SEOW Special Report: Heroin, Opioids, and Other Drugs in Maine

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Introduction

The following report is a product of the Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). The Maine SEOW, under the Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services (SAMHS), is charged with collecting, analyzing, and disseminating data regarding substance use and related behavioral health in efforts to help prevention professionals and stakeholders make data driven decisions.

The following report examines the consumption, consequences, and contributing factors of substance use in Maine with a special focus on heroin and opioids. In addition, the report looks at data indicators related to the treatment of substance use as well as co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders. In order to provide for a more comprehensive report, SEOW relies on a multitude of data sources (Appendix A). When possible, indicators have been analyzed by demographics (e.g., age, gender) and defined geographical regions (e.g. public health district, county).

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Executive Summary

- Prescription drugs continue to represent a serious public health concern.
- > Prescription drug misuse also continues to have a large impact on treatment, mortality/morbidity, and crime in Maine.
- ➤ Pharmaceutical drugs contribute to the majority of drug overdose deaths.
- ➤ Lethal co-toxicants such as Benzodiazepines and Fentanyl require closer monitoring.
- ➤ As the availability of prescription narcotics has leveled off, heroin use and the consequences thereof have been on the rise.
- > Somerset and Kennebec have persistently observed some of the highest rates for narcotics prescribed per person since 2008.

Executive Summary (cont.)

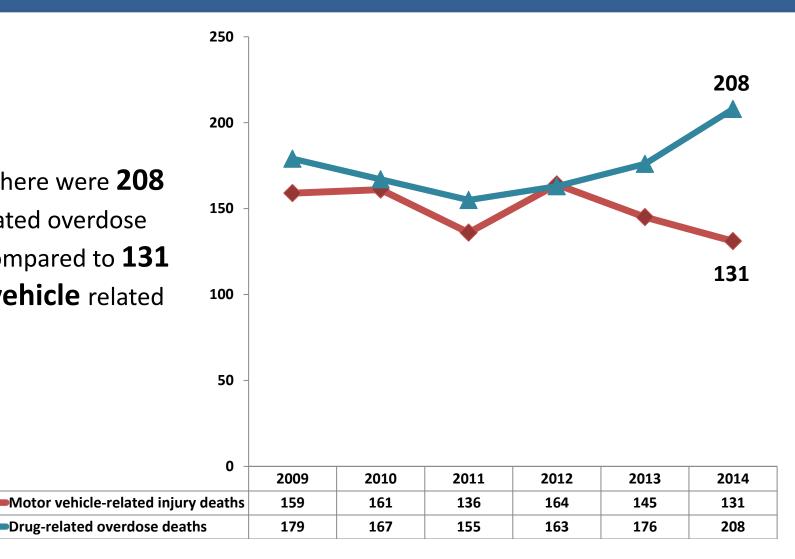
- Based on arrest and treatment data, heroin use is most prevalent among the southern and coastal regions (specifically York, Cumberland, Androscoggin, Kennebec, and Knox).
- ➤ Rates of heroin trafficking/sales (DEA) arrests are highest in the Midcoast region.
- ➤ Opioid and heroin treatment is most common among 26 to 34 year olds.
- Availability and accessibility of opioids continues to be a problem.
- ➤ Co-occurring mental health and substance disorders are increasingly common among those seeking treatment.
- > It's evident that there is a strong relationship between substance use and mental health.

Impact

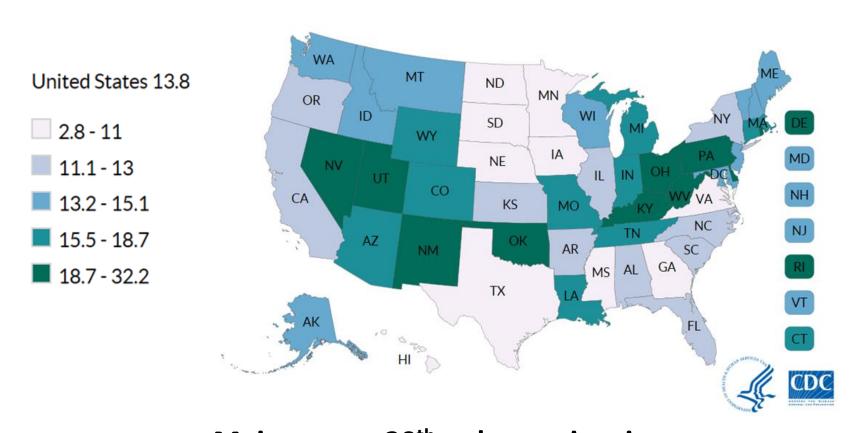
(e.g., deaths, overdoses, arrests, poisonings)

Unintentional Deaths in Maine, by type: 2009-2014

In 2014, there were **208 drug** related overdose deaths compared to 131 motor vehicle related deaths.



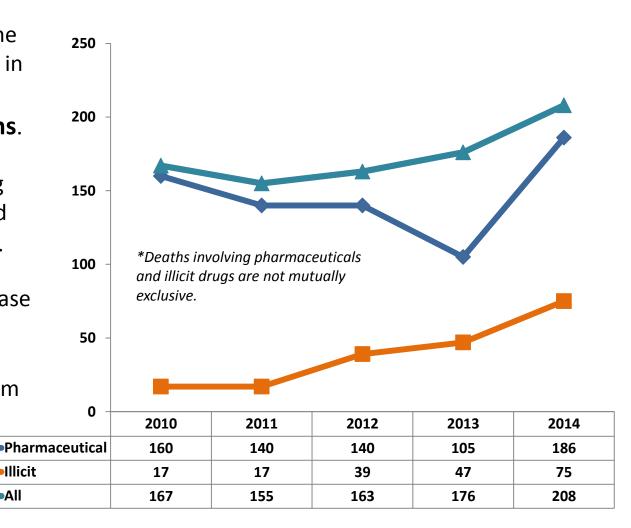
Drug poisoning rates (per 100,000 residents), by state: 2013



In 2013, **Maine** ranked **30th** in **drug poisoning deaths** with 13.2 deaths per 100,000.

Number of deaths* caused by pharmaceuticals and/or illicit drugs: 2010-2014

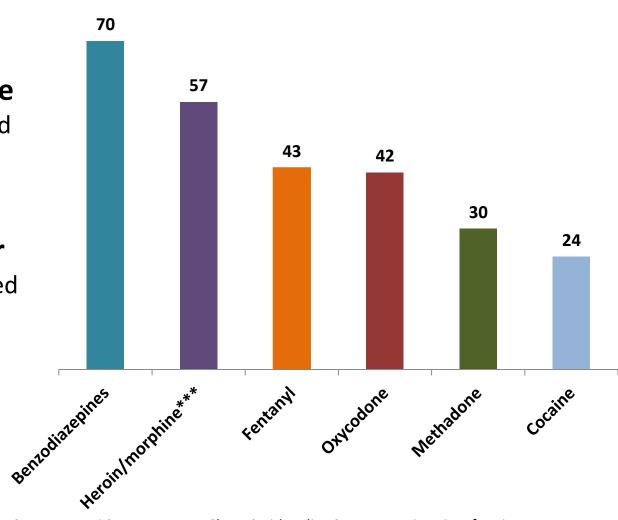
- ▲ From 2011 to 2014, Maine observed a 34% increase in the number of all **drug** related **overdose deaths**.
- In 2014, most (89%) drug overdose deaths involved pharmaceutical drugs.
- There was a **340%** increase in the number of illicit drug-related overdose deaths was observed from 2011 to 2014.



Number of drug deaths involving specific drug types*: 2014**

More than one in three overdose deaths involved benzodiazepines.

More than one in four overdose deaths involved heroin/morphine.



Source: Marci Sorg, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at University of Maine, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

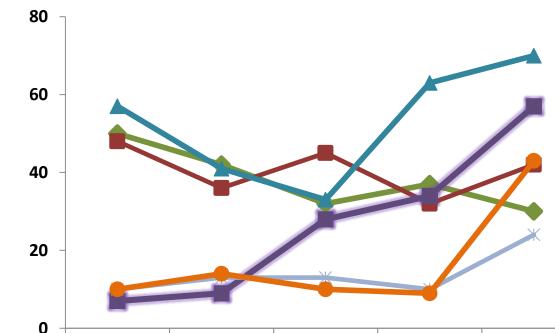
^{*}Some deaths may be caused by more than one key drug. **2014 results are preliminary

^{***}Deaths caused by known pharmaceutical morphine removed from total.

Number of drug deaths* involving specific drug types**: 2010–2014

■ In 2014, there were **57** deaths involving heroin/morphine; a 530% increase since 2011.

 Fentanyl related deaths increased by 377% from 2013 (9) to 2014 (43)



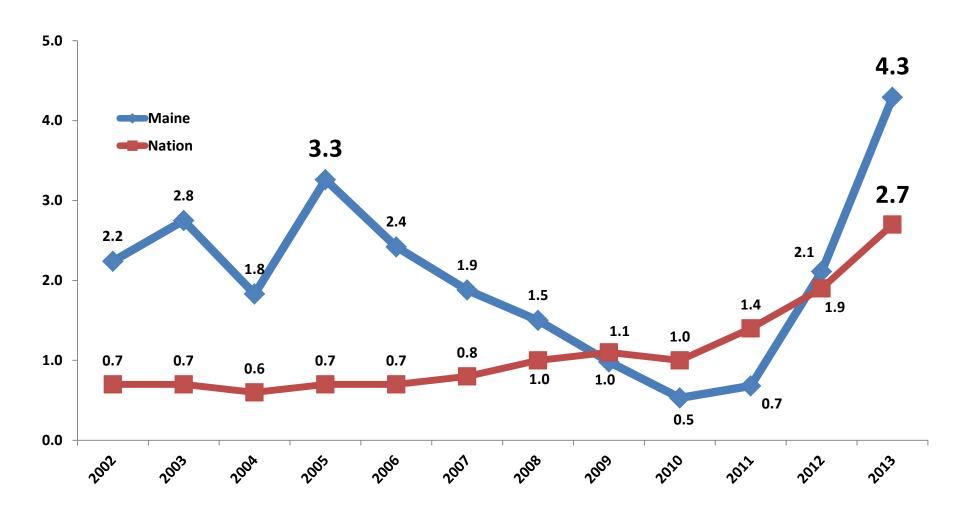
*Deaths caused by know
pharmaceutical morphine
removed from total.
**Some deaths may be
caused by more than one

key drug.

