



Westchester County Department of Health



2025.04

Community Health Data Report

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Timely Report of Substance Use Disorder Captured by Community Health Electronic Surveillance System (CHESS) Westchester County, 2024

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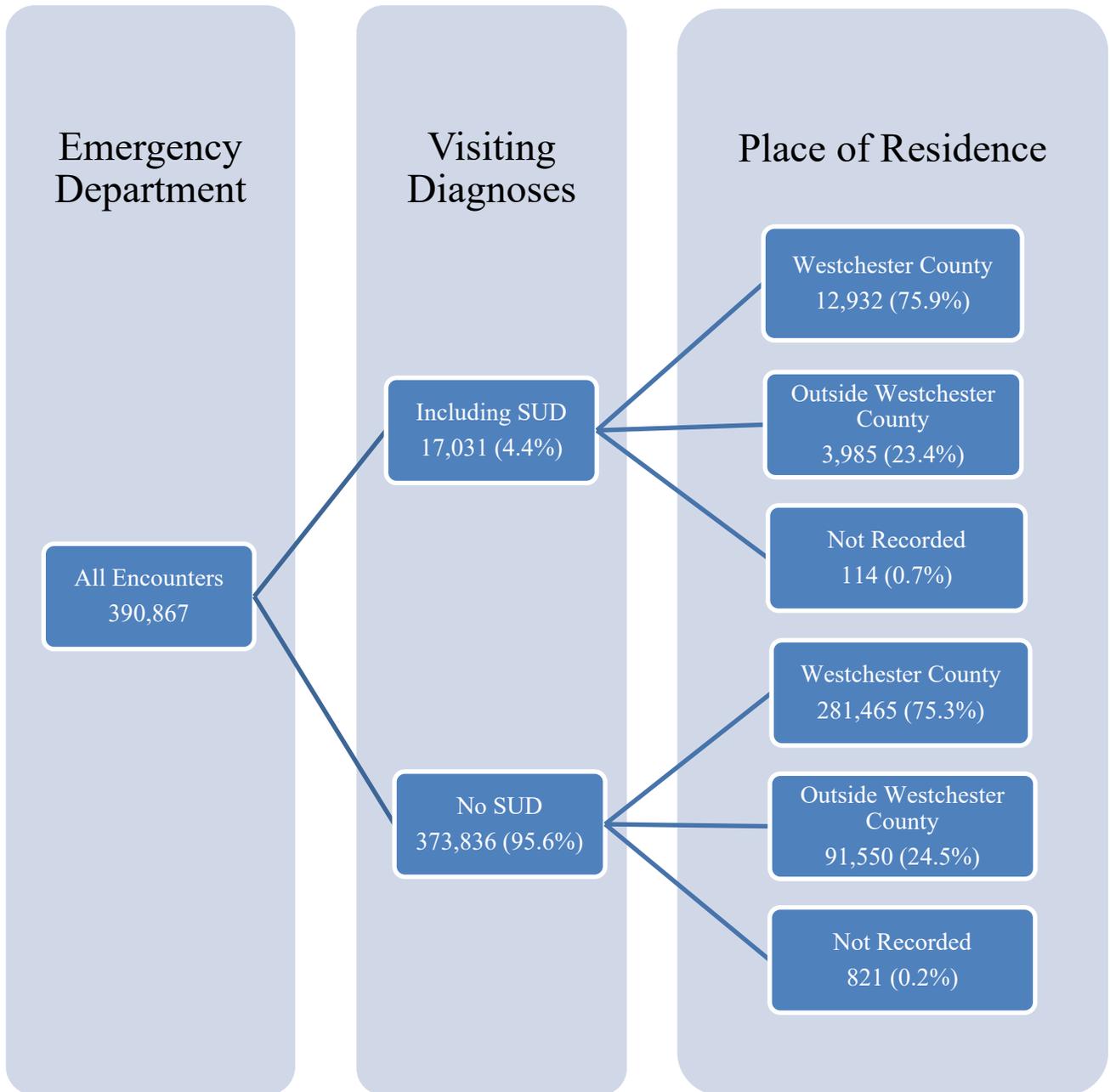
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Westchester County Department of Health's Community Health Electronic Surveillance System (CHESS) receives daily data electronically from existing healthcare information systems reported to the NYS Health Department, automatically analyzes data to detect potential elevated levels for syndromic categories of interest, and provides electronic reports to Health Department personnel. **Syndromes of interest are extracted and monitored by checking the patient chief complaints, triage notes, and diagnosis information.**

The substance use disorders (SUD) data reported in this brief include those cases with alcohol, nicotine, opioids, cannabis, sedatives, cocaine, stimulants, hallucinogens, inhalants, and other psychoactive substance documented in one or more diagnoses while visiting the ER system of the eleven acute hospitals in Westchester County. The specific factors of substance use disorder consist of abuse, intoxication, and physical/psychological dependence.

CHESS data are transmitted within 24 hours from the patients' admission to the ER without complete diagnosis coding by the facilities. Therefore, data reported in this brief may underestimate the extent of substance use in the county. However, it provides a timely description of current trends and raises awareness if there is an abnormal surge in incidence.

