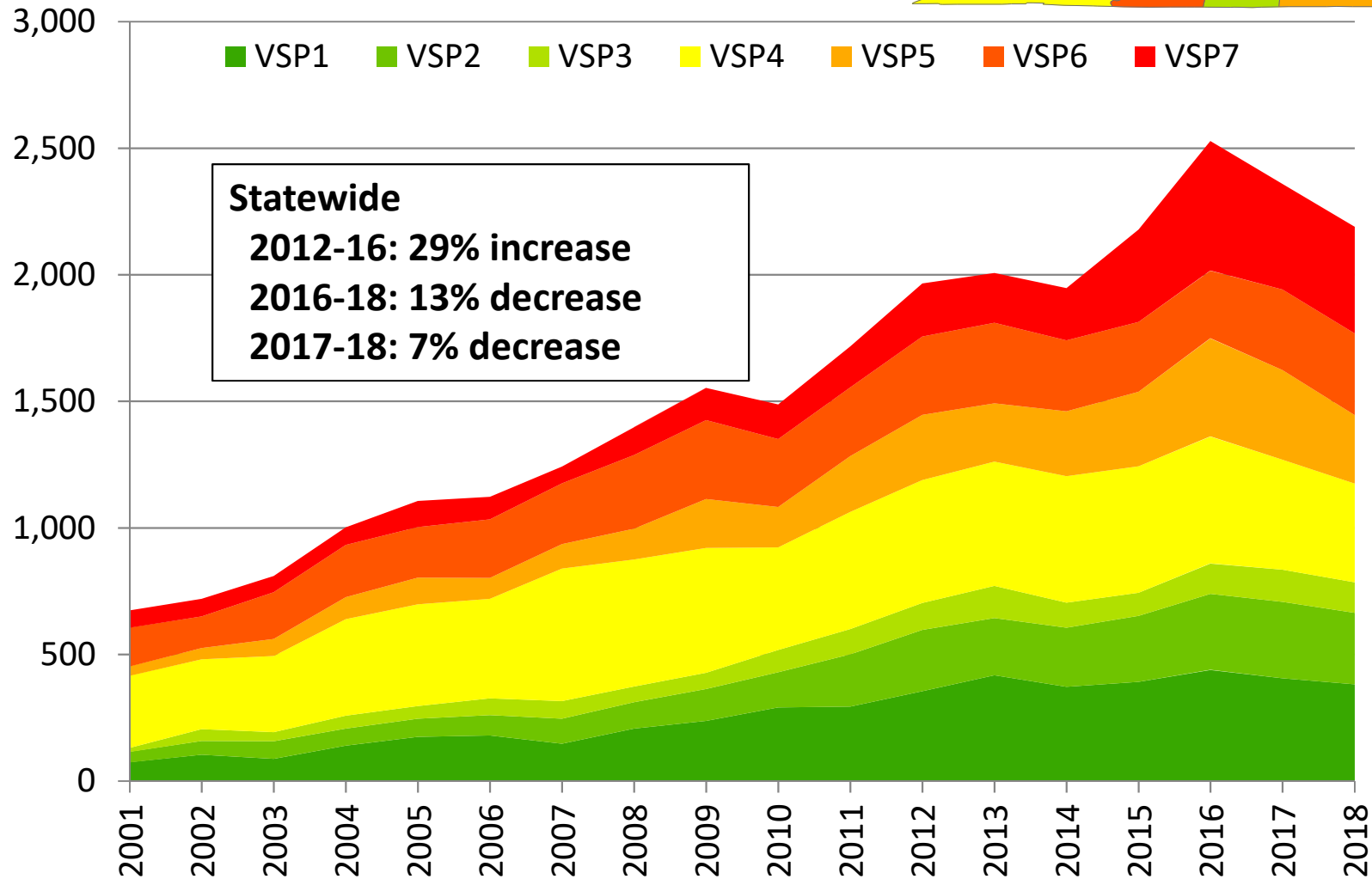
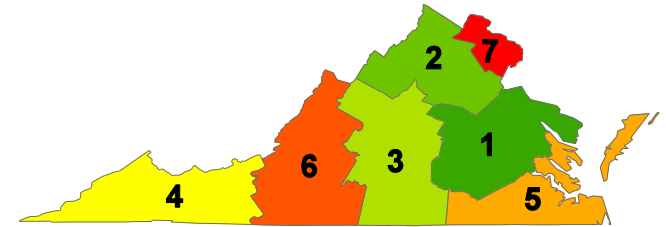
Totals may not add to 100%, due to rounding.
Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS



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Benzodiazepine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

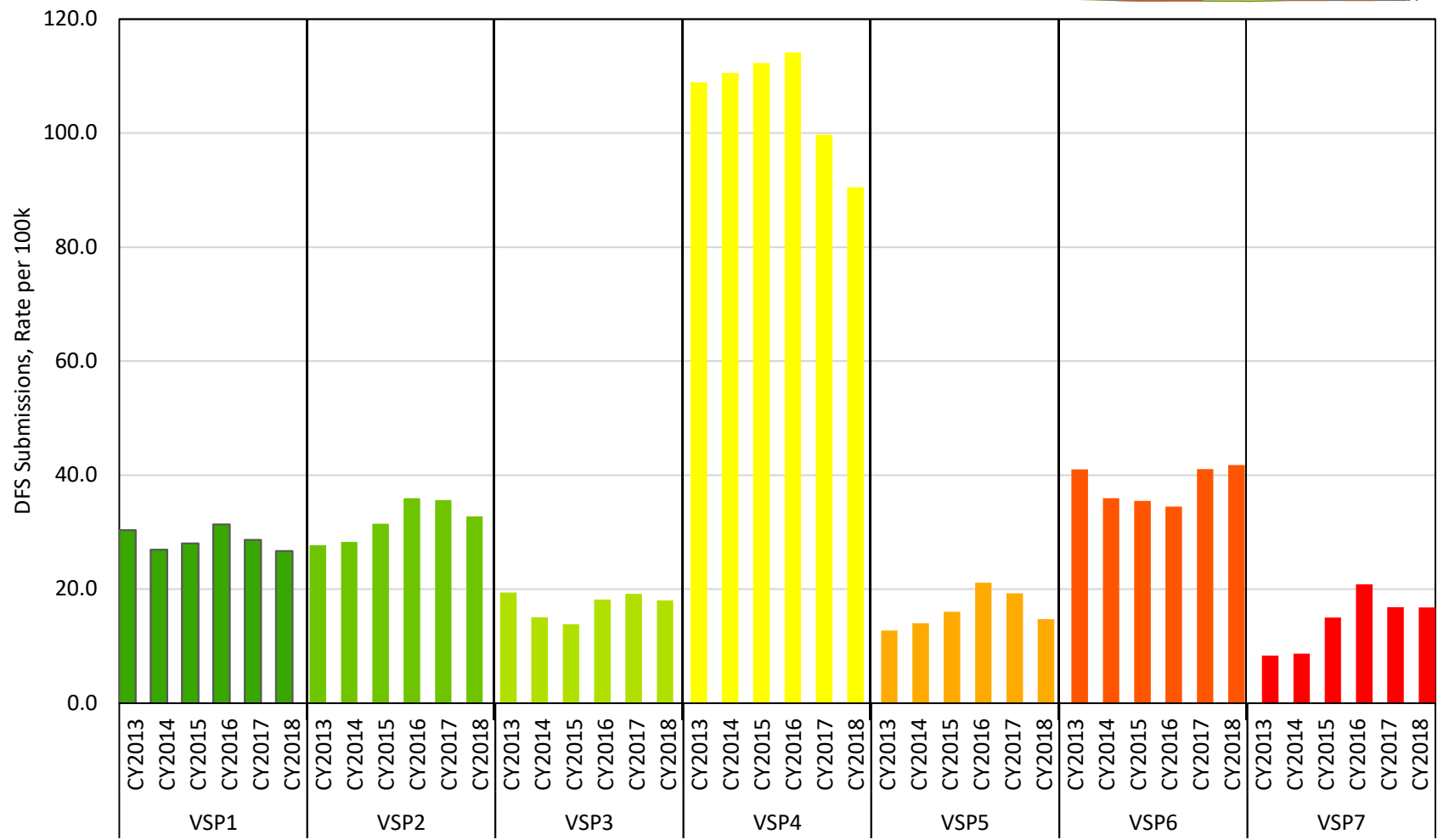
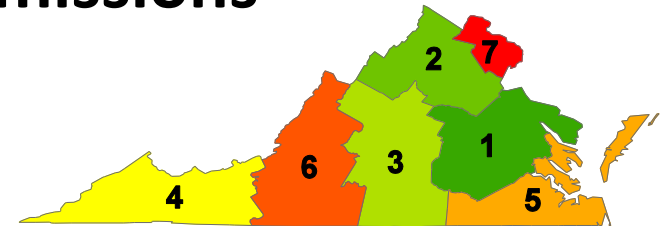


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Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

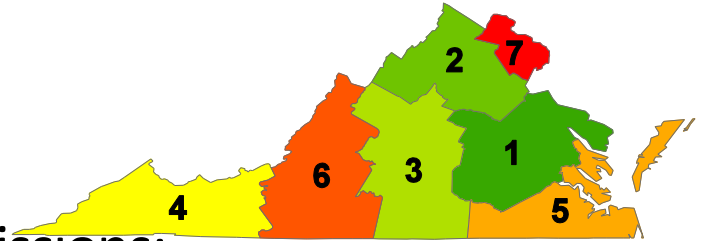
Regional Benzodiazepine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



Benzodiazepine Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

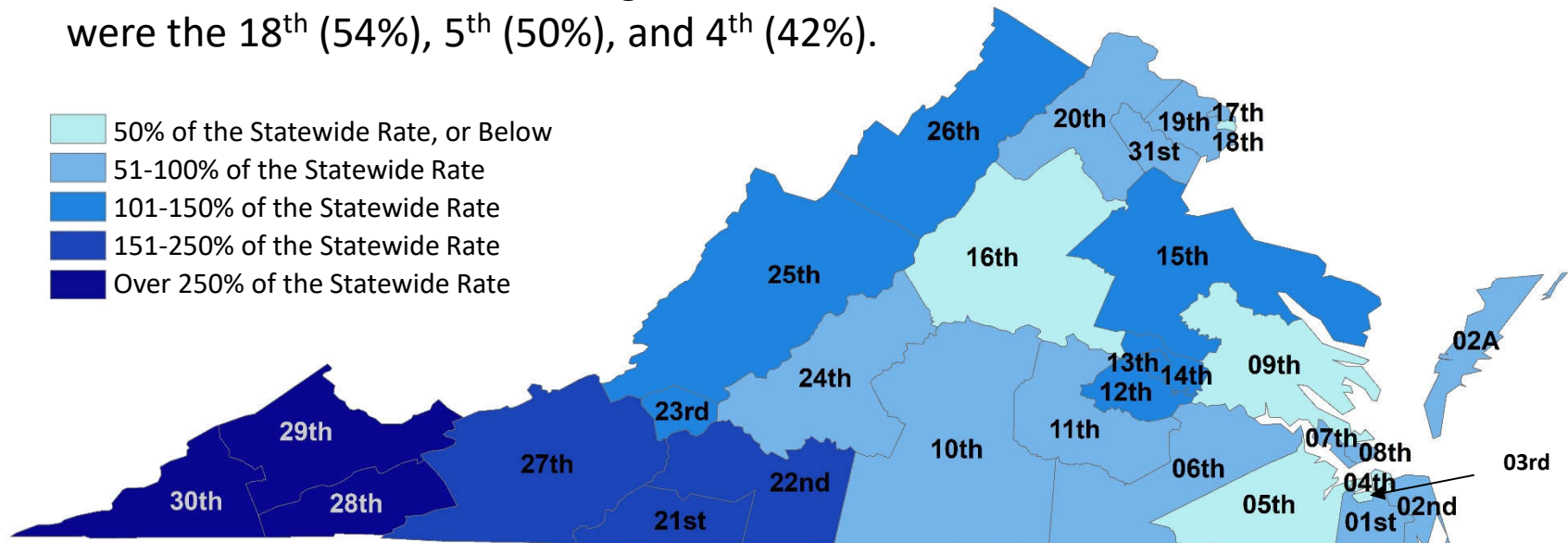
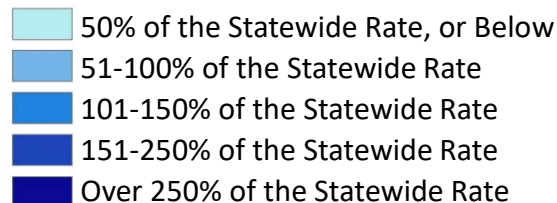


- Number of benzodiazepine case submissions:
 - Benzodiazepine cases submitted to DFS decreased 7% statewide between 2017 and 2018.
 - VSP Divisions 7, 4, and 1 reported the largest number of benzodiazepine cases in 2018 (19%, 18%, and 17%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Although Divisions 7, 4, and 1 reported a similar number of cases, their population sizes are very different. The 2018 *rate* of benzodiazepine cases submitted by Division 4 was more than three times as high as the rate for Division 1, and more than five times as high as the rate for Division 7.
 - Between 2012 and 2018, Division 7 had the largest growth in the rate of benzodiazepine case submissions (86%), while Division 4 actually saw a decrease (-16%).

Benzodiazepine Data by Court District

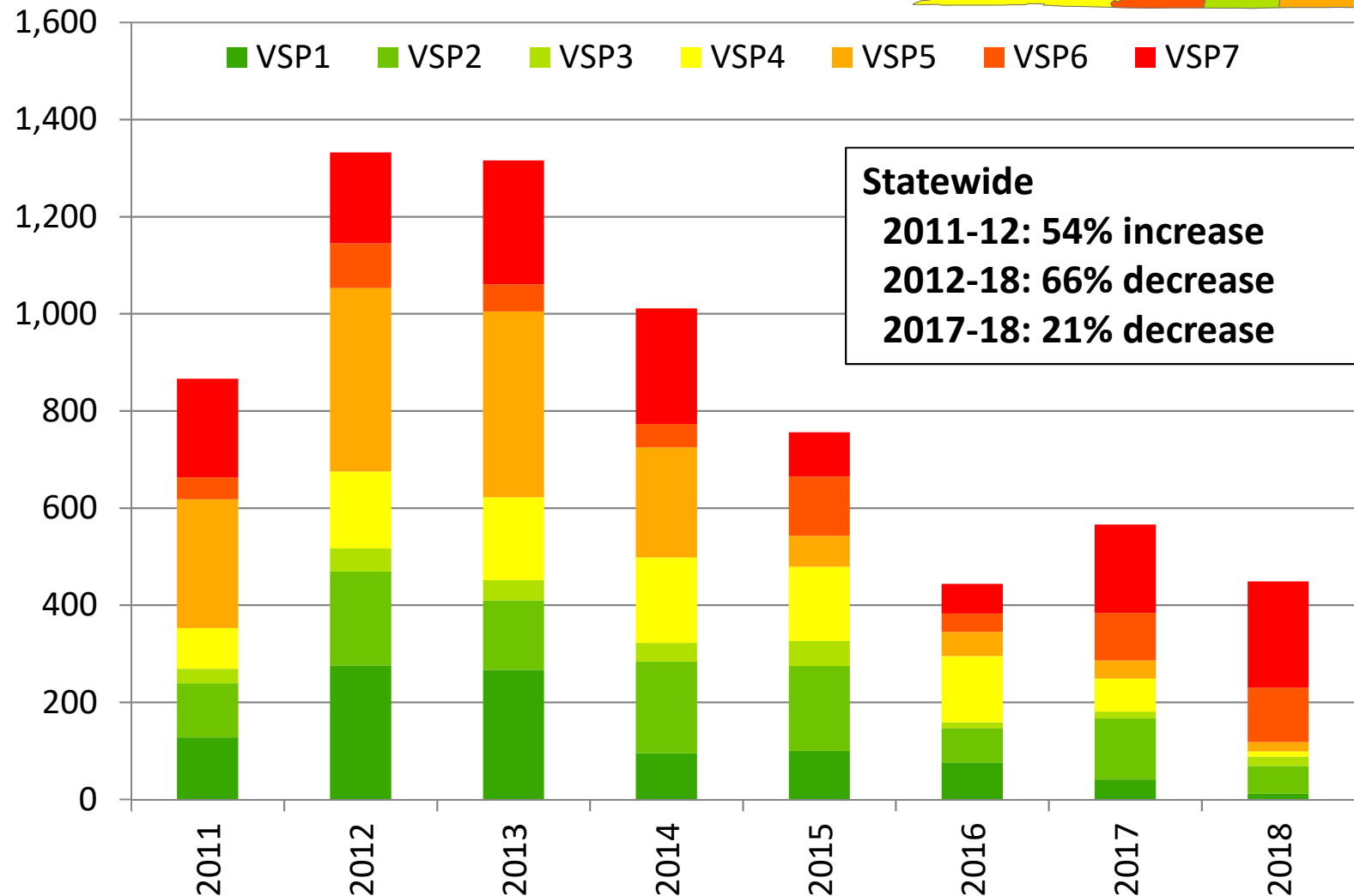
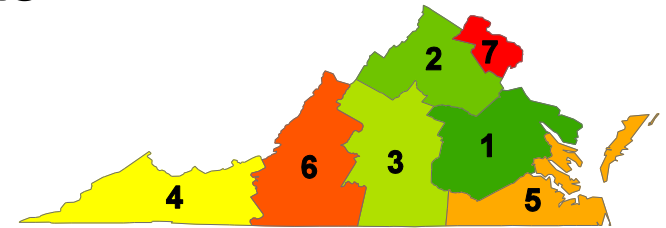
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of benzodiazepine submissions to DFS in 2018 was 25.7 per 100,000 population, down 8% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of benzodiazepine submissions in 2018 were the 30th (down 17% from 2017), 29th (down 3%), and 28th (down 9%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were 2A (169%), the 25th (38%), and 22nd (37%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 18th (54%), 5th (50%), and 4th (42%).