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
→ Methadone	50	42	32	37	30
Oxycodone	48	36	45	32	42
Benzodiazepines	57	41	33	63	70
Heroin/morphine**	7	9	28	34	57
Cocaine	10	13	13	10	24
Fentanyl	10	14	10	9	43

Source: Marci Sorg, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at University of Maine, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

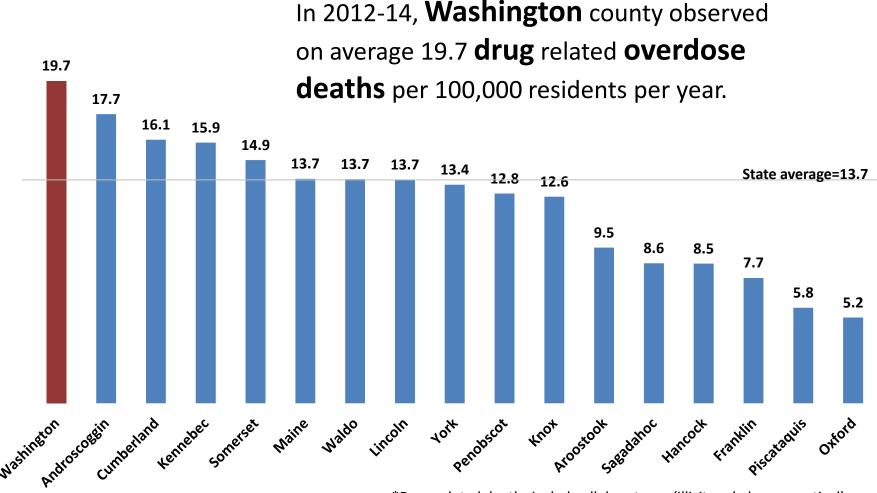
Heroin related death overdoses, Maine vs. Nation: 2002-2013



<u>Source, National Data:</u> USCDC; Multiple Cause of Death Files from the National Vital Statistics System, 2002-2013.

<u>Source, Maine Data:</u> Maine Department of Health and Human Services, Office od Research, Data and Vital Statistics

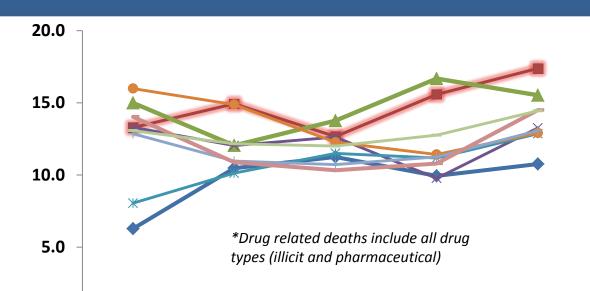
Drug-related* death rate per 100,000, by county: 2012-14



Source: Marci Sorg, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at University of Maine, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

*Drug related deaths include all drug types (illicit and pharmaceutical)

Drug-related* death rate per 100,000, by public health district: 2009-10 to 2013-14



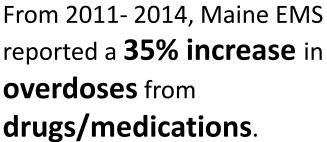
Central and Cumberland have observed some of the highest rates of drug related overdose deaths.

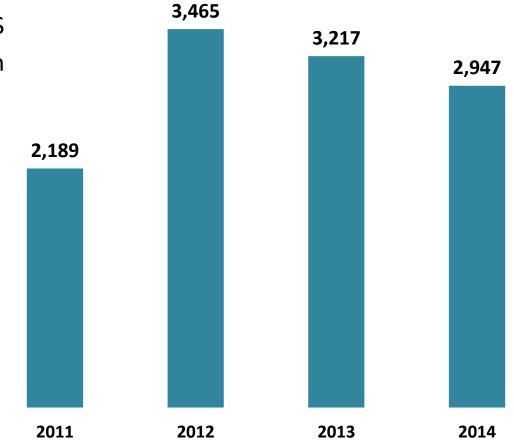
0.0					
0.0	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14
Aroostook	6.3	10.5	11.2	9.9	10.8
Central	13.3	14.9	12.7	15.6	17.4
Cumberland	15.0	12.0	13.8	16.7	15.5
→ Downeast	13.3	12.0	12.6	9.8	13.3
——Mid Coast	8.0	10.1	11.5	11.2	12.9
Penquis	16.0	14.9	12.3	11.4	12.9
Western	12.9	11.0	10.7	11.3	13.1
—York	14.0	10.9	10.3	10.8	14.5
Maine	13.1	12.2	12.0	12.8	14.4

In 2013-14, **Central** observed the highest average of drug related deaths, at **17.4** per 100,000 residents per year.

Source: Marci Sorg, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at University of Maine, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

Number of overdose EMS responses related to drugs/medications*: 2011–2014



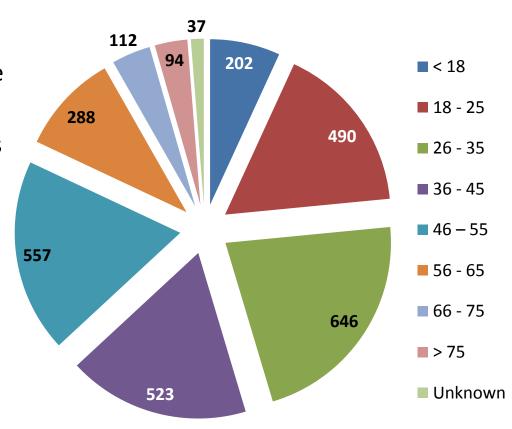


Source: Maine Emergency Medical Services

^{*}Drugs/medication include illicit drugs and prescription drugs. Data are not broken down further than this category.

Distribution of EMS drug/medication* overdose responses, by age and type: 2014

to **drugs/medication** were most common among Mainers between **26 and 55** year olds.

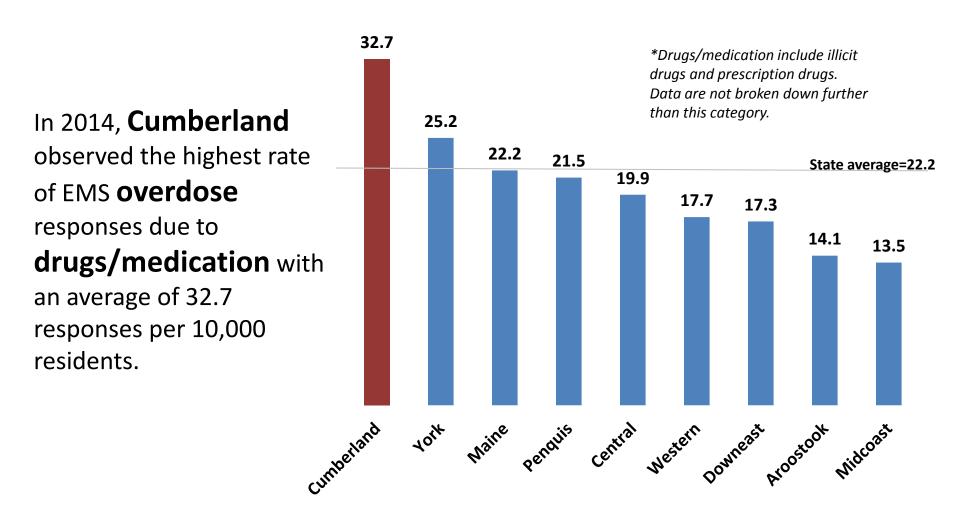


	< 18	18 - 25	26 - 35	36 - 45	46 – 55	56 - 65	66 - 75	> 75	Unknown
Percent by									
Age Group									
(n=2947)	7%	17%	22%	18%	19%	10%	4%	3%	1%

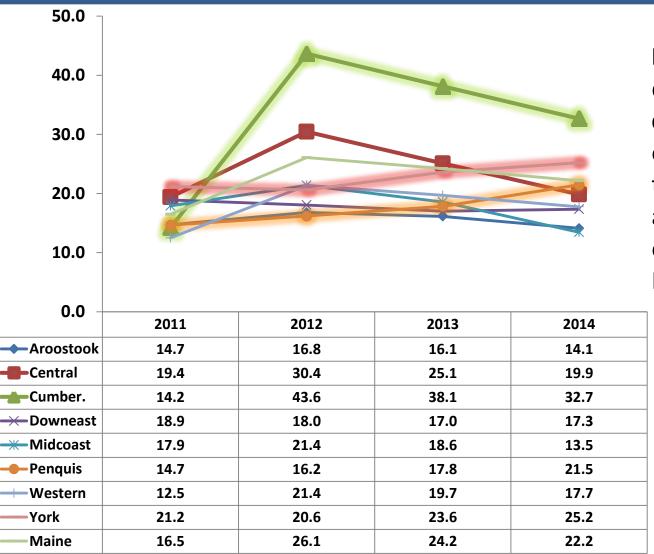
18

^{*}Drugs/medication include illicit drugs and prescription drugs. Data are not broken down further than this category.

Number of EMS overdose responses due to drugs/medications* per 10,000 residents, by public health district: 2014



Number of overdose EMS responses due to drug/medication* per 10,000 residents, by public health district: 2011-2014



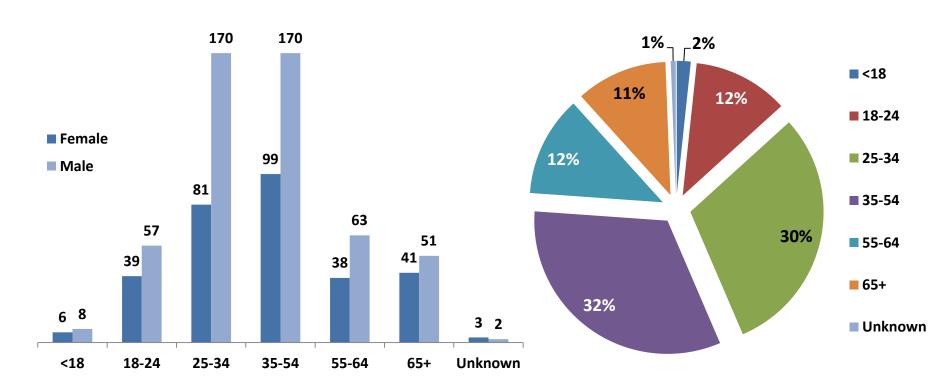
Most public health districts observed a decrease in the rates of EMS responses due to drugs/medication after 2012, with the exception of York and Penquis.

Source: Maine Emergency Medical Services

^{*}Drugs/medication include illicit drugs and prescription drugs. Data are not broken down further than this category.

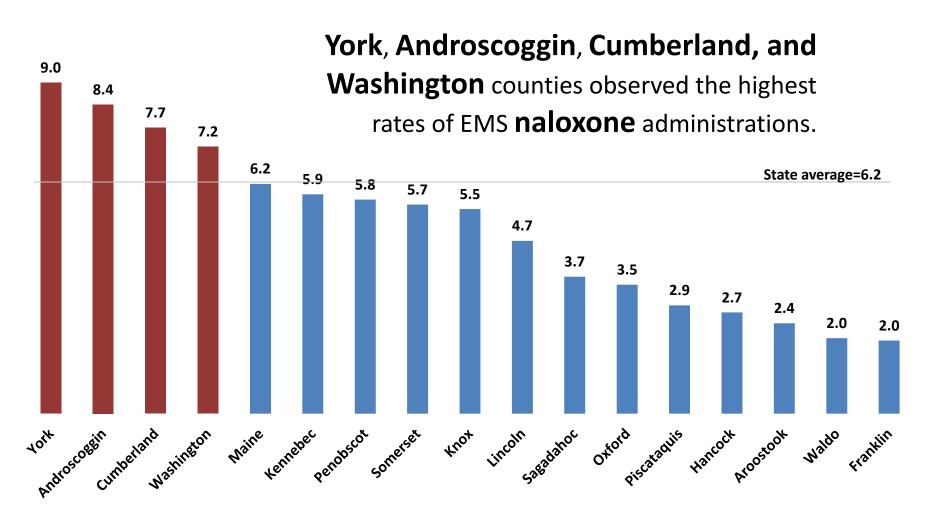
EMS naloxone administrations, by gender and age: 2014

In 2014, there were a total of **829** EMS **naloxone** administrations statewide. **Males** of all ages and **males and females** aged **25 to 54** years received the highest percentage of administrations.



