

US 115th House and Senate on “opioids”

A text analysis of House and Senate Twitter activity in
the 115th Congress

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Producer

Theo Goetemann

Director

Alistair Taylor

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- Frequency
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- Frequency by state
- Top words mentioned over time

Overview and stats

House and Senate

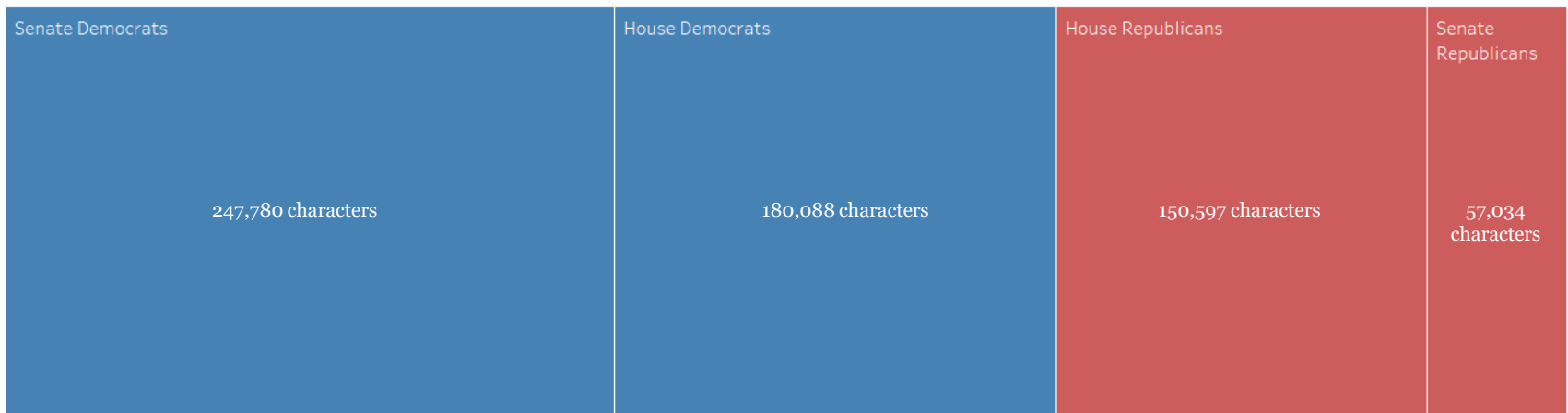
Total House tweets



Total Senate tweets



Total characters used



Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

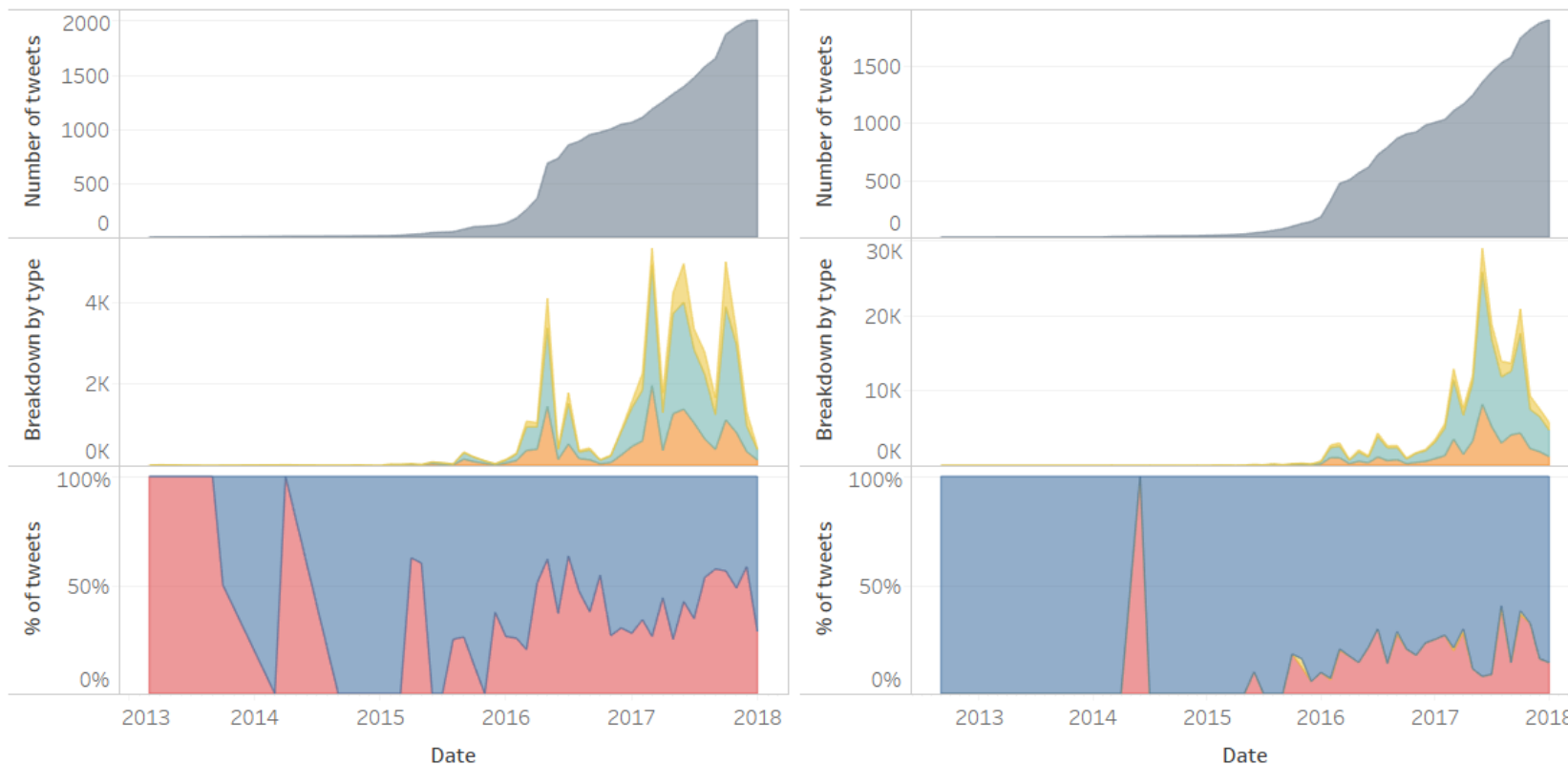
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Overview of tweets over time