Cannabimimetic Agent Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2011-2018

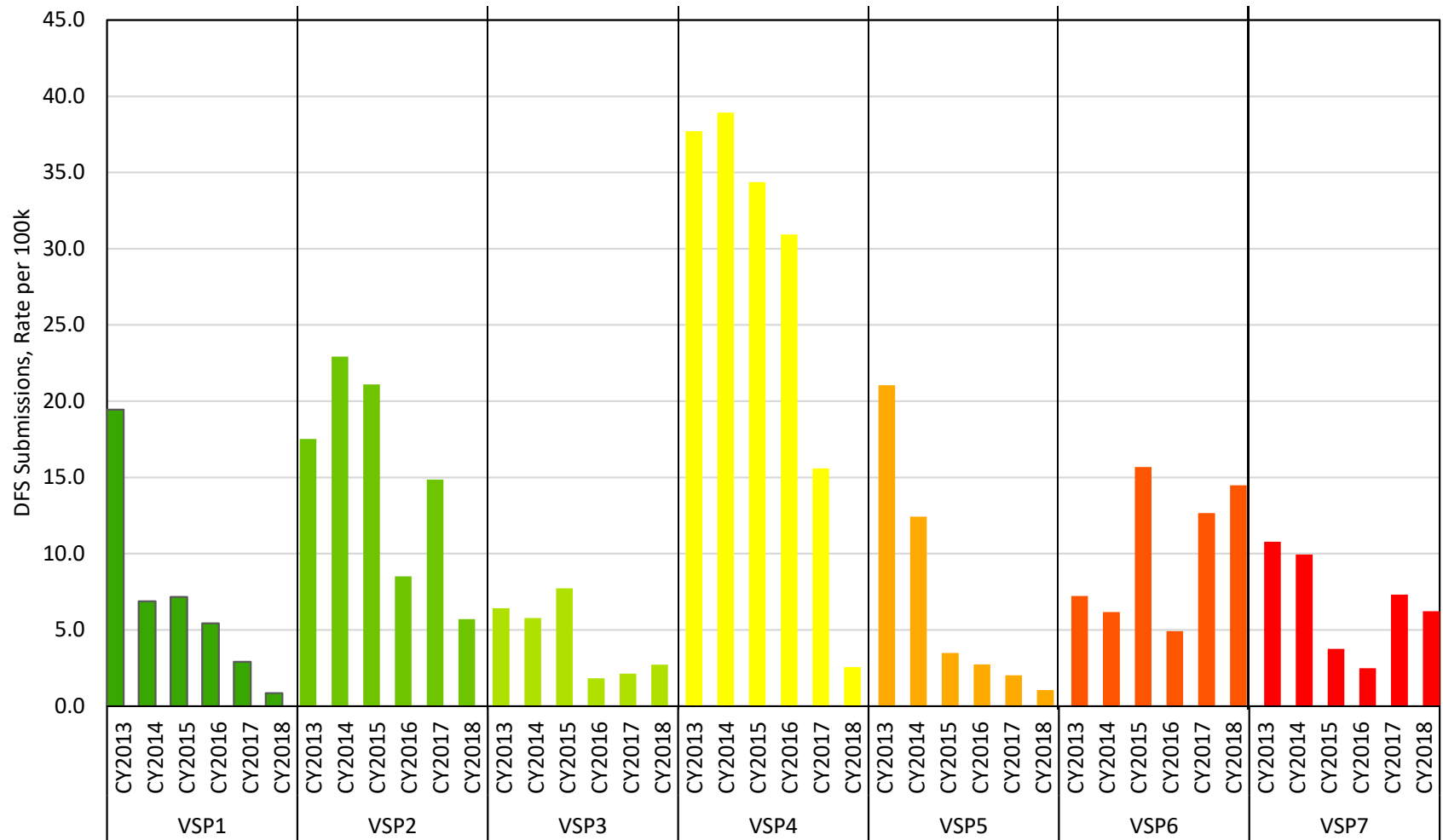
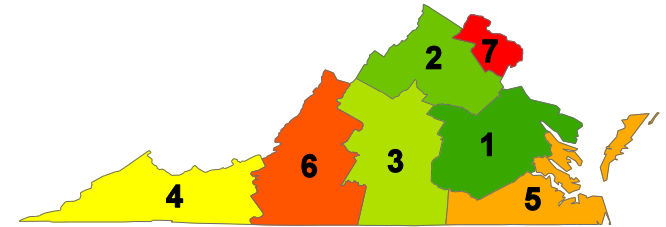


Statewide

2011-12: 54% increase
2012-18: 66% decrease
2017-18: 21% decrease

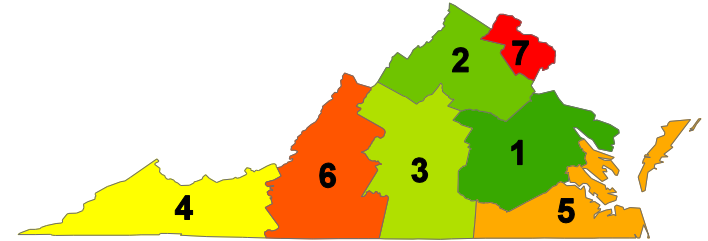
Cannabimimetic Agent DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



Cannabimimetic Agent Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

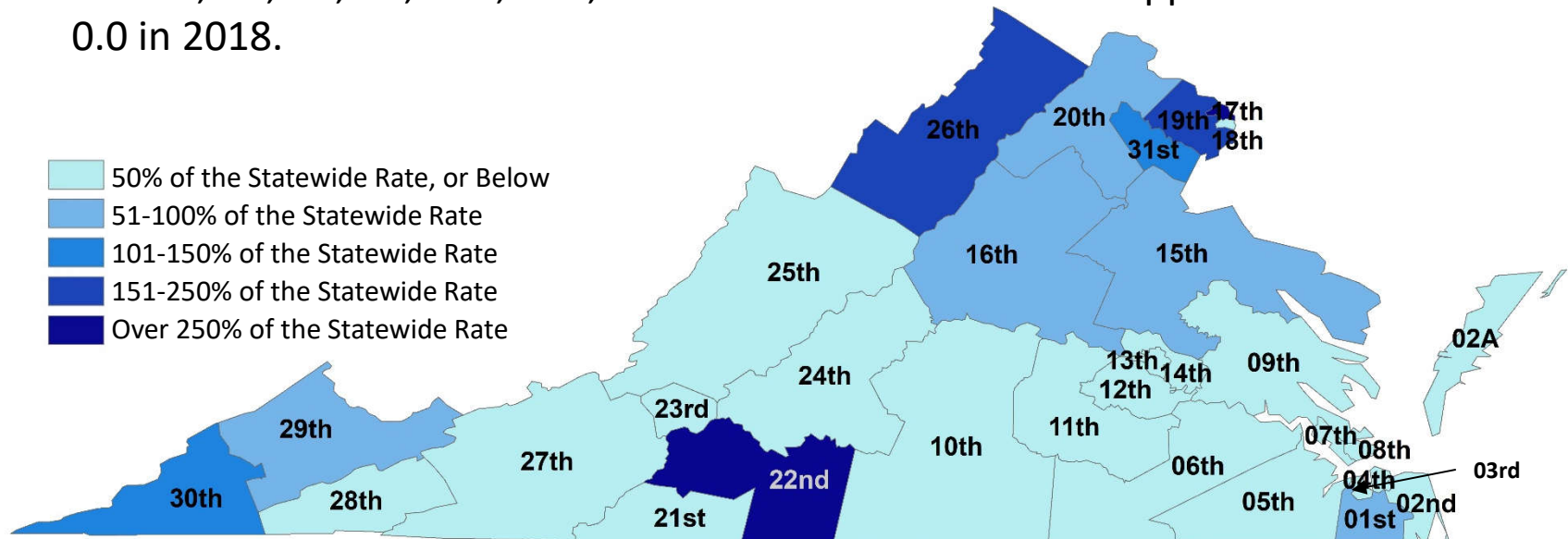


- Number of cannabimimetic agent case submissions:
 - Statewide, the number of cannabimimetic agent cases submitted to DFS decreased 21% between 2017 and 2018.
 - Division 4 saw the largest decrease in submissions, dropping 84% between 2017 and 2018.
 - VSP Divisions 7 and 6 have seen a sharp increase in recent years, rising 259% and 195% (respectively) between 2016 and 2018.
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - In 2017, Division 4 had the highest rate of submissions. After the drop in submissions in 2018, it had the third lowest rate.
 - The 2018 rates of submissions from VSP Divisions 6 and 7 were higher than in 2012 (22% and 8%, respectively). The rates for other Divisions were substantially lower (ranging from -61% to -96%) in 2018 than in 2012.

Cannabimimetic Agent Data by Court District

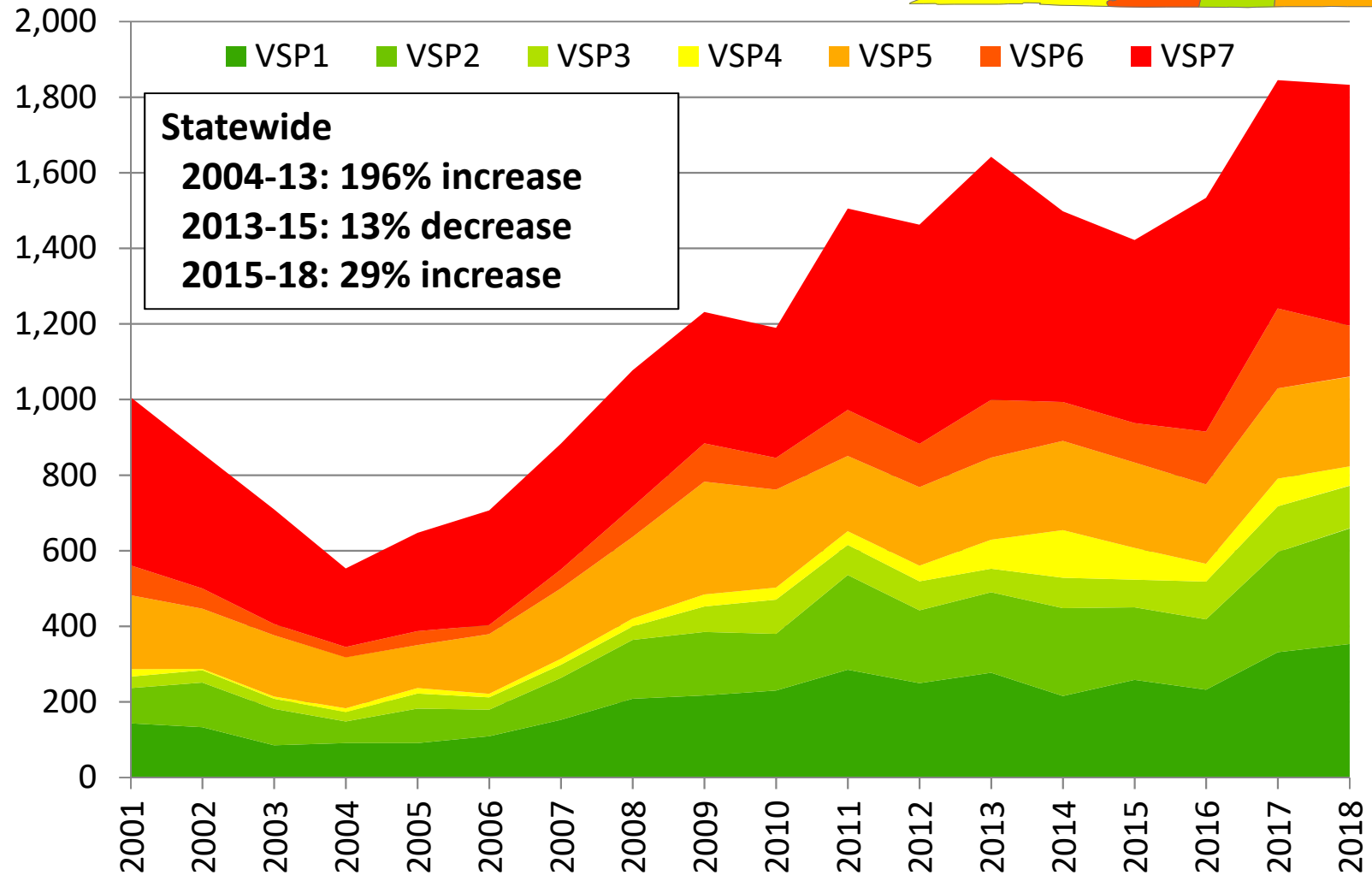
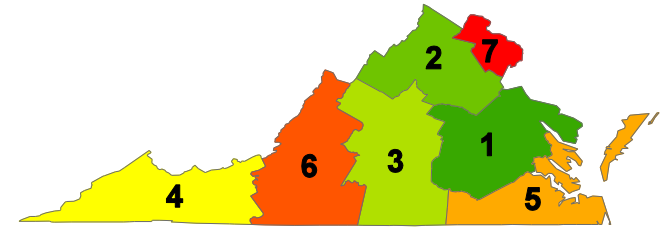
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of cannabimimetic agent submissions to DFS in 2018 was 5.3 per 100,000 population, down 21% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of cannabimimetic agent submissions in 2018 were the 22nd (up 18% from 2017), 17th (up 88%), and 26th (down 40%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 23rd (400%), 5th (200%), and 18th (100%).
- The 4th, 6th, 8th, 9th, 11th, 12th, and 21st Court Districts all dropped to a rate of 0.0 in 2018.