Source: Maine Emergency Medical Services

EMS naloxone administrations per 10,000 residents, by county: 2014



MDEA drug offense arrests in Maine, by drug type: 2010-2014

In 2014, one in three drug offense arrests made by MDEA involved **heroin**.

The number of drug offense arrests due to **heroin** more than **quadrupled** from

2010 to 2014.

NOTE: The MDEA, through its regional multi-jurisdictional task forces is the lead

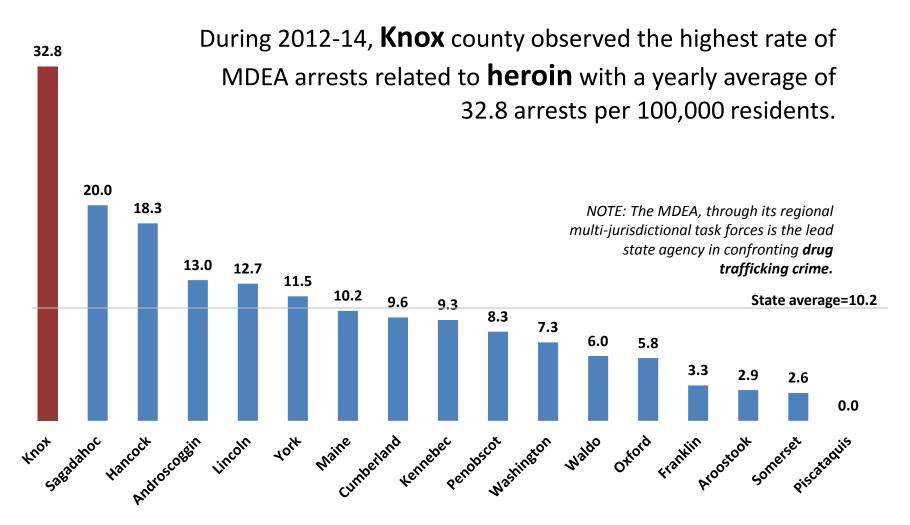
state agency in confronting drug

trafficking crime.

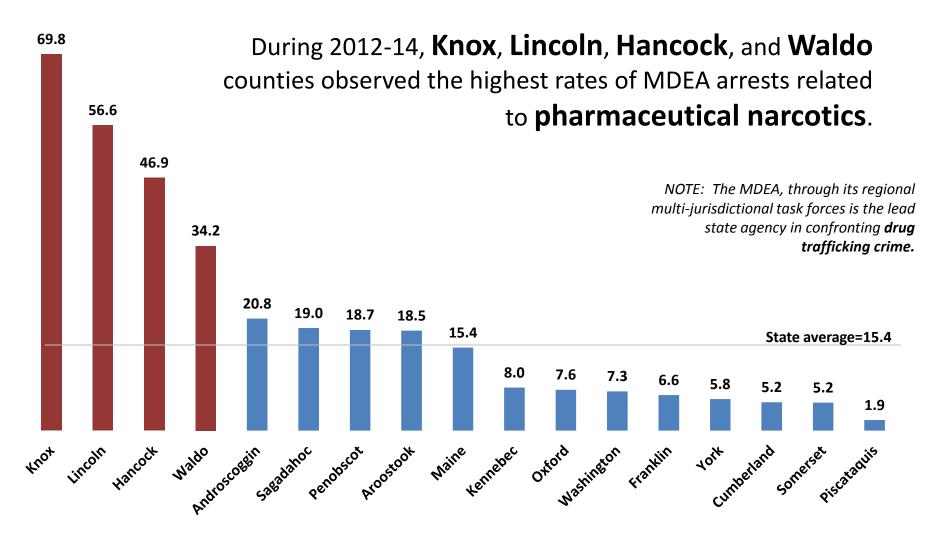
Cocaine/crack Heroin Marijuana **Methamphetamine** ►Pharm-narcotic Cathinones* Source: Maine Drug Enforcement Agency, 2010-2014

^{*}Cathinones are synthetic derivatives of an alkaloid that are used as drugs for their stimulating properties.

MDEA heroin arrest rate per 100,000, by county: 2012-14

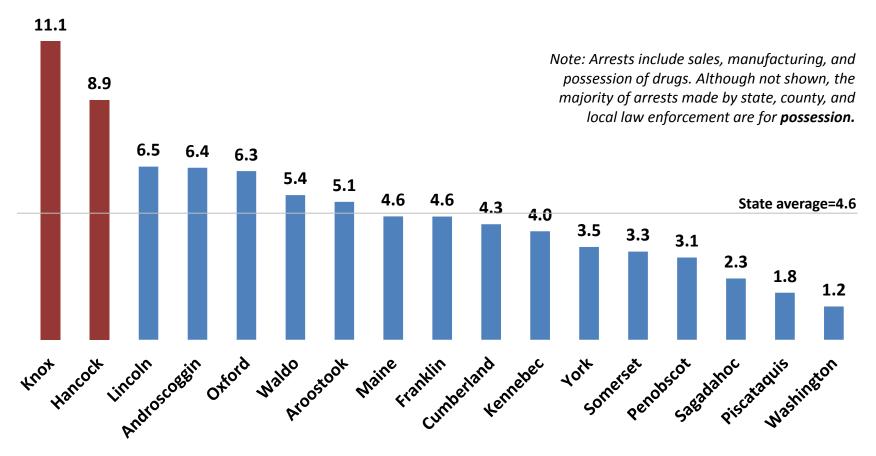


MDEA pharmaceutical narcotics arrest rate per 100,000, by county: 2012-14



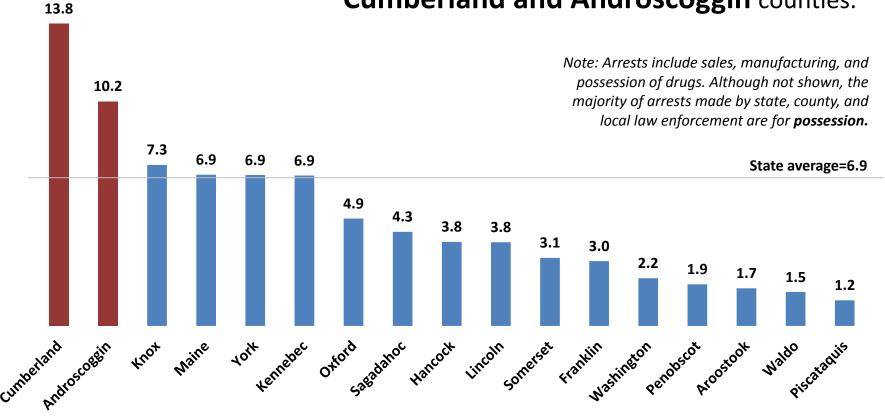
Rate of drug offense arrests made by state, county, and local law enforcement involving synthetic narcotics (per 10,000 residents): 2013

In 2013, <u>local law enforcement</u> arrests involving **pharmaceutical narcotics** were highest in **Knox** and **Hancock** counties.



Rate of drug offense arrests made by state, county, and local law enforcement involving opium, cocaine, and derivatives (per 10,000 residents): 2013

In 2013, state, county, and local law enforcement arrests involving opium, cocaine, and derivatives were highest in Cumberland and Androscoggin counties.

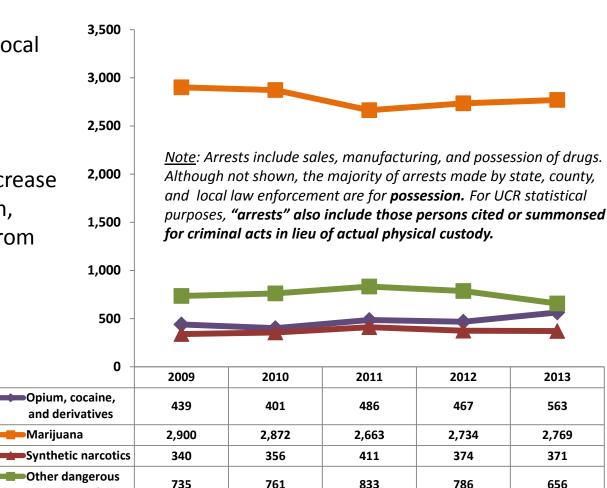


Drug offense arrests made by state, county, and local law enforcement, by drug type: 2009-2013

From 2009-2013, the majority of drug related local law enforcement arrests involved marijuana.

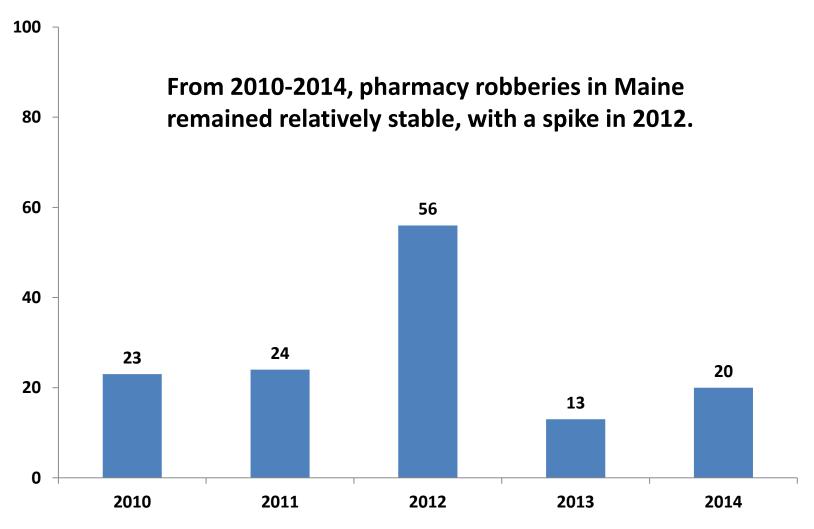
Maine observed a 28% increase in arrests related to opium, cocaine, and derivatives from 2009-2013.

Arrests due to synthetic opioids have remained relatively stable from 2009-2013.

