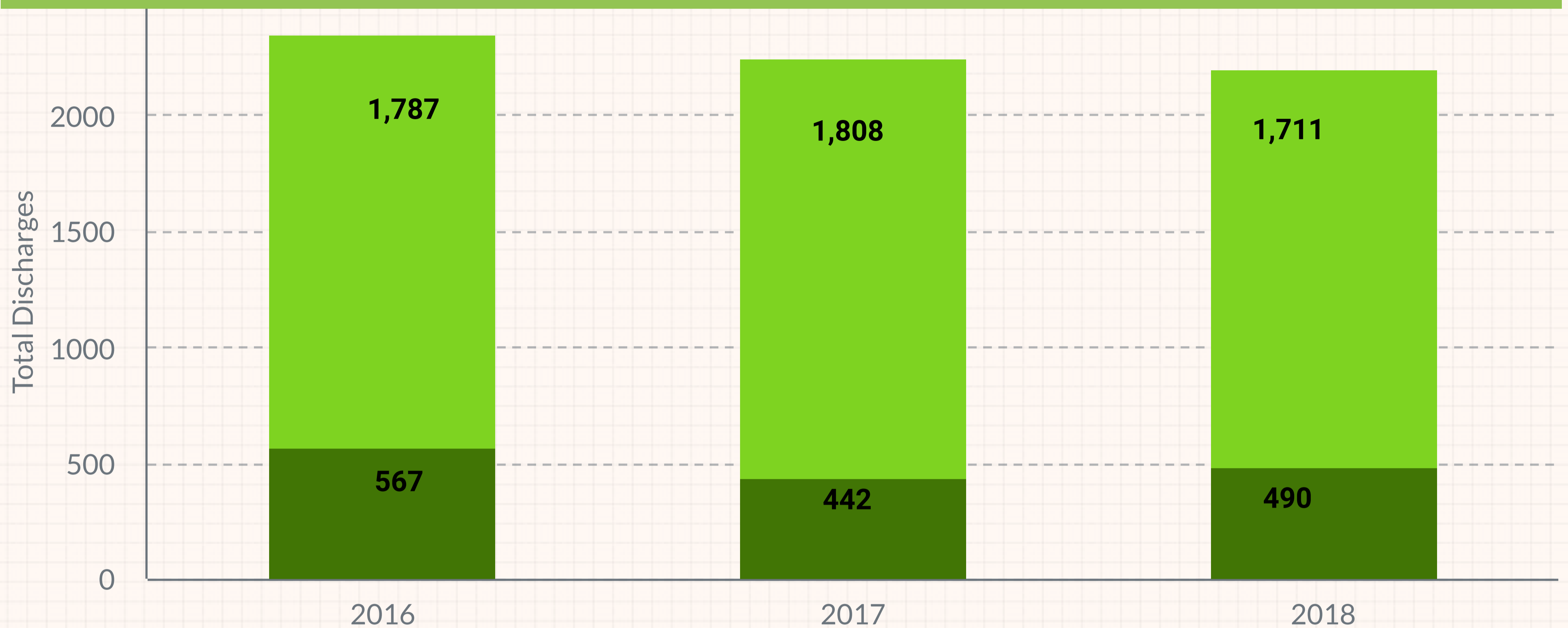




# NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME (NAS) IN MISSOURI 2016 - 2018



■ Neonatal abstinence syndrome ■ Potential neonatal exposure

Source: Bureau of Health Care Analysis and Data Dissemination, Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services

The age/sex distribution seen in the opioid discharges becomes especially concerning when focus shifts to another disturbing trend in Missouri. Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS)\* occurs most often when a mother uses drugs in utero or passes the substance to her infant through breast milk or the placenta. The infant is born essentially withdrawing from the drug, causing a host of physical manifestations. NAS rates have stabilized after a rapid statewide increase in previous years. The impact of NAS on infants underscores the importance of care for the mother-infant dyad, as well as for a woman throughout her pregnancy.

When an infant is affected by maternal use of drugs of addiction and exhibits withdrawal symptoms, the infant is often diagnosed with neonatal abstinence syndrome (NAS). Infants may also be exposed and not show symptoms, or show symptoms after therapeutic use of drugs. These are cases of potential neonatal exposure, but do not meet the NAS case definition.

\*Please note that the NAS case definition displayed here was introduced in 2019 and is adapted from the national CSTE case definition. Counts and rates may differ from those previously disseminated by DHSS. This definition represents only infants diagnosed within 28 days of birth.