

**MONTGOMERY COUNTY
SHERIFF'S OFFICE
THE WOODLANDS TOWNSHIP
SPECIAL REPORT**

SHERIFF RAND HENDERSON

BY: CAPTAIN TIM HOLIFIELD



MONTGOMERY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Directors have requested Montgomery County Sheriff's Office provide a presentation regarding:

- Suicides and Attempted Suicides in The Woodlands Township
- Fentanyl Related Deaths in The Woodlands Township

We all recognize that the loss of life because of suicides and drug overdose are growing nationwide for a multitude of factors. Mental health issues and drug addictions are a community issue that impacts everyone in a community either directly or indirectly.

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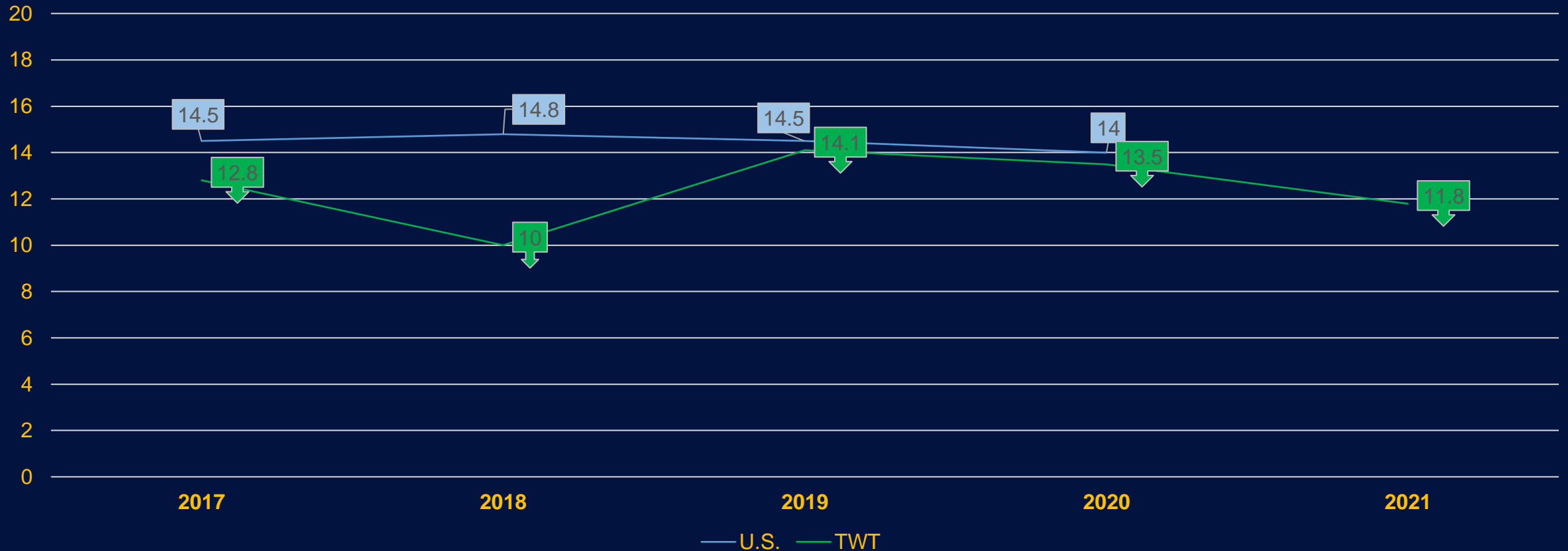
According to the CDC, the Suicide Mortality rate in 2017 was 14.5 per 100,000 population for the United States, which has decreased in 2020 to 14.0. The CDC has not posted 2021 deaths.

According to the CDC, Suicide Mortality in Texas has also seen an increase, but is still below the national average. In 2017, the Suicide Mortality rate was 13.4 and decreased to 13.3 for 2020.

While the Woodlands Township Suicide Mortality in Montgomery County was 12.8 in 2017, and for 2021, we reported a 11.8 Suicide Mortality rate per 100,000 population.