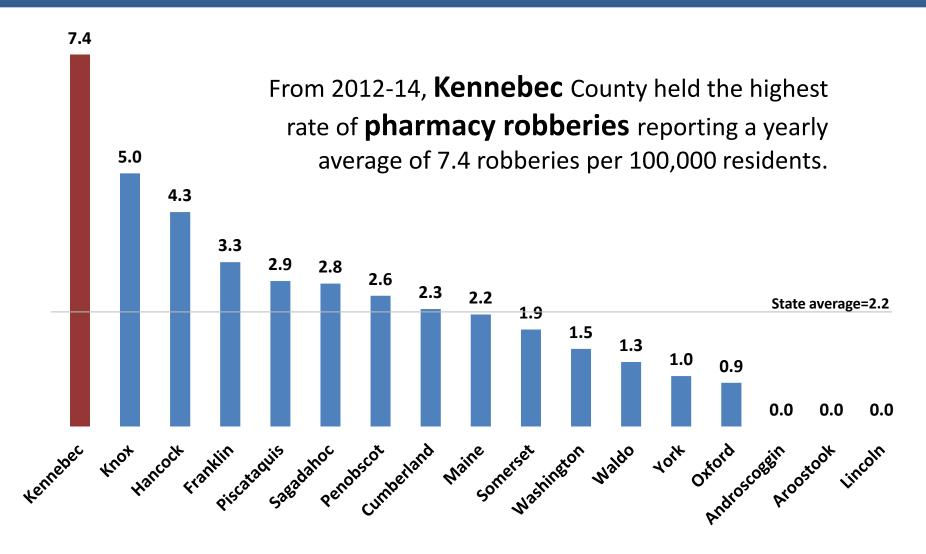


non-narcotics

Number of pharmacy robberies in Maine: 2010–2014



Rate of pharmacy robberies per 100,000 residents: 2012-14

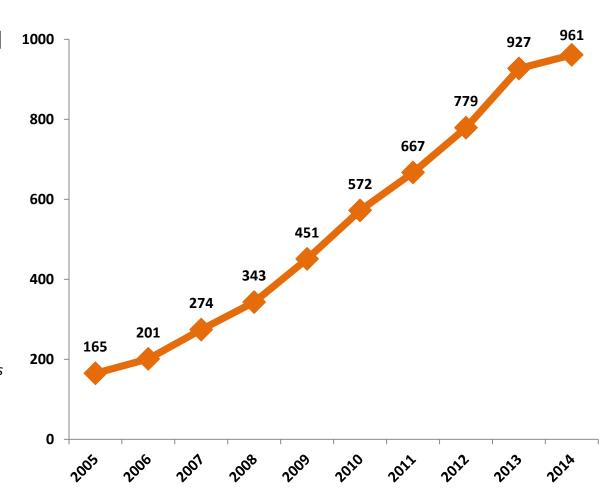


Number of drug affected baby notifications*: 2005-2014

In 2014, there were a total of **961** reports of **drug** affected baby notifications.

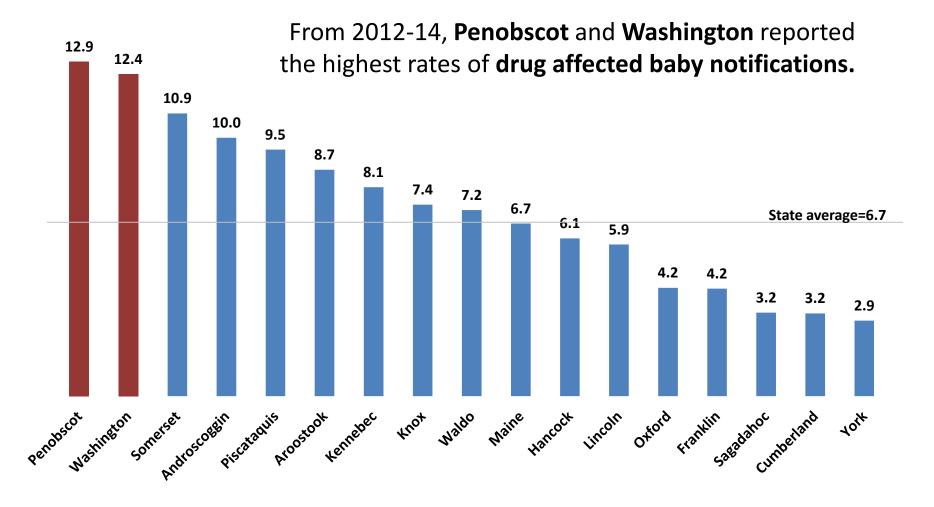
From 2005 to 2014, the number of drug affected baby notifications increased by **480%**.

*This measure reflects the number of infants born in Maine where a healthcare provider reported to OCFS that there was reasonable cause to suspect the baby may be affected by illegal substance abuse or demonstrating withdrawal symptoms resulting from prenatal drug exposure (illicit or prescribed appropriately under a physician's care for the mother's substance abuse treatment) or who have fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.



Source: Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS),
Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System (MACWIS).

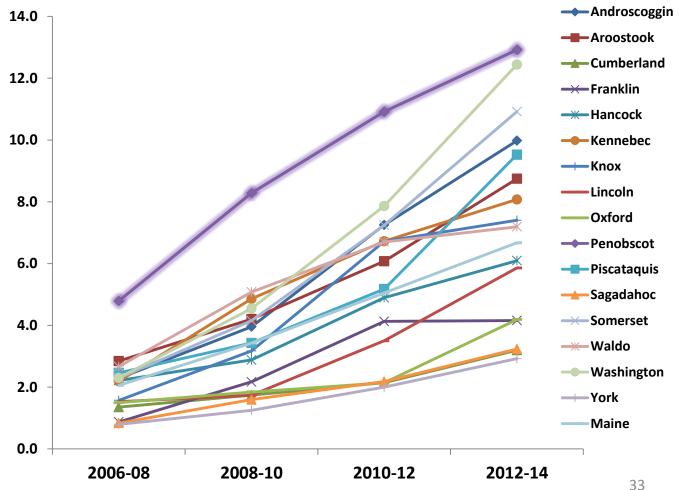
Average rate of drug affected baby notifications per 10,000 residents, by county: 2012-14



Average rate of drug affected baby notifications per 10,000 residents, by county: 2006-08 to 2012-14

Since 2006-08, **Penobscot** has observed the highest rate of **drug affected** baby notifications.

Source: Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System (MACWIS).



Impact Summary

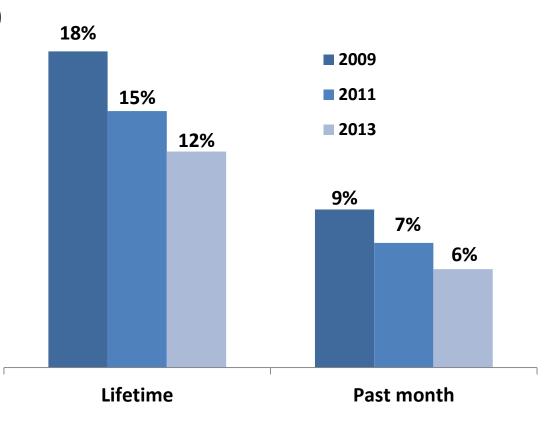
- Drug overdose deaths increased by 34% from 2011 to 2014.
- One in three drug OD's involved Benzodiazepines, one in four involved heroin, and one in five involved fentanyl.
- Fentanyl related deaths increased by 377% from 2013 to 2014
- From 2013 to 2014, the number of drug overdose deaths involving pharmaceutical drugs increased by 77% while those due to illicit drugs increased by 60%.
- Cumberland and York had the highest rates of EMS overdose responses due to drugs/medication.
- Majority of EMS naloxone admins were among males between 25 and 54.
- Rates of drug related OD's are highest in Washington, Androscoggin, Cumberland,
 Kennebec, and Somerset counties.
- Majority of MDEA heroin and opioid arrests are from Midcoast and Downeast.
- The number of drug offense arrests due to heroin more than quadrupled from 2010 to 2014.
- Highest rate of local law enforcement arrests related to opium, cocaine, and derivatives were observed in Cumberland and Androscoggin.
- Kennebec had the highest rate of pharmacy robberies in recent years.
- From 2005 to 2014, the number of drug affected baby notifications increased by 480%; Penobscot and Washington counties reported the highest rates.

Rates of Use

Percent of high school students who have taken prescription drugs that were not prescribed to them in their lifetime and in the past month: 2009–2013

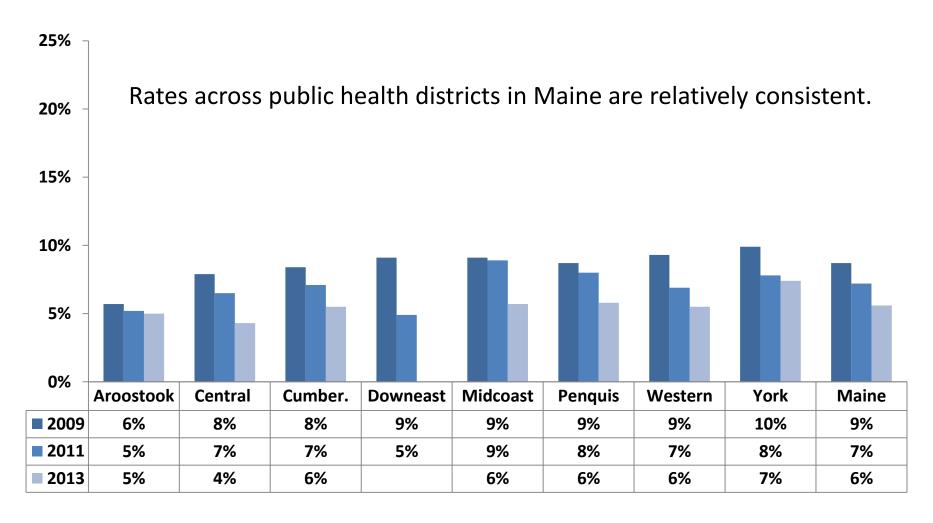
In 2013, more than **1 out of 10** high school students reported **misusing** a **Rx drug** in their lifetime.

Rates for **lifetime** as well as **past month** misuse of prescription drugs **decreased** from 2009 to 2013.