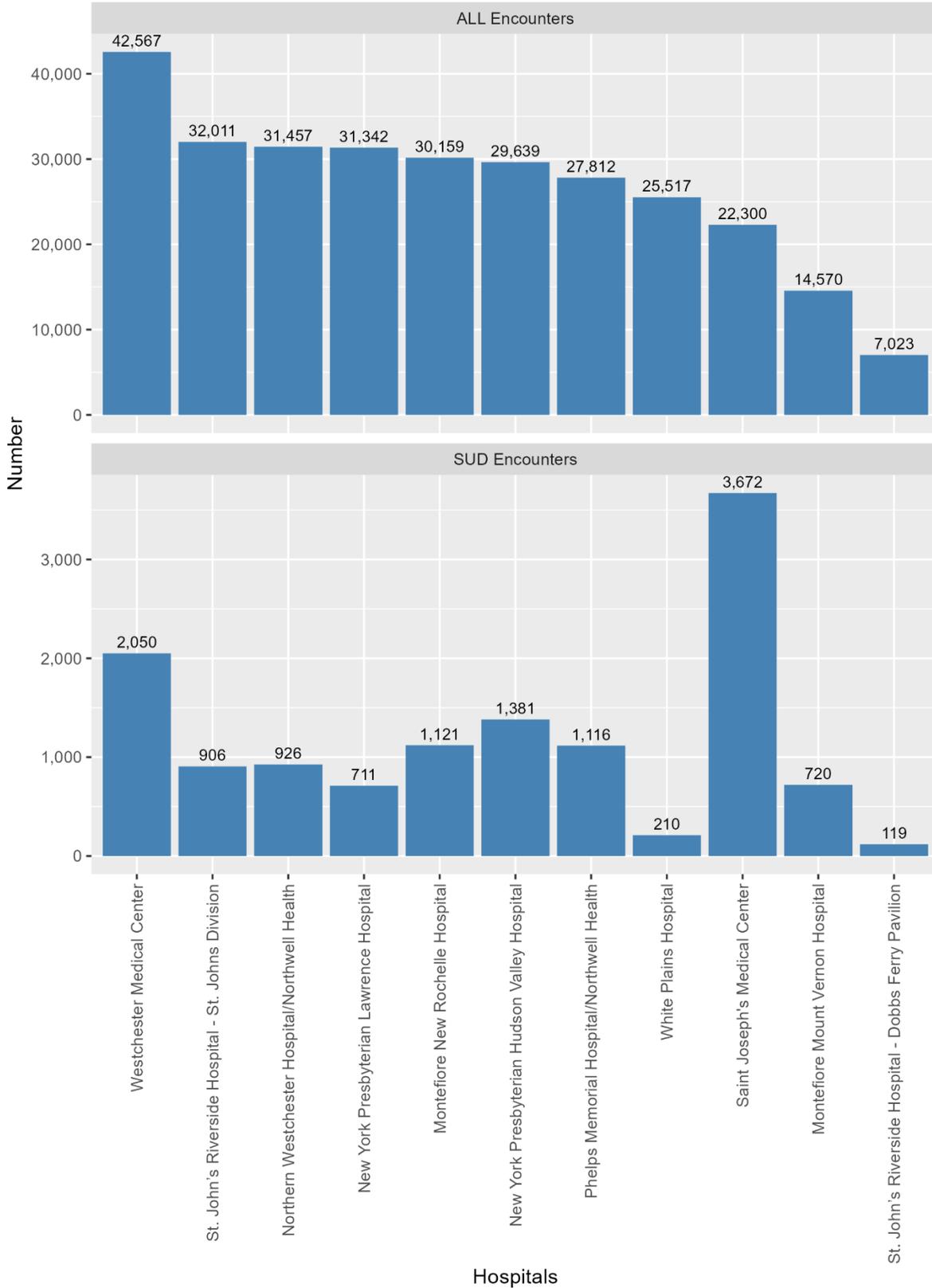
Overview



In 2024, Emergency Department of Westchester County hospitals have received 17,031 encounters with SUD documented in one or more of their diagnoses. Among them, 12,932 encounters have been registered as patients residing in Westchester County. Such encounters will be referred as SUD Encounters in this report. Rates of SUD encounters were calculated as per 100,000 population.

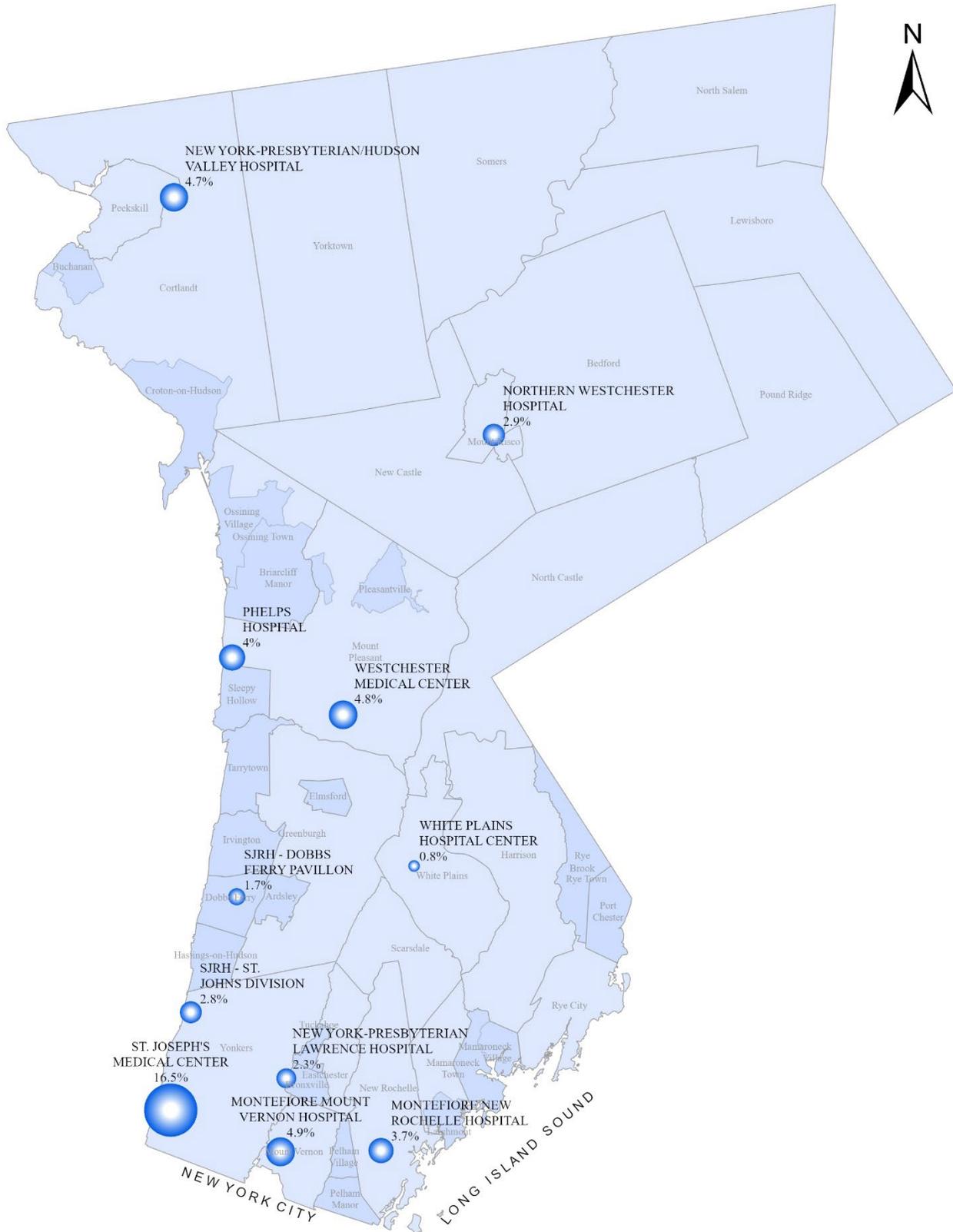
Hospital

All Encounters and SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Hospital, Westchester County, 2024