House and Senate

House tweets on "opioids" over time

Senate tweets on "opioids" over time



- Democrat
- Independent
- Republican
- Replies
- Likes
- Retweets
- Running total

Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Methodology and notes

House and Senate

All members of Congress' Twitter channels were scraped from their creation date till January 8th, 2018 for tweets mentioning "opioid." In the case of several members of Congress who have multiple Twitter channels maintained by themselves or their press offices, the channel with more Tweets total was selected. Campaign Twitter channels are not included in this analysis.

Data was cleaned in Excel and R. Additional cleaning was conducted in R to remove stopwords, special characters, etc. The word frequency bar charts and wordclouds are derived from this dataset.

The wordclouds for both the House and the Senate exclude the words "opioid" and "epidemic," the former of which was mentioned around 4x more than "crisis," the largest word in both wordclouds. This was to ensure clarity and proper sizing when reading the other words in both wordclouds.

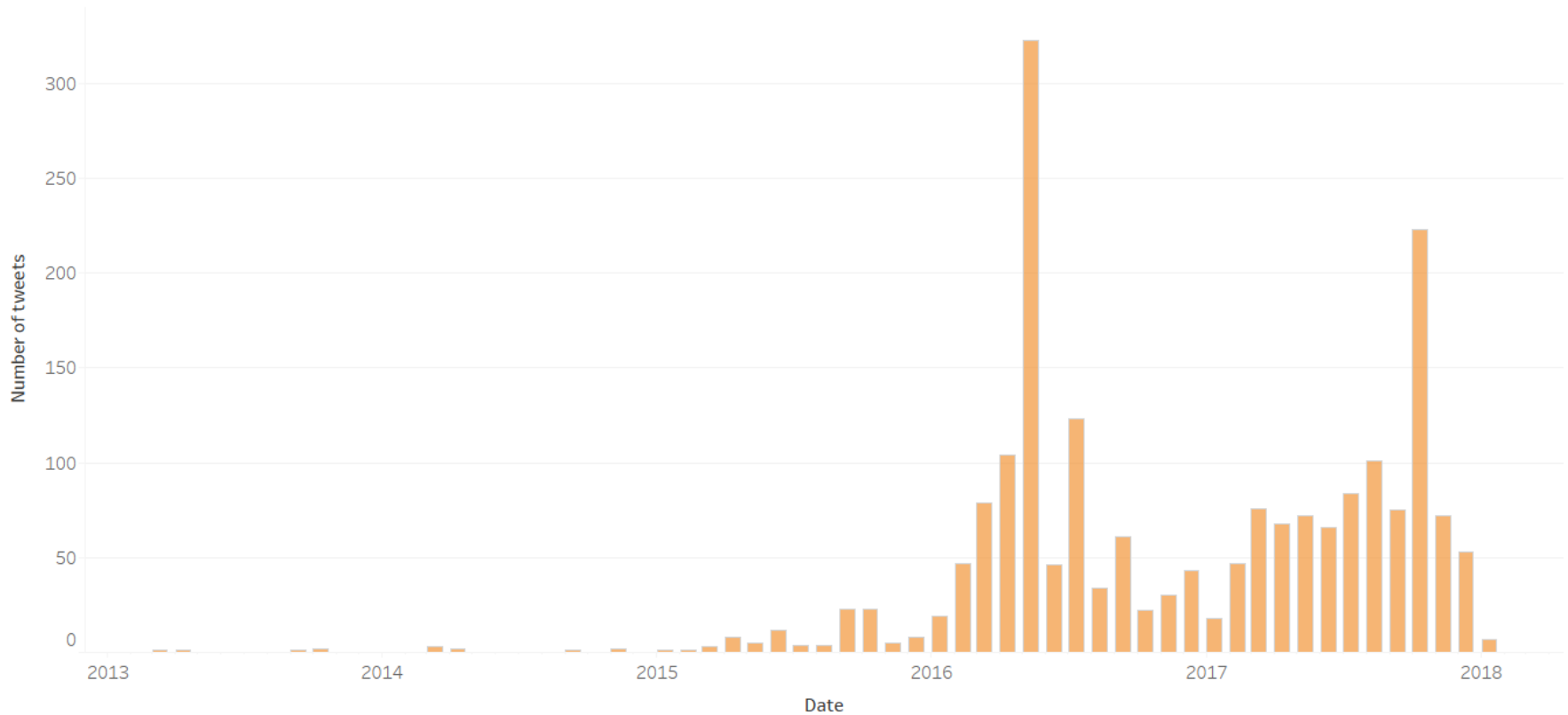
Similarly, the words "opioid" and "epidemic" are both excluded from graphs depicting word usage over time, as "opioid" was used as the initial query for the dataset, and "epidemic" is usually written in conjunction with "opioid." In the graphs, their lines reflect the general paths of the graphs in "House: over time" and "Senate: over time."

