New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

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NHIAC Product #: 2022-5478

August 2022 Report

30 September 2022

Purpose: *The NH Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) is a holistic strategy to provide awareness and combat drug distribution and misuse. In line with this approach the DMI will obtain data from various sources (to include, but not limited to, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and EMS) and provide monthly products for stakeholders as well as situational awareness releases as needed.*

Drug Environment Report—UNCLASSIFIED

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Overdose Death Data					
	2018	2019	2020	2021 Death Update As of 9/2021	2022 Death Update As of 9/2022
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	201	230
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	143	158
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	20	30
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	27	54
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	83	105

⇒ Population data source: 2021 Census | State Data Center | NH Office of Strategic Initiatives

- Year/month overview charts are based on annual estimates from the above website. County charts are based on a 2021 estimated population of each county.

⇒ If your agency is looking for further breakdowns than what is in this document please contact the NHIAC.

Previous versions of the Drug Environment Report can be found at: https://www.dhhs.nh.gov

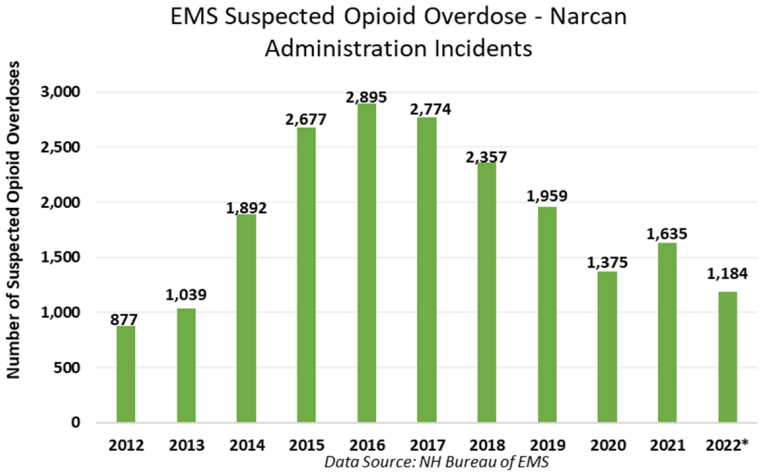
The monthly online DMI viewer can be found at: https://nhvieww.maps.arcgis.com

New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary: UPDATED

- Drug Overdose Deaths peaked in 2017, at 490. However, the availability of public-use naloxone (Narcan) since it first became available in June 2015, very likely contributed to a decline in both overdose deaths and EMS provided Narcan administration through 2019. Preliminary data from 2021 and into 2022 suggests that drug overdose deaths in the state are on the rise.

August 2022 Data Summary

	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from July to August	↑ 11%	↓ -1%	↓ -3%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Belknap	Sullivan	Strafford
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39

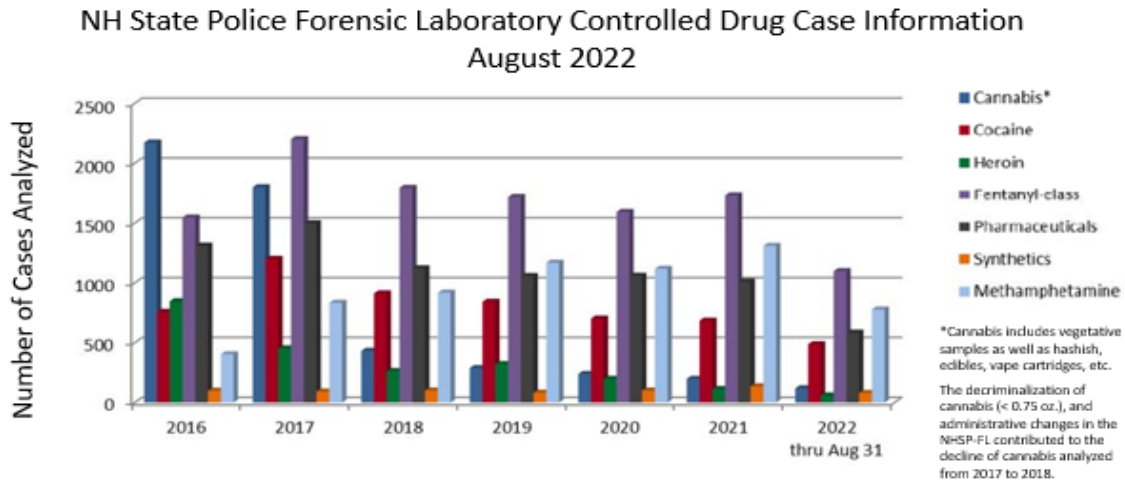


Data Source: NH Bureau of EMS

**2022 data is only current through August 2022*

Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose *or* unknown cause.

Therefore, it cannot be concluded that all reported Narcan incidents actually involved drugs.



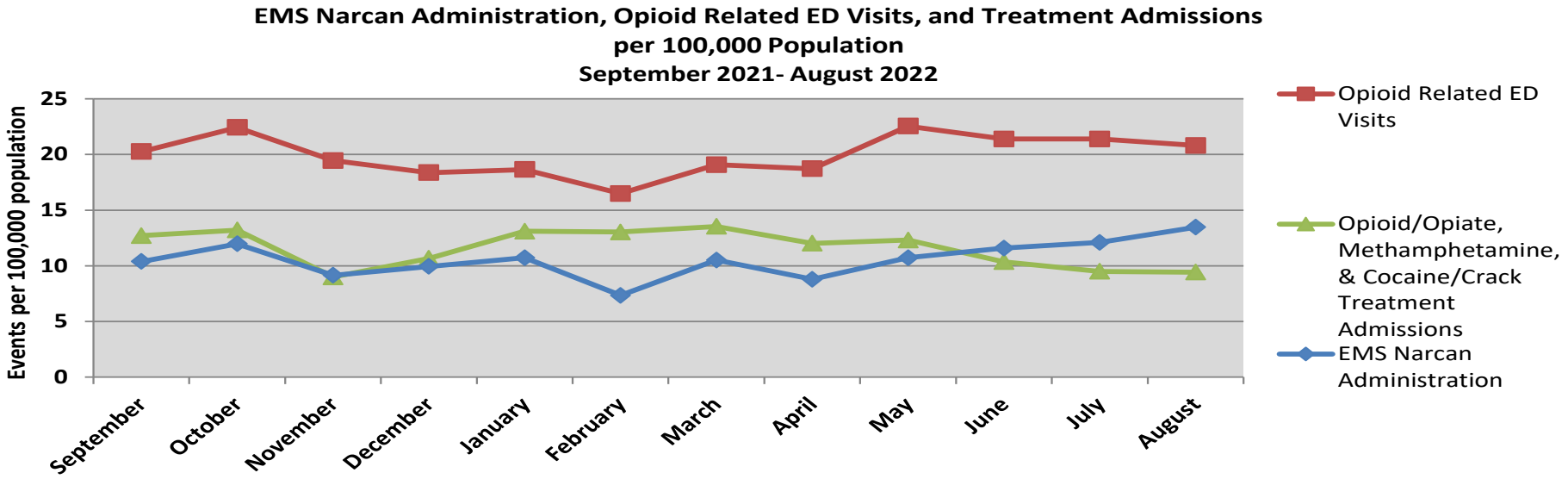
Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2016	2,173	759	847	1,547	1,311	99	404
2017	1,799	1,201	453	2,202	1,499	93	834
2018	433	913	264	1,794	1,123	101	919
2019	289	843	322	1,718	1,058	83	1,169
2020	240	702	199	1,593	1,060	101	1,118
2021	199	685	114	1,731	1,011	136	1,310
2022 (thru Aug 31)	120	488	60	1,099	585	81	778
Aug 2022	7	63	6	129	56	11	84