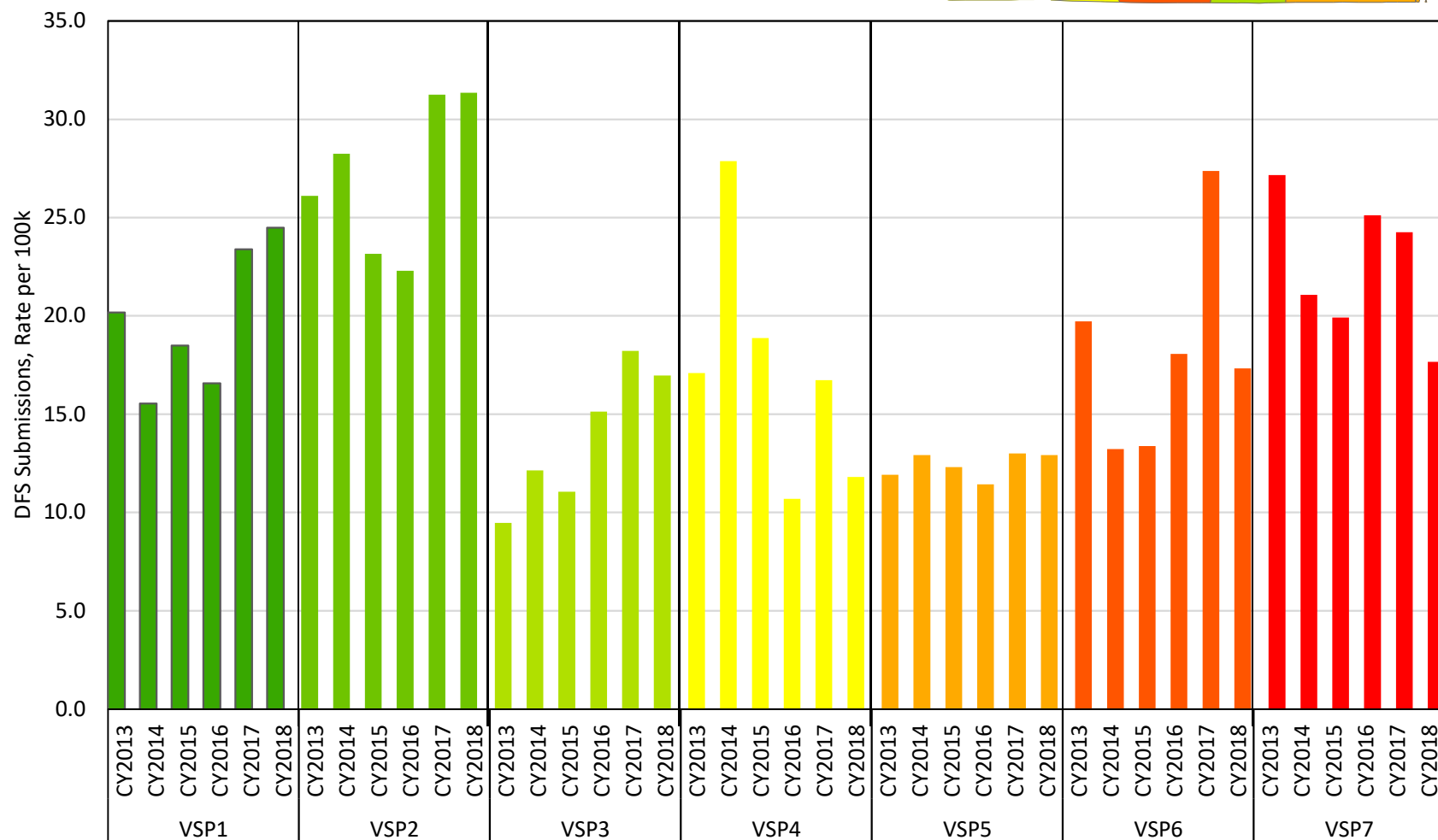
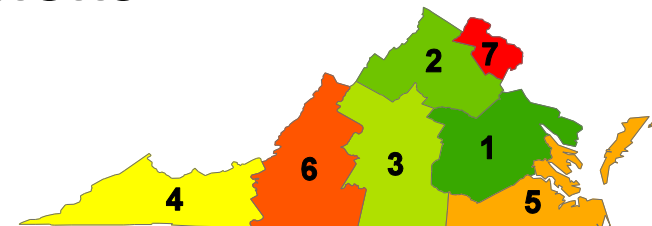
“Club Drug” Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018



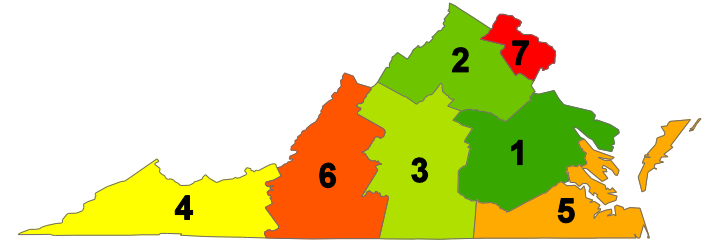
Regional “Club Drug” DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



“Club Drug” Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division



- Number of “club drug” case submissions:
 - Statewide, “club drug” cases submitted to DFS decreased 1% between 2017 and 2018.
 - VSP Division 7 reported the largest proportion (35%) of the statewide total number of “club drug” cases in 2018.
 - Relatively few cases were submitted in 2018 by Divisions 4 or 3 (3% and 6% of the statewide total, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Division 2 had the highest rate of “club drug” case submissions in 2018 (up 14% from 2017).
 - 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.

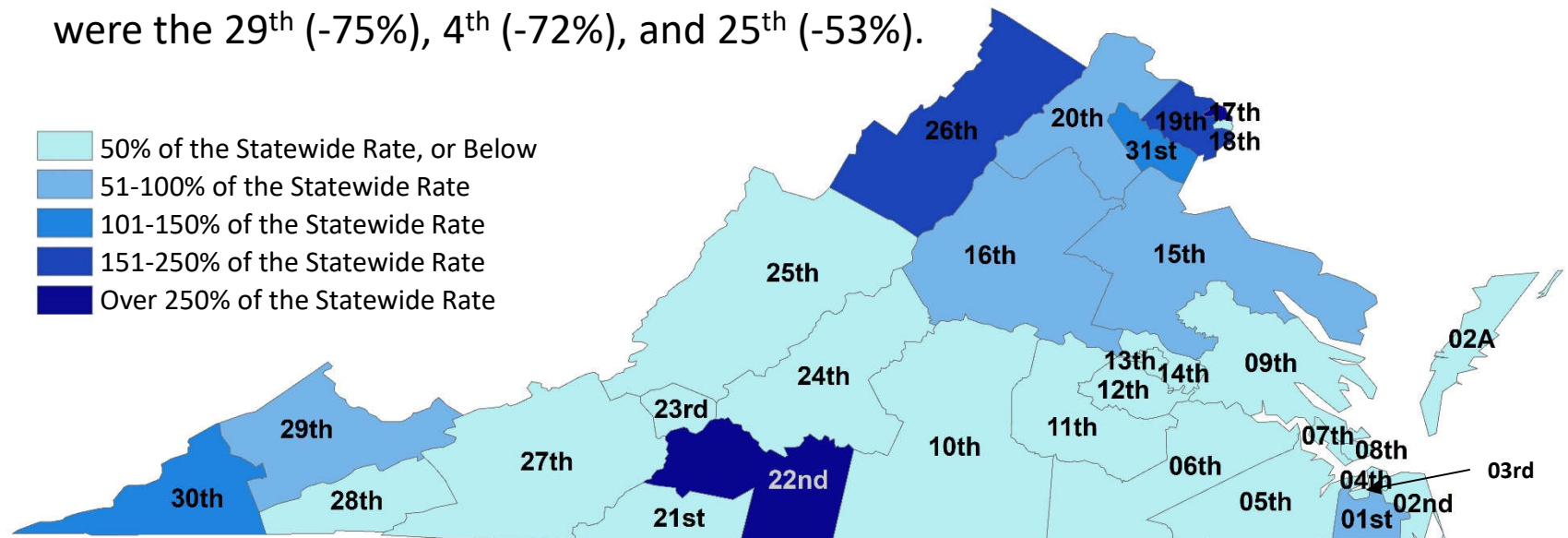


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“Club Drug” Data by Court District

Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of “club drug” submissions to DFS in 2018 was 21.5 per 100,000 population, down 1% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of “club drug” submissions in 2018 were the 15th (up 57% from 2017), 13th (down 4%), and 17th (up 17%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 9th (112%), 2A (102%), and the 22nd (73%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 29th (-75%), 4th (-72%), and 25th (-53%).



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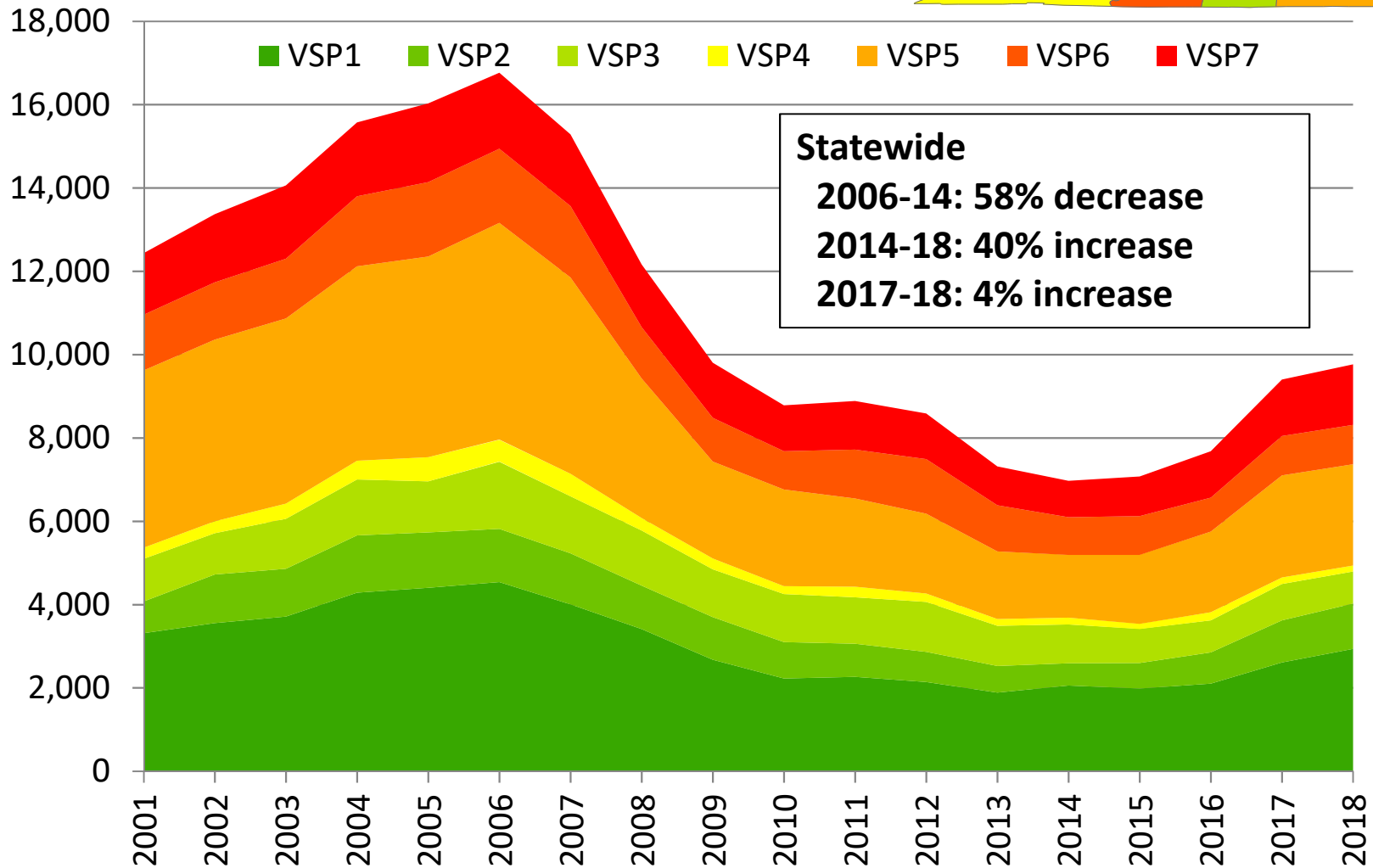
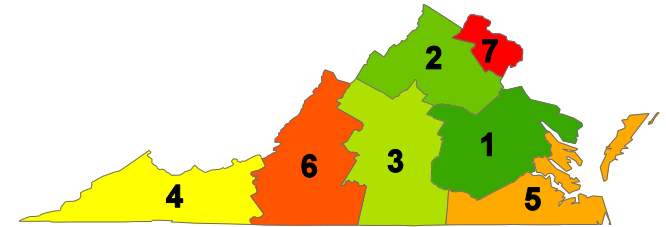
Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS



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Cocaine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

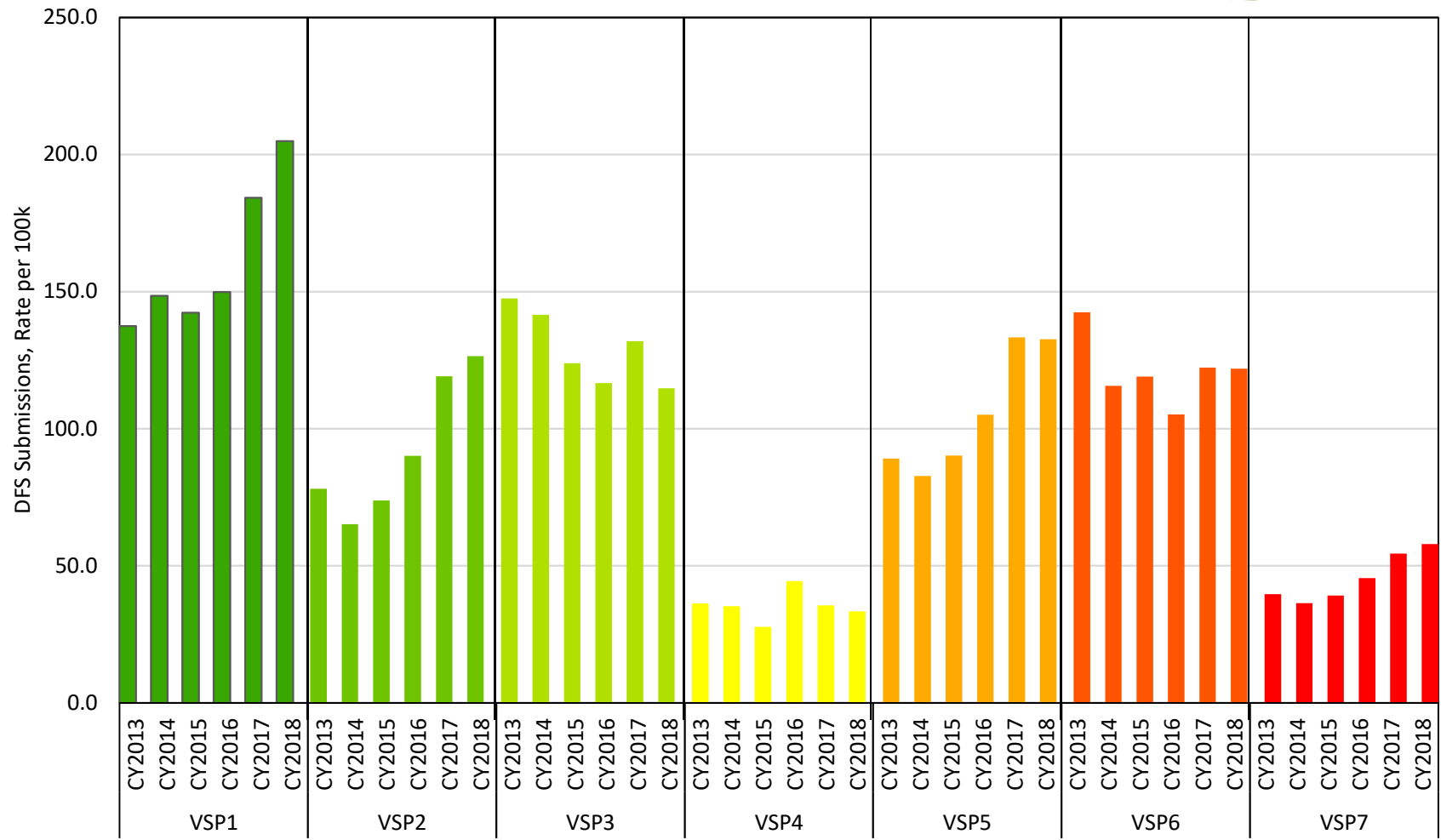
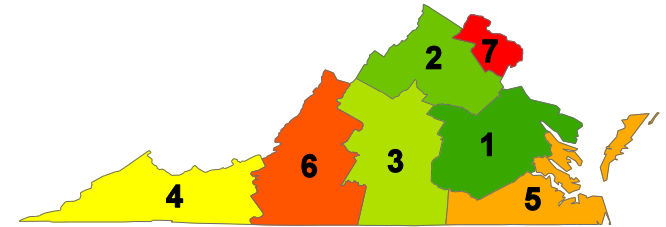


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Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

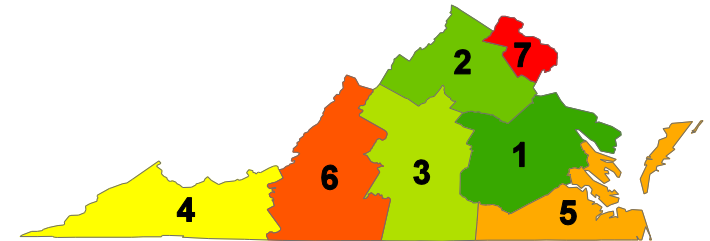
Regional Cocaine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



Cocaine Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division



- Number of cocaine case submissions:
 - Statewide, cocaine cases submitted to DFS increased 4% between 2017 and 2018. Since 2014, statewide cocaine cases have increased 40%.
 - VSP Divisions 1 and 5 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of cocaine cases in 2018 (30% and 25%, respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Division 4 (1% of the statewide total).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - VSP Division 1 had highest rate of cocaine submissions in 2018 (up 11% from 2017), followed by Divisions 5 (down 1%) and 2 (up 6%).
 - Between 2014 and 2018, the rate of cocaine submissions from Division 2 increased 94%.