Additionally, the top word mentions over time graphs do not include frequently-mentioned words such as "house," "bill," or "today," and instead visualize other frequently-mentioned words that are more dynamic over time.

It is worth noting that the average likes maps do not depict average likes divided by number of followers, but rather the sheer number of average likes per member of Congress. These maps are therefore depicting a member of Congress' clout on Twitter when talking about opioids rather than the average reception to their tweets on opioids.

Frequency of tweets on “opioids”

House

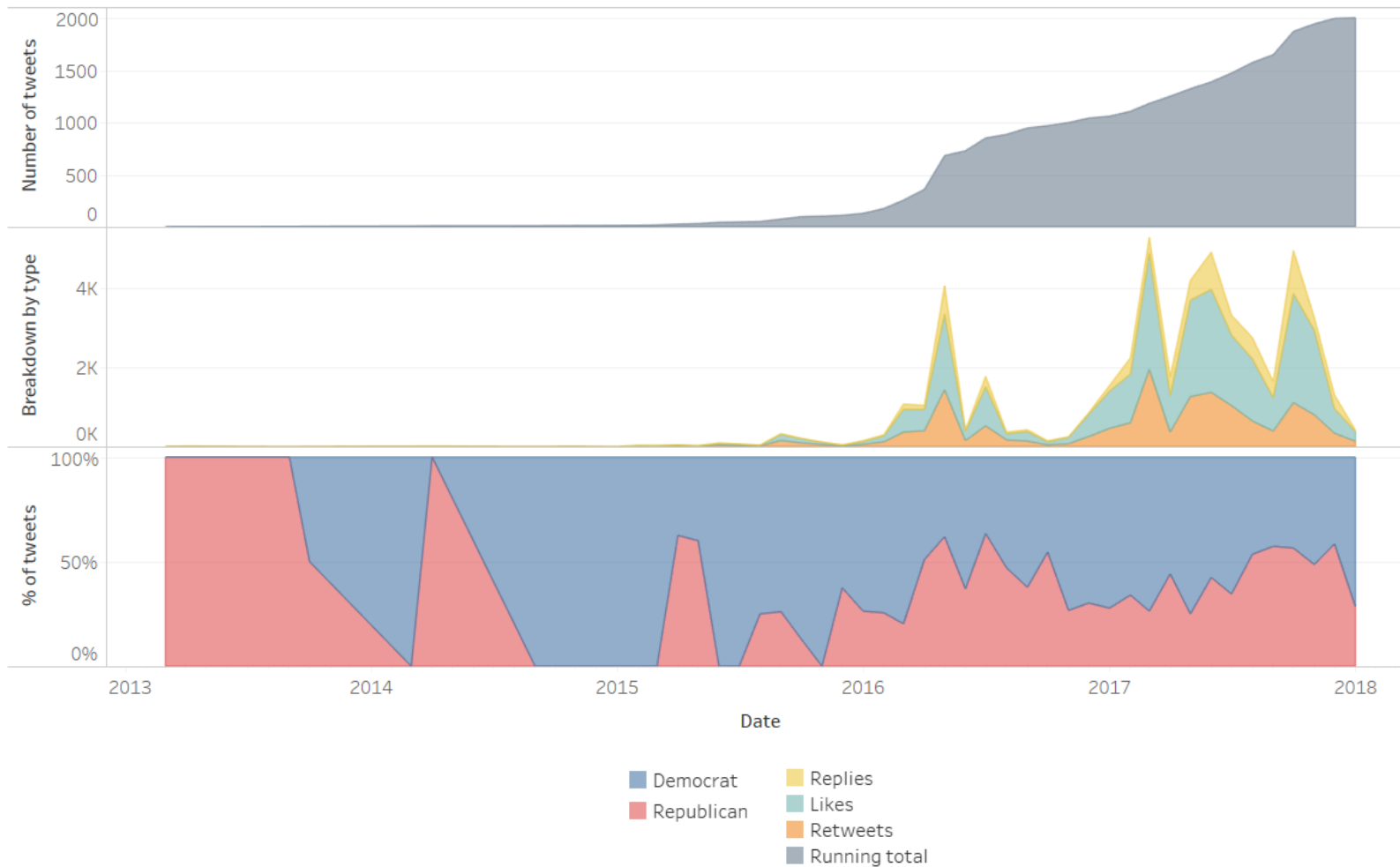


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Tweets over time

House

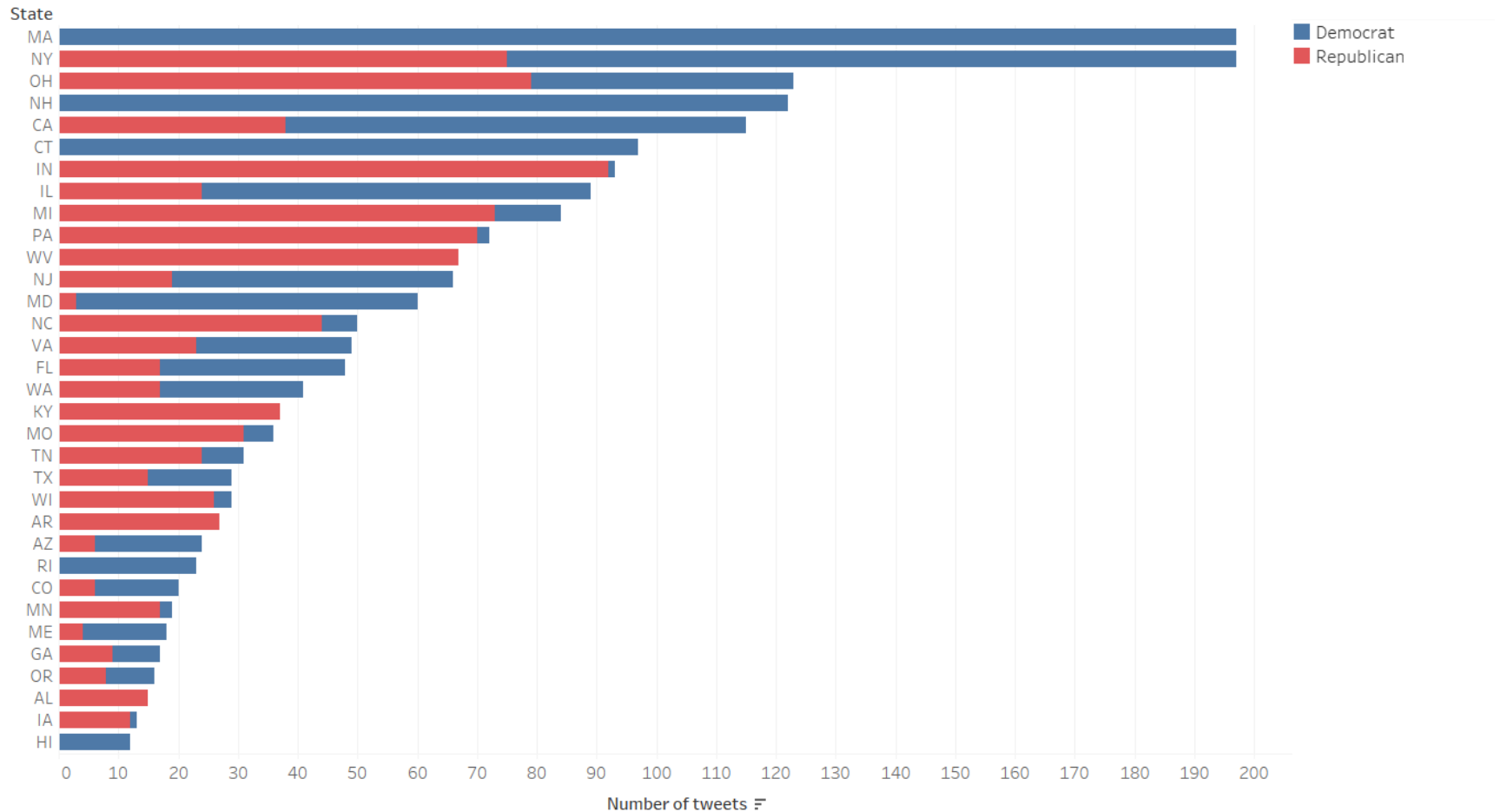


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Number of tweets mentioning “opioids” by state