Source: Maine Integrated Youth health Survey

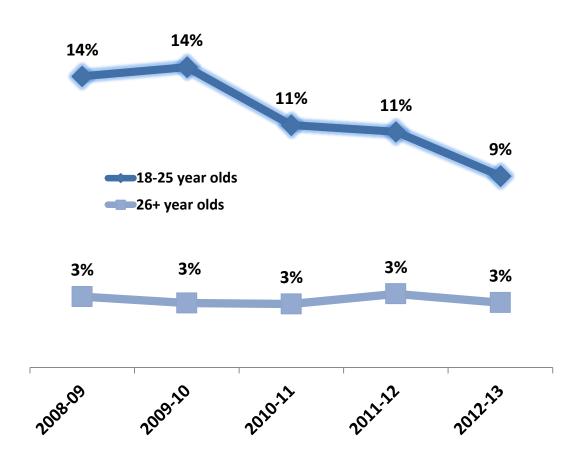
Percent of high school students who have taken prescription drugs not prescribed to them by a doctor in past 30 days, by public health district: 2009-2013



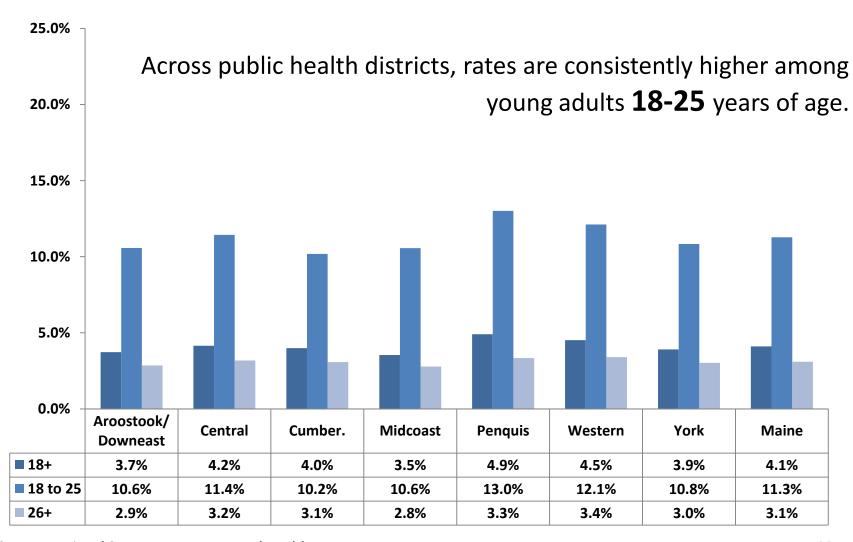
Non-medical use of pain relievers among adult Maine residents in the past year, by age group: 2007–08 to 2012–13

In 2012-13, about **1 in 10** young adults **18 to 25** reported misusing **pain relievers** in the past year.

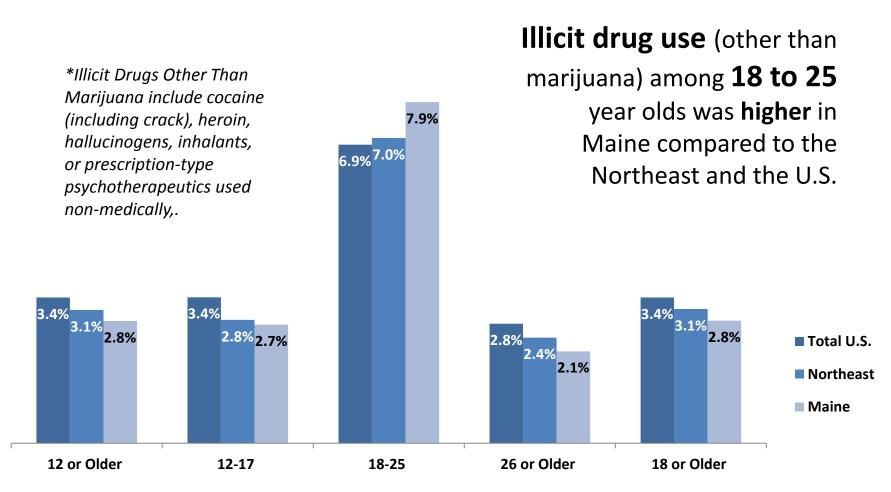
Rates among 18 to 25 year olds group have been declined from 2008-2009 to 2012-2013.



Percent of adults who used prescription pain relievers in past year for nonmedical use, by age group and public health district: 2010-12

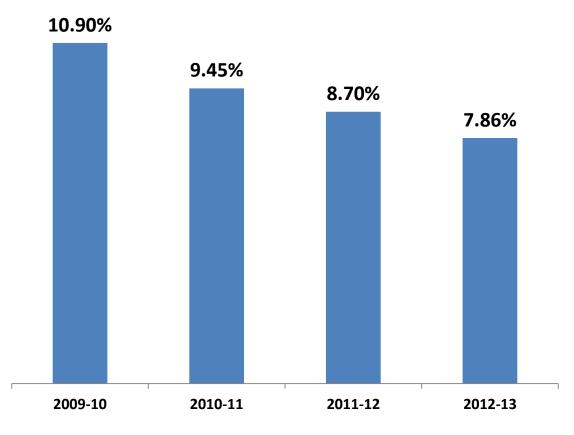


Illicit drug* use other than marijuana in the past month, by age group and state: 2012-13



Illicit drug* use other than marijuana in the past month among 18-25 year olds in Maine: 2012-13

Illicit drug use (other than marijuana) among 18 to 25 year olds has been declining since 2009-10.



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

^{*}Illicit Drugs Other Than Marijuana include cocaine (including crack), heroin, hallucinogens, inhalants, or prescription-type psychotherapeutics used non-medically.

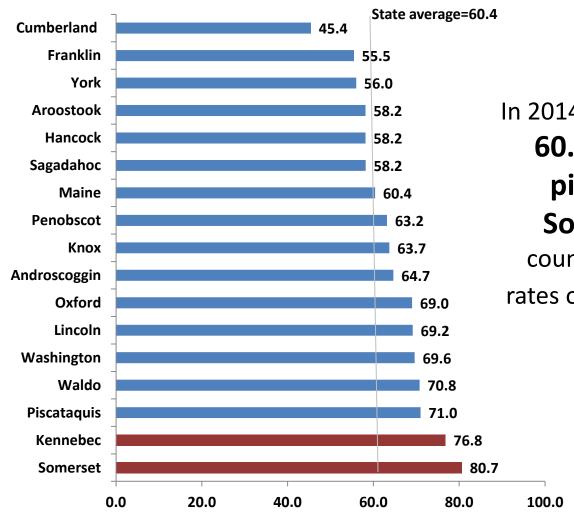
Consumption Summary

- In 2013, 12% of high school students reported misusing Rx drugs in their lifetime.
- Rates of illicit drugs and Rx misuse are higher among younger adults 18 to 25.
- Maine appears to have a higher illicit drug (other than MJ) use rate among 18 to 25 year olds compared to the Northeast and Nation (rates have decreased over the past several years).

Contributing Factors

(e.g. availability, accessibility)

Dispensed quantity of prescribed narcotics per capita, by county: 2014

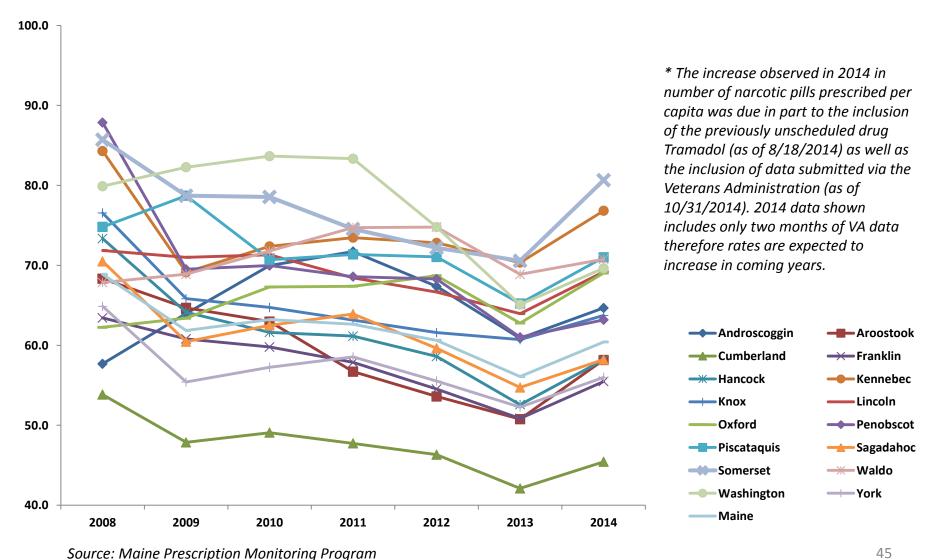


In 2014, there was an average of 60.4 prescribed narcotic pills per capita in Maine.

Somerset and Kennebec counties observed the highest rates of 76.8 and 80.7 pills per capita, respectively.

Source: Prescription Monitoring Program

Dispensed quantity of narcotics per capita, by county: 2010-2014*



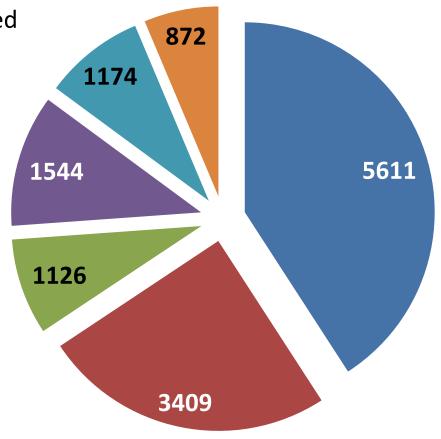
Substances most frequently **requested for verification** by non-law enforcement, by drug type: (NNEPC, 2014)

In 2014, the poison center received **5,611** (41%) calls relating to the

verification of **opioids**.

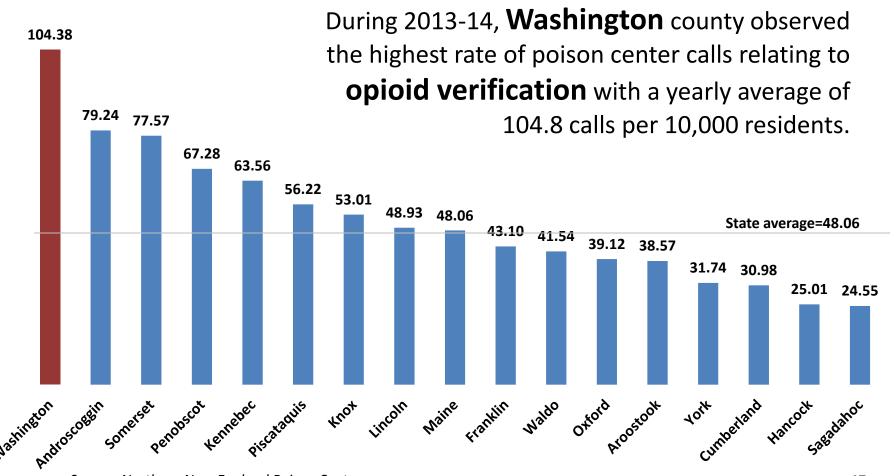


- Benzodiazepines
- Non-opioid analgesics
- Antidepressants
- Stimulants/street drugs
- Cardiovascular