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Suicide Mortality Rate by Population/Year



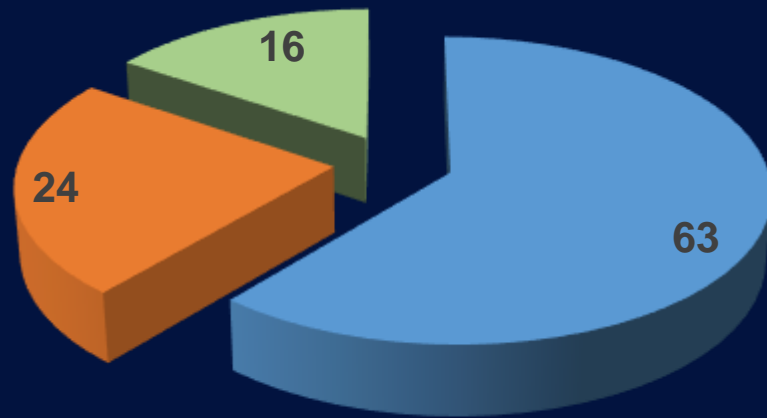
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The suicide data contained in this report represents the number of deaths that were determined suicide by the Montgomery County Forensic Center. These deaths occurred in the unincorporated areas of Montgomery County where the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office was either the primary agency or assisted another county agency, as well as, those that occurred within the municipal limits, but still in Montgomery County.

Agency	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
The Woodlands Township Division (MCSO)	14	11	16	16	14
Montgomery County Sheriff's Office (includes TWT)	67	65	68	79	76
Other Municipalities in Montgomery County	0	0	31	24	25
Total Montgomery County Deaths	67	65	99	103	101

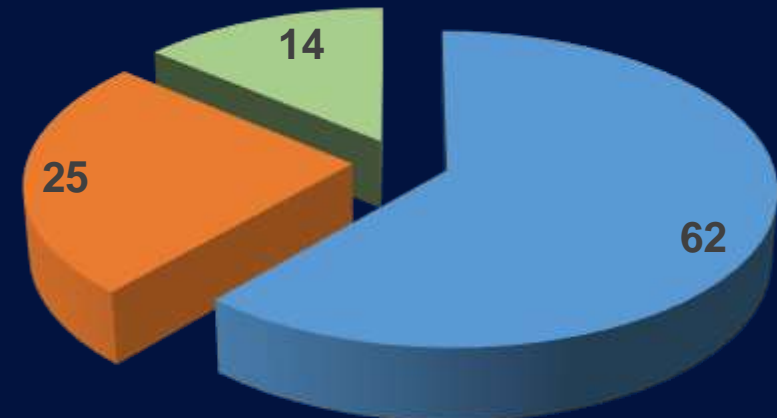
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2020 Suicides



■ County ■ Cities ■ Township

2021 Suicides



■ County ■ Cities ■ Township

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The COVID-19 pandemic has had a severe mental health consequence with increased depression, anxiety, isolation and exhaustion.

While we have seen a slight decrease in the number of suicides, we must encourage people to remain watchful for warning signs of those who are entering or in a mental health crisis. Sheriff Henderson has worked hard with other partners, including The Woodlands Township, to get advanced training for deputies to recognize warning signs of a mental health crisis. If you see something, say something.

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After an audit and verification, the following report represents statistical data with verified outcomes representing incidents and calls responded to and investigations by the Montgomery County Sheriff's Office. The following terminology and definitions are used for the purpose of this presentation:

- Welfare Check –** *An incident where an individual has expressed a desire to harm oneself, but has not acted on those feelings.*
- Attempted Suicide –** *An incident where an individual has done something in furtherance to prematurely end their life.*
- Suicide –** *A death scene where the investigation and autopsy determined that the manner and cause of death was intentionally self inflicted.*

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Need help? Know someone who does?

Contact the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline if you are experiencing mental health-related distress or are worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.

- Call or text 988
- Chat at 988lifeline.org 

Connect with a trained crisis counselor. 988 is confidential, free, and available 24/7/365.