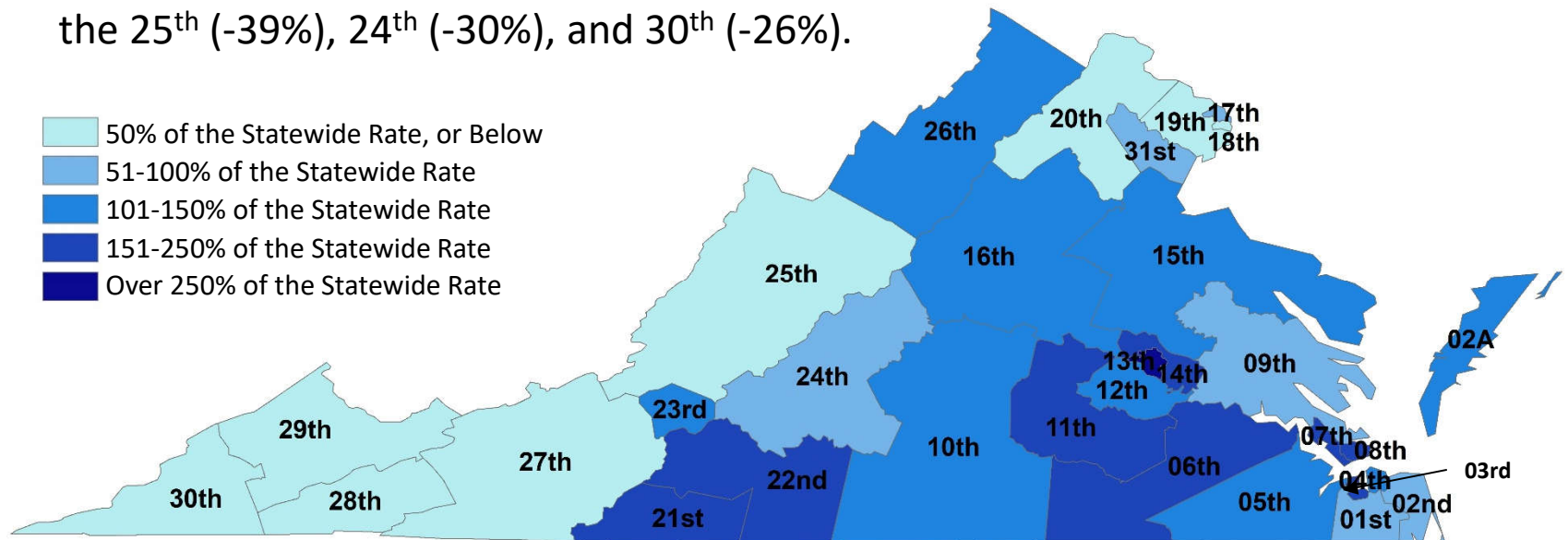


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Cocaine Data by Court District

Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of cocaine submissions to DFS in 2018 was 114.7 per 100,000 population, up 3% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of cocaine submissions in 2018 were the 13th (up 16% from 2017), 11th (up 51%), and 21st (up 81%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 21st (81%), 11th (51%), and the 5th (44%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 25th (-39%), 24th (-30%), and 30th (-26%).

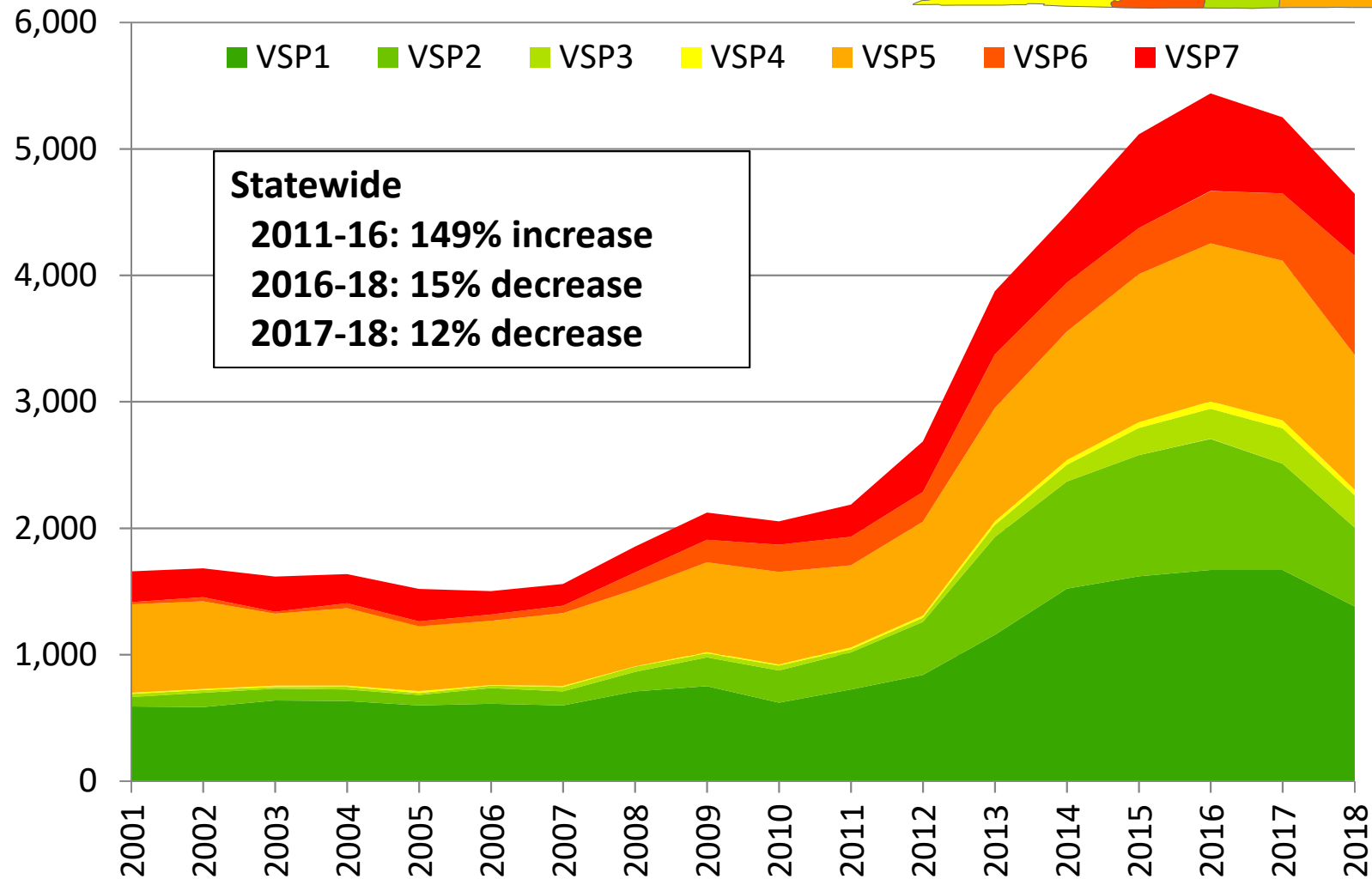
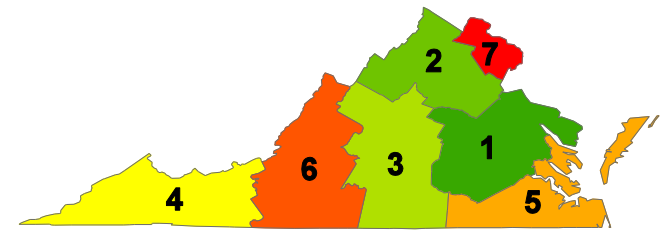


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Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Heroin Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

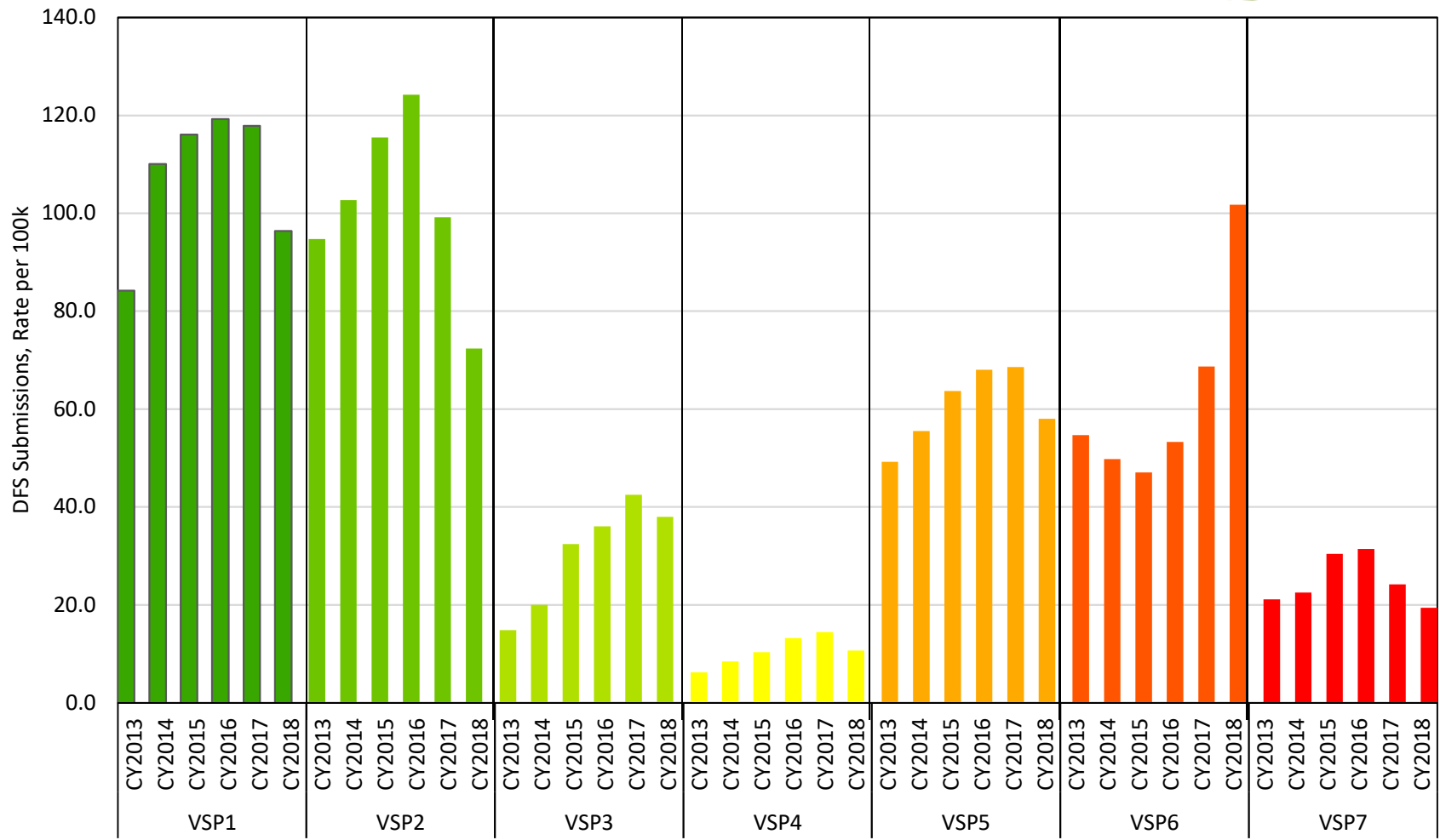
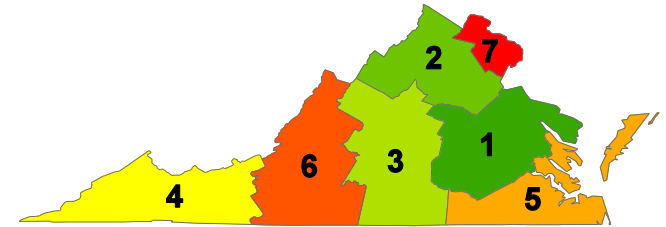




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Regional Heroin DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018

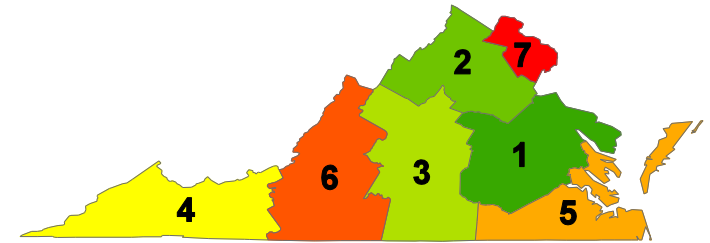


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Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Heroin Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

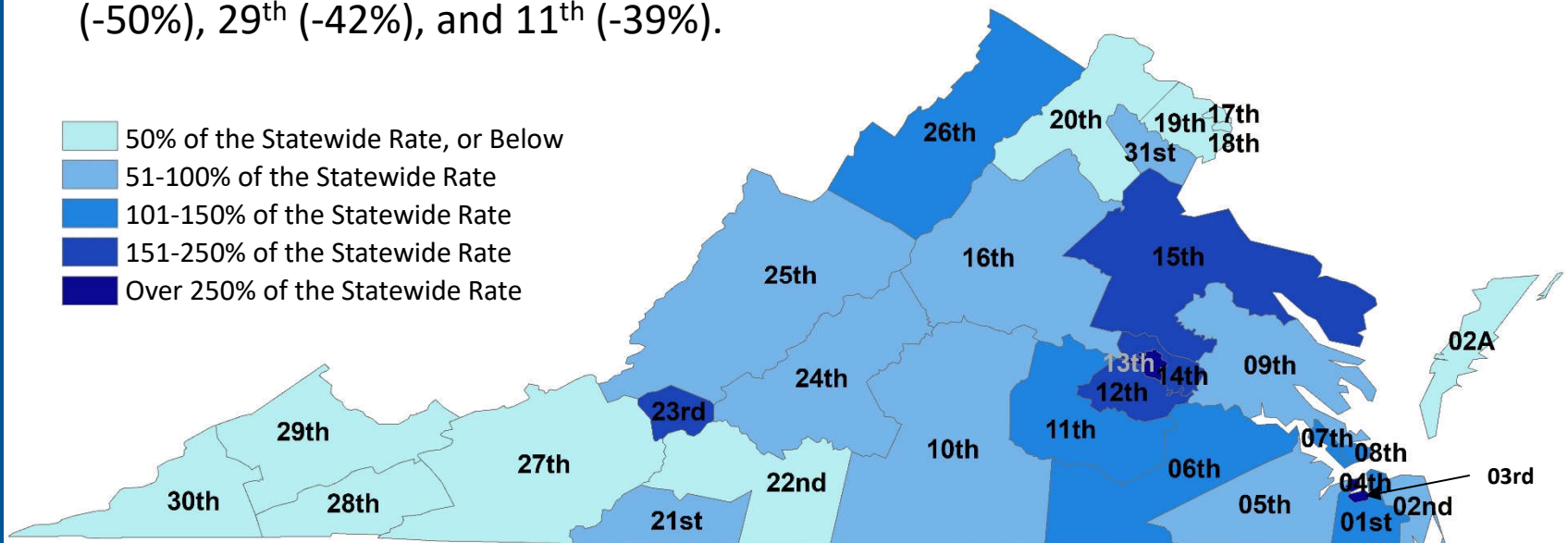


- Number of heroin case submissions:
 - Statewide, heroin cases submitted to DFS decreased 3% statewide between 2016 and 2017, and another 12% in 2018. This follows six years of consistent growth (165% between 2010 and 2016).
 - VSP Divisions 1 and 5 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of heroin cases in 2018 (30% and 23%, respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Divisions 4 and 3 in 2018 (1% and 5%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - The rate of heroin cases submitted from Division 2 decreased 27% between 2017 and 2018.
 - Between 2017 and 2018, the rate of heroin submissions dropped in every Division except Division 6, which saw a 48% increase.