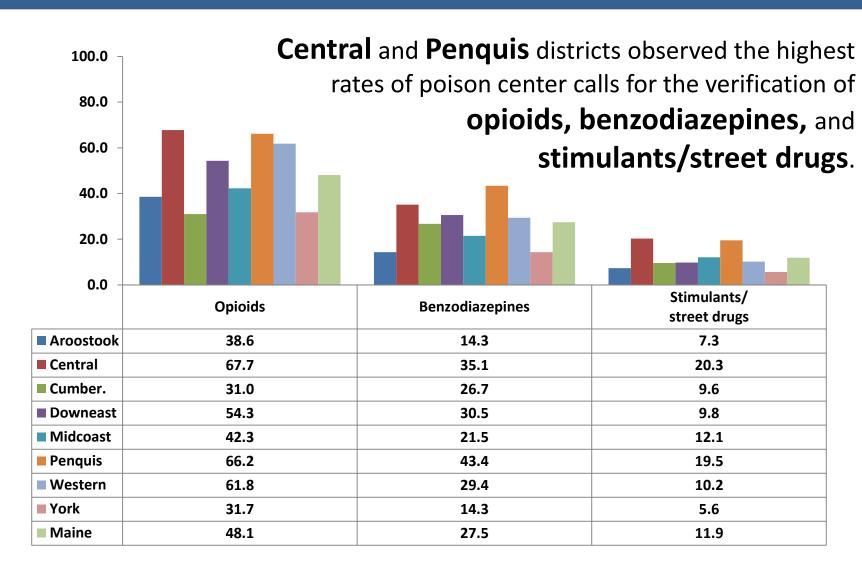


Source: Northern New England Poison Control Center

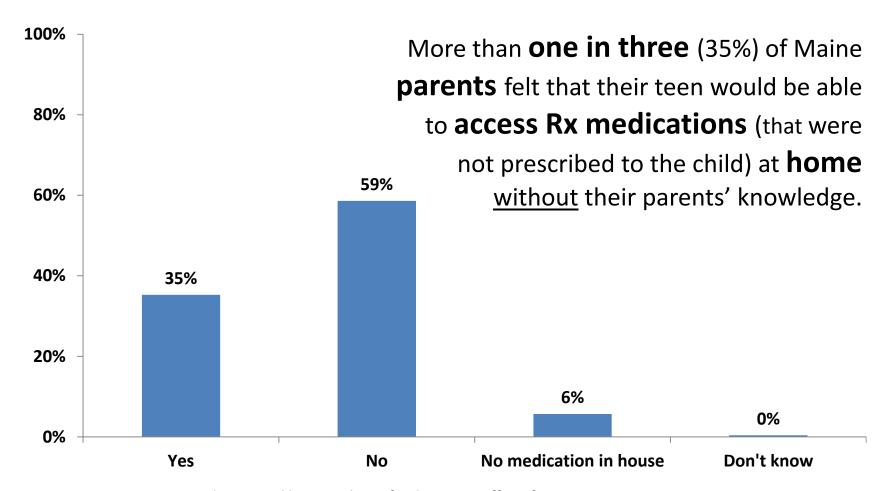
Number of poisoning calls related to verification of opioids reported to New England Poison Center (per 10,000 residents), by county: 2013-14



Number of poisonings reported to Northern New England Poison Center 10,000 residents, by drug type and public health district: 2013-14

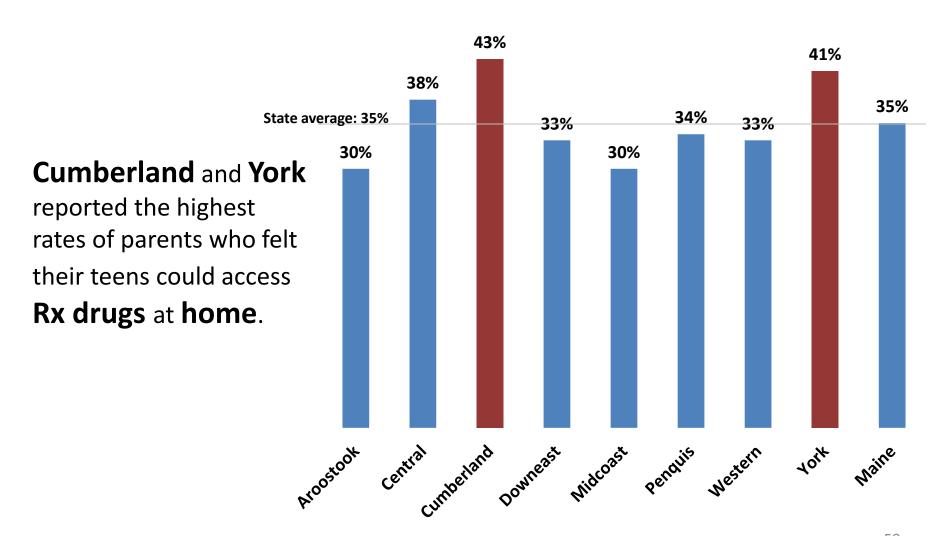


Parent perception of teen accessibility of prescription drugs at home without parental knowledge: 2015

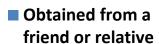


Source: Maine Parent Survey administered by Pan Atlantic for the Maine Office of Substance of Abuse and Mental Health Services.

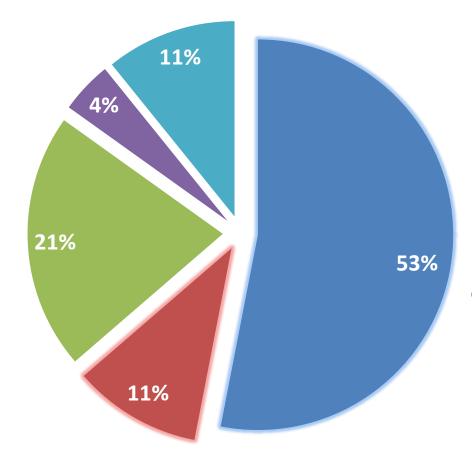
Parent perception of teen accessibility of prescription drugs at home without parental knowledge, by public health district: 2015



U.S. residents aged 12 and older who used pain relievers nonmedically, by point of access: 2012-13



- Bought from a friend or relative
- Prescribed by a doctor
- Got from a drug dealer or stranger



Of those who reported misusing **pain relievers**, over a **half** (64%) obtained them from a **relative or friend**.

Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Contributing Factors Summary

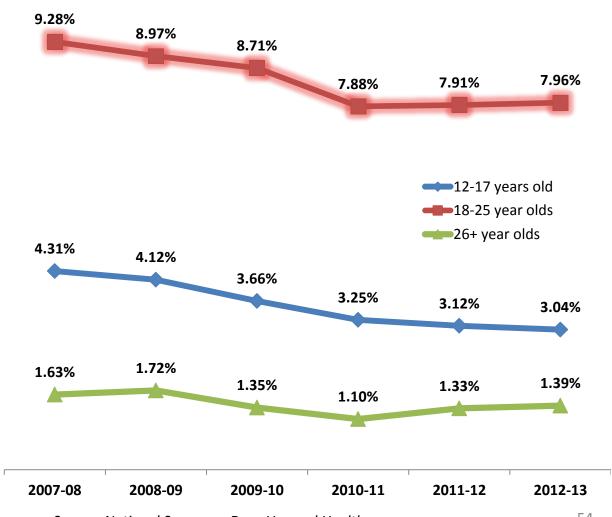
- For the past couple of years, Somerset and Kennebec have observed the highest rates of narcotics prescribed per person.
- 41% of calls to the poison center for purposes of verification were related to opioids; 25% were related to Benzodiazepines.
- Washington, Androscoggin, and Somerset had the highest rates of poison center calls related to the verification of opioids.
- Central and Penquis districts observed the highest rates of poison center calls for the verification of opioids, benzodiazepines, and stimulants/street drugs.
- A third of parents felt their teen could access meds in their home without permission; rates were highest in Cumberland and York.
- The majority of people who misuse pain relievers obtain them from a friend or relative.

Treatment

Needing but not receiving treatment for illicit drugs, by age group: 2007-08 to 2012-13

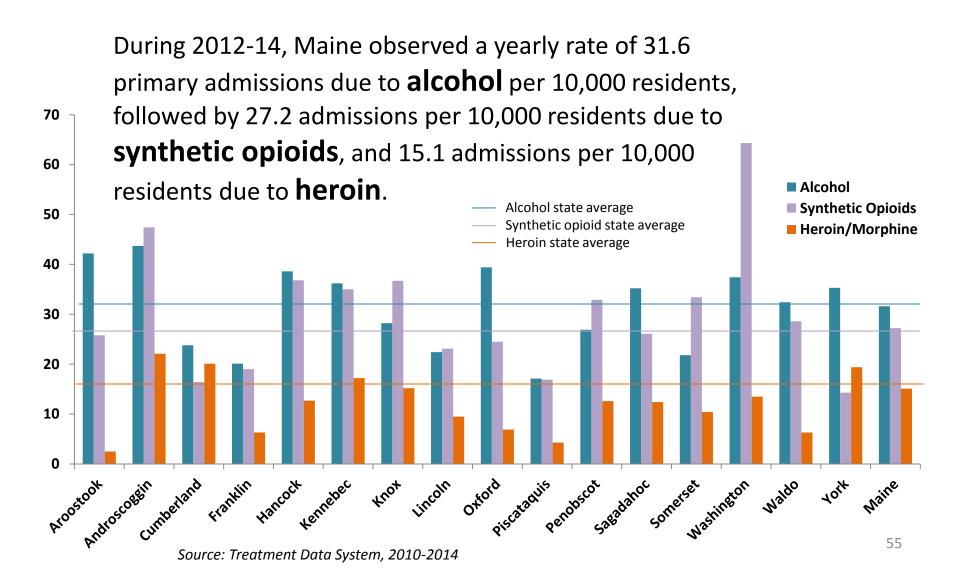
In 2012-2013, **8%** of **18 to 25** year olds in Maine are classified as **needing, but not receiving treatment.**

NOTE: Needing But Not Receiving
Treatment refers to respondents
classified as needing treatment for illicit
drugs, but not receiving treatment for
an illicit problem at a specialty facility
(i.e., drug and alcohol rehabilitation
facilities [inpatient or outpatient],
hospitals [inpatient only], and mental
health centers). Criteria is based on
Diagnostic and Statistical Manual
standards.

