



Translating Research to Policy: From Research Influencers to Substance Use Policymakers

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BACKGROUND

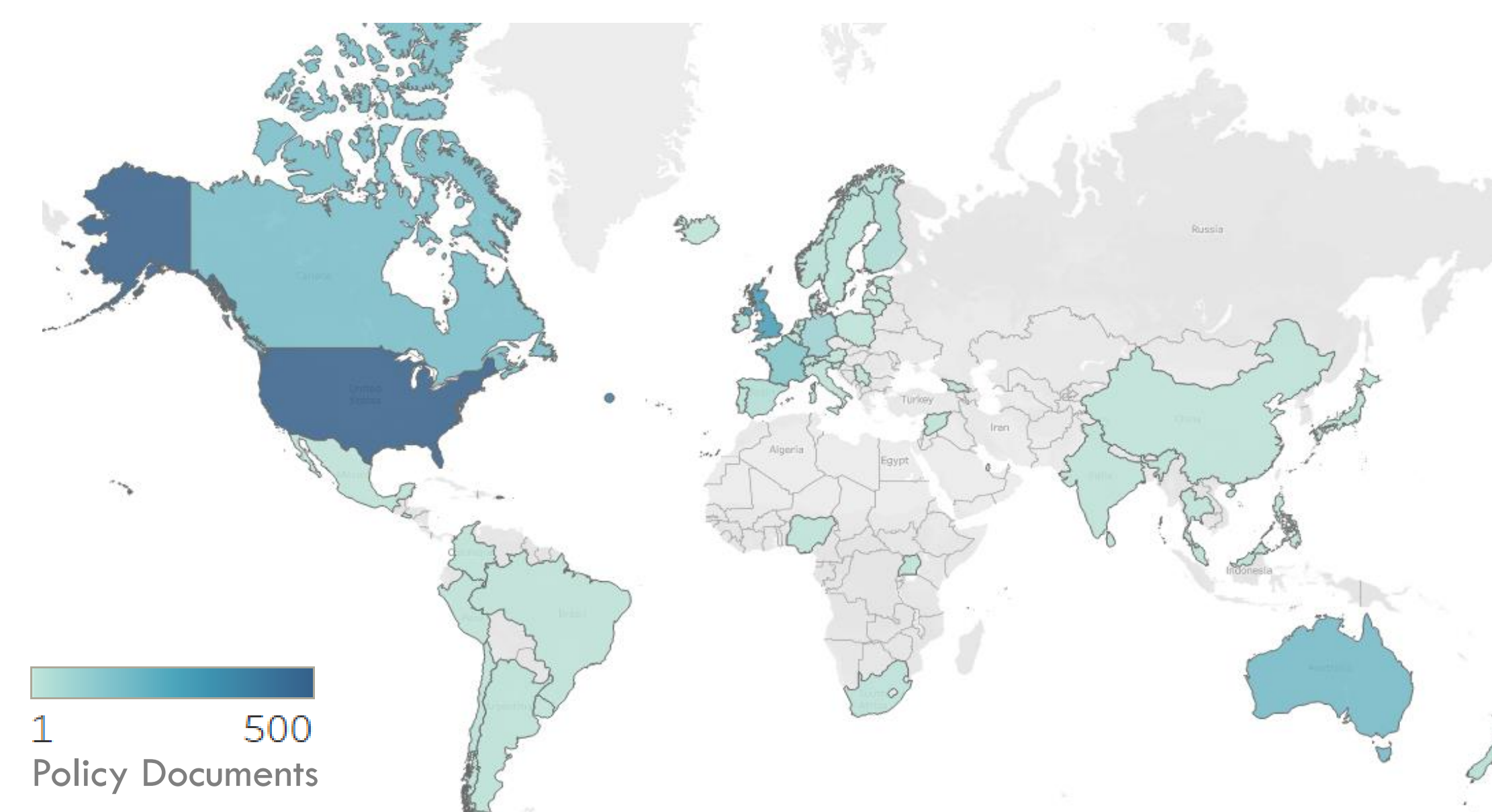
- The **public health impact of substance use** is substantial. Tobacco use and excessive drinking are leading causes of death in the USA. Overdose deaths reached an all-time high of 106K in 2021, including 80K opioid overdoses
- To address this growing epidemic, governments have implemented a range of policies, resulting in rapid growth in the **Substance Use Policy** arena
- The CTSA program, which aims to accelerate translation of research findings into health impact, may advance translation through its impact on public policy and guideline documents that inform policymakers, health professionals, and the public
- Past research shows that Substance Use research is especially likely to influence policy literature
- OBJECTIVE:** Using cutting-edge bibliometric tools, this study evaluates how CTSA-supported research has influenced Substance Use related policy literature from 2006-2023