Hospital

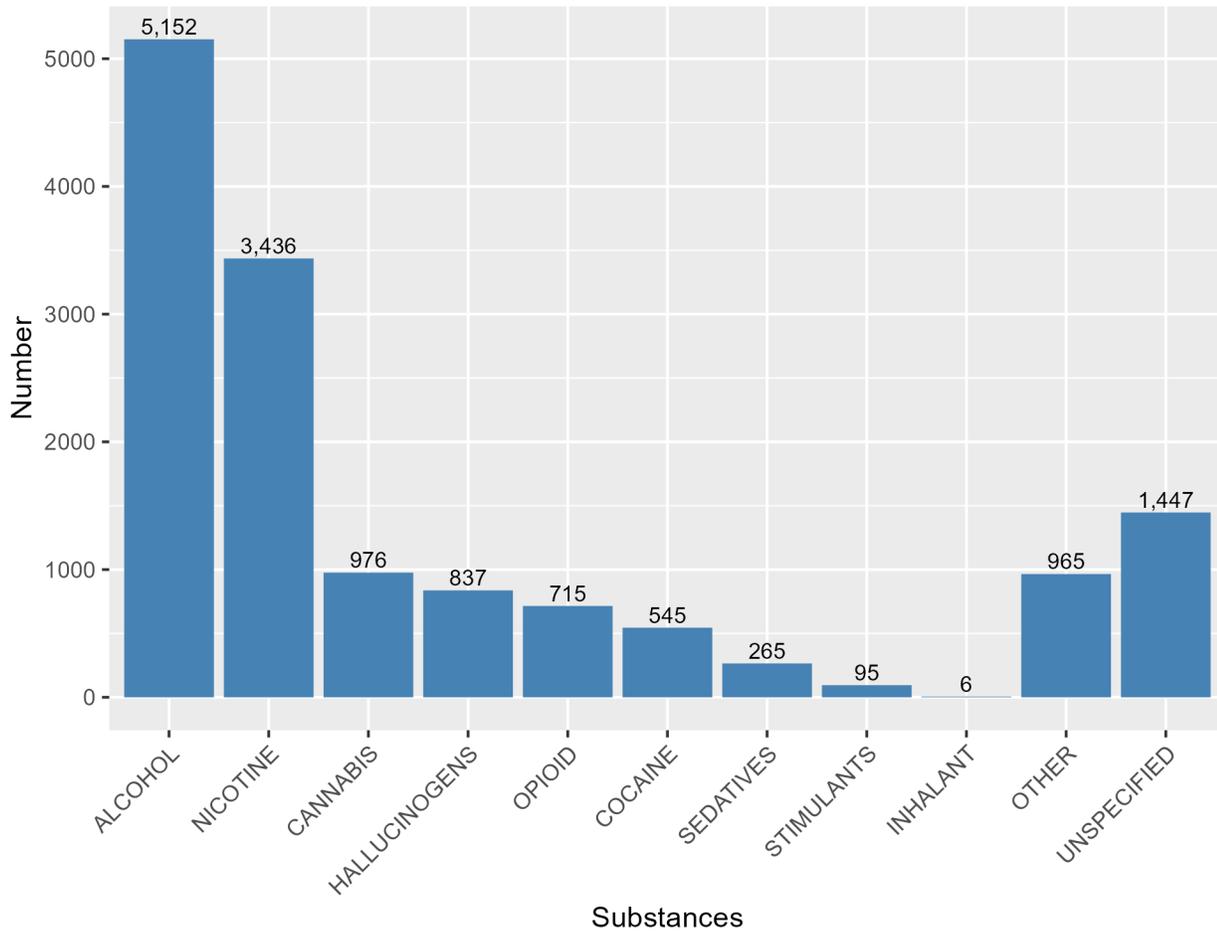
SUD Encounters as a Percentage of All Encounters at Emergency Department by Hospital, Westchester County, 2024



St. Joseph's Medical Center has the highest percentage of SUD encounters over all encounters during 2024.

Substance

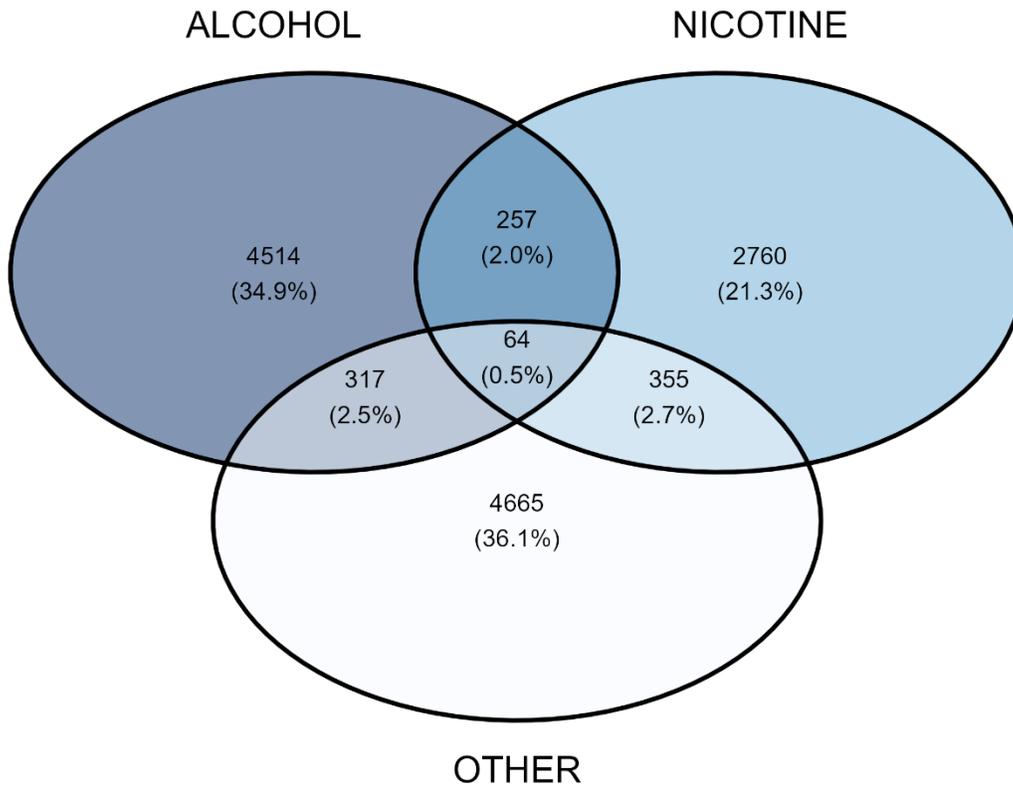
SUD Encounters by Substance Documented in the Diagnoses, Westchester County, 2024



Individuals may be using multiple substances at the time of their encounters at Emergency Department. Among them, alcohol and nicotine are the two most commonly reported substances.