Visit the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline for more information at 988lifeline.org



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With the recent nationwide spike in Fentanyl-related accidental deaths, directors requested a presentation of information on Fentanyl deaths. Sheriff Henderson has directed our team to work diligently to address this growing drug-related death trend. Our team thoroughly investigates all death scenes. Where illegal drugs are a contributing factor in the accidental death of a person, our detectives work backwards from the death scene using a variety of investigative techniques to locate the dealer or supplier of the illegal substance. Once identified and with probable cause, a case is presented to the District Attorney for an arrest warrant. In a recent case, detectives were able to identify the suspected dealer and an arrest was made.

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I have obtained information from the Montgomery County Forensic Center regarding death cases in Montgomery County and the following are those findings.

These statistics are for Fentanyl and other drug-related deaths. Fentanyl death emerged in Montgomery County in February 2019 with the first reported overdose death with Fentanyl being combined with other drugs to cause a death. In many cases the decedent has several illegal drugs and prescription narcotics in their system, along with Fentanyl.

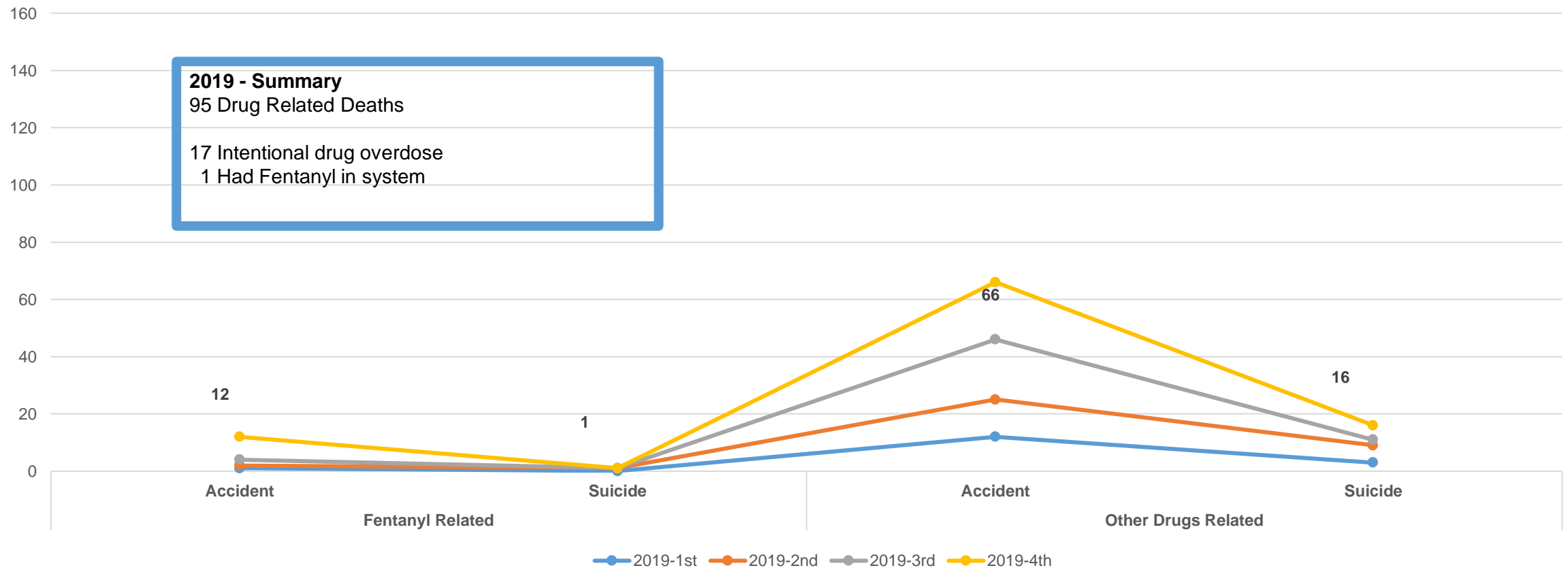
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Protecting Deputies and First Responders is a focus of Sheriff Henderson. He directed personnel to seek grant opportunities to secure and provide each deputy with a life saving dose of Narcan.

Deputies have even purchased their own life-saving dose of Narcan to save the lives of individual who have overdosed on drugs. In many cases we see a large number of Fentanyl laced "look-alike" pills coming across our southern border. We are grateful for the efforts of the Texas Department of Public Safety and Border Patrol Agents helping to stop the flow of illegal narcotics into our country and communities. Their efforts are helping to keep these deadly drugs out of the hands of those who are struggling with addiction.

