

### CONSUMPTION



In 2017, 6% of high school students misused prescription drugs in the past month.<sup>1\*</sup> One in 10 high school students have ever misused a pain reliever.<sup>1\*</sup> Past year pain relievers misuse is more common among 18 to 25 year olds (7%) than those 26 and older (4%).<sup>2\*</sup>

In 2017, 7% of high school students reported having ever used inhalants, 5% reported having ever used cocaine, and 3% reported having ever used heroin. Rates have been stable in recent years.<sup>1\*</sup>

In 2016-17, about 6,000 (0.51%) Mainers 12 and older used heroin in the past year.<sup>2\*</sup> The highest rate of use was among Mainers 18 to 25 year olds (1.24%).<sup>2\*</sup>



### CONSEQUENCES



In 2018, there were 904 reports regarding infants born exposed to substances; this represented 7% of the live births in Maine. The number of drug-affected baby reports declined by 5% from 2017 to 2018.<sup>3</sup>

In 2018, there were 354 overdose deaths due to substance use in Maine; seven out of ten overdose deaths were related to illicit drugs. Eighty percent of drug overdose deaths involved at least one opioid.<sup>4</sup>



From 2017 to 2018 Maine DEA drug trafficking investigations for heroin decreased by 21% while cocaine trafficking investigations increased by 27%.<sup>5</sup>

In 2017, over half of primary treatment admissions were related either to illicit or pharmaceutical opioids/opiates.<sup>6</sup>

### CONTRIBUTING FACTORS

In 2017, the vast majority of high school students (87%) believed that it would be harmful if they took a prescription drug that was not originally prescribed to them.<sup>1\*</sup>



Opiate agonist prescriptions dispensed have decreased by 22% from 2016 to 2018.<sup>7</sup> In 2018, just over 52 million doses (e.g., pills, patches) of opiate agonists† were dispensed in Maine.<sup>7</sup> This represents an annual average of 39 doses for every person in Maine. †Opiate agonists include pain relievers but not opiates to assist in substance use treatment (e.g., buprenorphine, methadone).

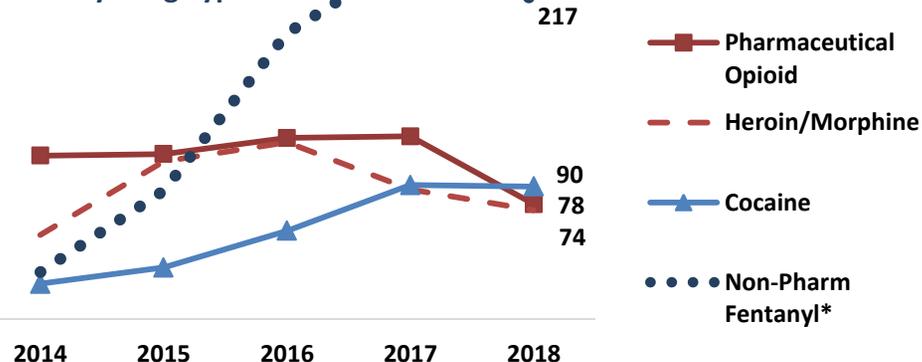
In 2017, one in five parents believed their teen could access prescription drugs without their knowledge.<sup>8\*</sup> Seventeen percent of high school students felt it would be easy to obtain prescription drugs.<sup>1\*</sup>



**While progress has been made in combatting the opioid epidemic, we must continue to address access to and demand for illicit drugs in Maine.**

From 2017 to 2018, drug-related deaths involving both non-pharmaceutical fentanyl and/or heroin have decreased while those involving cocaine stayed consistent.<sup>4</sup>

Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type



This fact sheet is a product of the Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). For more info, visit [www.maine-seow.com](http://www.maine-seow.com)



<sup>1</sup> Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey\*

<sup>2</sup> National Survey on Drug Use and Health\*

<sup>3</sup> Office of Child and Family Services

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Sorg, Office of Chief Medical Examiner

<sup>5</sup> Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

<sup>6</sup> Web Infrastructure Treatment System

<sup>7</sup> Prescription Monitoring Program

<sup>8</sup> Maine Parent Survey

\*Self-reported data