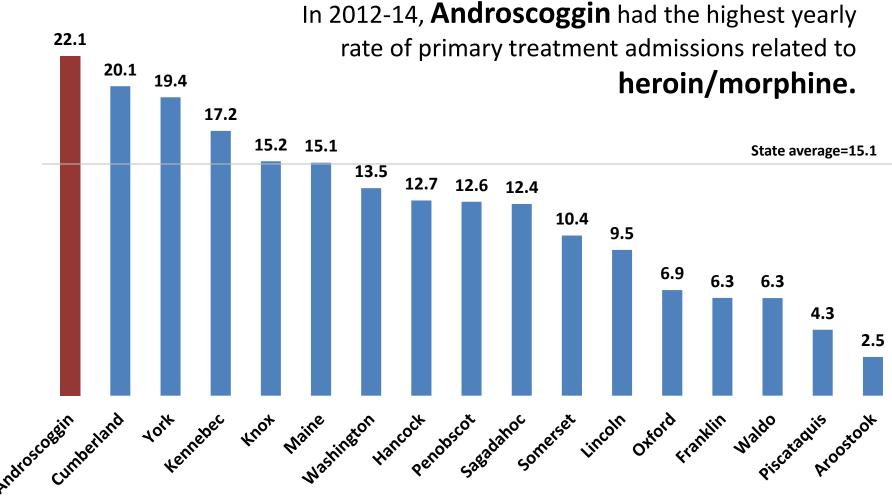


Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Average rate (per 10,000 residents) of adult primary treatment admissions, by drug type and county: 2012-14



Average rate (per 10,000 residents) of adult primary treatment admissions related to heroin/morphine: 2012-14

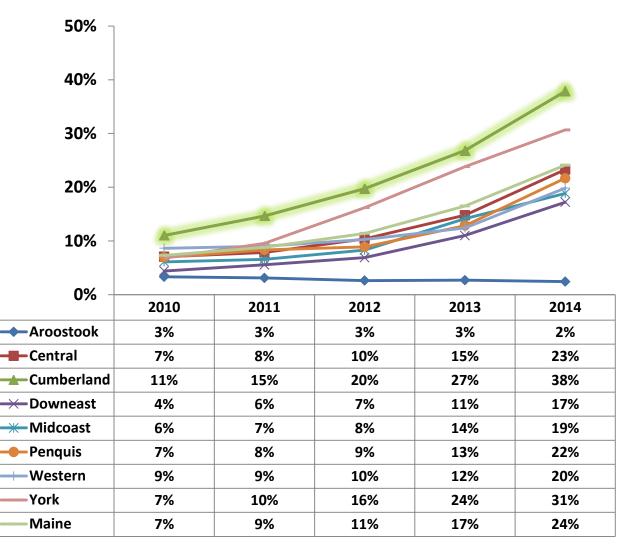


Source: Treatment Data System, 2010-2014

Primary admissions (18+) related to heroin/morphine, by public health district and drug type: 2010-2014

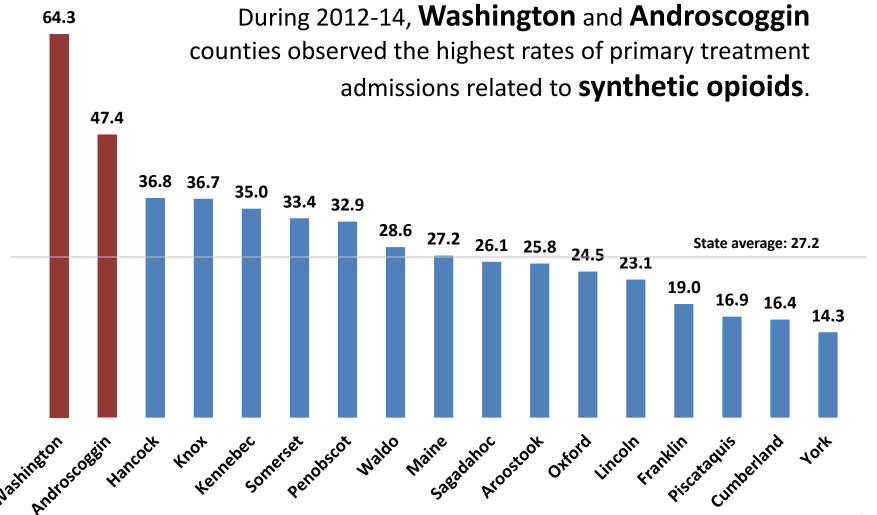
The proportions of **primary** treatment admission due to **heroin/morphine** have increased substantially since 2010 in most districts.

In 2014, **Cumberland**, **York**, and **Central**districts had the
highest rates.



Source: Treatment Data System, 2010-2014

Average rate of adult primary treatment admissions (per 10,000 residents) related to synthetic opioids, by county: 2012-14



Source: Treatment Data System

Primary treatment admissions (18+) related to synthetic opioids, by public health district and drug type: 2010-2014

The proportions of primary treatment admissions due to synthetic opioids have steadily decreased since 2011 in most districts.

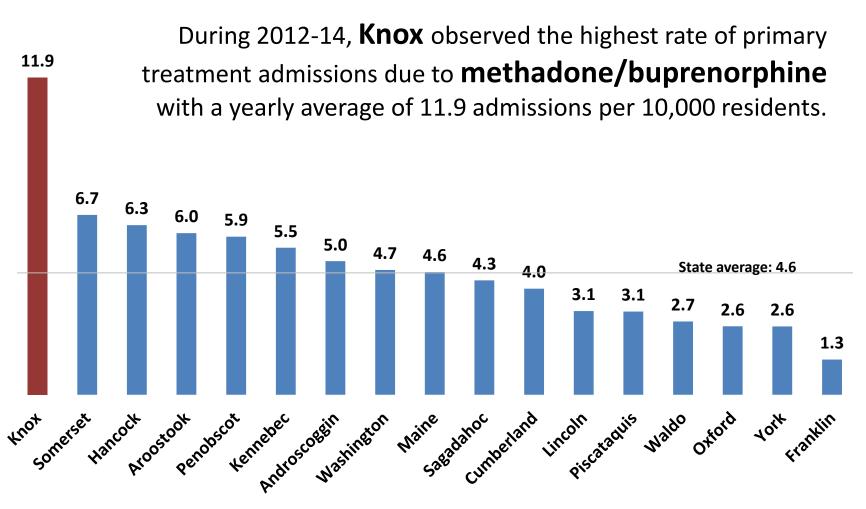
50% 40% 30% 20% 10% 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014

In 2014, **Downeast**, **Penquis**, and **Midcoast** had
the highest rates.

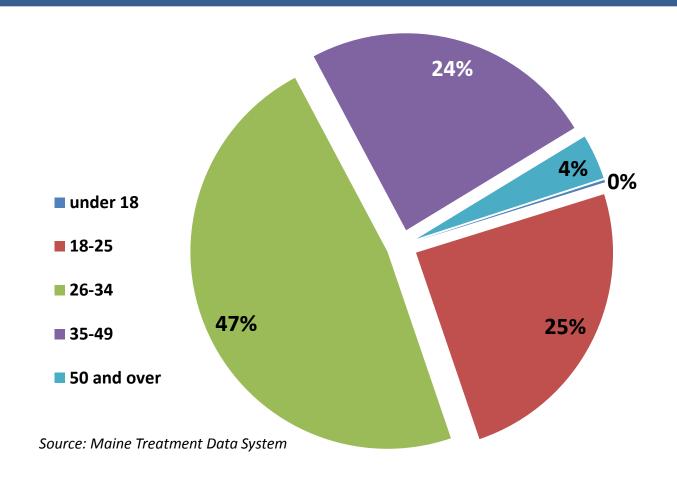
0%					
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
→ Aroostook	31%	36%	31%	24%	23%
Central	33%	34%	38%	38%	30%
→ Cumberland	26%	29%	27%	24%	17%
 → Downeast	43%	48%	45%	42%	35%
— Midcoast	33%	35%	38%	34%	33%
Penquis	39%	42%	41%	39%	33%
	20%	29%	39%	33%	27%
—York	21%	22%	19%	19%	14%
Maine	30%	33%	34%	31%	25%

Source: Treatment Data System, 2010-2014

Average rate of adult primary treatment admissions (per 10,000 residents) due to methadone/buprenorphine: 2012-14

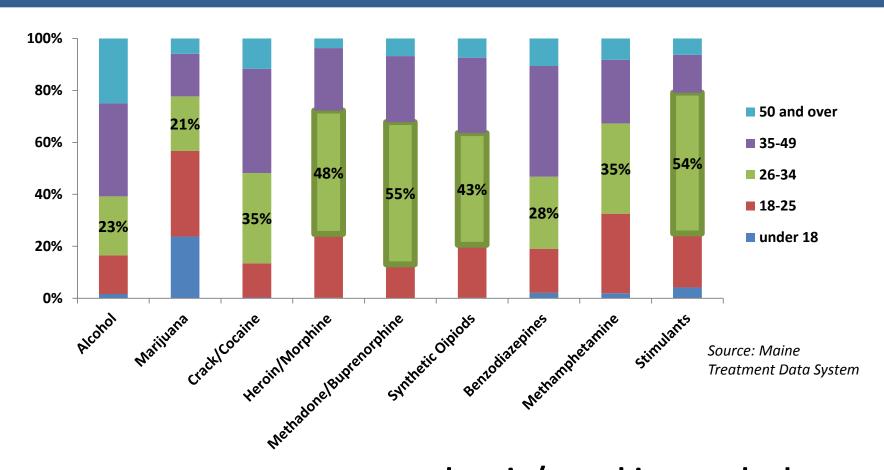


Primary heroin/morphine treatment admissions, by age group: 2014



Almost **half** (47%) of primary admissions for **heroin/morphine** were among those ages **26 to 34** years.

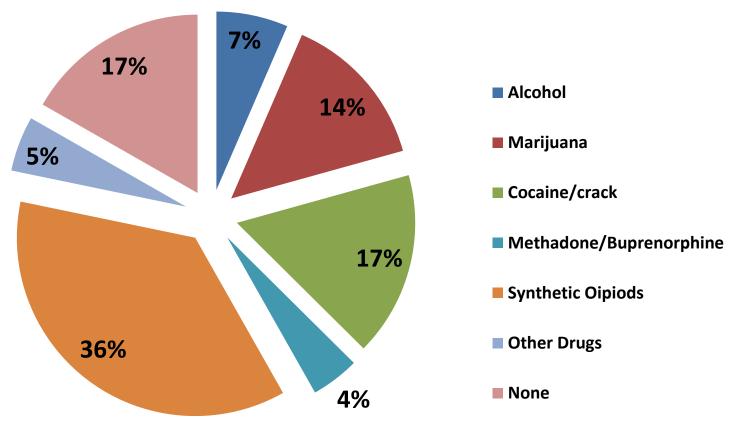
Primary substance use treatment admissions, by drug type and age group: 2014



Primary treatment admissions due to heroin/morphine, methadone /buprenorphine, synthetic opioids, and stimulants were most common among those 26 to 34 years old.

62

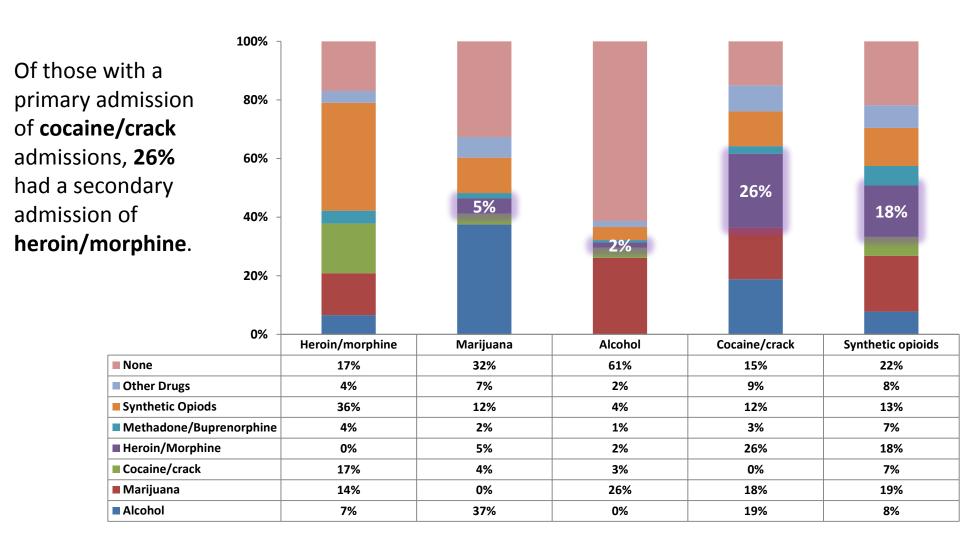
Secondary admissions among primary heroin/morphine treatment admissions (adults 18+): 2014



Source: Maine Treatment Data System

Of those with a primary admission of heroin/morphine, **36%** had a secondary admission related to **synthetic opioids**, **17%** related to **cocaine**, and **14%** related to **marijuana**.