Substance

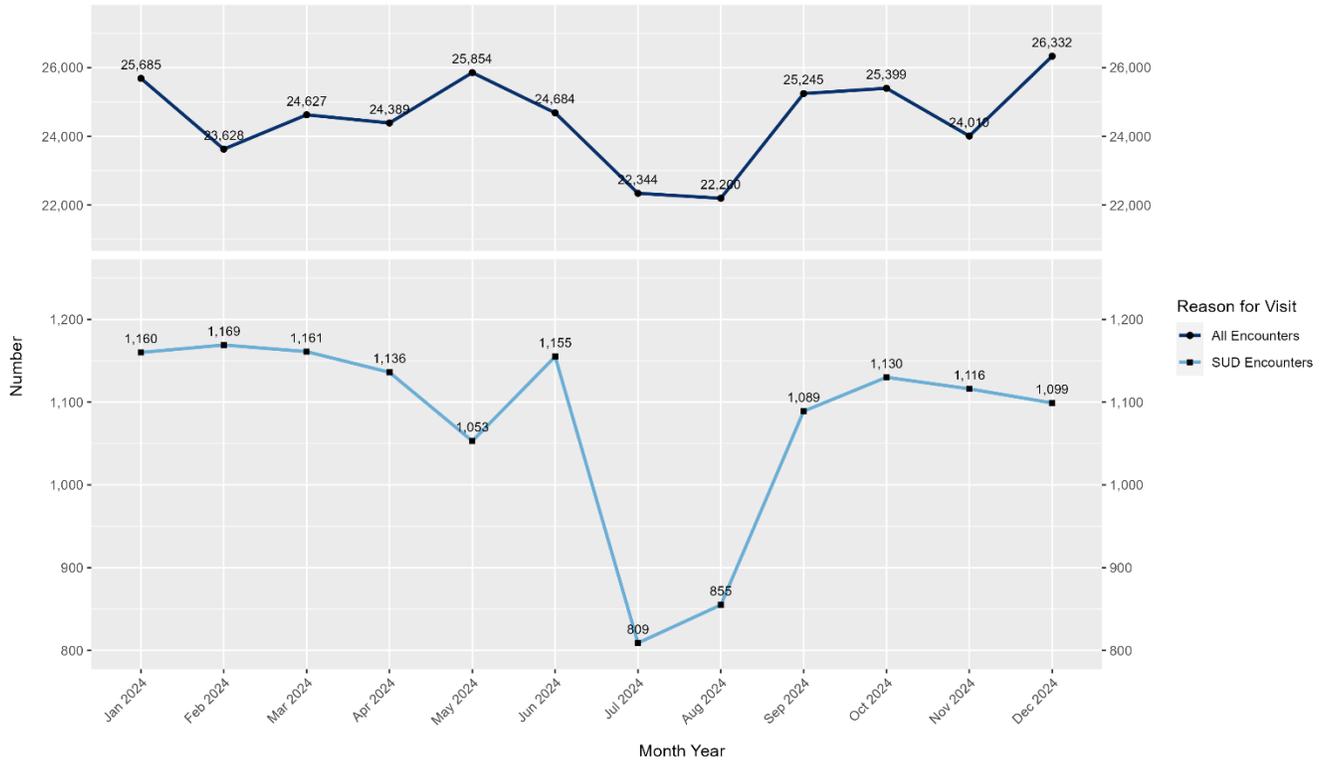
Overlapping SUD Substance, Westchester County, 2024



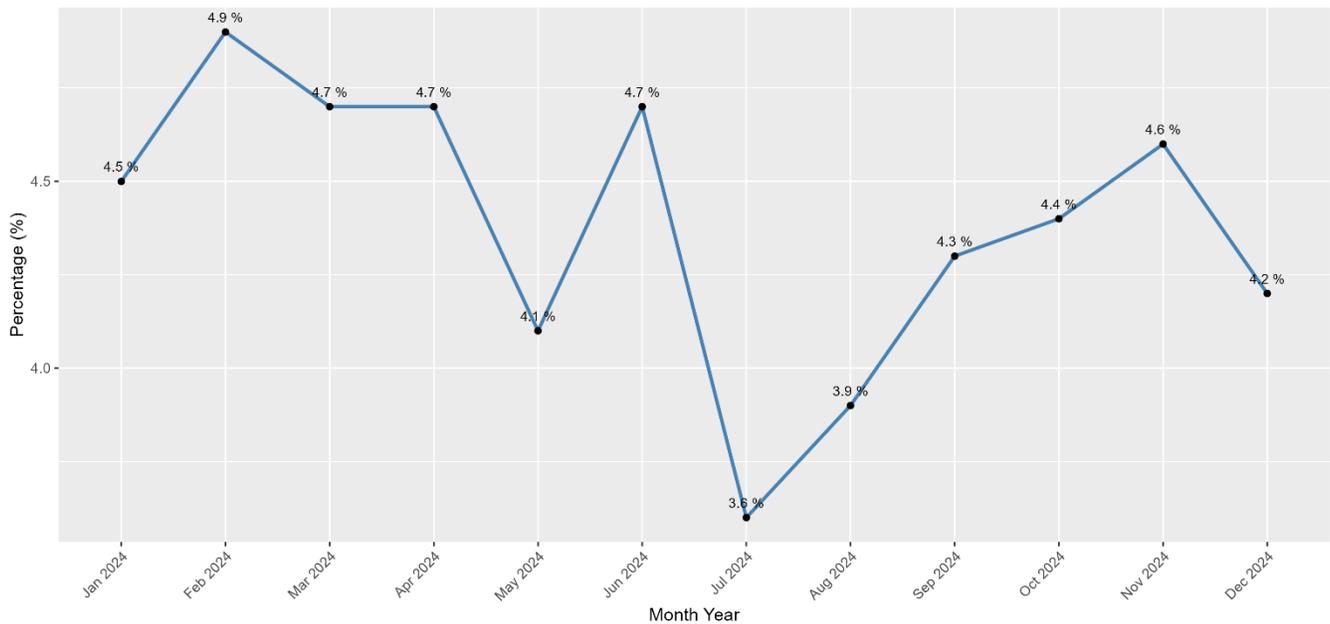
Substances included in OTHER	Encounters
CANNABIS	976
HALLUCINOGENS	837
OPIOID	715
COCAINE	545
SEDATIVES	265
STIMULANTS	95
INHALANT	6
OTHER PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE	965
UNSPECIFIED	1,447

Monthly Distribution

Monthly SUD Encounters and All Encounters at Emergency Department, Westchester County, 2024