House

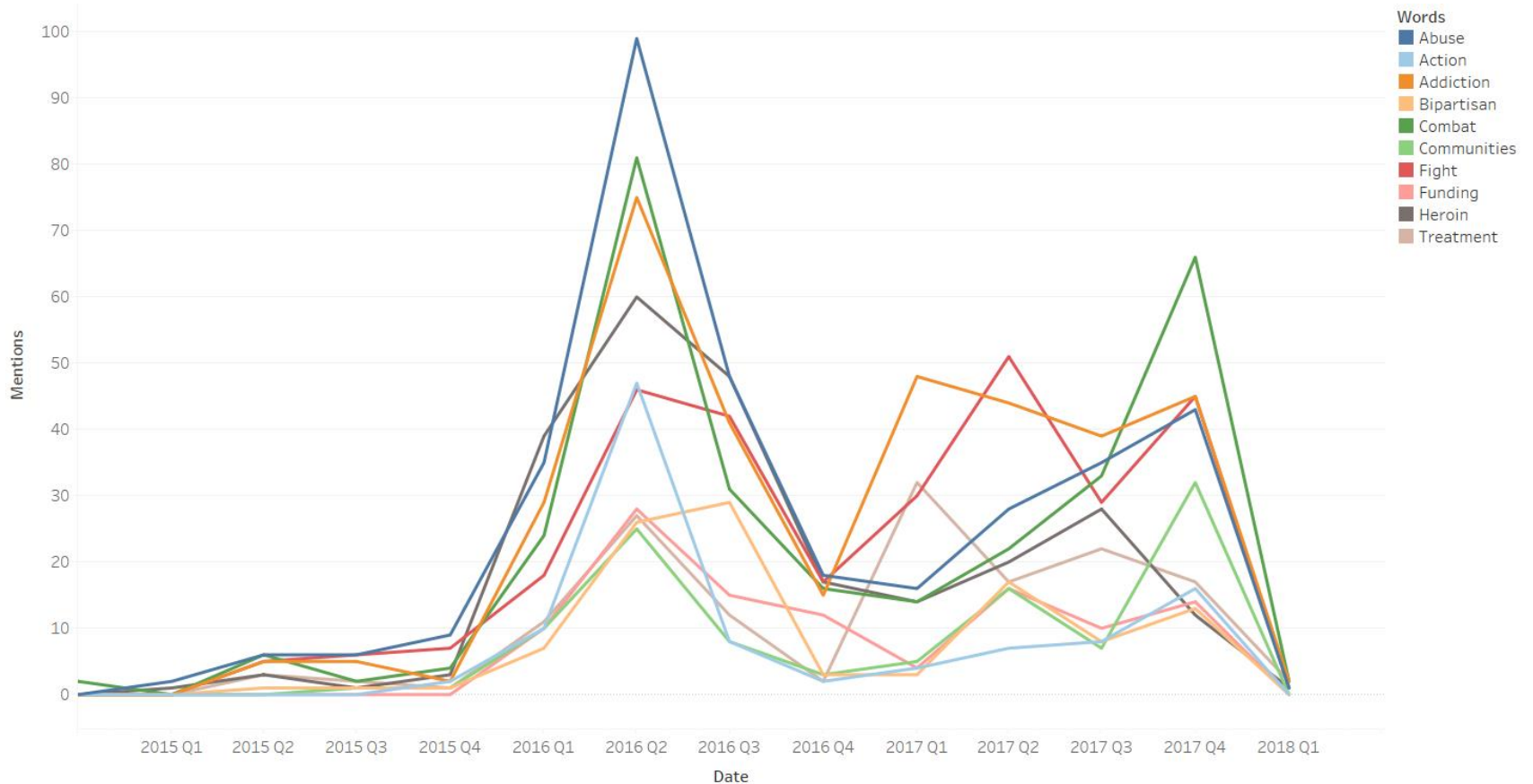


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Top words mentioned over time