Heroin Data by Court District

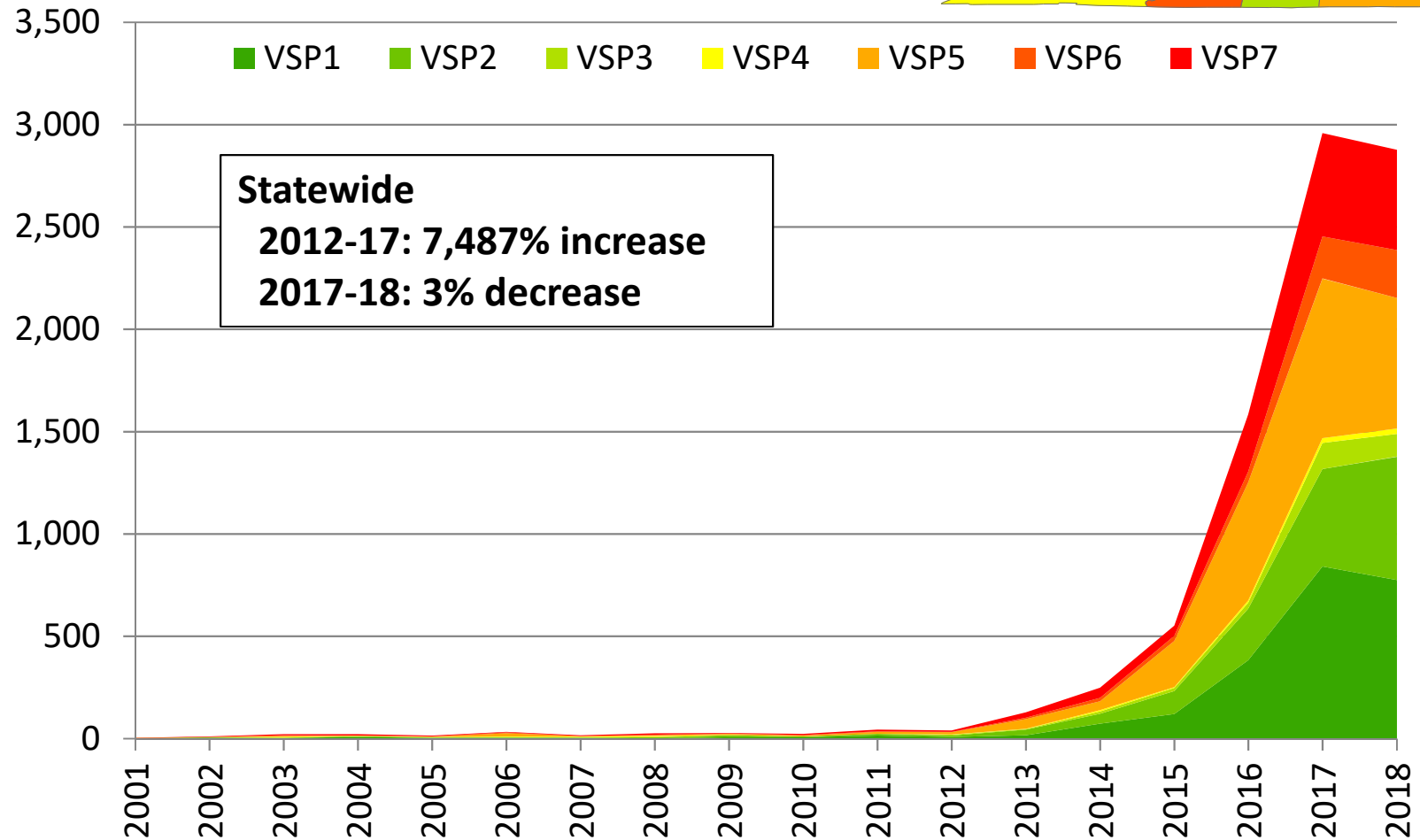
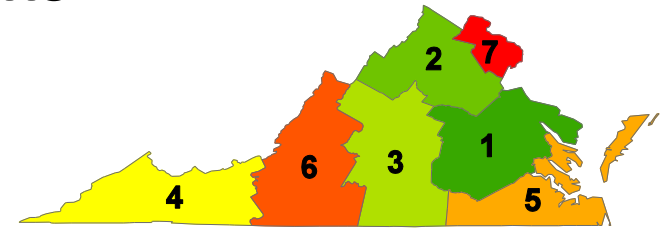
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of heroin submissions to DFS in 2018 was 54.5 per 100,000 population, down 12% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of heroin submissions in 2018 were the 23rd (up 34% from 2017), 13th (down 17%), and 21st (up 249%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 21st (249%), 22nd (106%), and the 23rd (34%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were 2A (-50%), 29th (-42%), and 11th (-39%).



Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

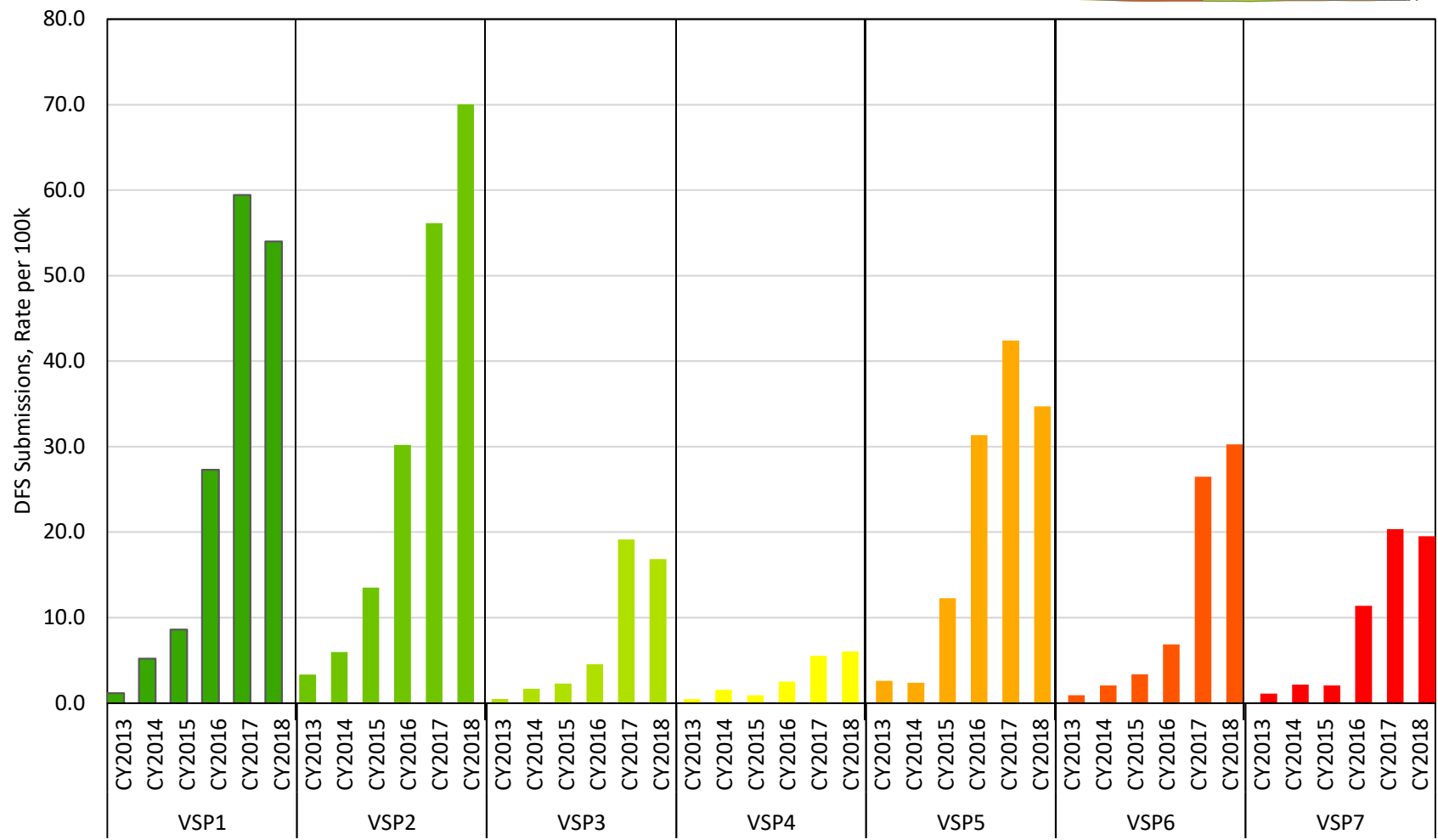
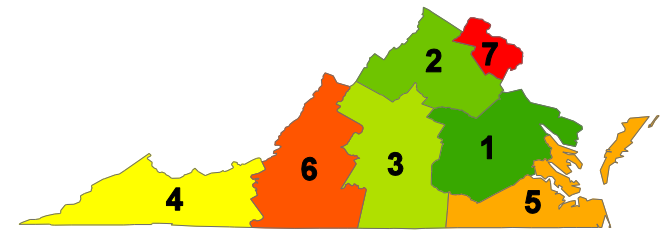


*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Regional Illicit Synthetic Opioid* DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018

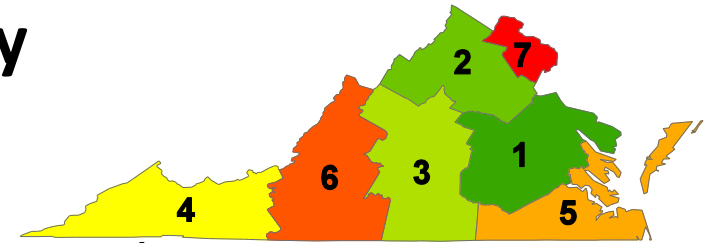


*Includes fentanyl cases in which the drug is not in the form of a transdermal patch, all fentanyl derivatives, U-47700, and other illicitly-produced synthetic opioids.

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

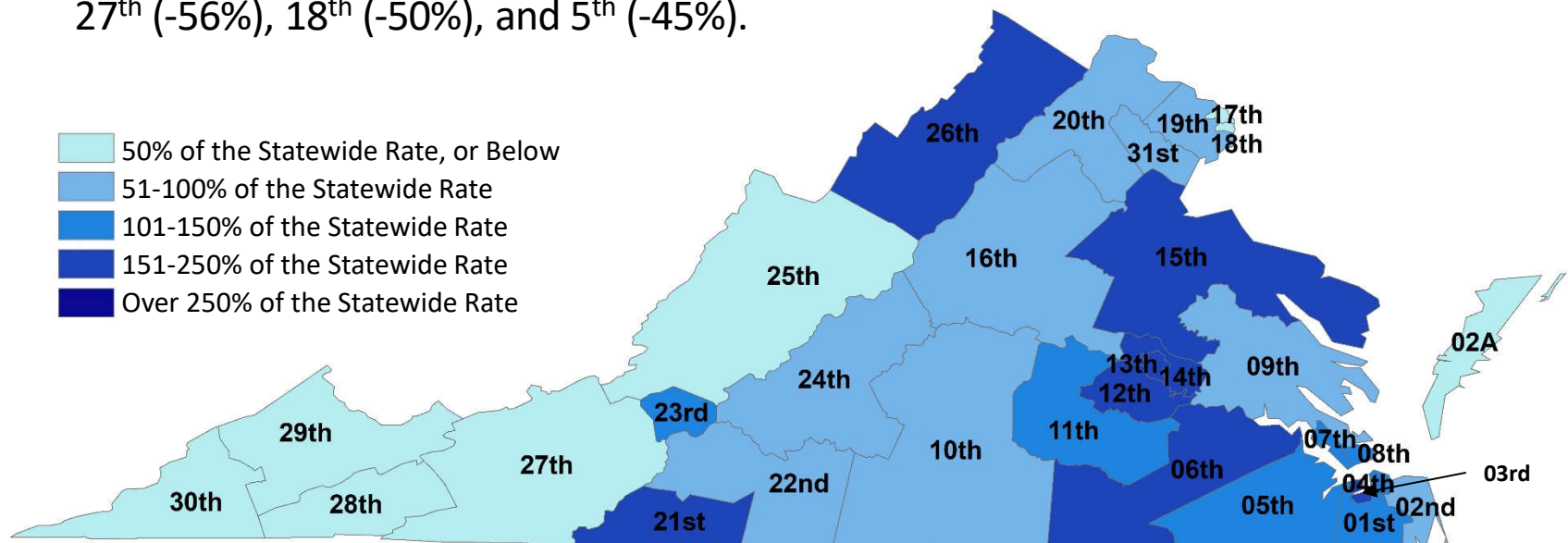


- Number of illicit synthetic opioid case submissions:
 - Illicit synthetic opioid cases submitted to DFS decreased 3% statewide between 2017 and 2018.
 - Illicit synthetic opioid cases began increasing rapidly in 2013. Between 2013 and 2017, cases increased 2,212%.
 - VSP Divisions 1, 5, and 2 submitted the majority of the statewide total number of illicit fentanyl cases in 2018 (27%, 22%, and 21% of the statewide total, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - Divisions 2 had the highest rate of illicit synthetic opioid case submissions in 2018 (up 25% from 2018).
 - Divisions 5 and 3 saw the largest drop in the rate of submissions between 2017 and 2018 (-18% and -12%, respectively).

Illicit Synthetic Opioid* Data by Court District

Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of illicit synthetic opioid submissions to DFS in 2018 was 33.8 per 100,000 population, down 3% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of illicit synthetic opioid submissions in 2018 were the 3rd (down 3% from 2017), 13th (down 14%), and 21st (up 267%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 21st (267%), 22nd (245%), and the 28th (151%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 27th (-56%), 18th (-50%), and 5th (-45%).



*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.