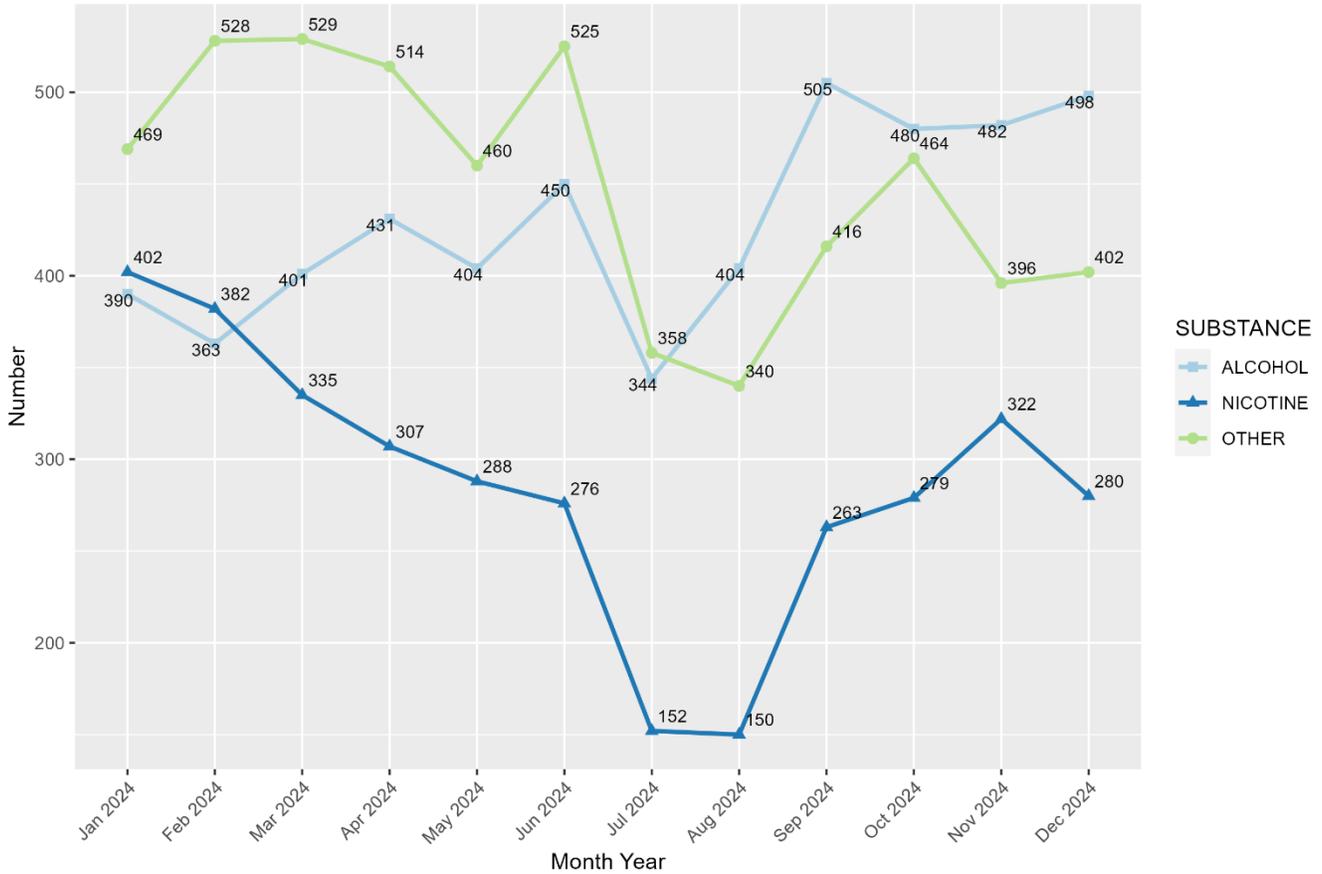
Percentage of SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by month, Westchester County, 2024



The percentage of SUD encounters over all encounters per month at Emergency Department ranged from 3.6% to 4.9% in 2024.

Monthly Distribution

Monthly SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Substance, Westchester County, 2024



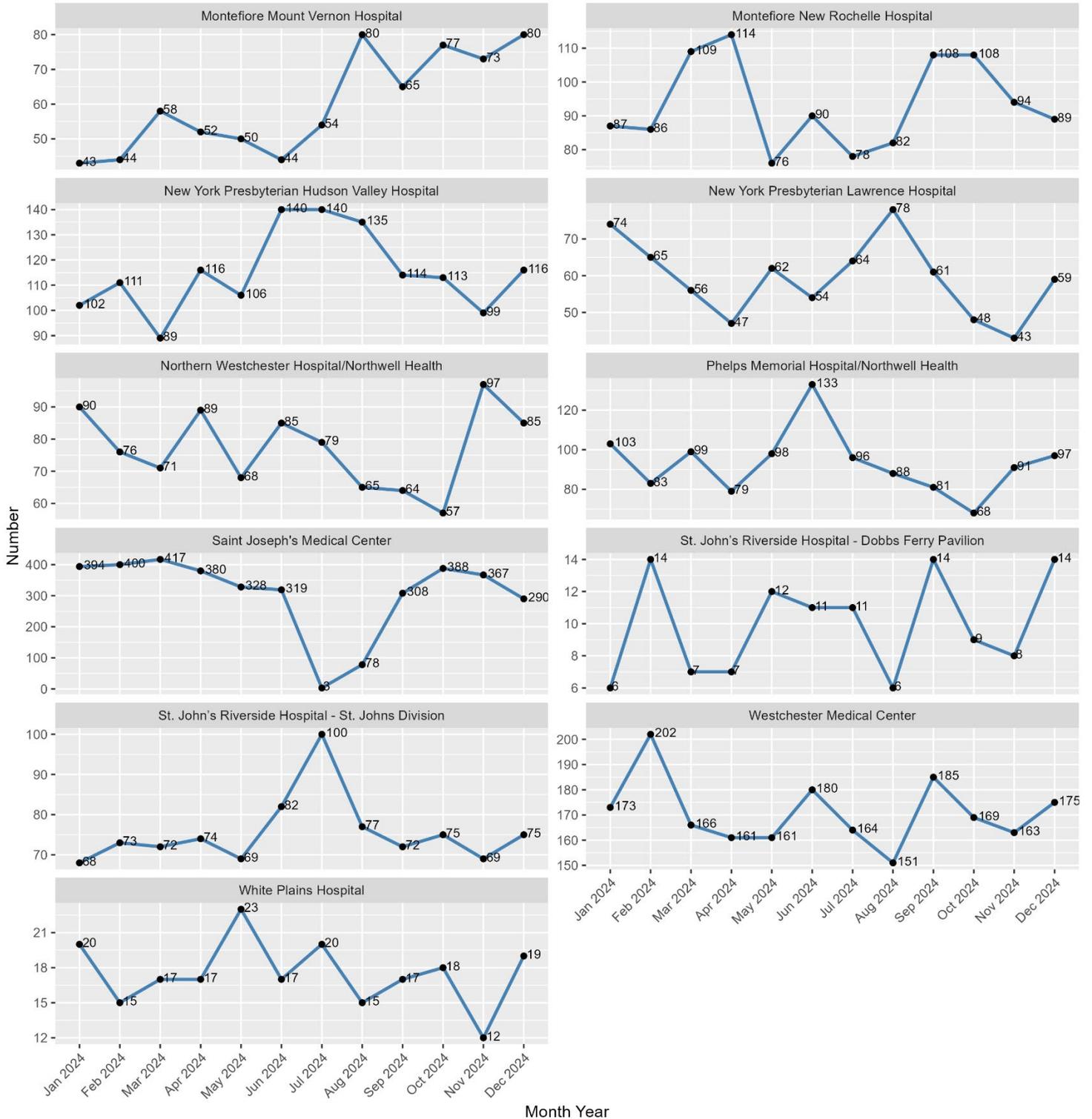
There was a drop in SUD encounters involving each substance category in 2024 summer.