House

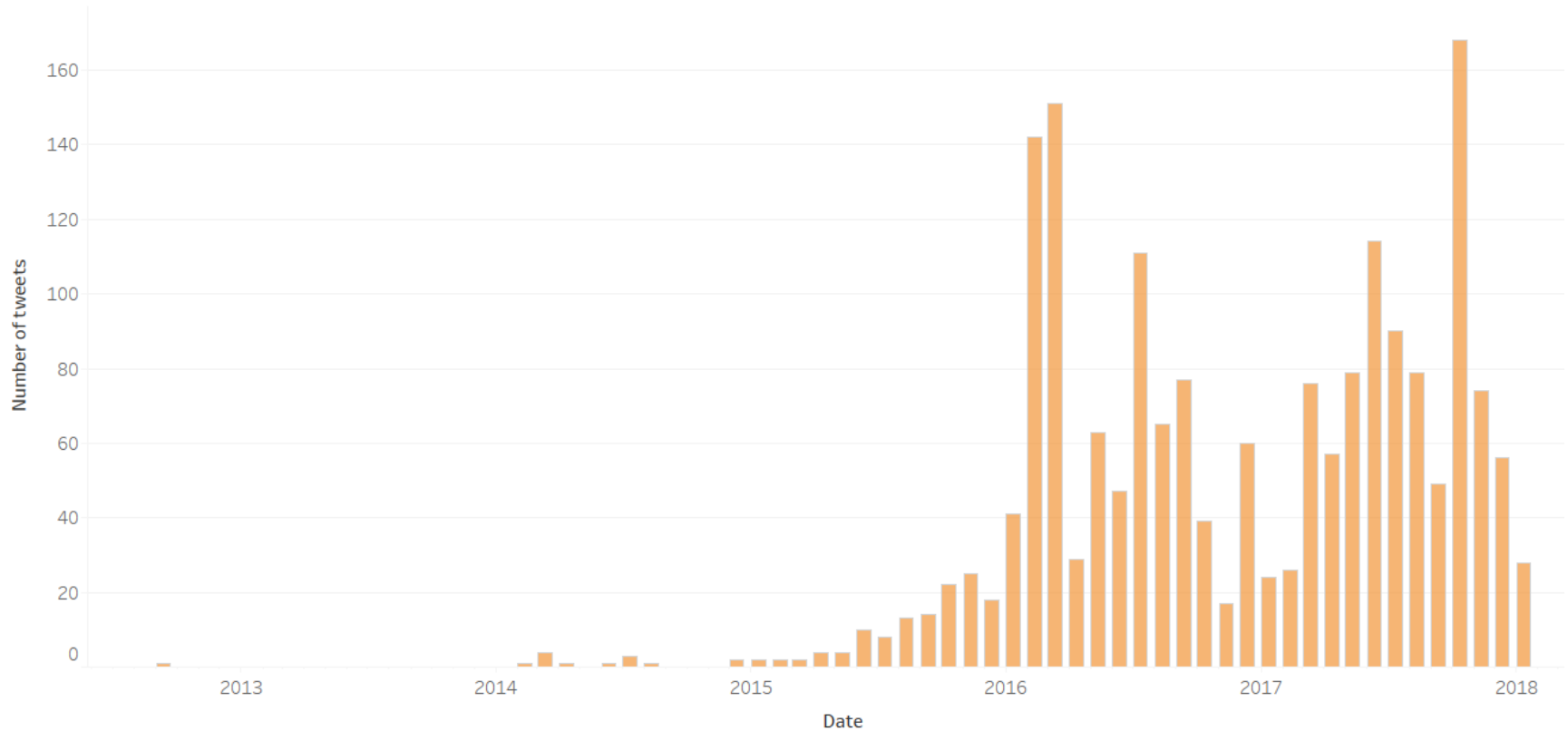


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Frequency of tweets on “opioids”