DATA WILL BE UPDATED 2022

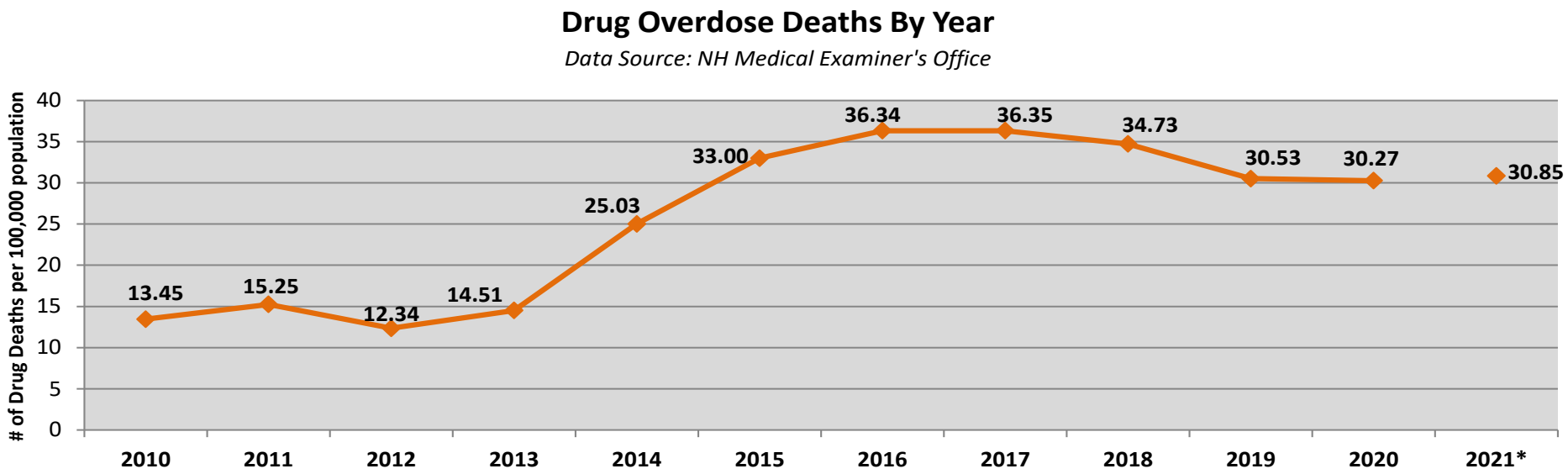
2020 Overdose Deaths

Percent Change: All Overdose Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Opioid Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Meth Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Cocaine Deaths (2019 to 2020)	County w/ Most Deaths Per Capita	Age Group w/ Most Deaths
↑ 0.48%	↓ -4%	↑ 13%	↓ -27%	Strafford	30-39 Year Olds

Overview: Trends for Narcan, ED Visits, Treatment Admissions, and Overdose Deaths:



Source: NH Division of Public Health Services, NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services, and NH Bureau of EMS



**2021 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 13 September 2022*

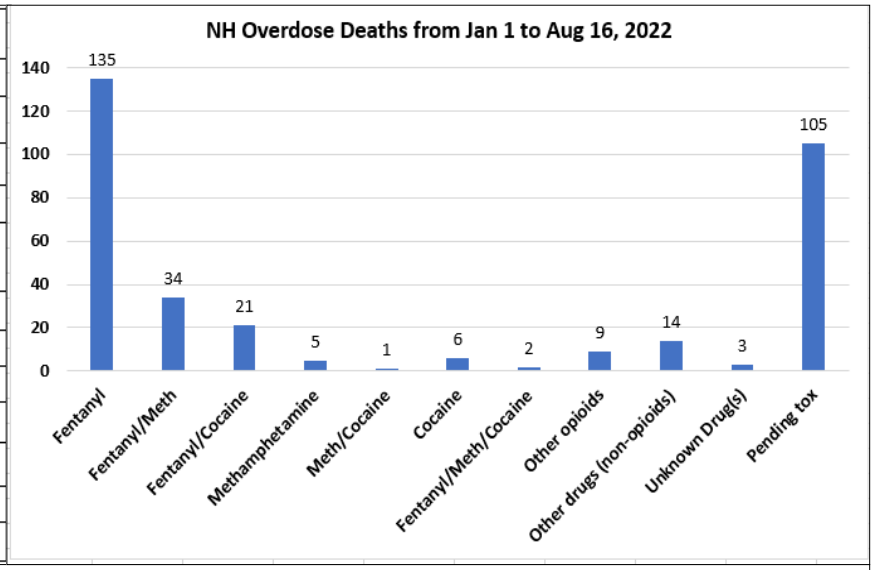
Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Drug Overdose Death Report

2022 Drug Overdose Death Numbers

Current as of: 16 September 2022

Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Drug	Number
Cocaine ± other drugs[1]	6
Fentanyl ± other drugs[2]	135
Fentanyl, cocaine ± other drugs[3]	21
Fentanyl ,methamphetamine ± other drugs[4]	34
Fentanyl, methamphetamine, cocaine ± other drugs[5]	2
Methamphetamine ± other drugs[6]	5
Methamphetamine, cocaine ± other drugs[7]	1
Other opioid ± other drugs[8]	9
Other drugs[9]	14
Unknown drugs	3
Pending toxicology	105
Total	335



[1]cocaine alone or in combination with other drugs excluding fentanyl and methamphetamine
[2]fentanyl alone or in combination with other drugs excluding cocaine and methamphetamine
[3]fentanyl and cocaine alone or in combination with other drugs excluding methamphetamine
[4]fentanyl and methamphetamine alone or in combination with other drugs excluding cocaine
[5]fentanyl and methamphetamine and cocaine alone or in combination with other drugs
[6]methamphetamine alone or in combination with other drugs excluding cocaine and fentanyl
[7]methamphetamine and cocaine alone or in combination with other drugs excluding fentanyl
[8]other opioids alone or in combination with other drugs excluding cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine
[9]other drugs excluding cocaine, fentanyl and methamphetamine and other opioids

Drug Deaths by Year

2011	201
2012	163
2013	198
2014	342
2015	444
2016	486
2017	490
2018	471
2019	415
2020	417

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

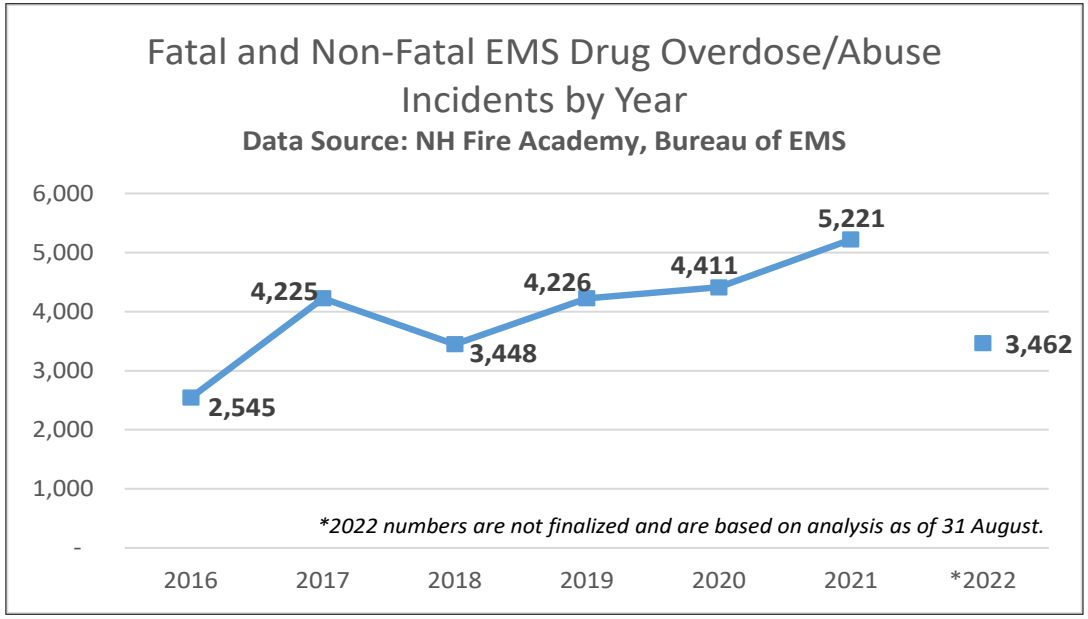
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

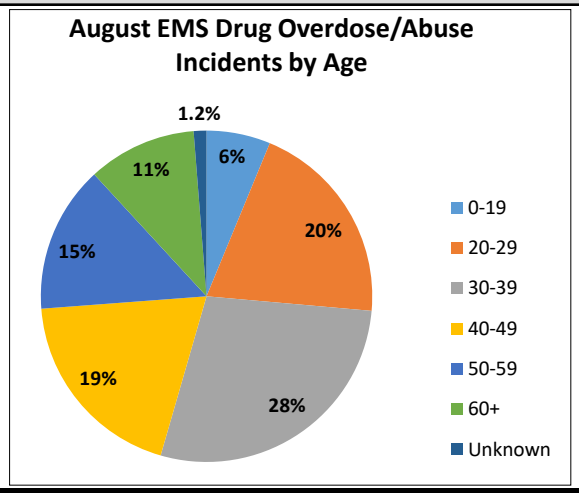
Analyst Notes:

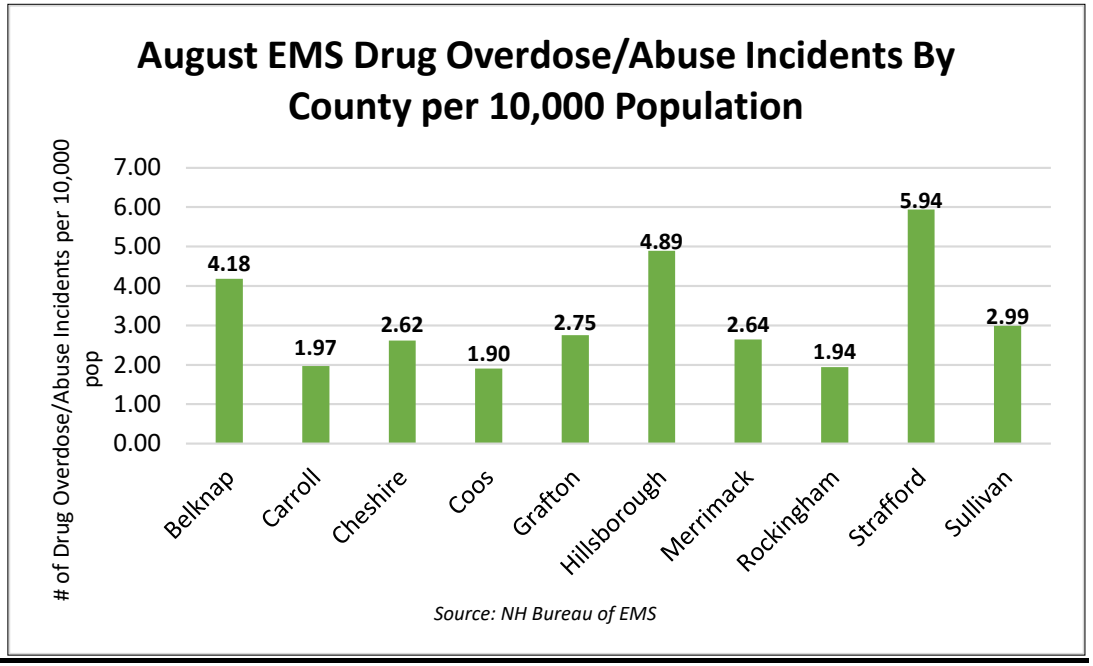
- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents increased from July to August by 4%.
- In August, Strafford County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 5.94 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second highest with 4.89 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/ Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 28% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in August.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/ Abuse incident in August.

*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. **Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.**
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records management system upgrades and early stages of the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- **The November 2021 DMI was the first inclusion of this dataset.**

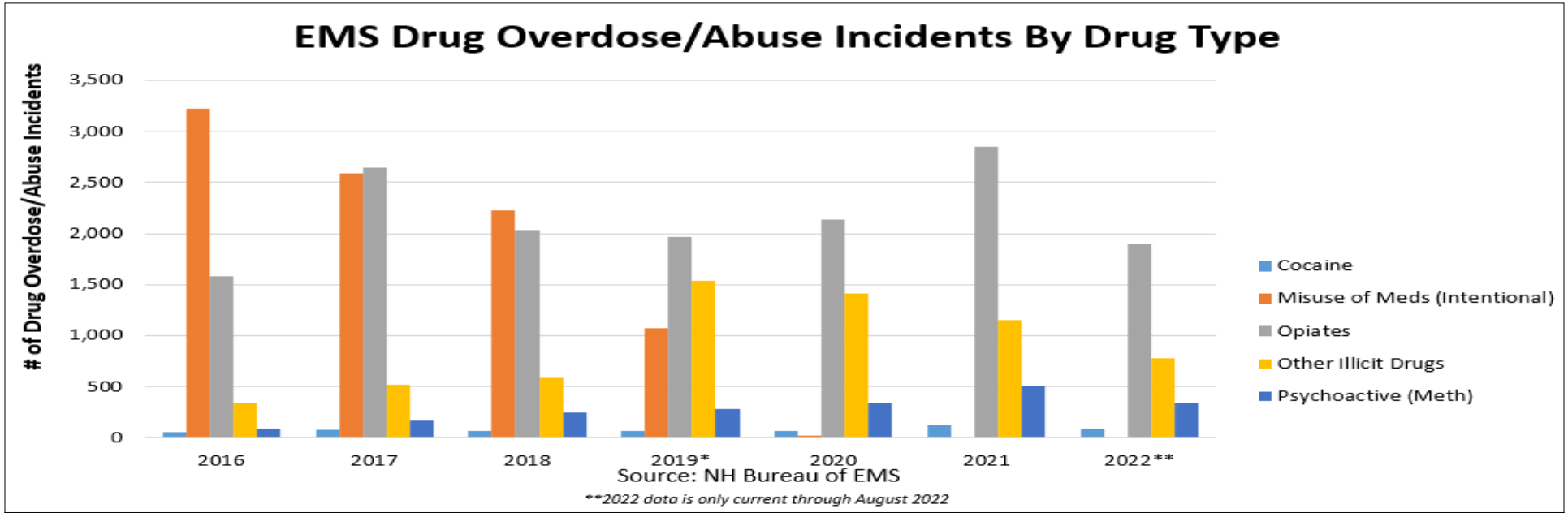


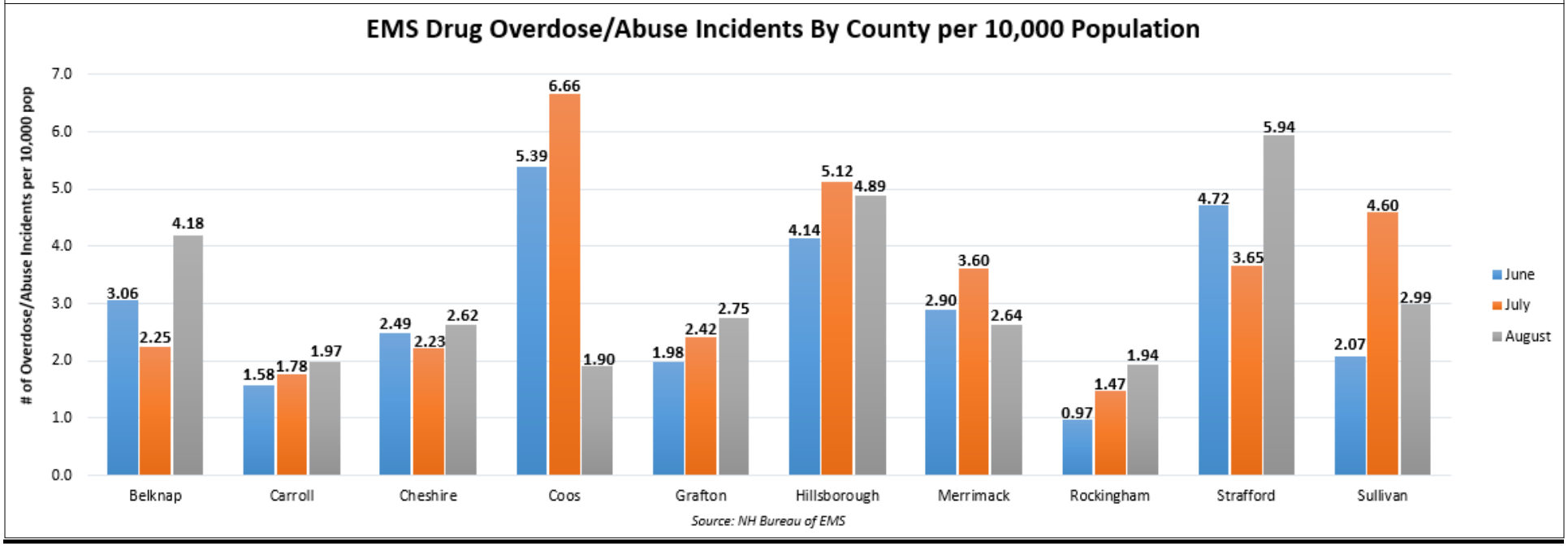




EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):

Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)





EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents
9/2021 - 8/2022

*Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose.

*Incidents reflect both **non-fatal and fatal** drug overdose/ abuse.