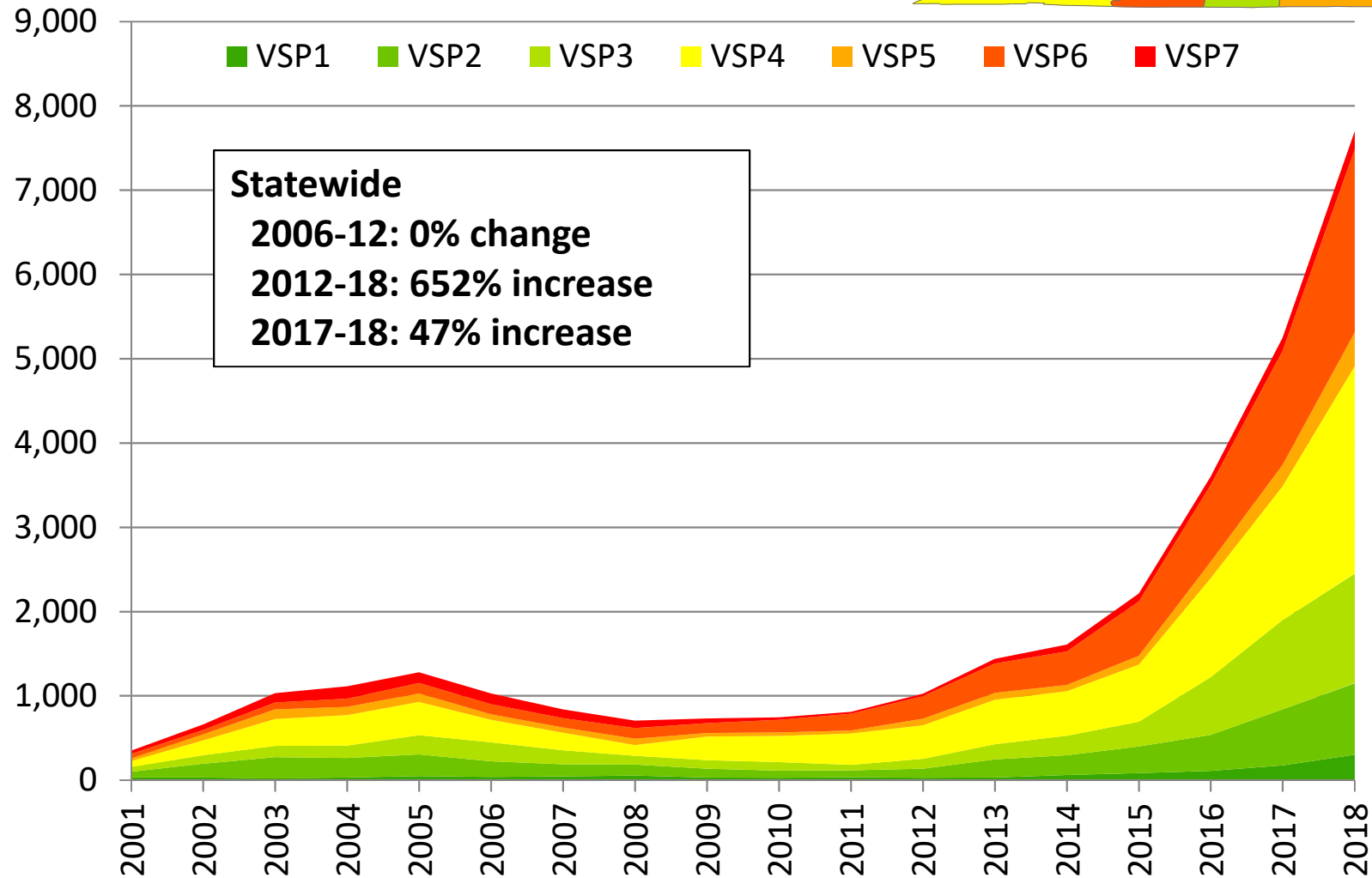
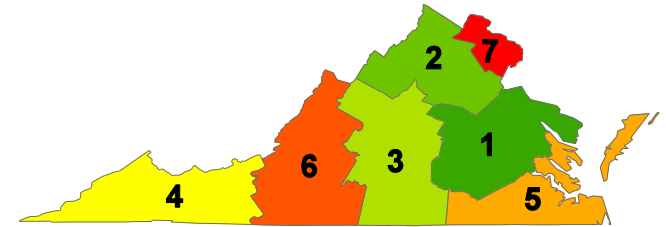
Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS



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Methamphetamine Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

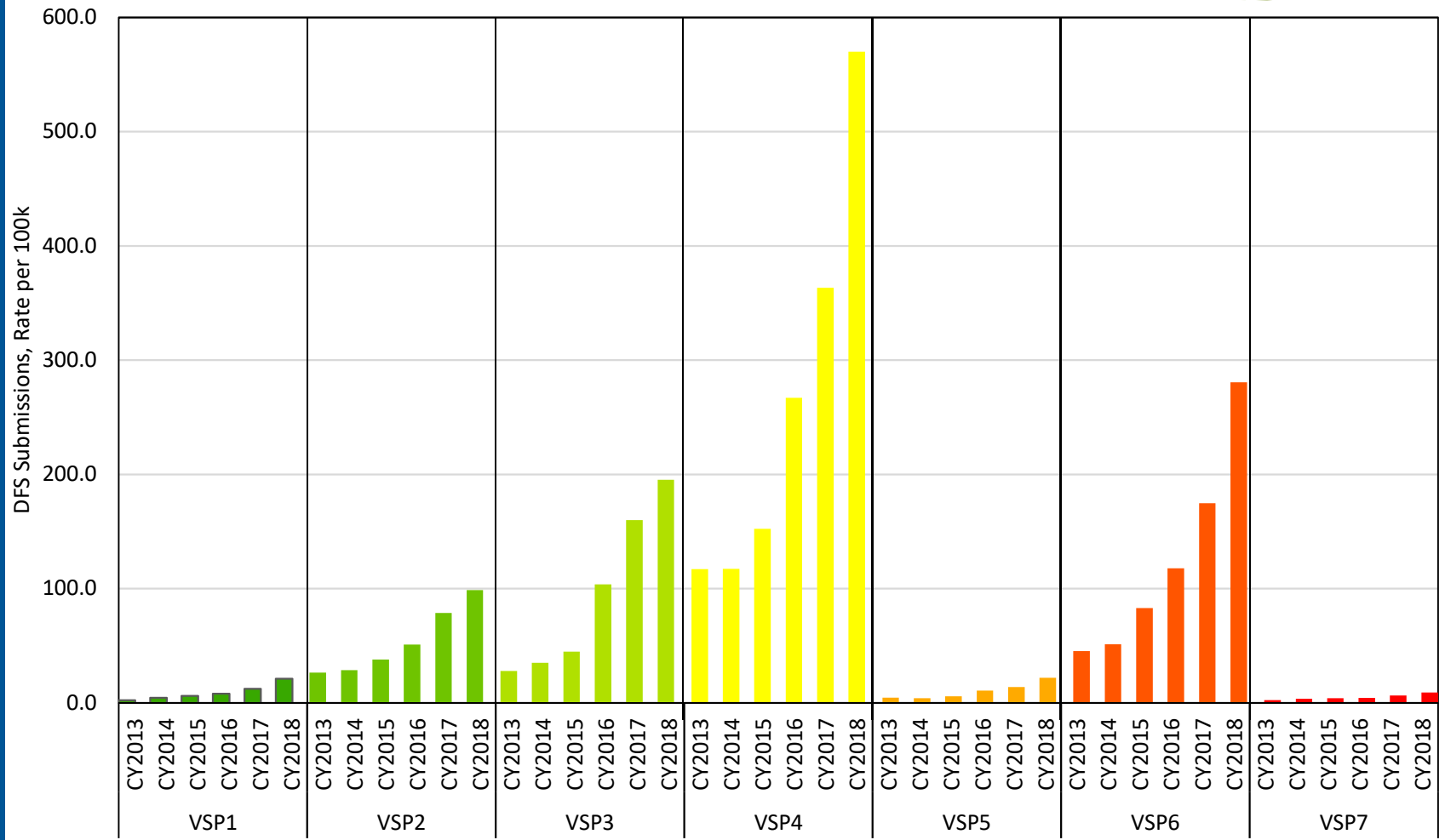
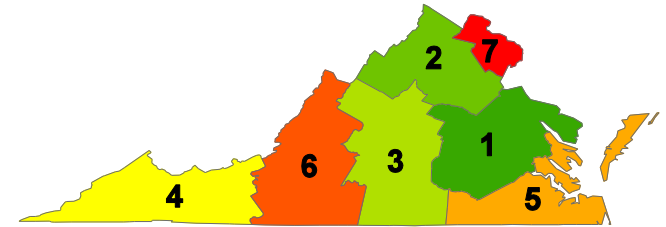


www.dfs.virginia.gov

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

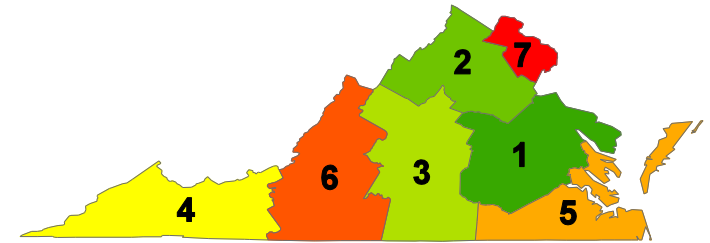
Regional Methamphetamine DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



Methamphetamine Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

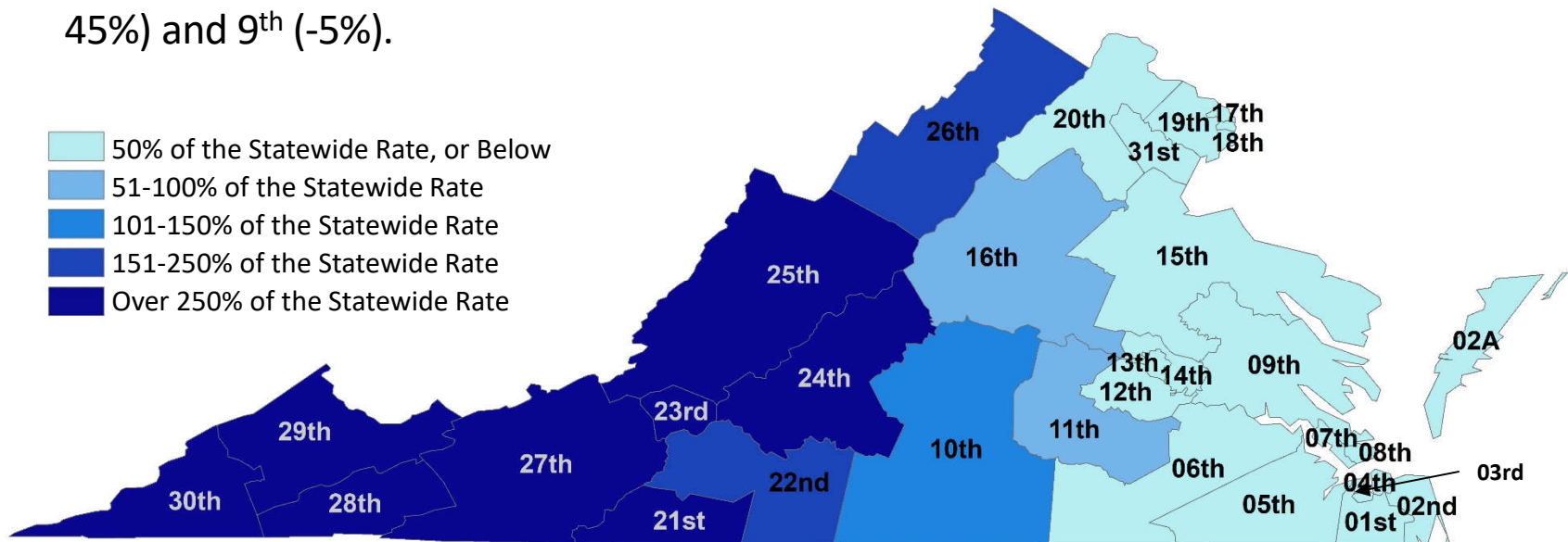


- Number of methamphetamine case submissions:
 - Statewide, methamphetamine cases submitted to DFS increased 47% between 2017 and 2018.
 - Between 2012 and 2018, methamphetamine submissions increased 652% statewide.
 - VSP Divisions 4, 6, and 3 submitted over three quarters of the statewide total number of methamphetamine cases in 2018 (32%, 28%, and 17% respectively).
 - Relatively few cases were submitted by Divisions 7, 1, and 5 in 2018 (3%, 4%, and 5%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - In 2018, 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, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of methamphetamine submissions to DFS in 2018 was 90.4 per 100,000 population, up 46% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of methamphetamine submissions in 2018 were the 28th (down 13% from 2017), 30th (up 152%), and 21st (up 111%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 3rd (905%), 7th (383%), and the 1st (230%).
- The only Court Districts with decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 18th (-45%) and 9th (-5%).

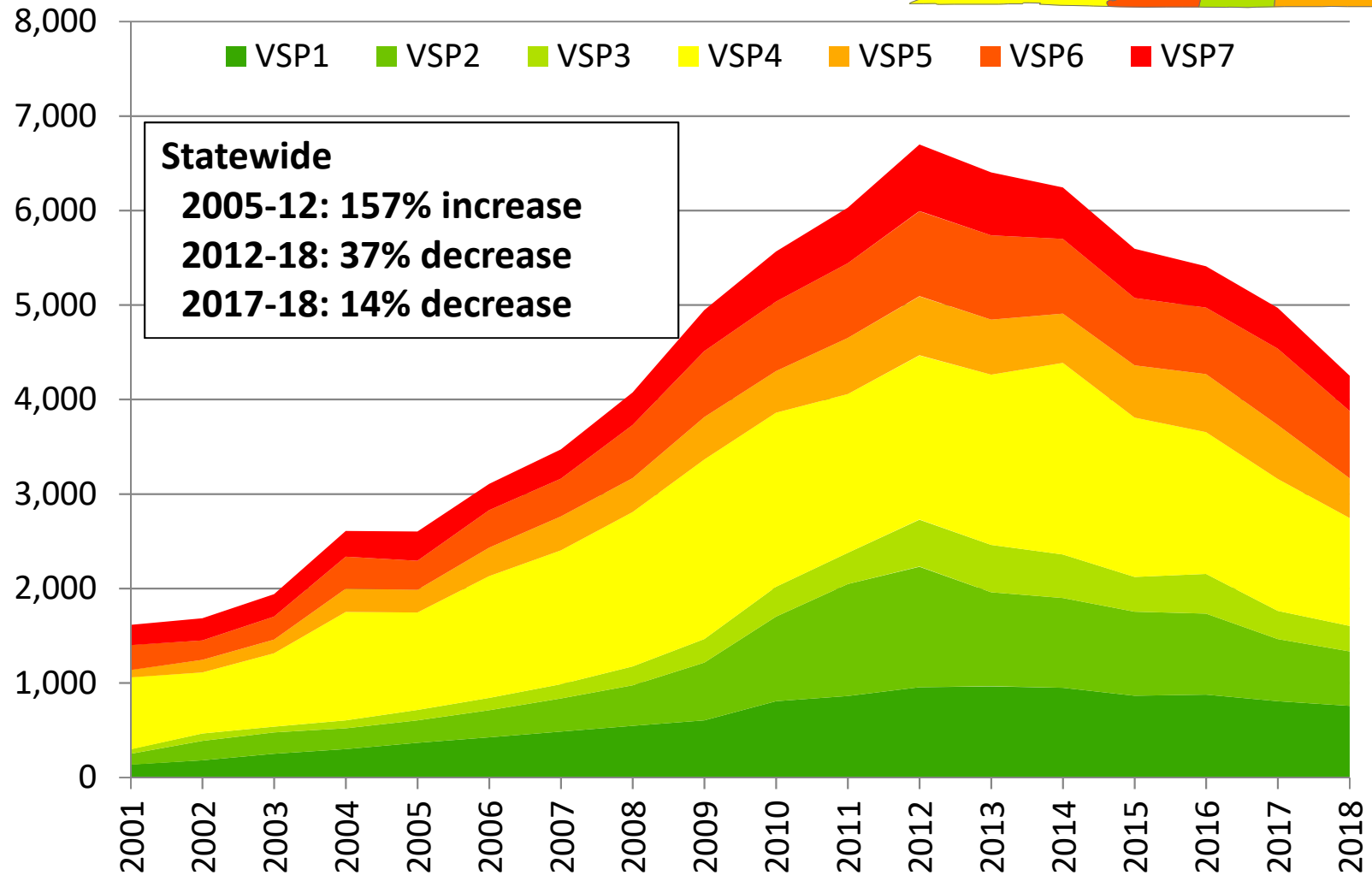
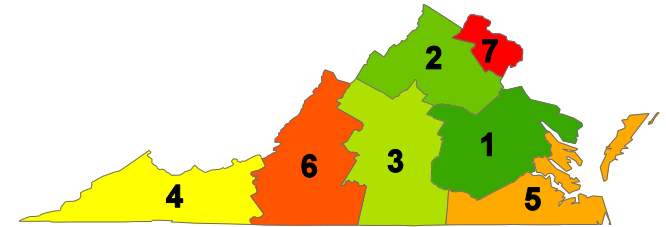