Monthly SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Substance, Westchester County, 2024

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
ALCOHOL	390	363	401	431	404	450	344	404	505	480	482	498
NICOTINE	402	382	335	307	288	276	152	150	263	279	322	280
CANNABIS	67	107	98	91	99	96	56	42	62	92	98	68
OPIOID	60	59	60	77	51	56	53	53	65	63	53	65
COCAINE	49	48	55	44	51	57	29	31	53	44	46	38
SEDATIVES	25	24	24	12	21	34	20	16	24	22	15	28
HALLUCINOGENS	59	72	70	89	52	72	68	55	72	91	70	67
STIMULANTS	9	8	10	5	6	4	8	8	10	9	11	7
INHALANTS	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	1	0	1
OTHER	91	104	92	74	77	79	53	59	93	89	76	78
UNSPECIFIED	142	152	158	166	139	174	106	92	72	93	65	88

Monthly Distribution

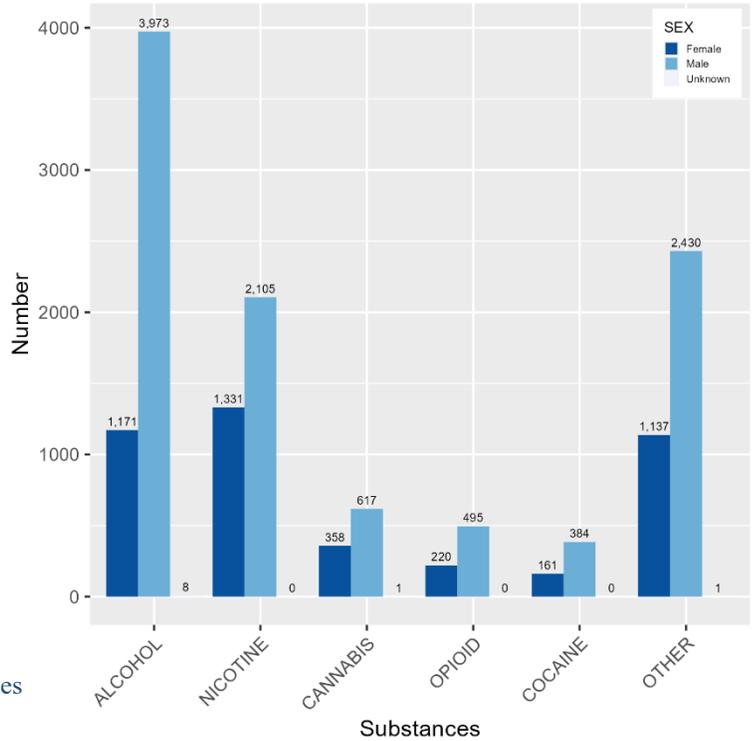
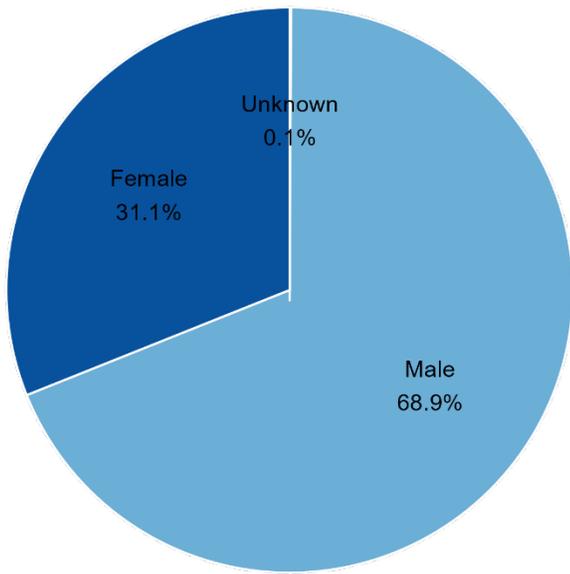
Monthly SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Hospital, Westchester County, 2024



While overall SUD encounters as a percent of total dropped in the middle of the year 2024, each hospital demonstrated different patterns over the year.

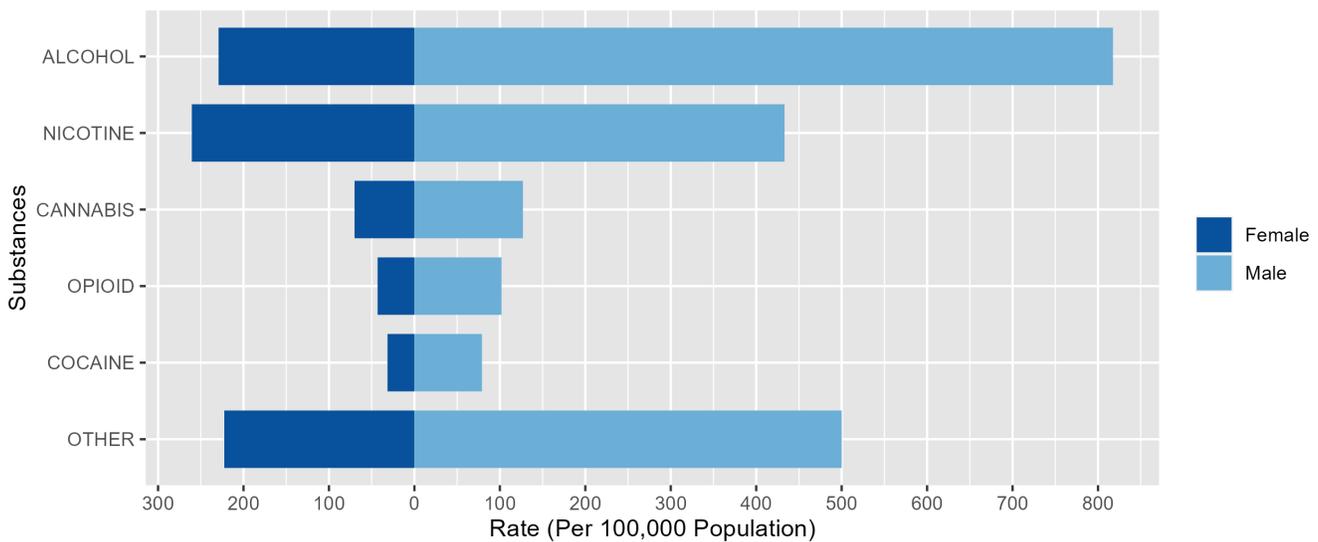
Demographics

SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Sex, Westchester County, 2024



In 2024, there were more male SUD encounters than females for each type of the substances studied.