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS

Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

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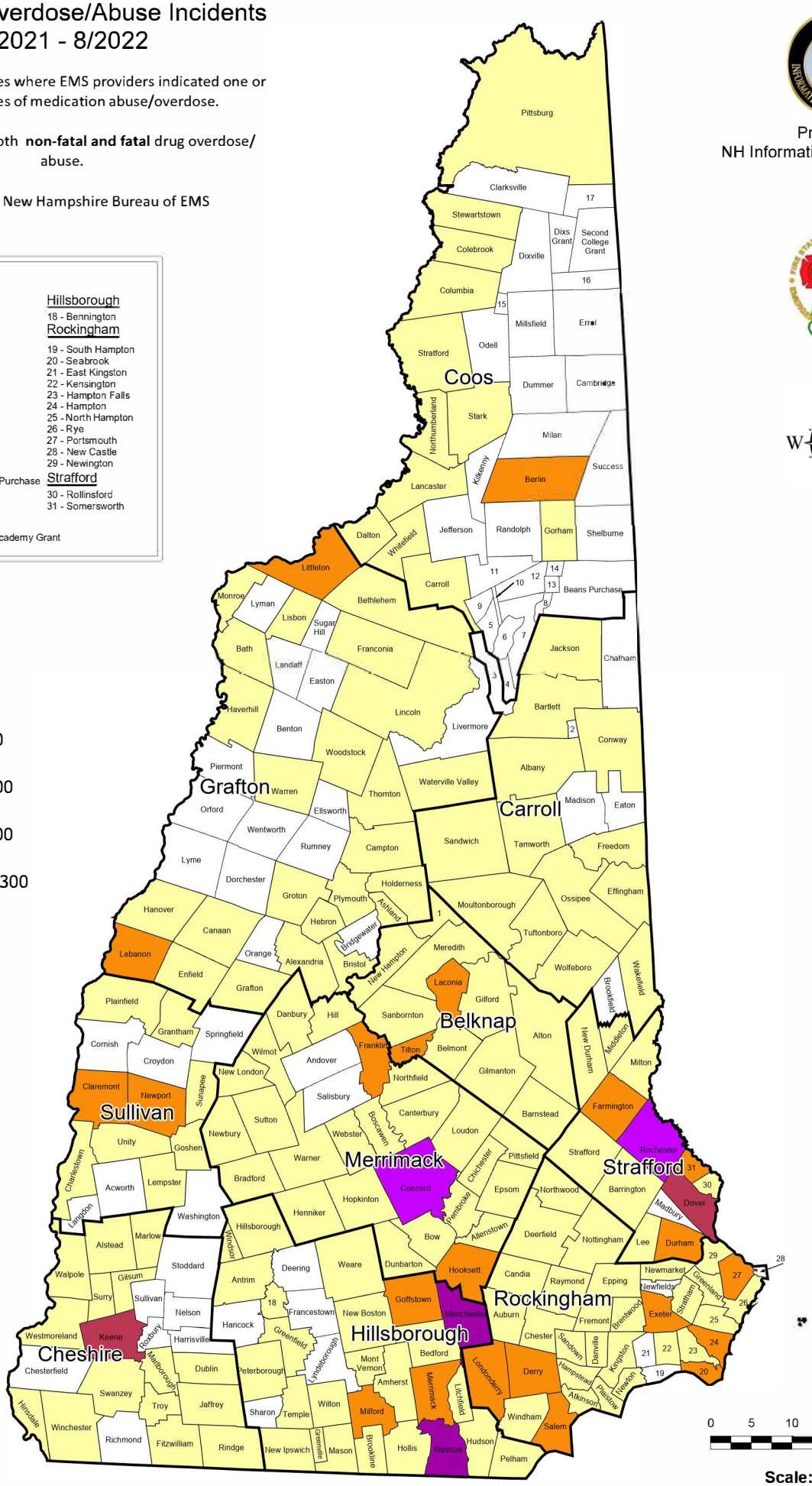
Strafford
30 - Rollinsford
31 - Somersworth

Town Totals

- 1 - 25
- 26 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 500
- 500 - 1,300



EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

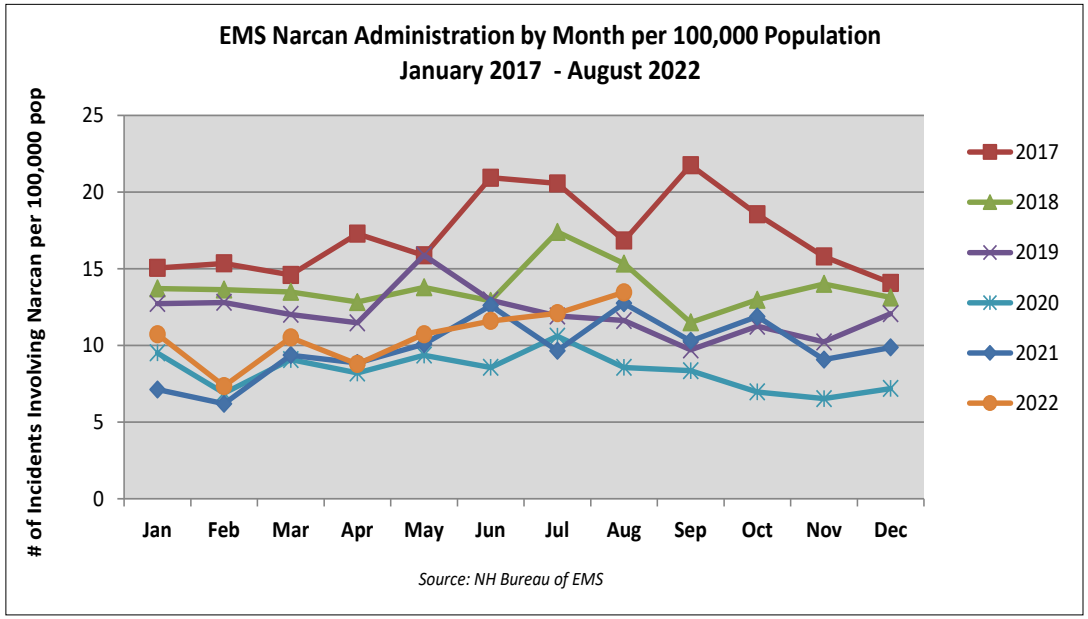
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

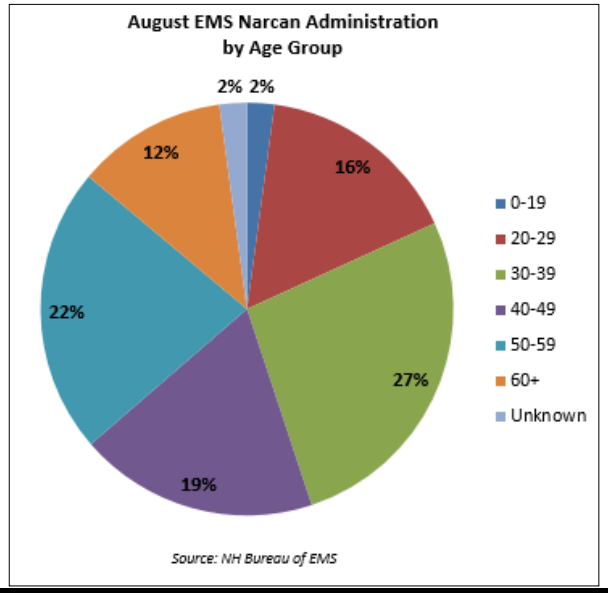
Trends:

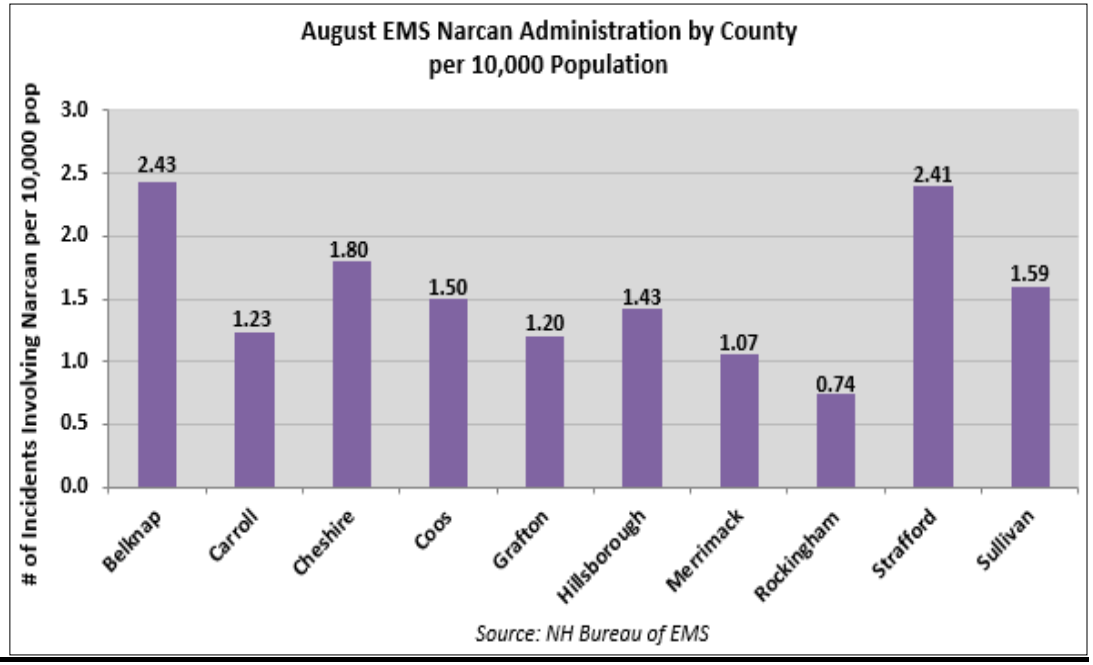
- EMS Narcan administration incidents increased by 11% from July to August.
- In August, Belknap County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 2.43 incidents per 10,000 population. Strafford county was a close second with 2.41 incidents per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 27% of all EMS Narcan administrations in August.