Secondary admissions for substance use treatment, by primary drug: 2014

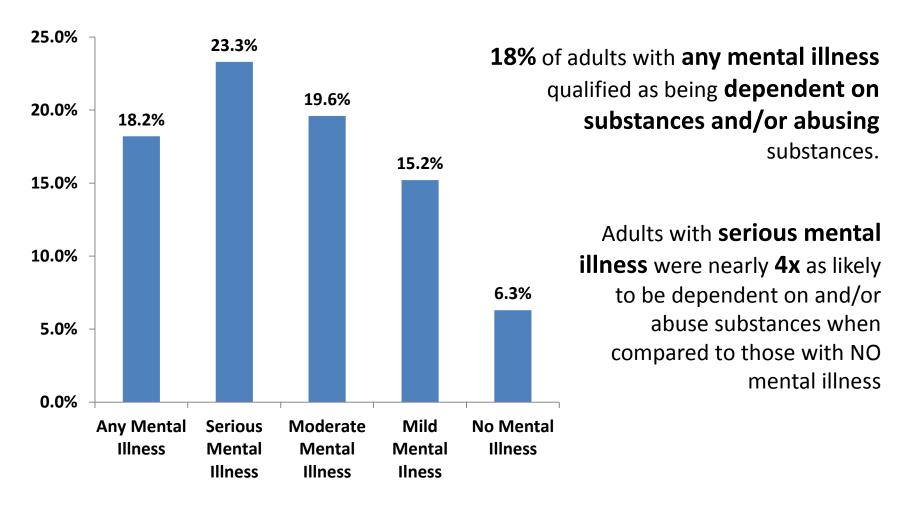


Treatment Summary

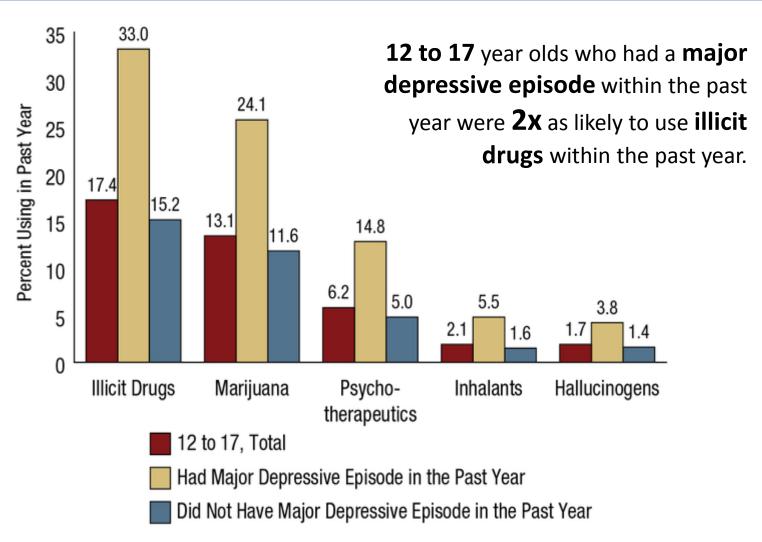
- 8% of 18 to 25 year olds in Maine are perceived as needing, but not receiving treatment (2012-13).
- In 2014, about 1 in 4 (24%) primary treatment admissions were related to Heroin; up from 7% in 2010.
- Androscoggin, Cumberland, York, and Kennebec had the highest rate of adult primary treatment admissions related to heroin.
- Washington and Androscoggin counties observed the highest rates of primary treatment admissions related to synthetic opioids.
- Washington county's primary admission rate for synthetic opioids was more than twice the statewide rate.
- Knox observed the highest rate of primary treatment admissions due to methadone/buprenorphine.
- Primary treatment admissions due to synthetic opioids and/or heroin/morphine were most common among 26 to 34 year olds.
- Almost half (47%) of primary admissions for heroin/morphine were among those ages 26 to 34 years old.

Co-occurring Disorders (substance use and mental health)

Substance Dependence or Abuse in past year among U.S. adults (18+), by level of mental illness: 2014

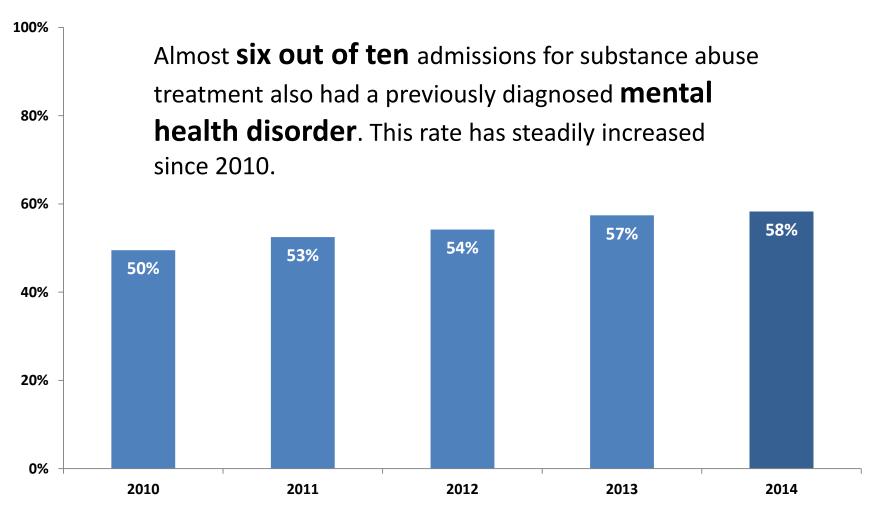


Past year illicit drug use among U.S. citizens 12 to 17, by past year major depressive episode: 2014

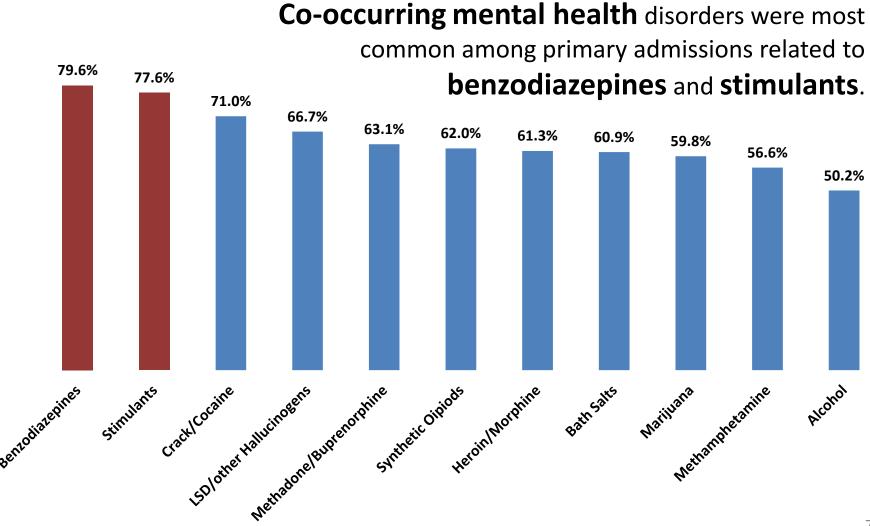


Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

Percent of total treatment admissions with reported mental health disorders: 2010–2014



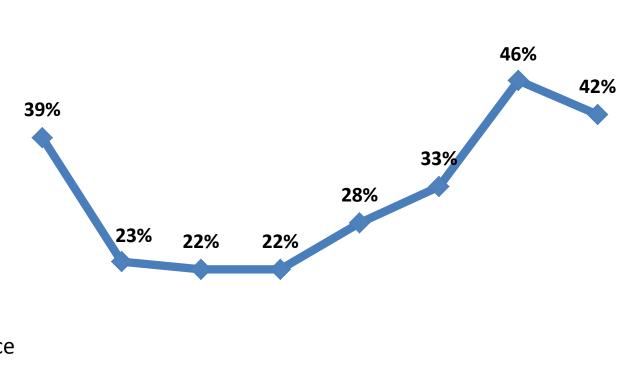
Mental health disorders among substance abuse treatment admissions, by primary drug type: 2014



Percent of adults served through Maine state mental health agencies (SMHA) who had co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders: 2007-2014

From 2009 to 2013, the percentage of adults served through SMHA who had a **co-occurring** mental health and substance use disorder increased by 24 points.

In 2014, almost **half** (42%) of adults served through SMHA had a **co-occurring** mental health and substance use disorder.



FY 2007 FY 2008 FY 2009 FY 2010 FY 2011 FY 2012 FY 2013 FY 2014

Source: Center for Mental Health Services, Uniform Reporting System

Co-occurring Summary

- Adults with any mental illness are three times as likely to abuse and/or qualify as dependent on substances.
- Adolescents experiencing a major depressive episode in the past year were twice as likely to use illicit drugs within the past year.
- Almost 6 out of 10 admissions for substance abuse treatment also had a previously diagnosed mental health disorder; this rate has steadily increased since 2010.
- Co-occurring mental health disorders were most common among primary admissions related to benzodiazepines and stimulants.
- Nearly half of adults served in Maine SMHA's also had a substance use disorder.

^{*}For a more in depth report on mental health data in Maine please reference the SEOW Report: Mental Health in Maine

Appendix A (Data Sources)

- Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS)
- Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS), Bureau of Highway Safety (BHS), Maine Department of Transportation (MDOT)
- Maine Department of Public Safety (DPS), Uniform Crime Reports (UCR)
- Maine Drug Enforcement Agency (MDEA)
- Maine Emergency Medical Services (EMS)
- Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey (MIYHS)
- Maine Office of the Chief Medical Examiner
- Marci Sorg, Margaret Chase Smith Policy Center at the University of Maine
- National Survey on Drug Use and Health (NSDUH)
- Northern New England Poison Center (NNEPC)
- Office of Child and Family Services (OCFS), Maine Automated Child Welfare Information System (MACWIS)
- Office of Data, Research and Vital Statistics (ODRVS)
- SAMHS Parent Survey (administered by Pan Atlantic)
- Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP)
- Treatment Data System (TDS)/WITS Substance Abuse Treatment Data System (WITS)
- 2-1-1 Maine

^{*}For more information including a source description and source contact information please visit www.maineseow.com

Contact

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