

CONSUMPTION



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

In 2017, 7% of high school students ever used inhalants, 5% ever used cocaine, and 3% ever used heroin.¹ Rates have maintained in recent years.^{1*}

In 2015-16, about 5,000 (0.48%) Mainers 12 and older used heroin in the past year.^{2*} The highest rate of use was among Mainers 18 to 25 year olds (1.15%).^{2*}



CONSEQUENCES



In 2017, there were 952 reports regarding infants born exposed to substances; this represented 8% of the live births in Maine. The number of drug affected baby reports declined by 7% from 2016 to 2017.³

In 2017, seven out of ten overdose deaths were related to illicit drugs. 85% of drug overdose deaths involved at least one opioid.⁴ After more than doubling between 2013 and 2016, the rate of change has slowed in 2017.⁴



While MDEA drug trafficking investigations for heroin have decreased by more than a third (35%), cocaine trafficking investigations nearly doubled between 2016 and 2017.⁵

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



¹ Maine Integrated Youth Health Survey*

² National Survey on Drug Use and Health*

³ Office of Child and Family Services

⁴ Dr. Sorg, Office of Chief Medical Examiner

⁵ Maine Drug Enforcement Agency

⁶ Web Infrastructure Treatment System

⁷ Prescription Monitoring Program

⁸ Maine Parent Survey

*Self-reported data

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.^{1*}

Opiate agonist doses dispensed have decreased by 29% since 2015.⁷ In 2017, a little over 60 million doses (e.g., pills, patches) of opiate agonists[†] were dispensed in Maine.⁷ This represents an average of 45 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.^{8*} However, high school youth have increasingly reported that their family has clear rules around drug and alcohol use.^{1*}



Progress has been made in reducing the supply of prescription drugs. We must continue to address access to and demand for illicit narcotics in Maine.

Drug related deaths involving both non-pharmaceutical fentanyl and/or cocaine have increased while those involving heroin decreased in 2017.⁴

Drug Overdose Deaths, by Drug Type