*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- Narcan data in this report involves the number of incidents where Narcan was administered, NOT the number of doses of Narcan during a certain time period. Multiple doses may be administered during an incident.
- Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose *or* unknown cause. *Therefore, it cannot be concluded that all reported Narcan incidents actually involved drugs.*

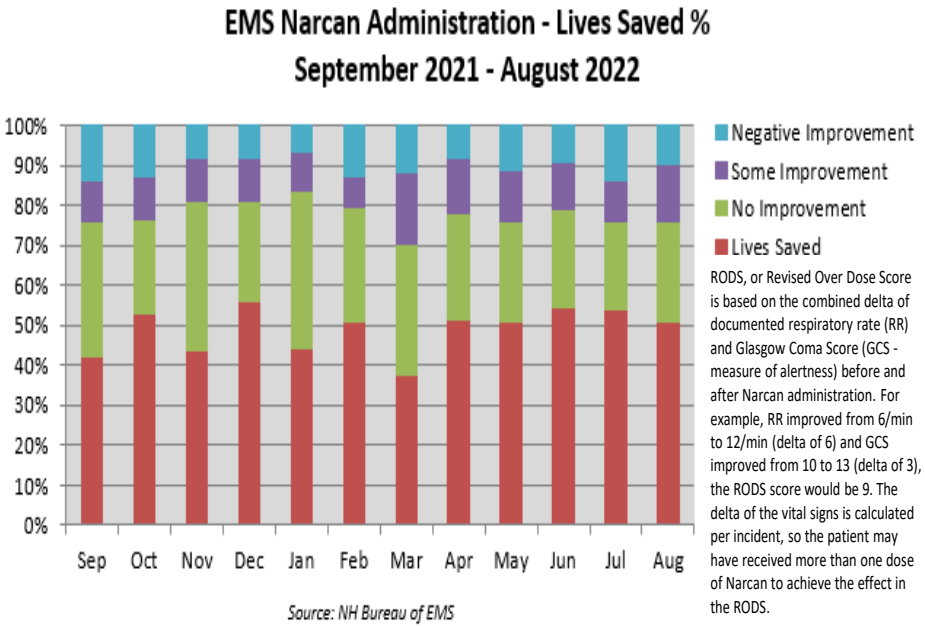






EMS Narcan Administration Incidents (Continued):

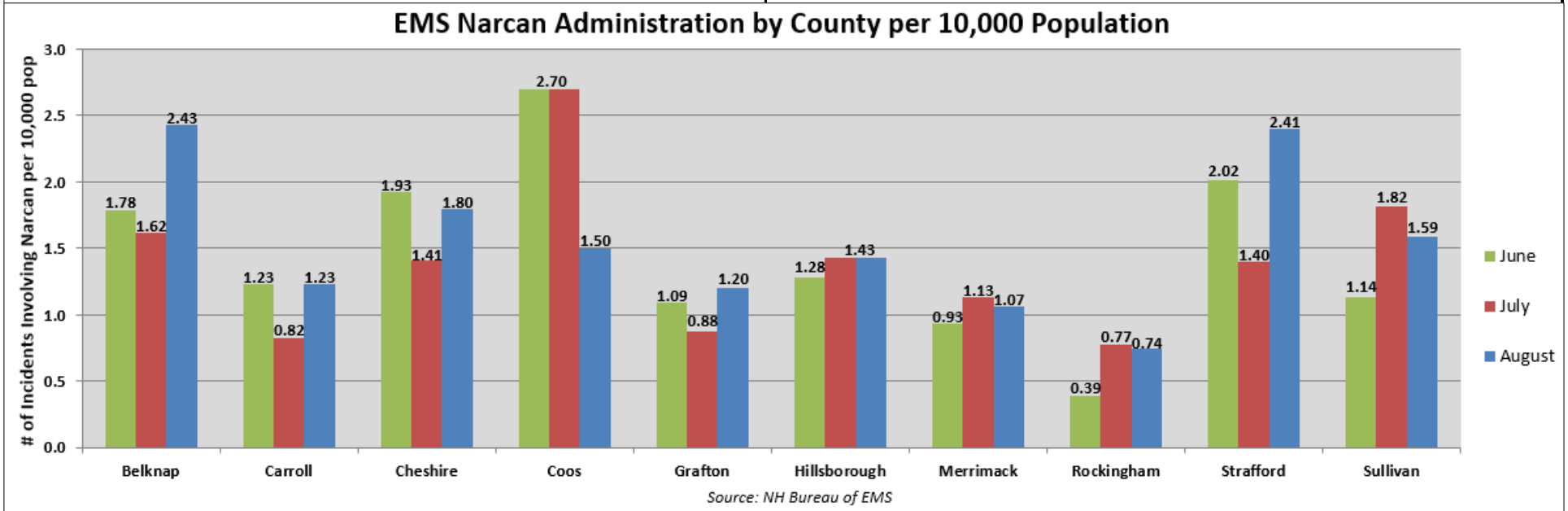
Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)



RODS, or Revised Over Dose Score is based on the combined delta of documented respiratory rate (RR) and Glasgow Coma Score (GCS - measure of alertness) before and after Narcan administration. For example, RR improved from 6/min to 12/min (delta of 6) and GCS improved from 10 to 13 (delta of 3), the RODS score would be 9. The delta of the vital signs is calculated per incident, so the patient may have received more than one dose of Narcan to achieve the effect in the RODS.

EMS Narcan Administration - Lives Saved												
	2021				2022							
Source: NH Bureau of EMS	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug
RODS Outcome												
Lives Saved *RODS Score of 8+*	60	87	55	77	66	52	55	63	76	88	79	95
Some Improvement *RODS Score of 1-7*	14	18	14	15	14	8	26	17	19	19	18	27
No Improvement *RODS Score of 0*	49	39	47	35	59	29	48	32	37	39	46	47
Negative Improvement *Negative RODS Score*	20	21	10	10	10	13	17	10	17	15	25	18
Total	**143**	**165**	**126**	**137**	**149**	**102**	**146**	**122**	**149**	**161**	**168**	**187**

RODS , or Revised Over Dose Score is based on the combined delta of documented respiratory rate (RR) and Glasgow Coma Score (GCS - measure of alertness) before and after Narcan administration. For example, RR improved from 6/min to 12/min (delta of 6) and GCS improved from 10-13 (delta of 3), the RODS score would be 9. The delta of the vital signs is calculated per incident, so the patient may have received more than one dose of Narcan to achieve the effect in the RODS.



EMS/Narcan Administration by Town
9/2021 - 8/2022

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS

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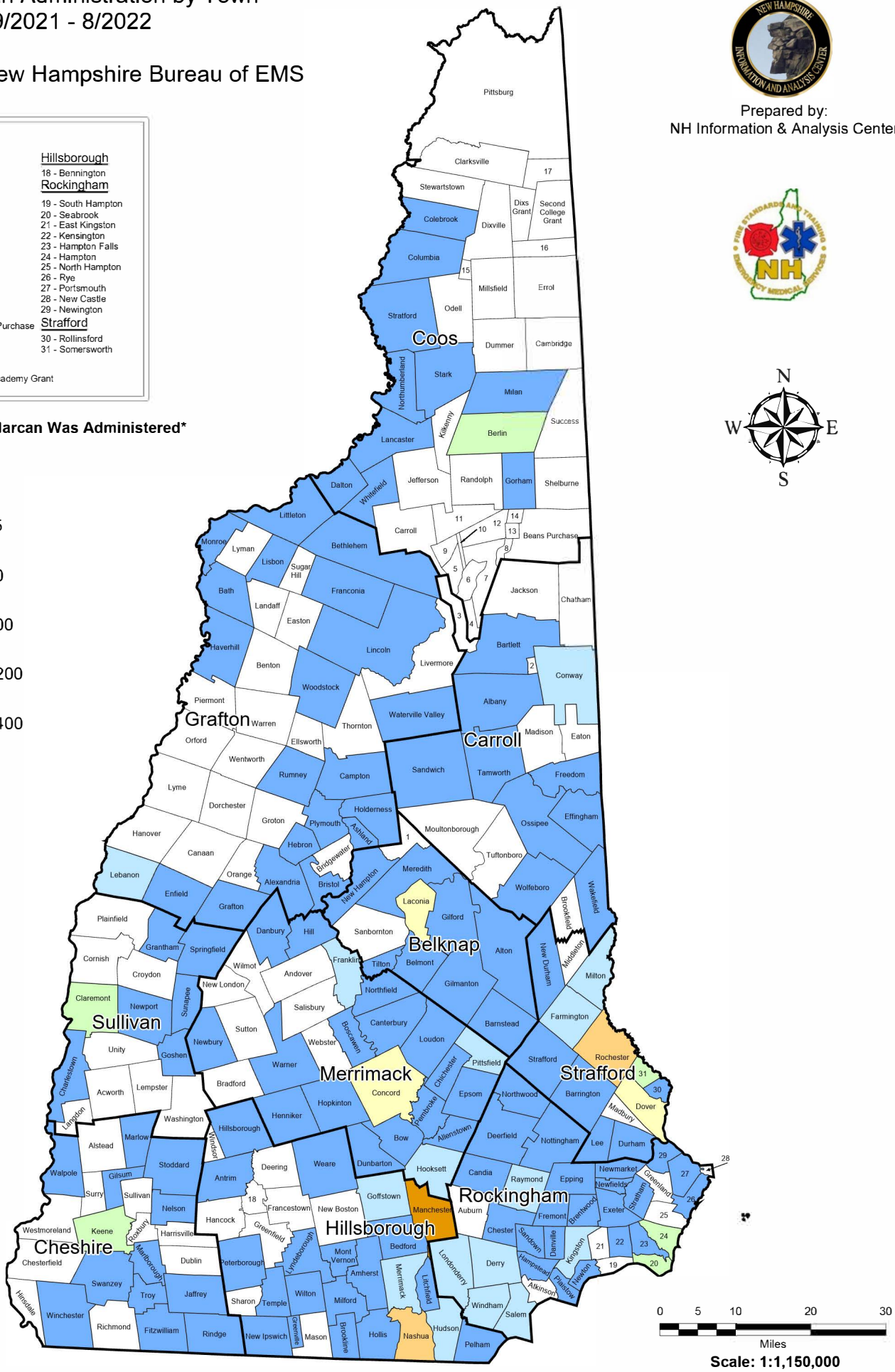
Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered

- 1 - 10
- 11 - 25
- 26 - 50
- 51 - 100
- 101 - 200
- 201 - 400



Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

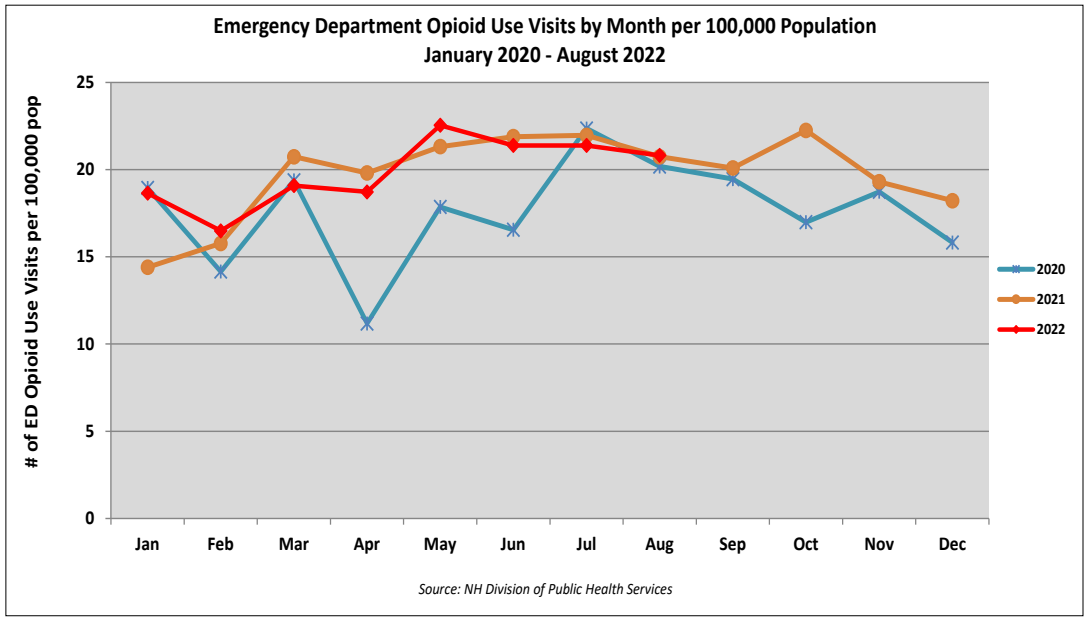
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

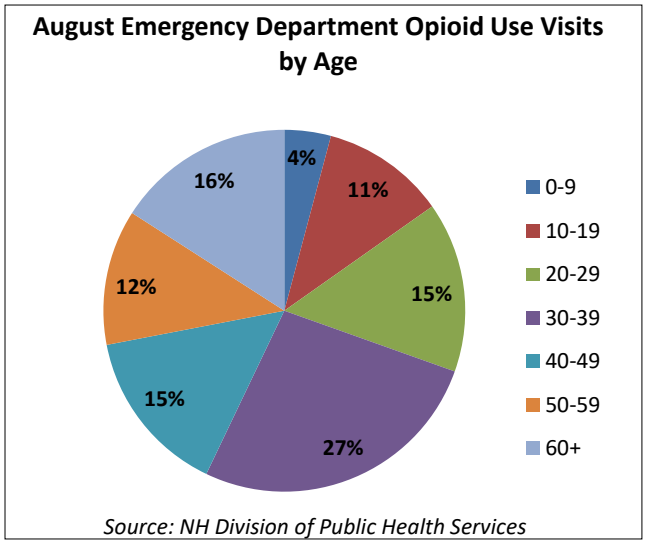
Trends:

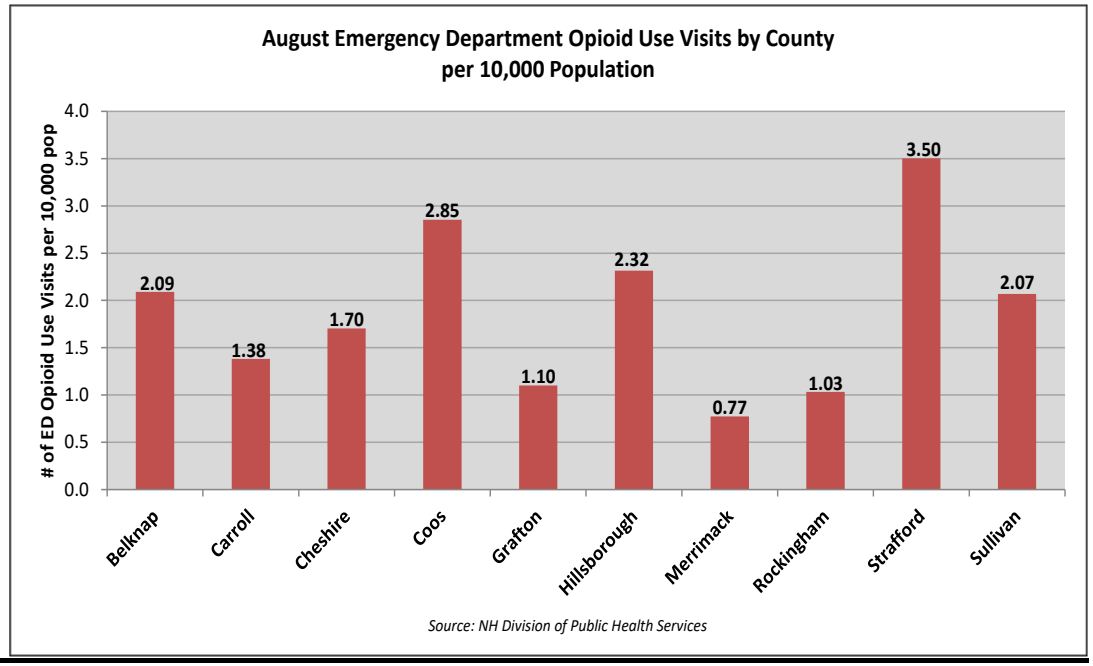
- Opioid related ED visits decreased by 3% from July to August.
- In August, residents from Strafford County had the most opioid related ED visits per capital with 3.50 visits per 10,000 population. Coos County was a distant second with 2.85 visits per 10,000 population.
- In August, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 35%.

***** IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- The data being reported starting January 2020 has different collection criteria than previous months/years. Due to the new collection criteria, the data is no longer comparable to previous data.
- County represents where the opioid use patient resides.
- These data include data on suspected overdoses categorized as "all drug," "all opioid," "heroin," and "all stimulant." This report uses key words and ICD-10 associated overdose codes that CDC has defined as tailored to nonfatal opioid overdoses.
- These data are now collected using criteria the CDC established for their Overdose Data to Action (OD2A) grant "making this report more transparent."