Senate

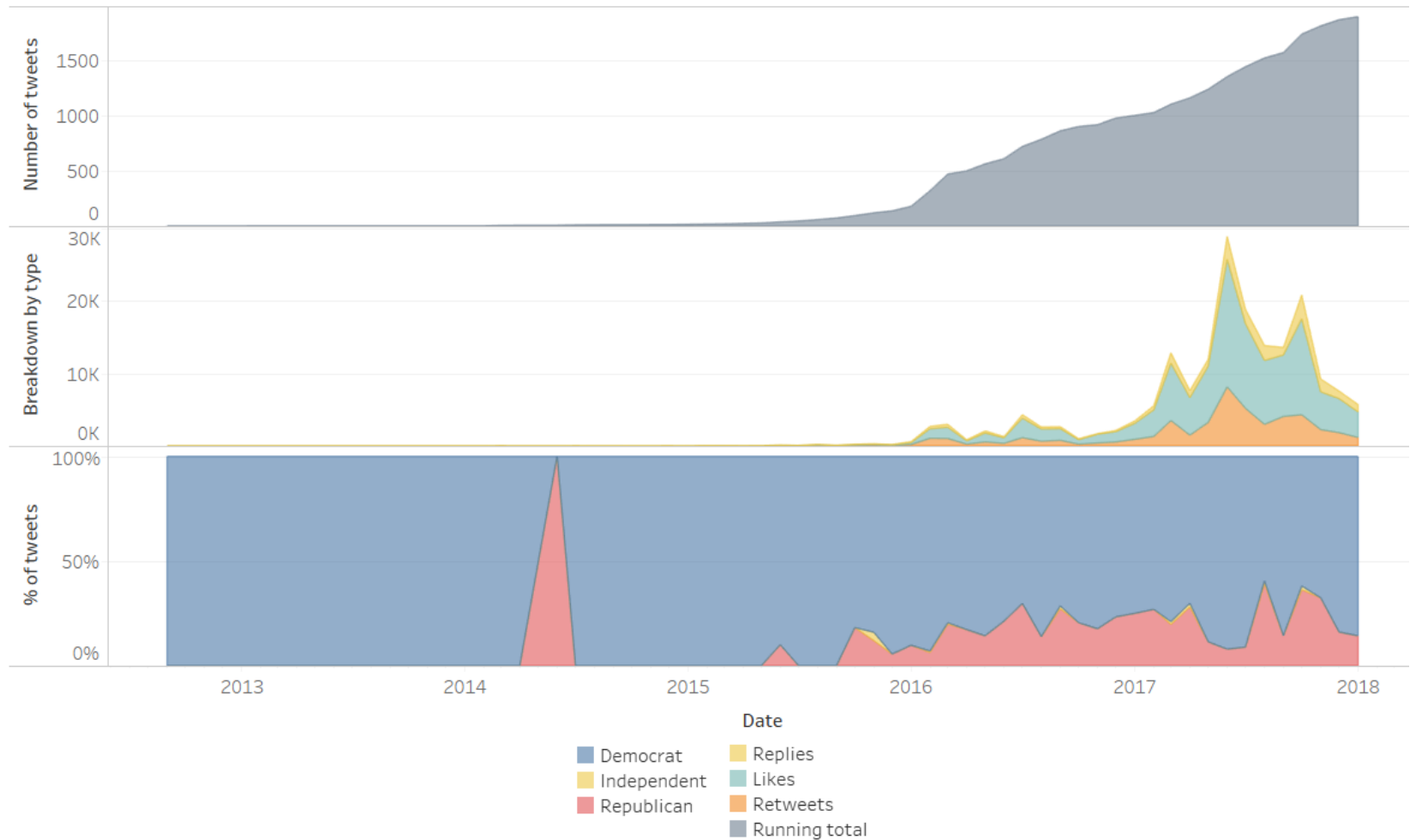


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Tweets over time

Senate

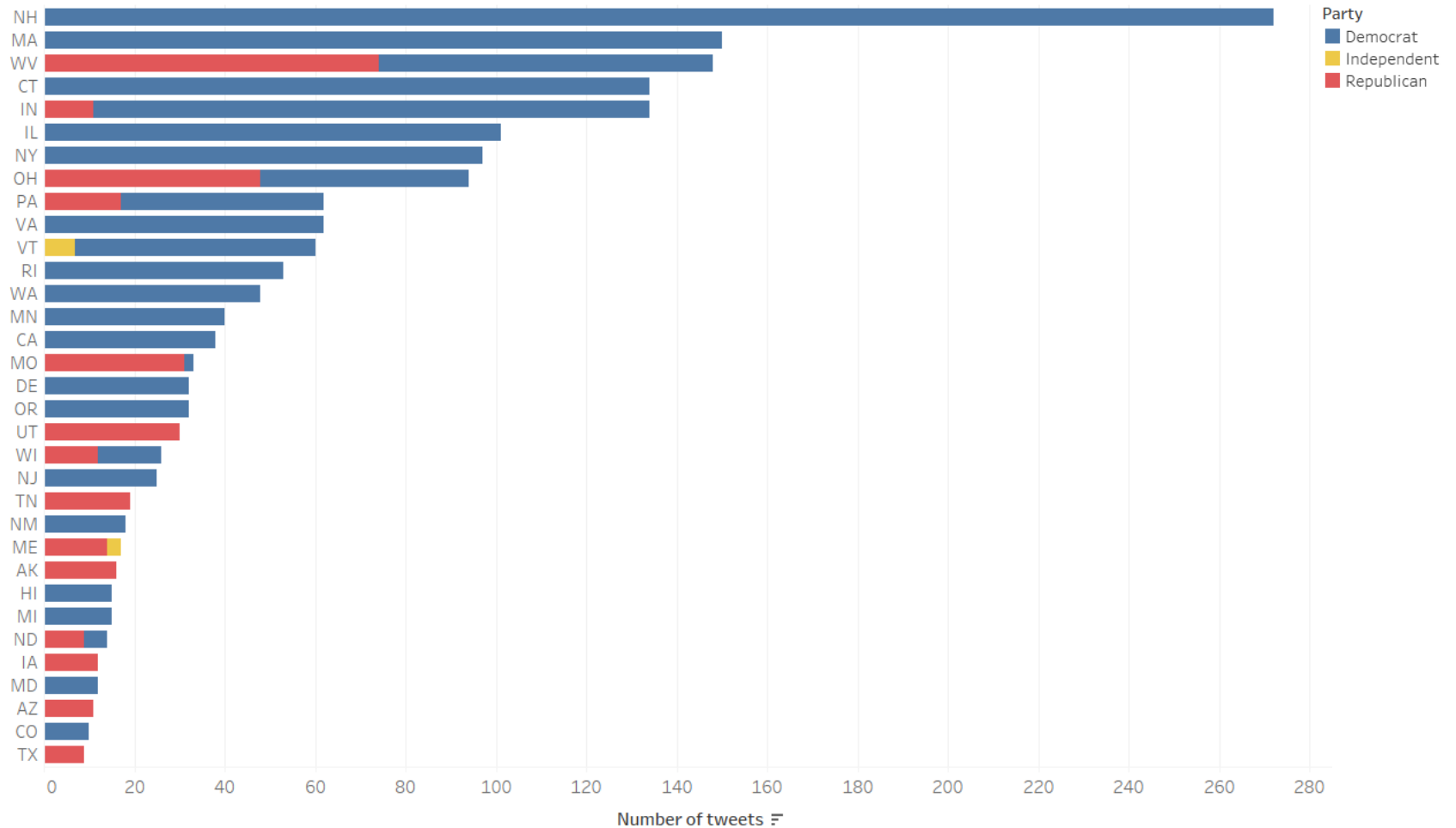


Sources: National Journal Research, 2017.

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Number