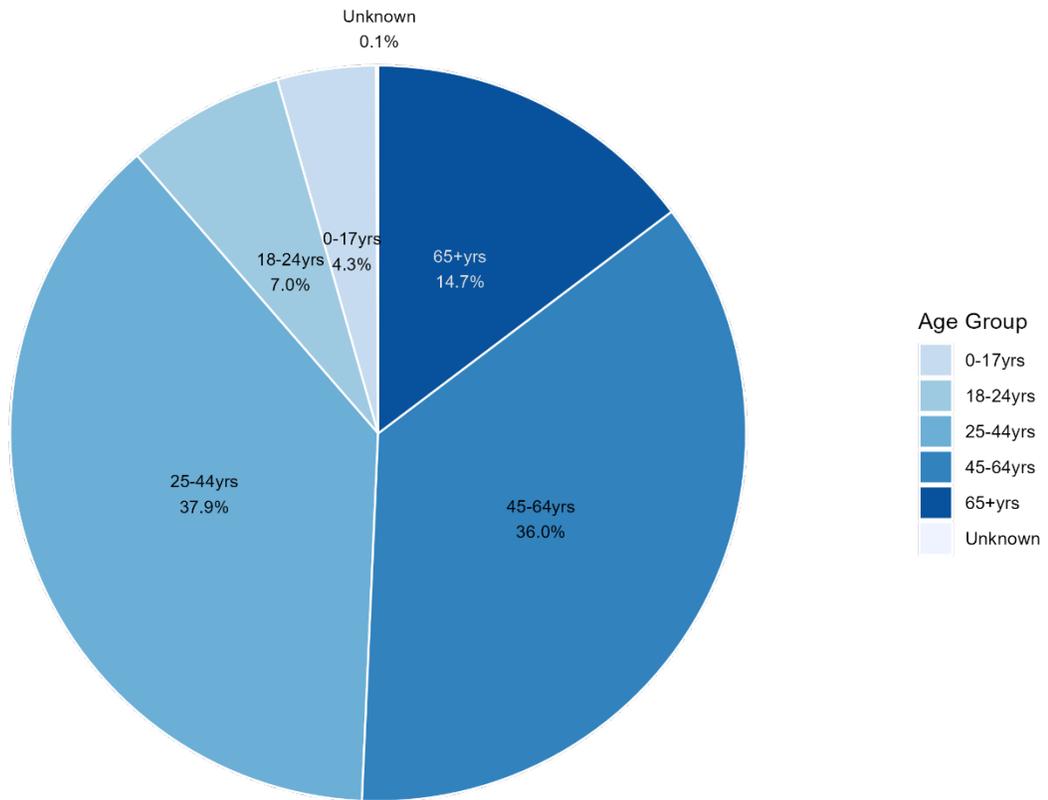
SUD Rate by Sex for Major Substances, Westchester County, 2024



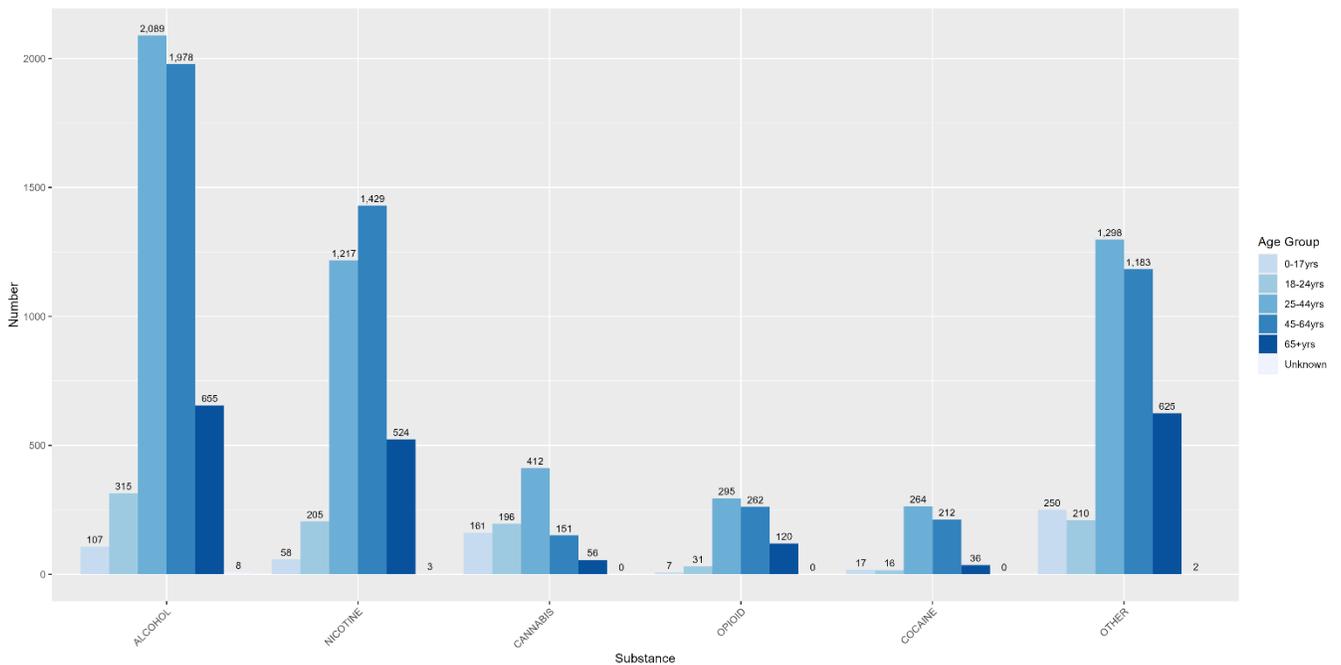
Among Westchester County residents who visited Emergency Department with SUD in 2024, male residents have higher SUD rate than female residents for all substances studied.