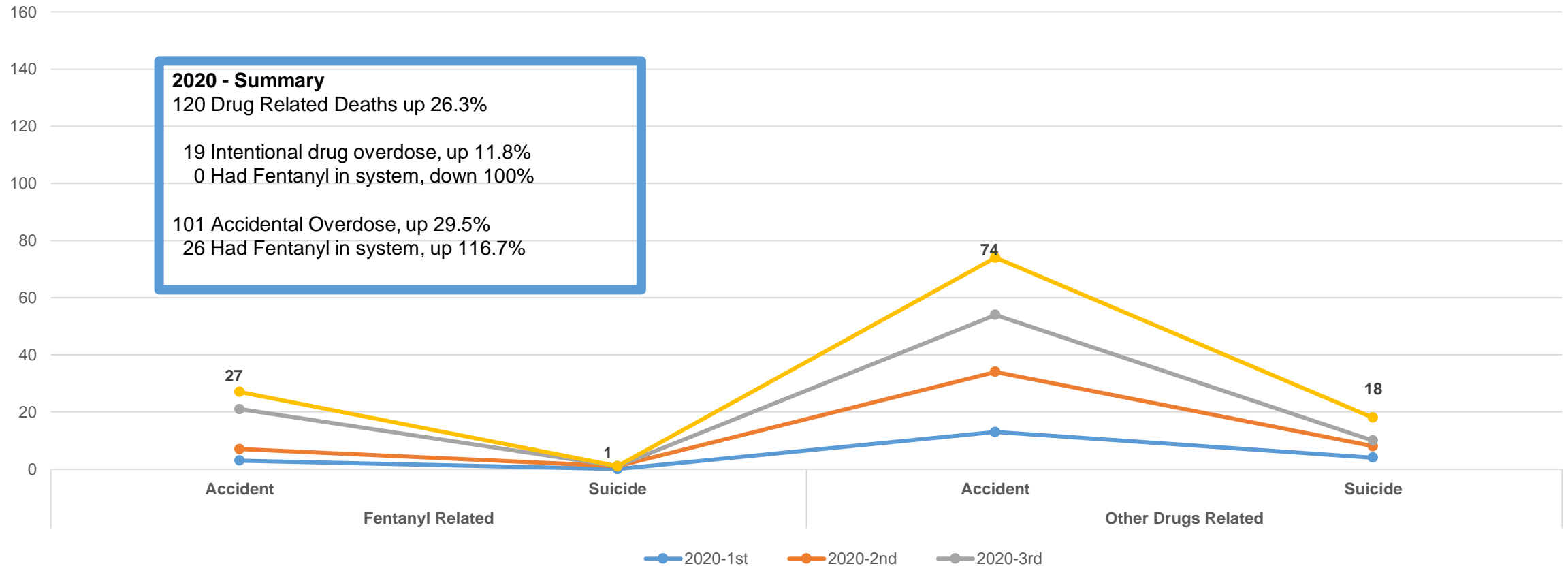
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2019 Drug Related Deaths



