

Drug trafficking investigations by the MDEA involving heroin nearly doubled from 2014 to 2016, while those related to synthetic opiates decreased by a third. Investigations related to cocaine remained fairly stable.¹ MDEA methamphetamine manufacturing investigations more than doubled from 2014 to 2016. In 2016, 126 methamphetamine labs or dump-sites were found by the MDEA; representing a 125 percent increase since 2015 (56 labs/dump-sites).¹



In 2016, there were 1,024 reports to Child Protective Services regarding **drug-affected babies** (substance-exposed infants); this accounts for 8% of live births in Maine.² Fortunately, in recent years, the rate of drug-affected baby reports has begun to stabilize.²



Naloxone (Narcan) administrations given by EMS responders more than doubled from 2014 to 2016.³ Rates are highest among males 26 to 34 years old.³

Drug/medication overdoses EMS responses are most common among those between the ages of 18 and 35.³

Alcohol/drug-related crash rates in 2016 were highest among drivers between 21 and 24.⁴ In 2016, about 1 in 4 of all fatal motor vehicle crashes involved alcohol/drugs.⁴



Marijuana-related school suspensions increased from 2014 (468) to 2016 (581). Suspensions involving all other illicit drugs increased from 2014 (128) to 2016 (220), while alcohol suspensions remained stable at 124 in 2016.⁵

1. Maine Drug Enforcement Agency
 2. Office of Child and Family Services
 3. Emergency Medical Services
 4. Bureau of Highway Safety
 5. Maine Department of Education
 6. Dr. Sorg, Office of Chief Medical Examiner
 7. Office of Data, Research, and Vital Statistics

SPOTLIGHT ON: Non-pharmaceutical Fentanyl

The high number of fatal drug overdoses in Maine continues to be driven by non-pharmaceutical (illicitly manufactured) fentanyl; a synthetic opioid similar to heroin or morphine, but 50 to 100 times more potent.⁶ It is often sold as a powder; mixed with or substituted for heroin; or in tablet form.¹

In 2016, there were 376 overdose deaths due to drug use in Maine; a 38 percent increase since 2015. The majority of overdose deaths were related to illicit drugs: almost 2 in 5 involved heroin/morphine, and nearly a third involved non-pharmaceutical fentanyl.⁷

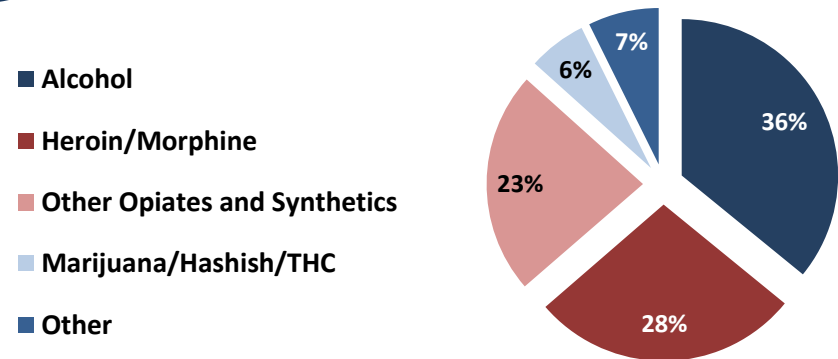


Adults aged 26 to 35 had the highest rate of deaths due to substance abuse or overdose during 2016, followed closely by those aged 36 to 49. Substance abuse and overdose death rates for adults 18 to 35 have seen a steady increase for the past several years.⁸



As Maine and the Northeast confront the opiate/opioid epidemic, it is critical to monitor other emerging trends as well.

In 2016, over half of primary treatment admissions were related to **opioids or opiates (including heroin and prescription opiates)**. More than one third were related to alcohol.⁶



This fact sheet is a product of the Maine State Epidemiological Outcomes Workgroup (SEOW). For more info, visit www.maineosew.com