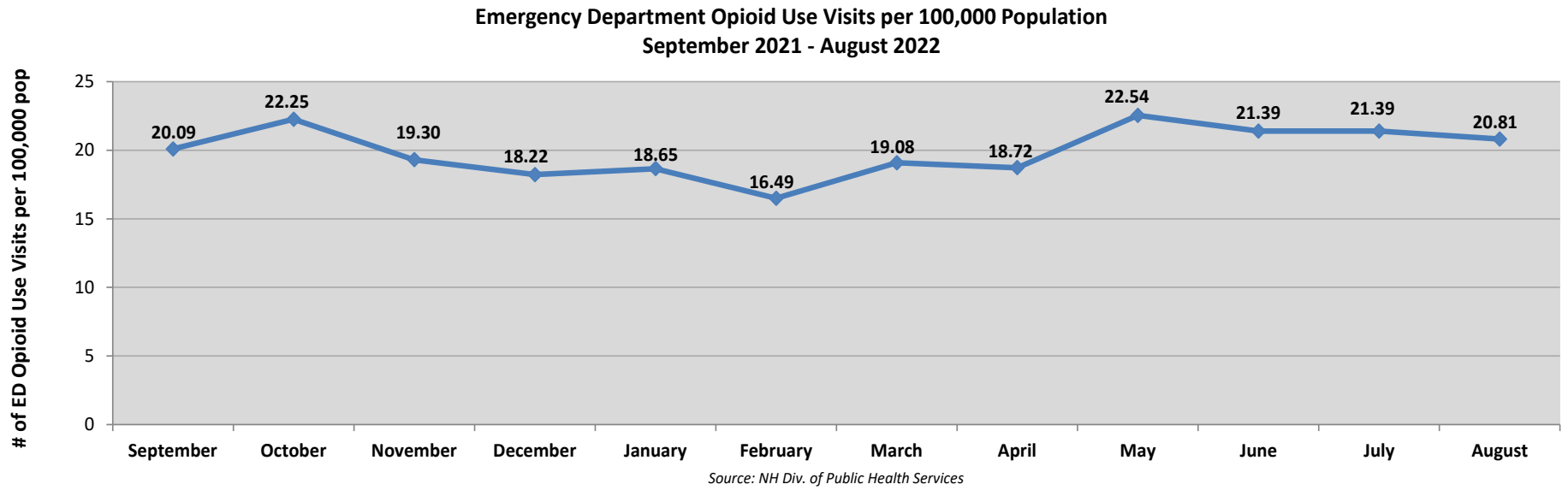


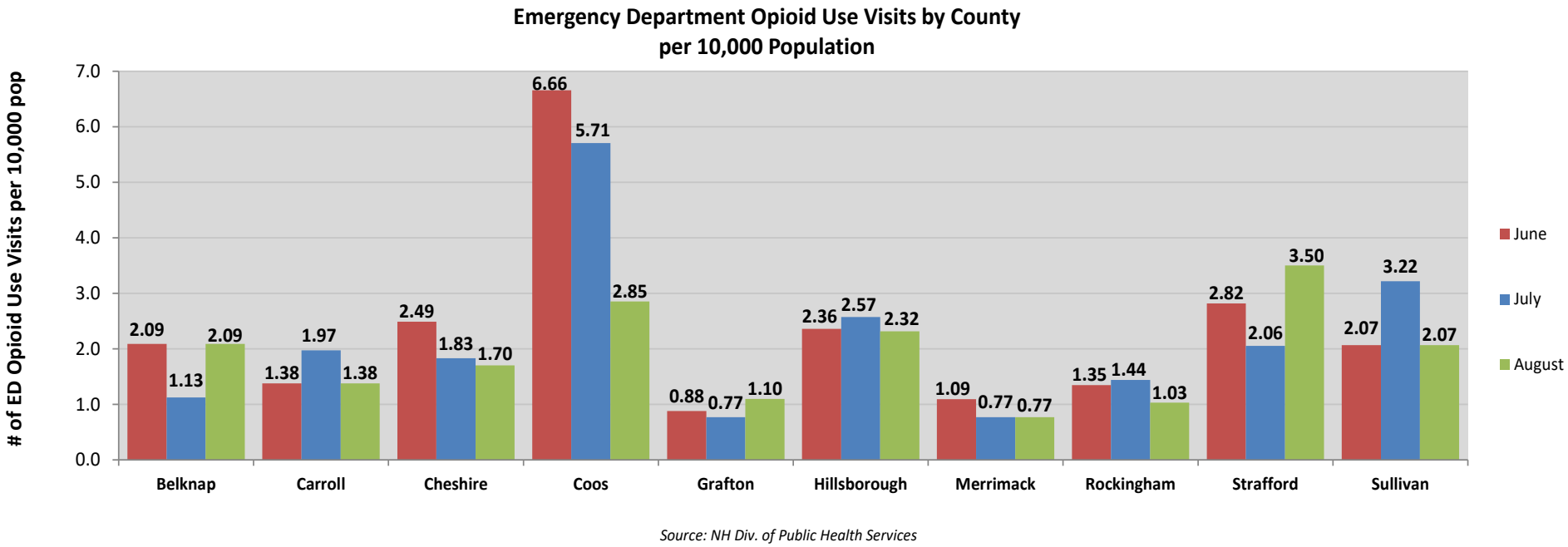




Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits (Continued):

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services





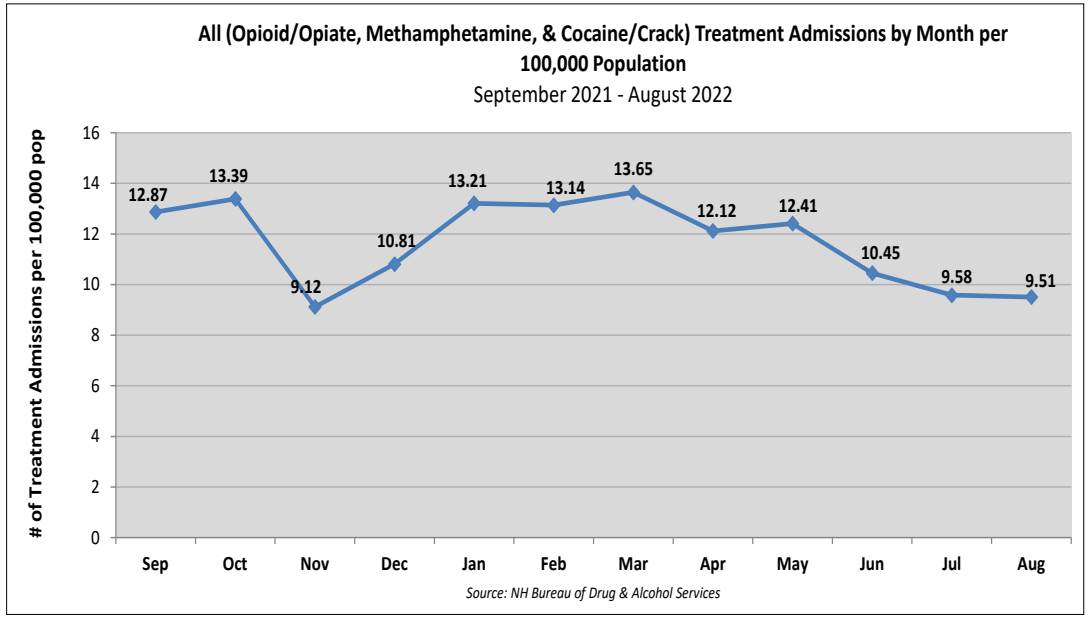
Treatment Admissions:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

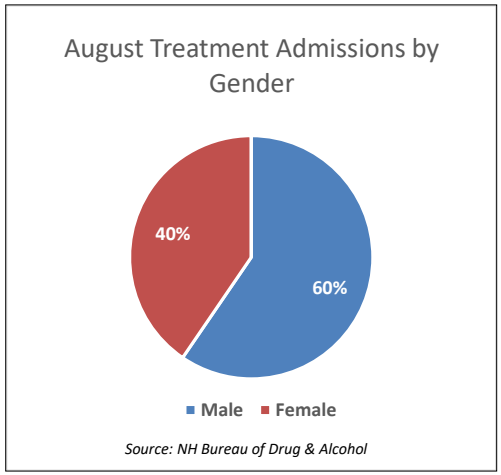
Trends:

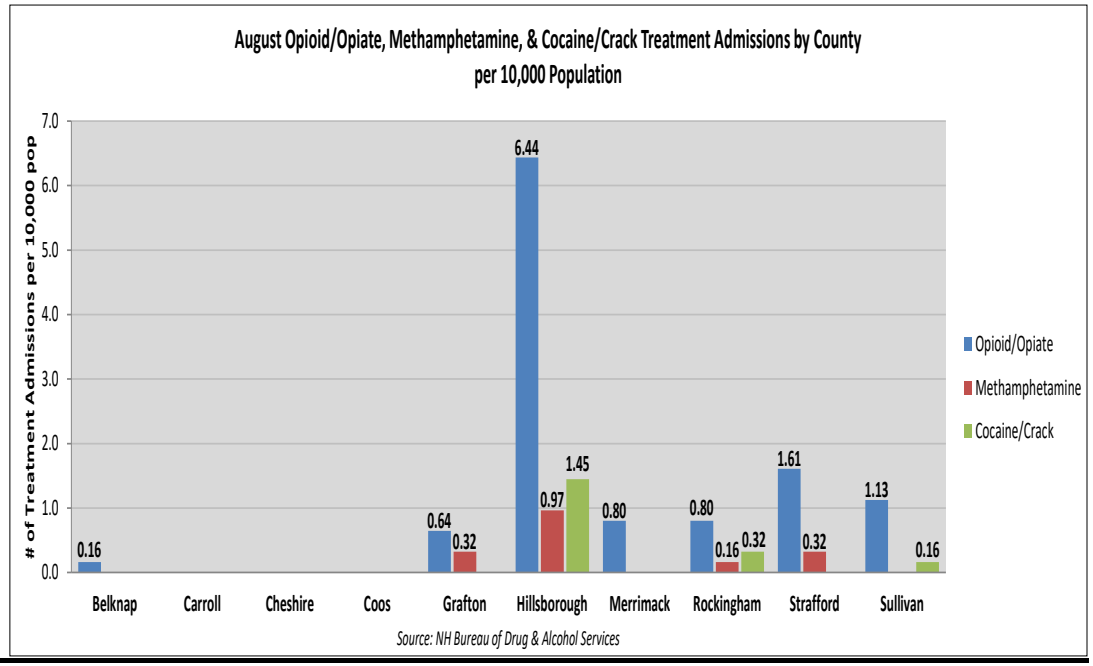
- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions declined just slightly from July to August.
- In August, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 6.44 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males than females were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in August for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased 42% from July to August.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 23% from July to August.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions decreased by 8.5% from July to August.



*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

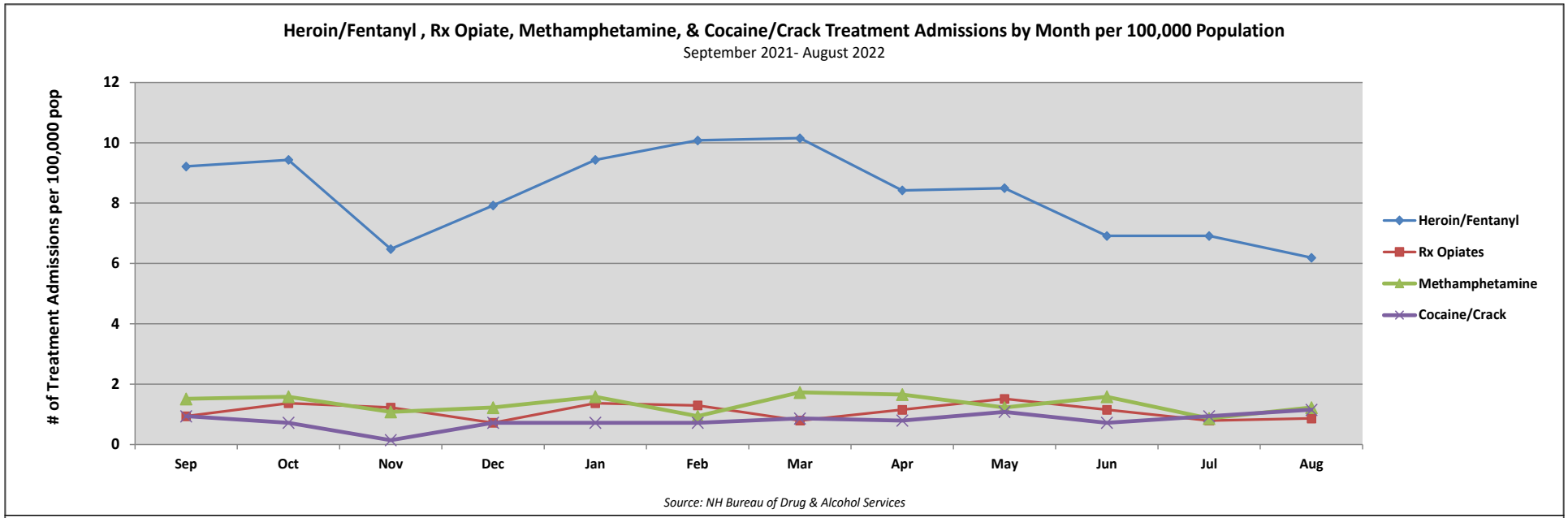
- County represents where the patient resides.
- These data represent treatment admissions to state funded facilities.
- These data have decreased due to numerous factors. The Affordable Care Act has been fully implemented, resulting in increased access to affordable health insurance and coverage for substance use disorder treatment in NH. New Hampshire expanded its Medicaid program, which also provided increased opportunities for substance use disorder treatment in the state. Substance use disorder treatment in the state has increased sharply in response to these policies which has shifted clients served by State of New Hampshire contracted treatment providers to other payment models and facilities.

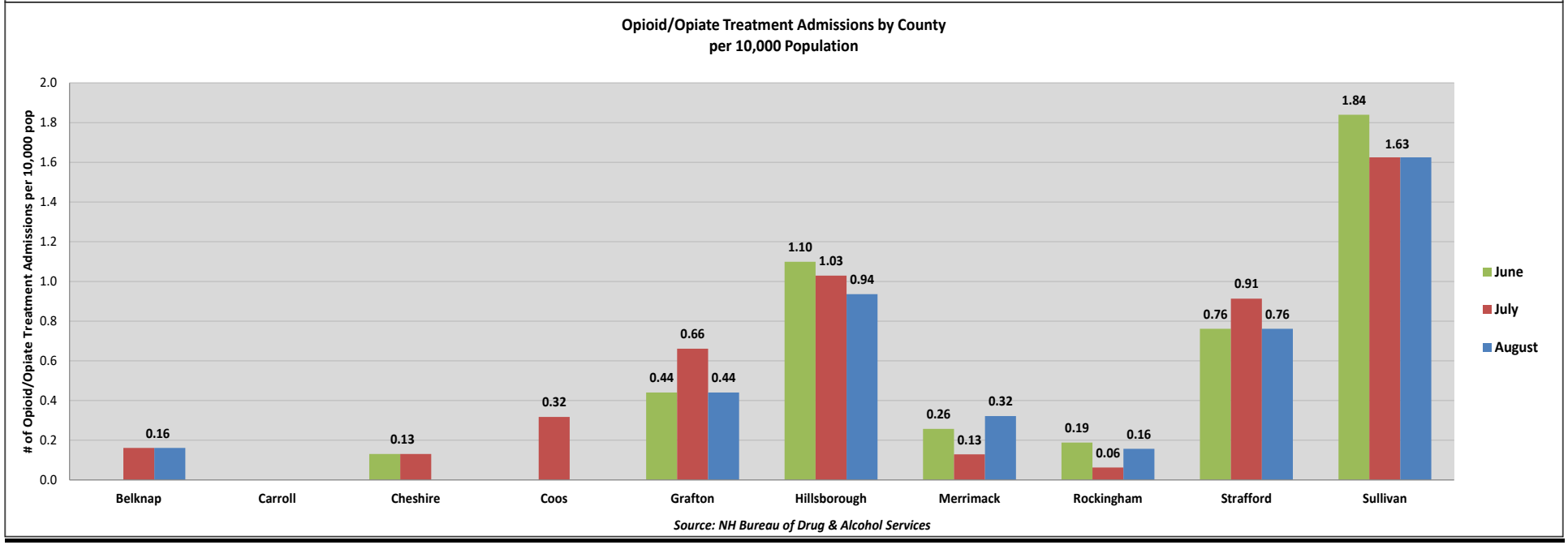




Treatment Admissions (Continued):

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services





Situational Awareness:

NEW HAMPSHIRE SAFE STATIONS

Manchester Safe Station Began 5/4/2016 & Ended 10/4/2021
Nashua Safe Station Began 11/17/2016 & Ended 6/30/2020

Total Number of Safe Station Visits: Manchester	8,197
Total Number of Safe Stations Visits: Nashua	3,717
Total Number of Safe Stations Visits	11,914

Attorney General Reaches $40.5 Million Settlement with Johnson & Johnson To Settle Opioid Claims:

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Attorney General John M. Formella announced a settlement with Janssen Pharmaceuticals/Johnson & Johnson to settle the state's opioid claims against the company. The company has agreed to pay $40.5 million, of which $31.5 million will be used for opioid abatement purposes.

The State further alleged that Johnson & Johnson's opioid activities were a substantial factor in creating a public nuisance in New Hampshire that contributed to the opioid crisis, a crisis that continues to have devastating consequences to the lives, health and safety of the citizens of the State.

Source: https://www.doj.nh.gov (1 Sep 2022)

A full list of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities and Recovery Support Services can be found by calling 211.