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2020 Drug Related Deaths



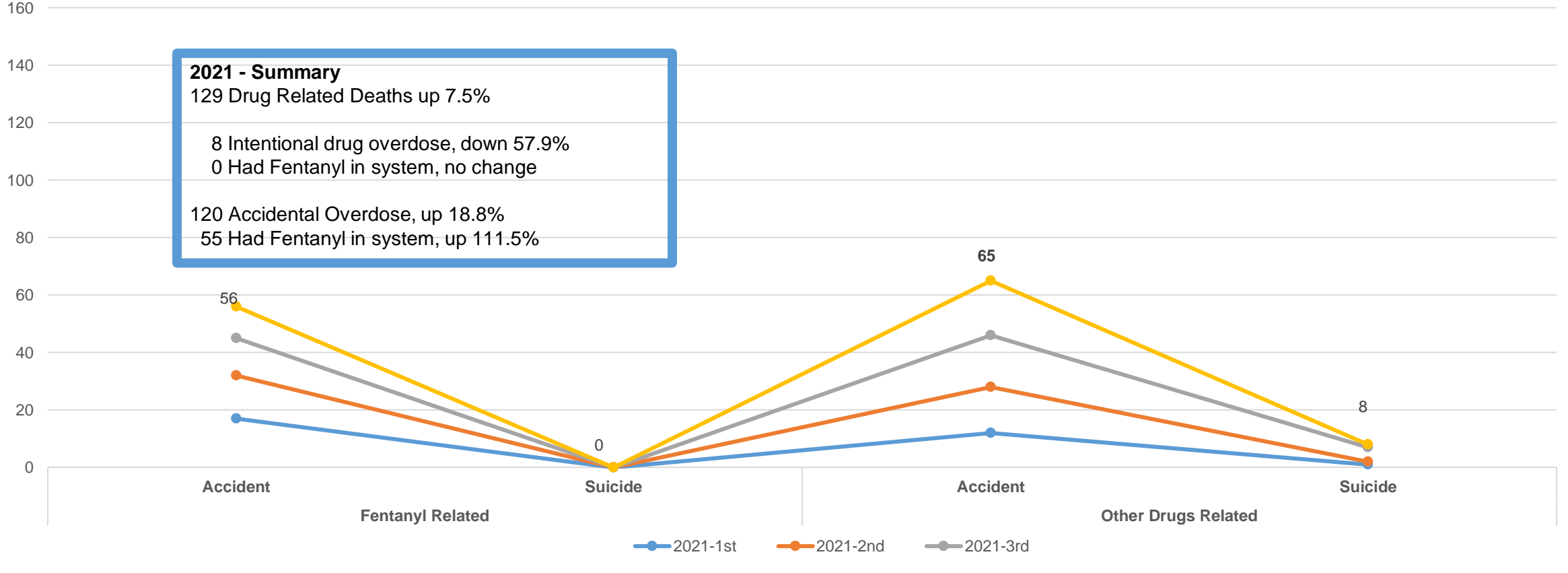
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2021 Drug Related Deaths

2021 - Summary
 129 Drug Related Deaths up 7.5%

8 Intentional drug overdose, down 57.9%
 0 Had Fentanyl in system, no change

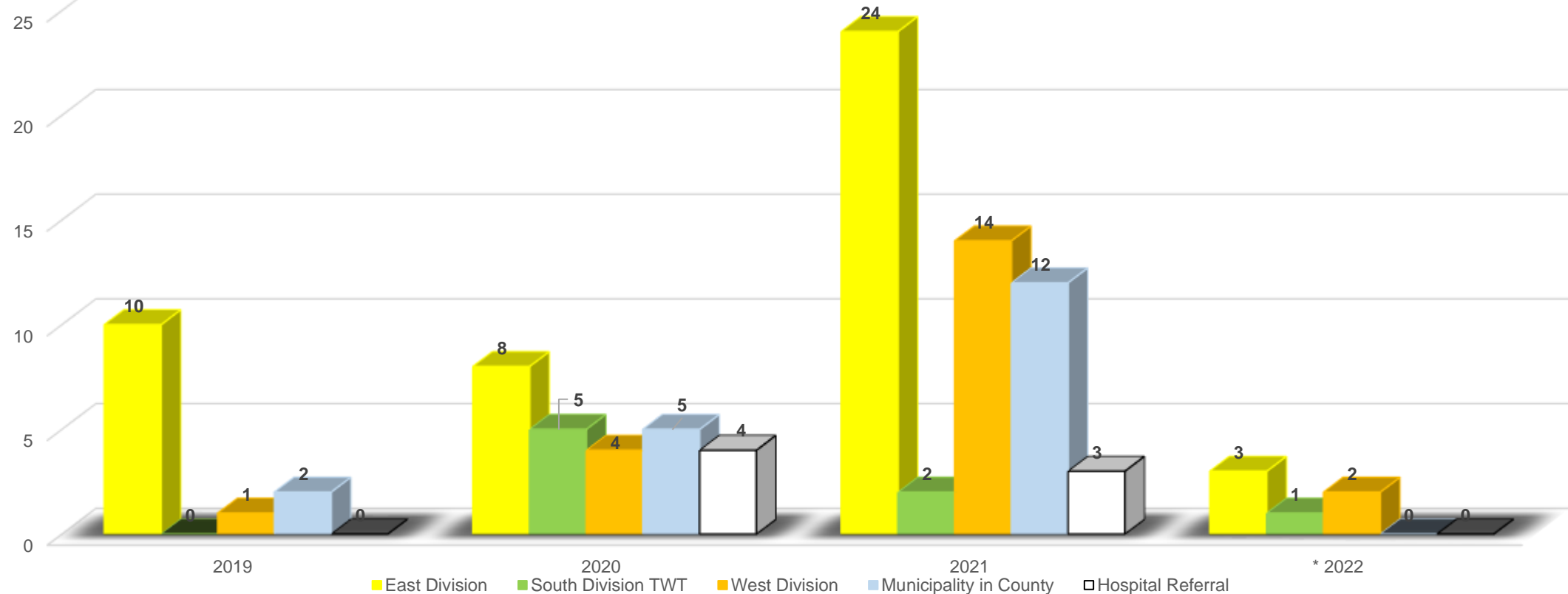
120 Accidental Overdose, up 18.8%
 55 Had Fentanyl in system, up 111.5%