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Prescription Opioid Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018

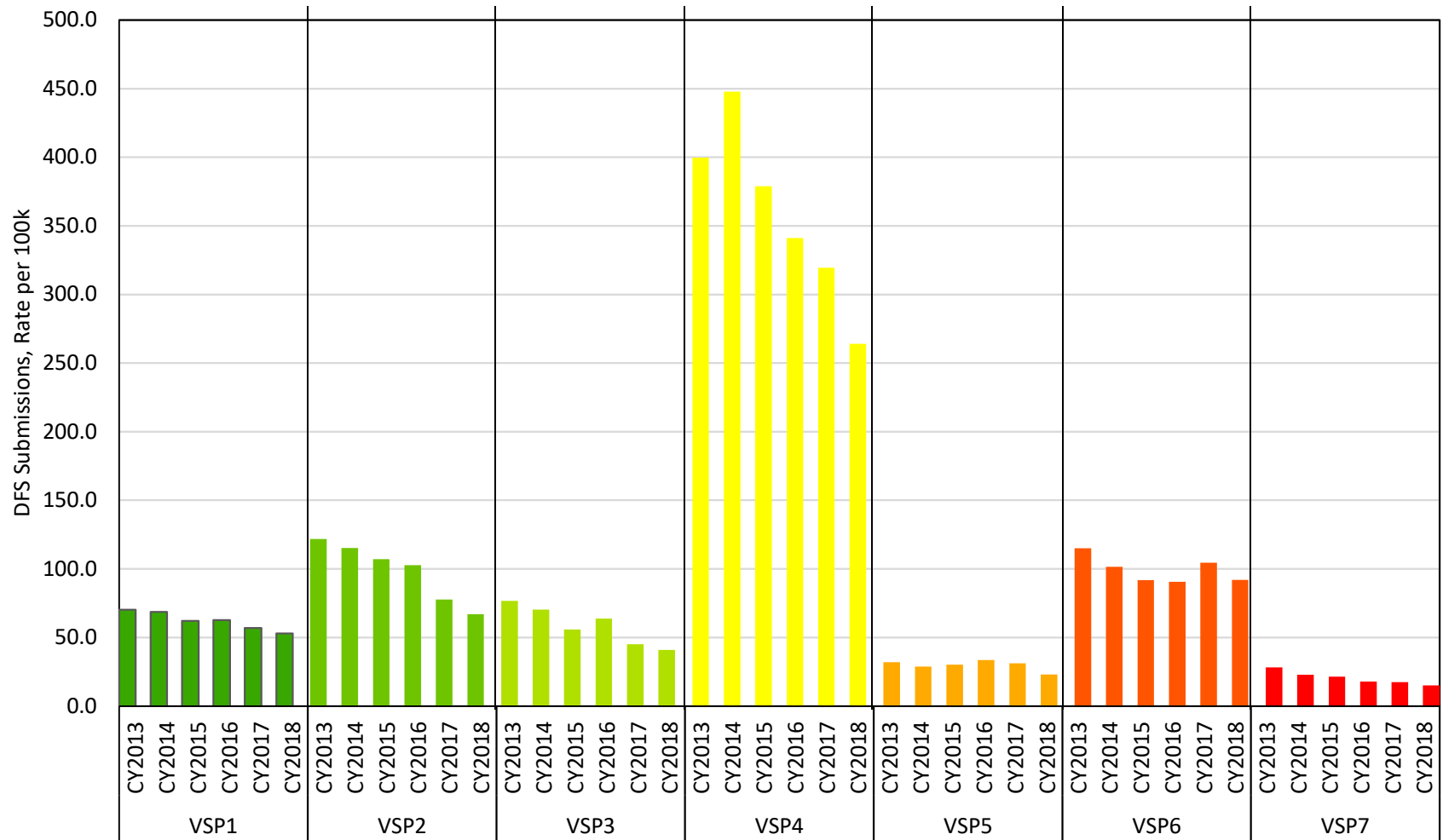
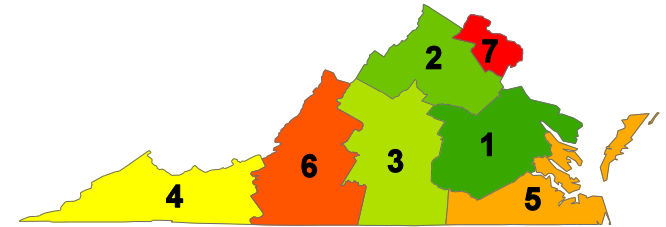


www.dfs.virginia.gov

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

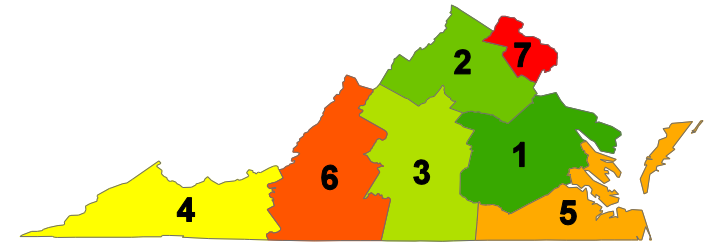
Regional Prescription Opioid DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



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 14% between 2017 and 2018.
 - After peaking in 2012, the number of prescription opioid submissions dropped each year. Between 2012 and 2018, submissions dropped 37% statewide.
 - VSP Division 4 has consistently submitted the most prescription opioid cases. In 2018, 27% of the statewide prescription opioid cases were from Division 4.
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - In 2018, the rate of prescription opioid submissions from Division 4 was almost three times higher than the rate for Division 6, the next highest, and almost 18 times higher than the rate for Division 7.

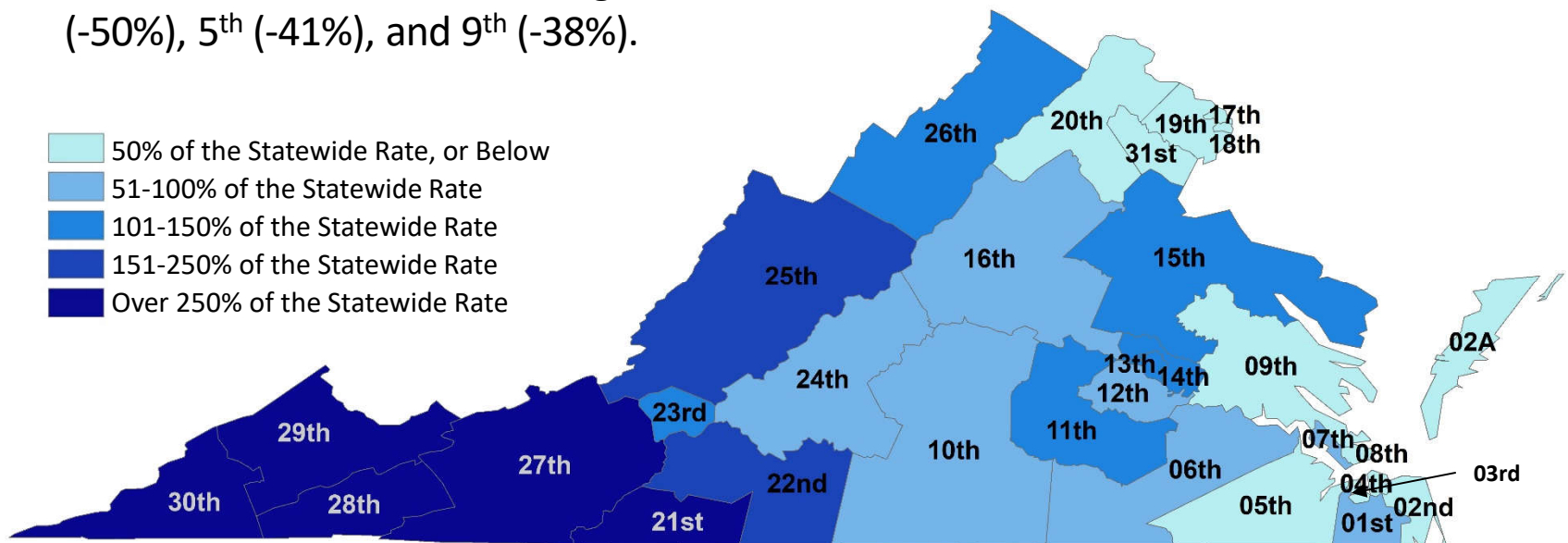


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Prescription Opioid Data by Court District

Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of prescription opioid submissions to DFS in 2017 was 49.9 per 100,000 population, down 15% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rate of prescription opioid submissions in 2018 were the 29th (down 17% from 2017), 30th (down 13%), and 28th (down 21%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 11th (51%), 23rd (9%), and the 20th (7%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 8th (-50%), 5th (-41%), and 9th (-38%).

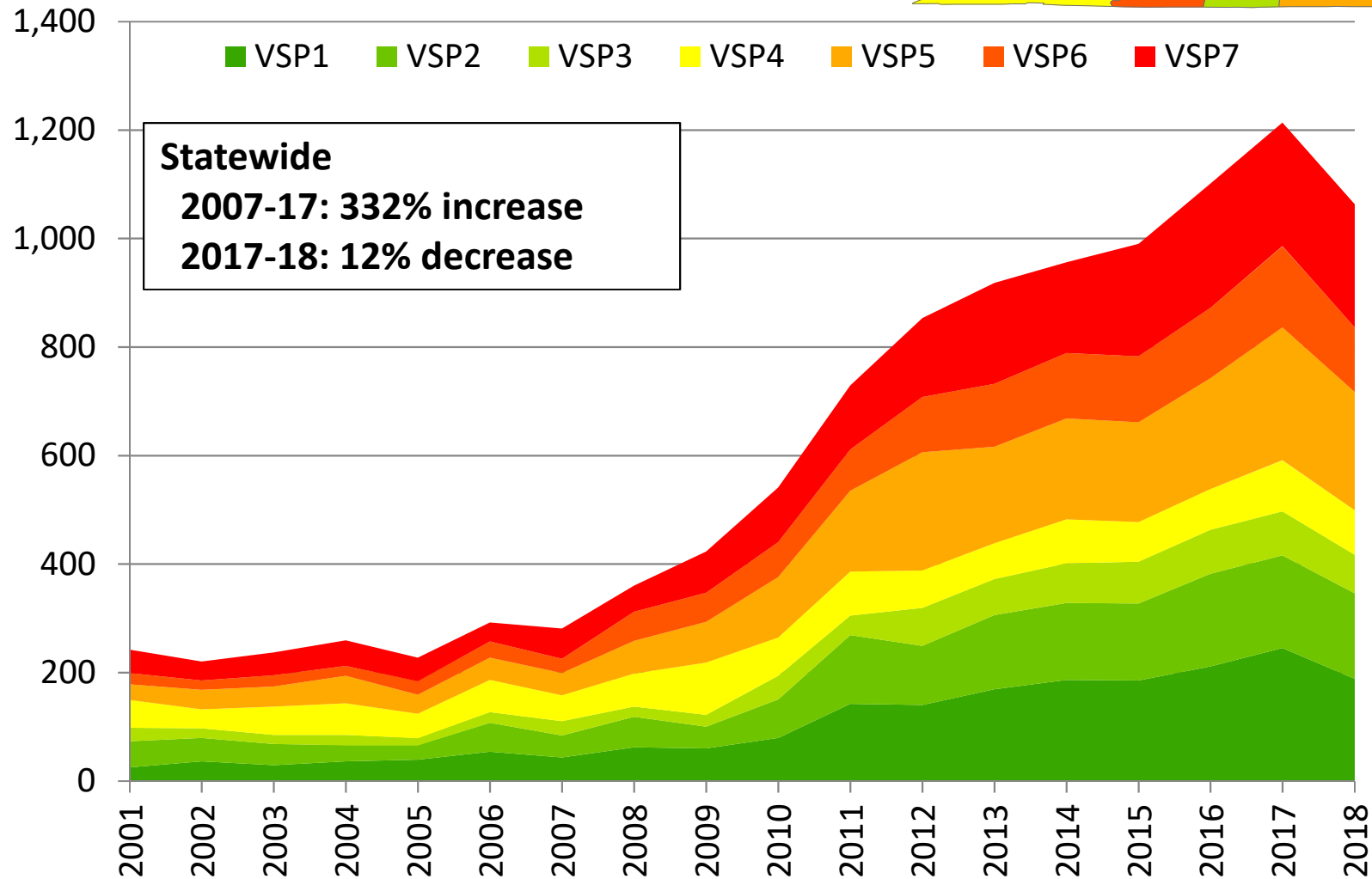
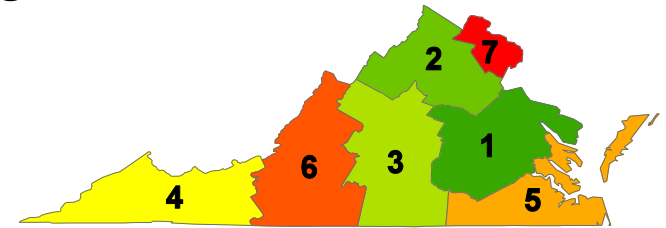


www.dfs.virginia.gov

Data Source: DFS monthly submission to NFLIS

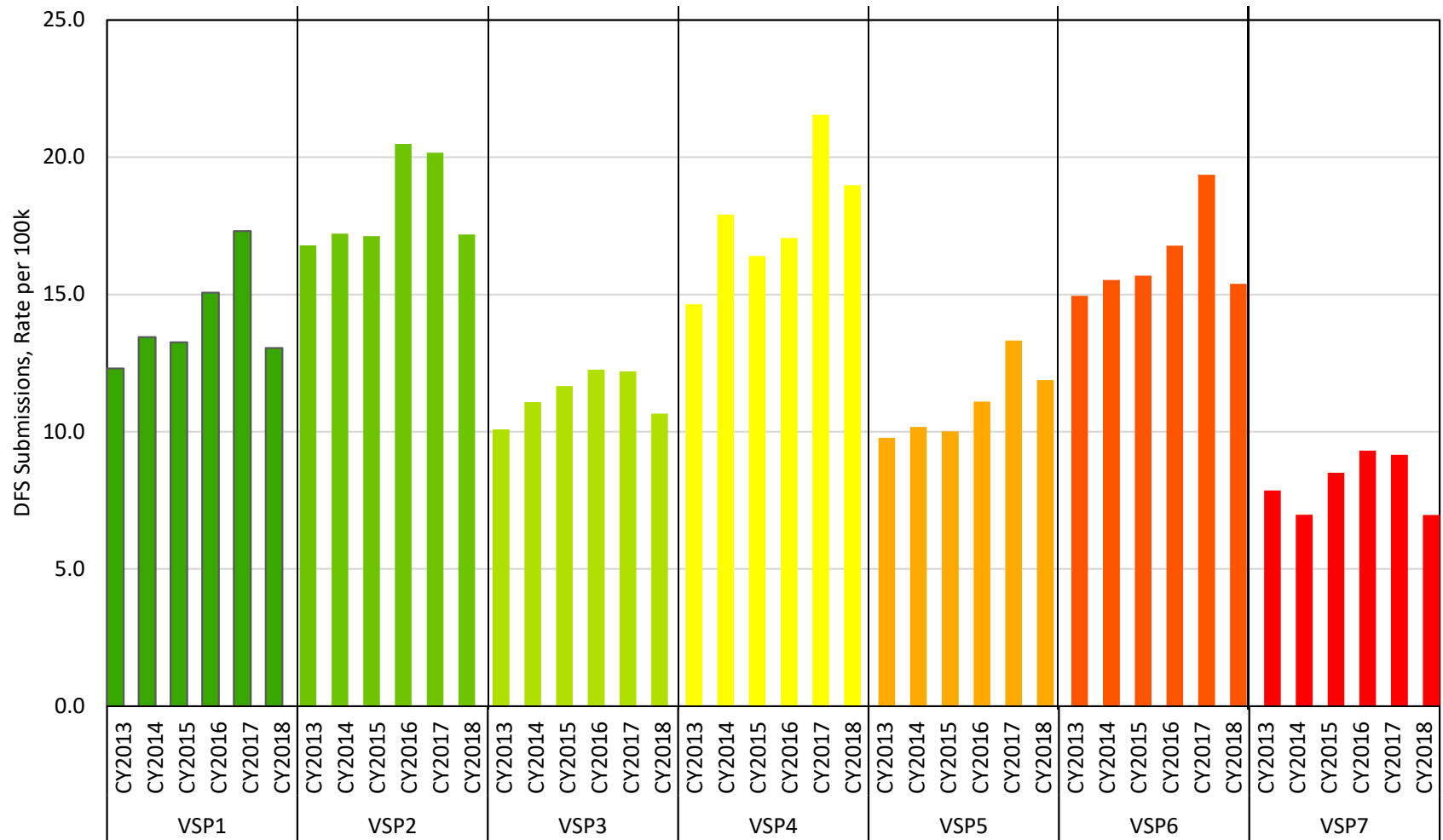
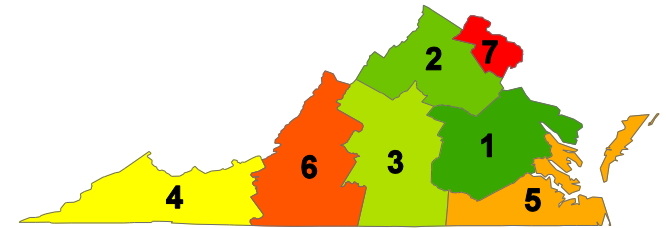
Prescription Stimulant Submissions