Demographics

SUD Encounters at Emergency Department by Age, Westchester County, 2024

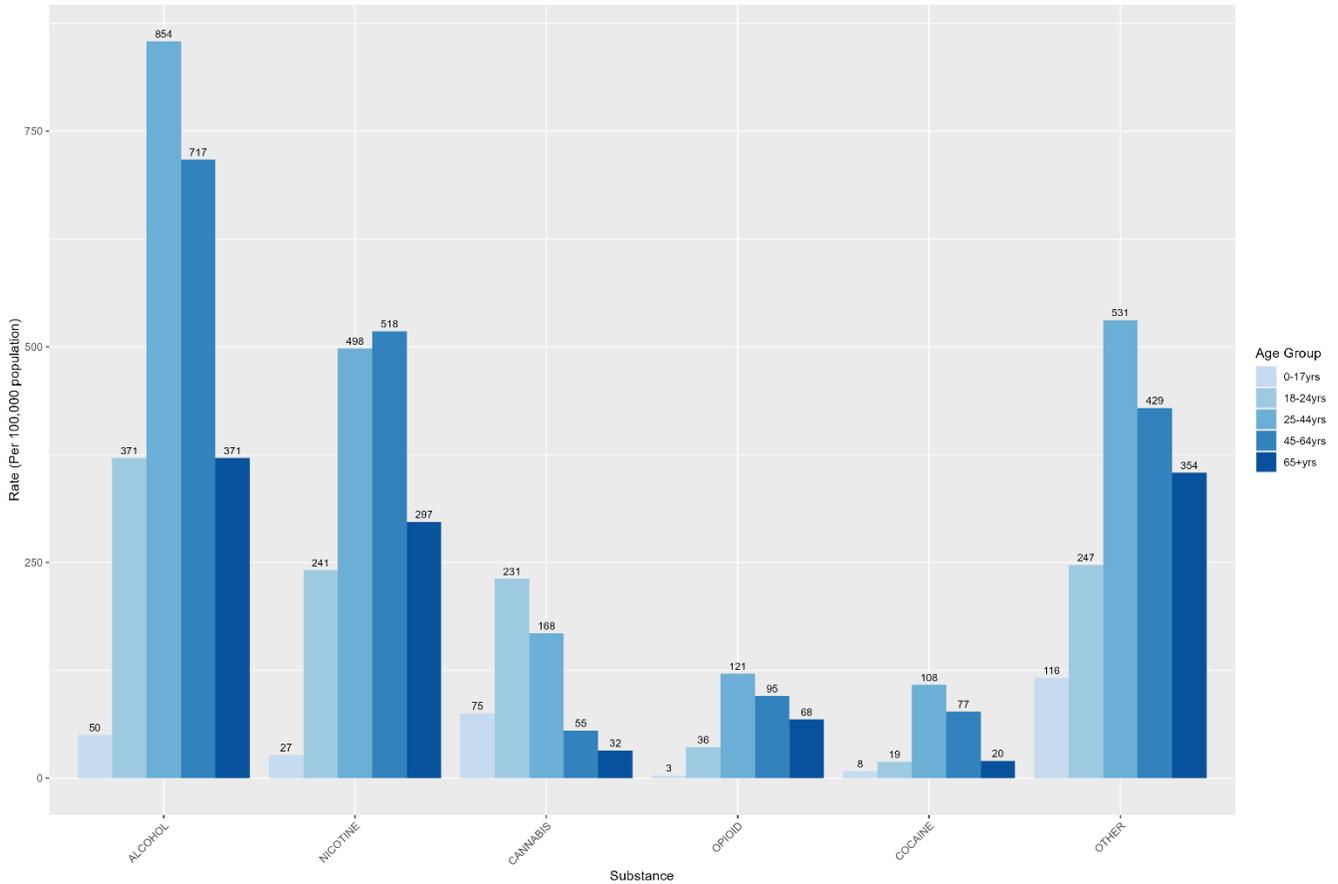


Age Distribution of SUD Encounters by Substances Documented, Westchester County, 2024



Demographics

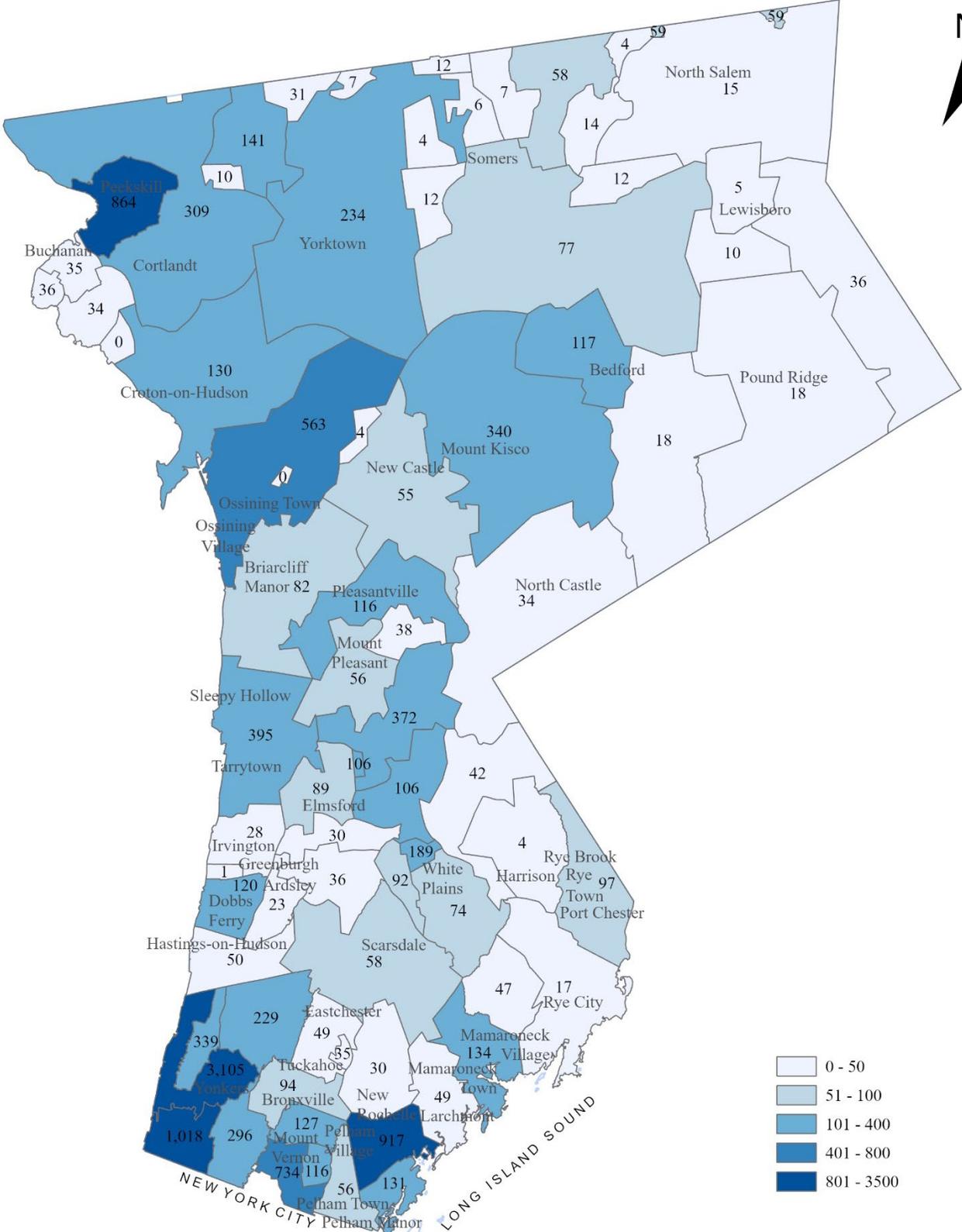
SUD Rate by Age for Major Substances, Westchester County, 2024



Among Westchester County residents who visited Emergency Department for SUD in 2024, residents aged 25-44 years have the highest SUD rate for consuming alcohol, opioid, cocaine and other substances. Residents aged 45-64 years have the highest SUD rate for consuming nicotine. Residents aged 18-24 years have the highest SUD rate for consuming cannabis.

Residence Distribution

SUD Encounters by Residence Zip Code, Westchester County, 2024



Residence Distribution

SUD Rate* by Residence Zip Code, Westchester County, 2024