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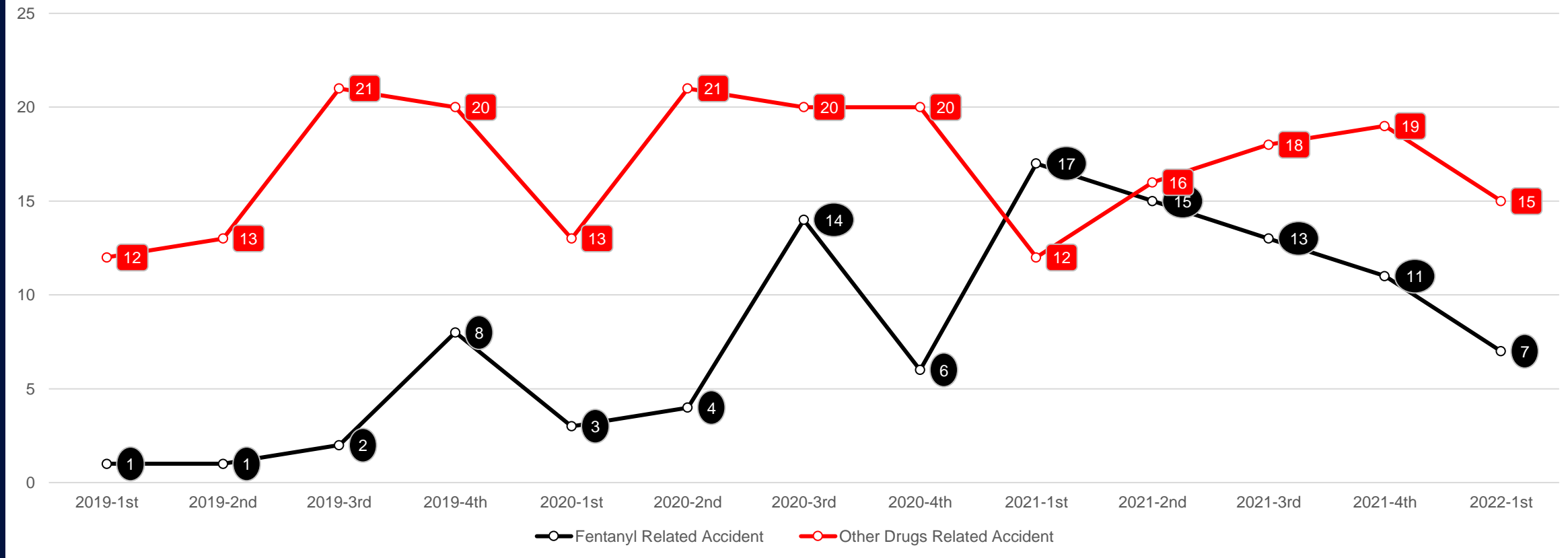
Reported Fentanyl Deaths by Area

* = Partial Data from 2022 1st quarter.



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Montgomery Accidental Drug Deaths



THANK YOU!



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