Cases submitted to DFS, calendar years 2001-2018



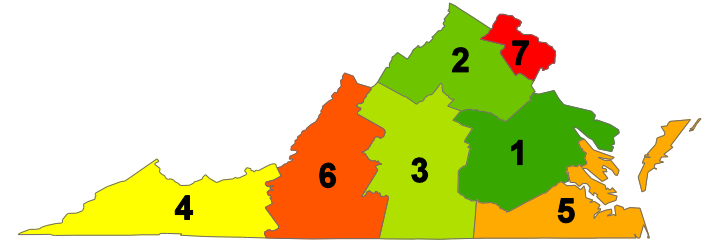
Regional Prescription Stimulant DFS Submissions

Rate Per 100,000 Population, CY2013-2018



Prescription Stimulant Summary

Statewide and by VSP Division

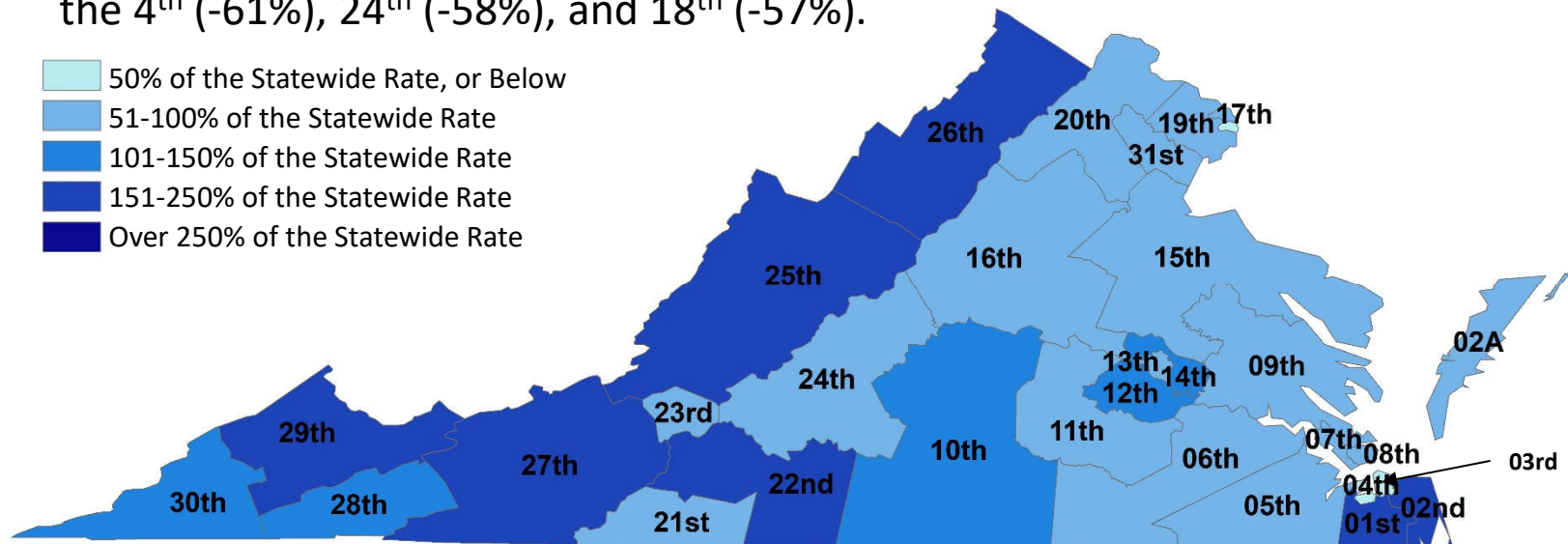
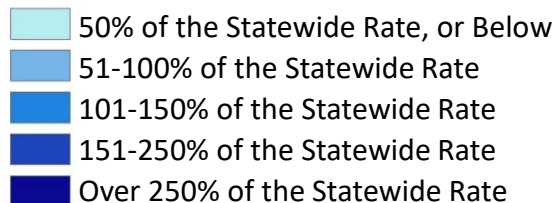


- Number of prescription stimulant case submissions:
 - Statewide, the number of prescription stimulant cases submitted to DFS decreased 12% between 2017 and 2018.
 - The number of prescription stimulant cases had been increasing consistently for over a decade. Between 2007 and 2017, statewide submissions increased 332%.
 - VSP Divisions 5, 7, and 1 submitted three-fifths of the statewide total in 2018 (21%, 21%, and 18%, respectively).
- Rate of submissions, per 100,000 population
 - The rate of prescription stimulant cases submitted to DFS in 2018 was highest in VSP Divisions 4 (down 12% from 2017), 2 (down 9%), and 6 (down 21%).
 - Between 2017 and 2018, the rate of prescription stimulant case submissions dropped in each VSP Division, with the largest drops in Divisions 1 and 6 (24% and 21%, respectively).

Prescription Stimulant Data by Court District

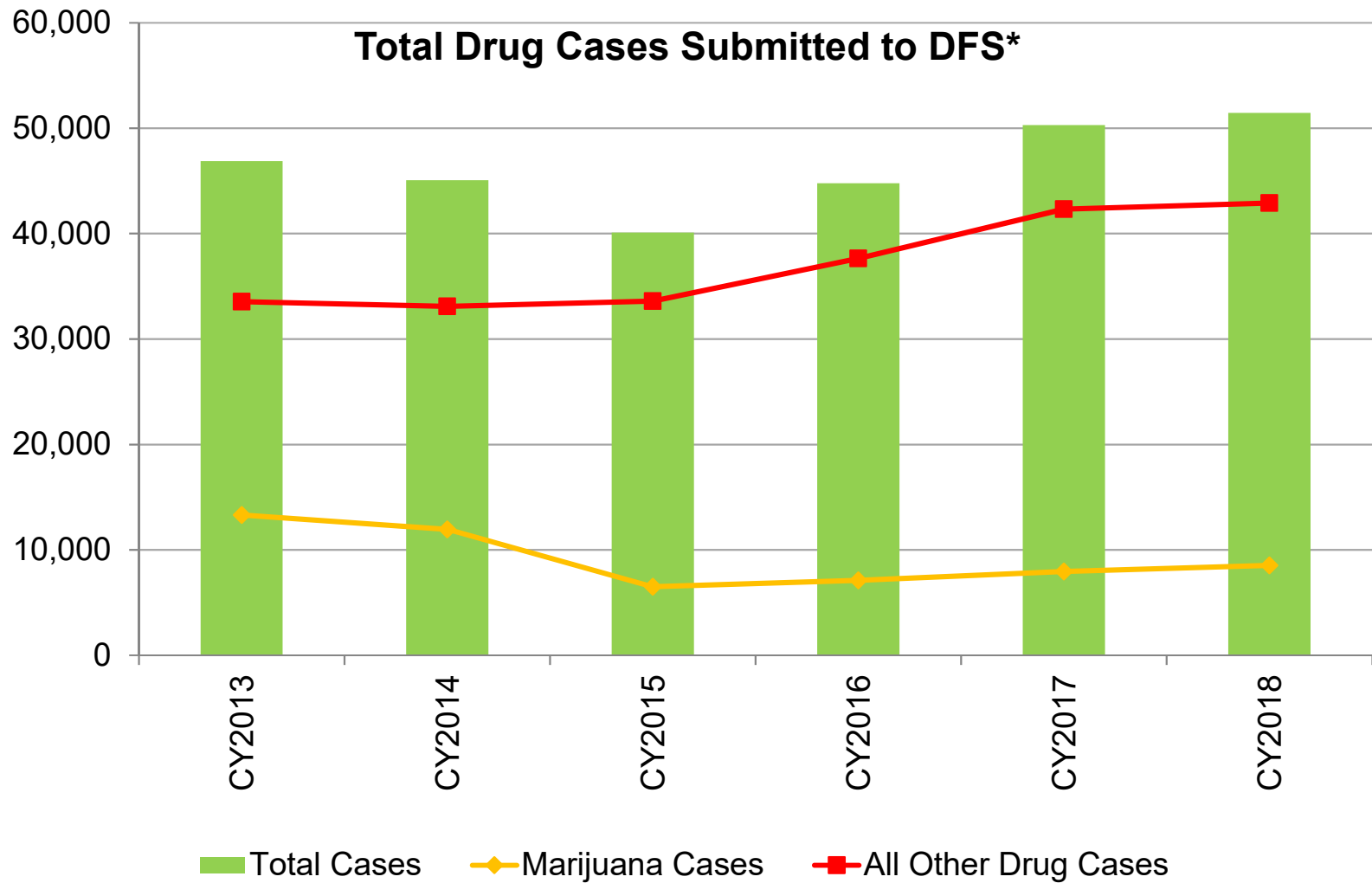
Rate of submissions per 100,000 population, CY2018

- Statewide, the rate of prescription stimulant submissions to DFS in 2018 was 12.5 per 100,000 population, down 13% from 2017.
- The Court Districts with the highest rates of prescription stimulant submissions in 2018 were the 29th (up 25% from 2016), 26th (down 8%), 30th (up 37%), and 22nd (up 405%).
- The Court Districts with the largest increases between 2017 and 2018 were the 22nd (405%), 6th (118%), and the 16th (44%).
- The Court Districts with the largest decreases between 2017 and 2018 were the 4th (-61%), 24th (-58%), and 18th (-57%).



Combined Drug Cases*

CY2013-2018



*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



www.dcss.virginia.gov

Combined Drug Cases*

CY2013-2018

- 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 2013, marijuana cases represented the largest percentage (28%) of cases submitted to DFS, when compared with other drug types. In 2018, marijuana cases made up only 17% 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 2018, the total number of drug cases submitted to DFS increased 25%.

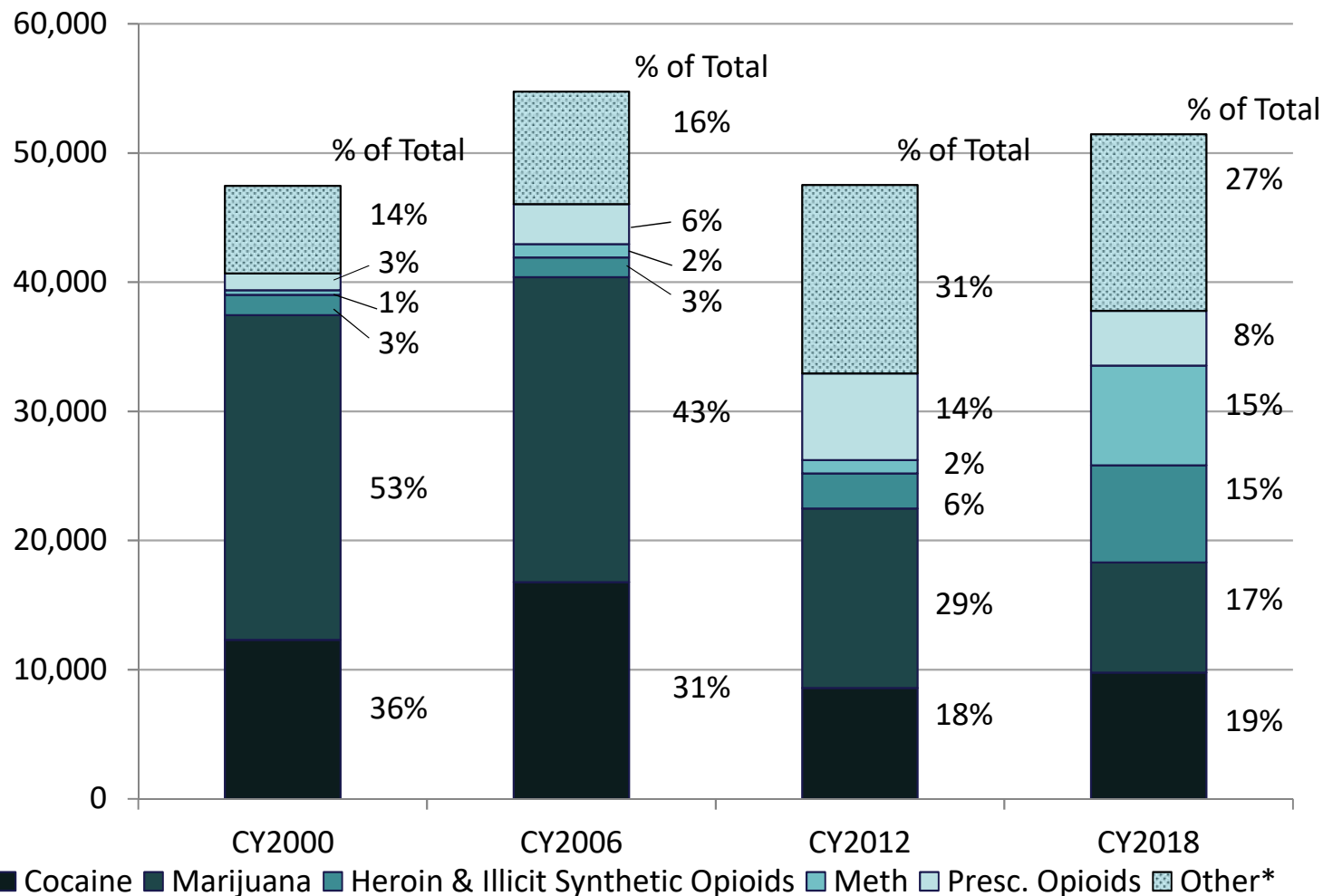


www.dfs.virginia.gov

*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 Cases

Selected Drug Types



In CY2000, cocaine and marijuana made up 79% of DFS cases. In 2018, they were only 36% of the total. During this same period of time, heroin, prescription opioids, and illicit synthetic opioids grew from 6% to 23% of the total, and methamphetamine grew from 1% to 15%.

*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 in the 2017 report, and this 2018 report, 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.