PROCESS

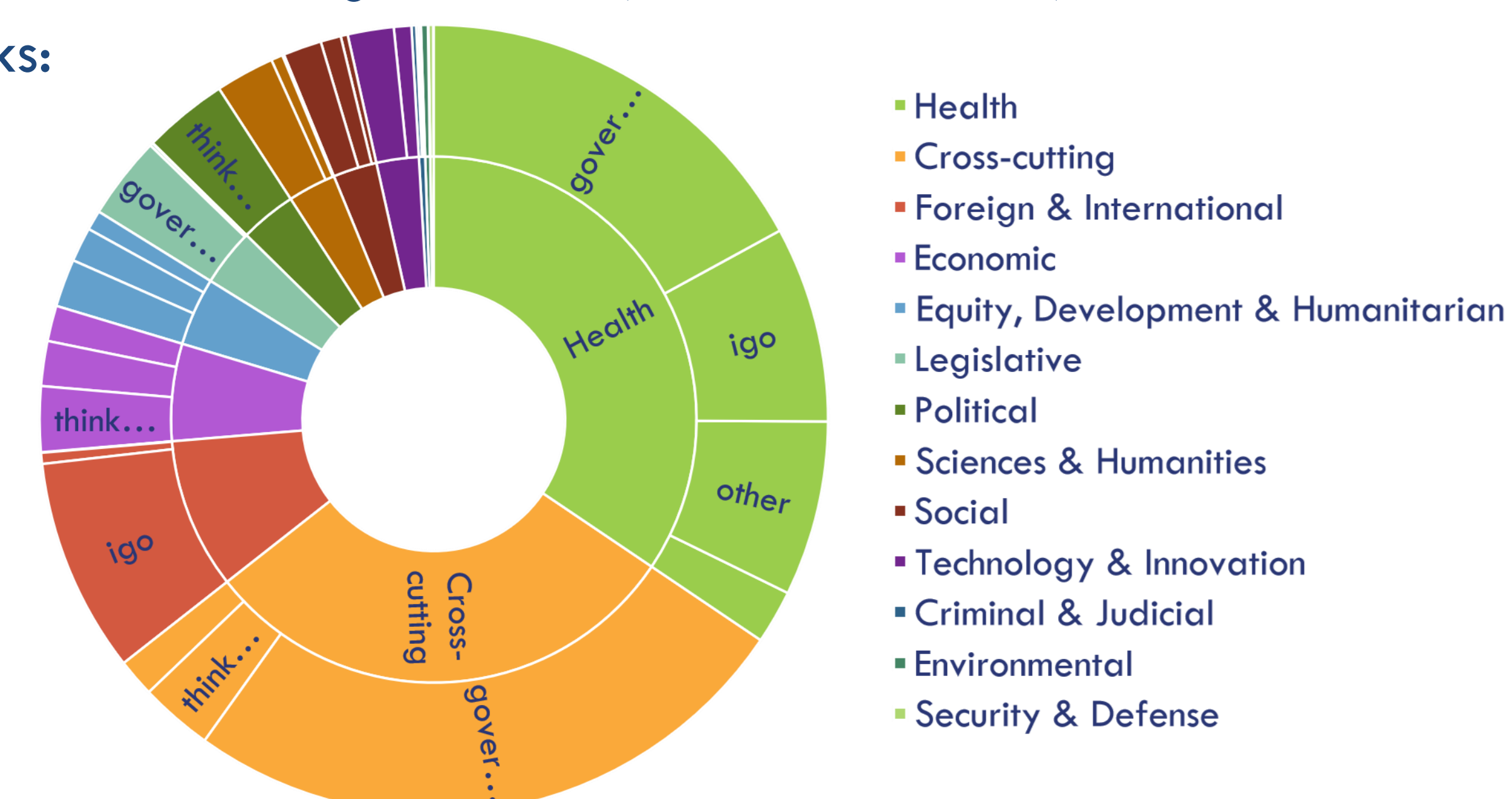
- Authors identified **135K publications** that acknowledged support from one of 66 CTSA hubs
- Publications were queried in the **Overton Policy database**  which indexes references to research publications in global policy literature
- 20K (15%) CTSA-supported publications have been cited in 24K policy documents, with **3,266** identified as relevant to Substance Use Policy according to Overton's Topics field
- Substance Use-related Topics were classified into the **top categories** of:
 - Tobacco; Opioids; Alcohol; Cannabis; Other Specified Substance & General/Unspecified Substance

FINDINGS

3,266 Substance Use Policy Documents came from **51** countries:



Published by **321 Source Organizations** from Health & Inter-governmental Organizations, to Governments, to Political Think Tanks:

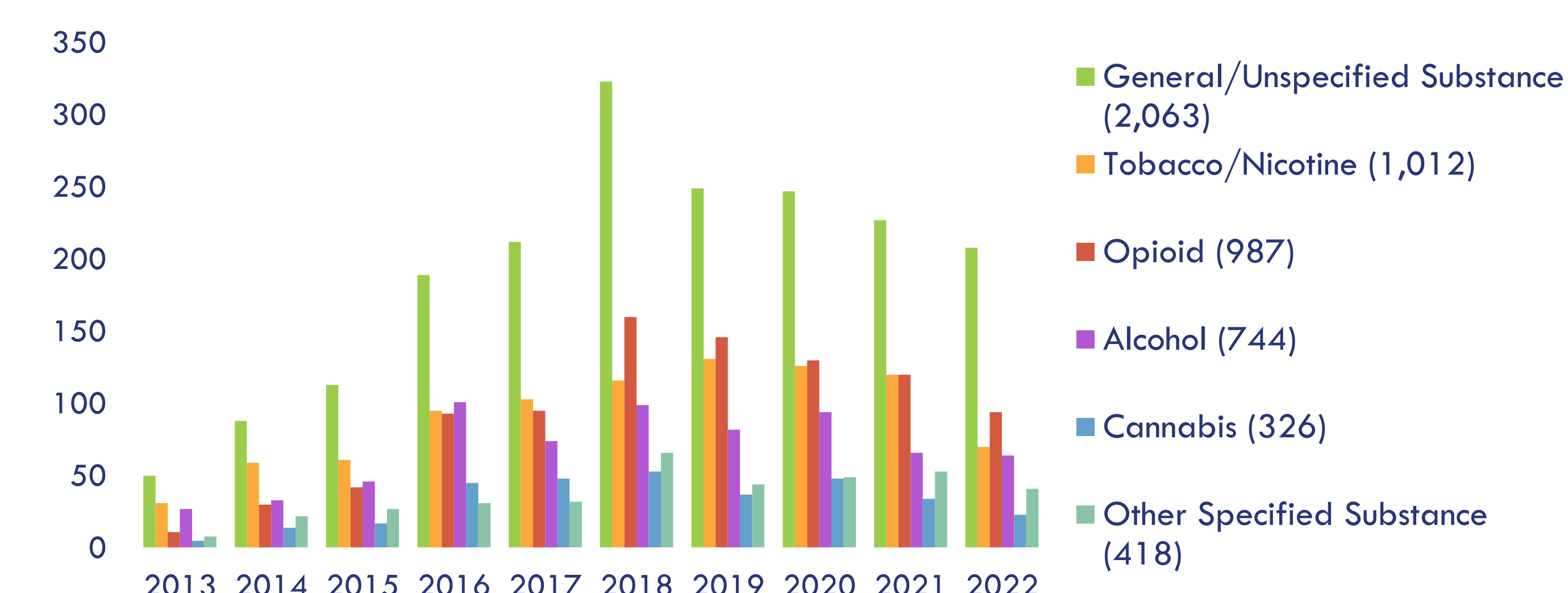


Top 10 Sources for Substance Use Policy Documents:

Source Organization	Source Country	Source Type	Policy Emphasis	# Policy docs	Primary Document Type
World Health Organization	IGO	IGO	Health	300	Publications
Guidelines in PubMed Central	USA	Other	Health	300	Clinical Guidelines
National Institute for Health & Care Excellence	UK	Government	Health	122	Clinical Guidelines
RAND Corporation	USA	Think tank	Cross-cutting	106	Publications
Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	USA	Government	Health	83	Clinical Guidelines
Canadian Agency for Drugs & Technologies in Health	Canada	Government	Health; Tech	71	Clinical Guidelines
State of Washington	USA	Government	Cross-cutting	68	Publications
Analysis & Policy Observatory	Australia	Other	Cross-cutting	65	Publications
Publications Office of the European Union	EU	Government	Cross-cutting	59	Publications
Government Publishing Office	USA	Government	Cross-cutting	53	Publications

FINDINGS

Numbers of Policy Documents by **Topic Area** over Time:



Examples of CTSA Research **Influencing** Substance Use Policy:



IMPLICATIONS

- New bibliometrics offer a promising avenue for evaluating the translational **impact of a program on policy**, by elucidating ways that supported publications are **applied beyond the bounds of academia**
- Our findings showcase the impact that CTSA research has had on Substance Use Policy, an increasingly salient area of health policy, via the literature that advises policy influencers

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