of tweets mentioning “opioids” by state

Senate

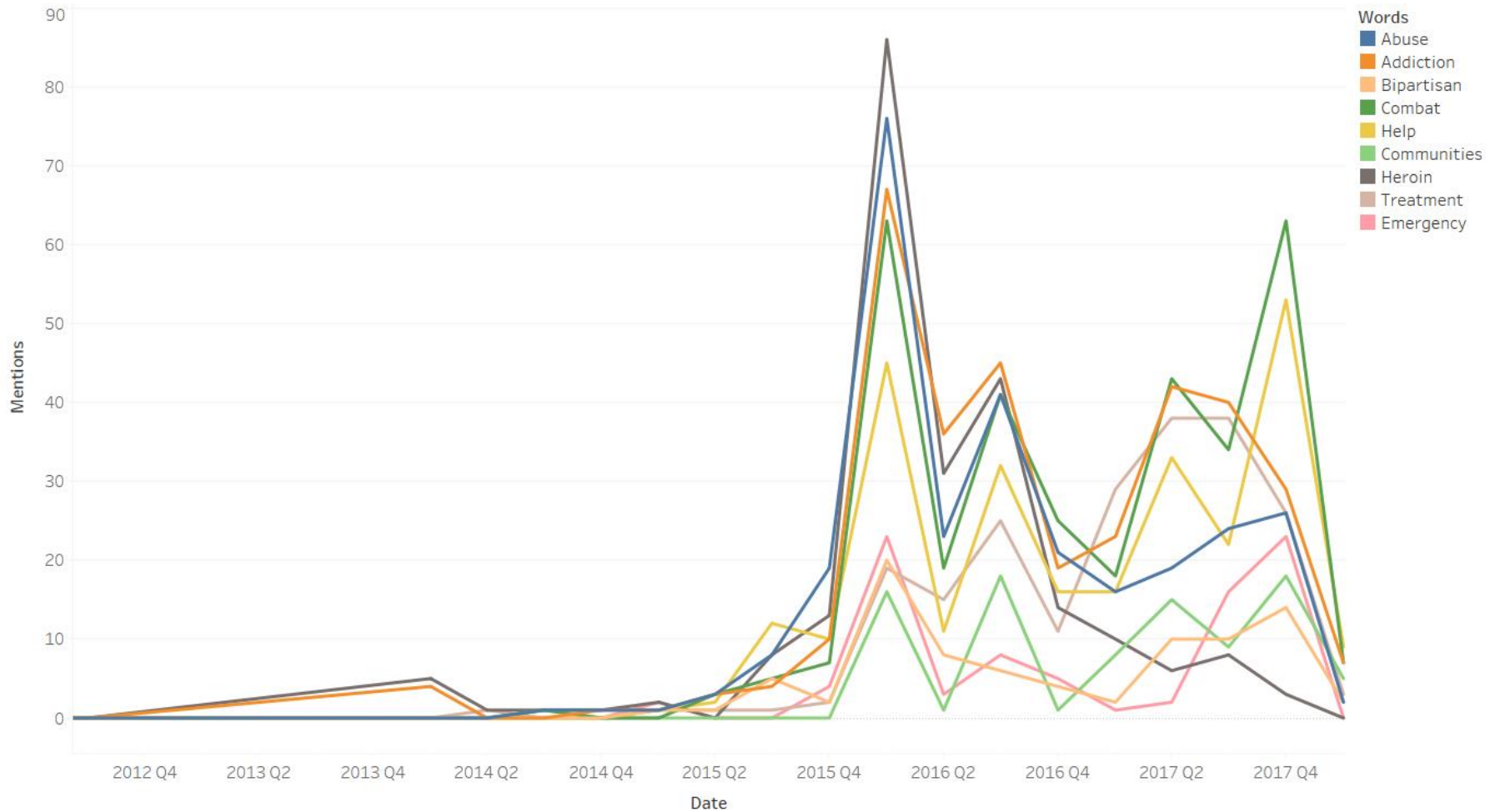


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Top words mentioned over time

Senate



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