



New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

Phone: (603) 223.3859

NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov

Fax: (603) 271.0303



NHIAC Product #: 2023-5627

December 2022 Report

24 January 2023

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

<u>Section Title</u>	<u>Table of Contents:</u>	<u>Page #</u>
Summary	_____	2
Overview	_____	3
Drug Overdose Deaths	_____	4
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents	_____	5
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents Map	_____	7
EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	_____	8
EMS Narcan Administration Incidents Map	_____	10
Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits	_____	11
Treatment Admissions	_____	13
Situational Awareness	_____	15

- ⇒ 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.

**The data in the last two columns provides a snapshot comparison between the current OCME Drug Death Update and the update at the same point the previous year. These two columns should not be compared to any previous DMI versions or viewed to show a trend overtime.

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

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

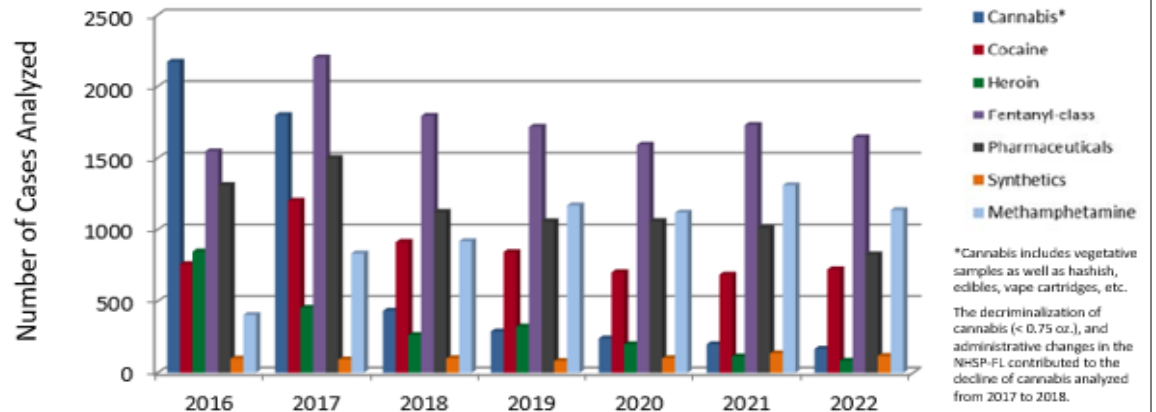
The monthly online DMI viewer can be found at: <https://nhvieww.maps.arcgis.com>

New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary: **UPDATED**

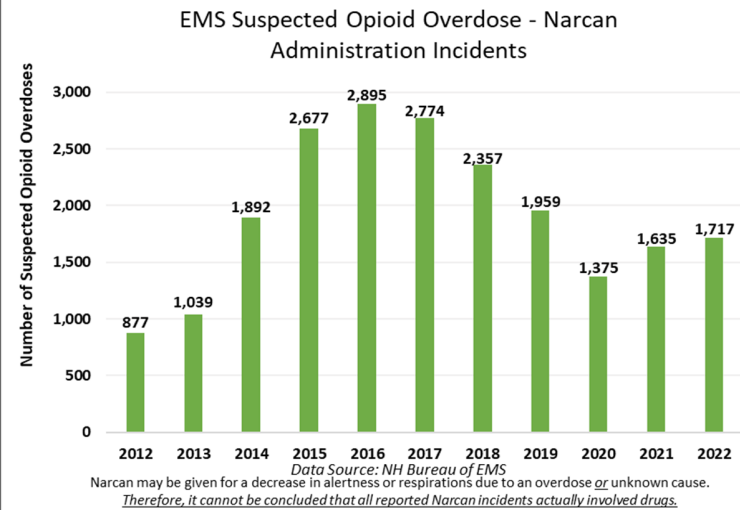
- National reports of xylazine-involved overdose deaths are increasing. Xylazine is not an opioid, so does not respond to NARCAN. The trend of fentanyl cut with xylazine presents an increased risk to life due to the widespread reliance on NARCAN as a primary tool to prevent drug overdose deaths. NH's overdose death projection for 2021 and 2022 indicates a possible correlation to xylazine, but this has not yet been confirmed by laboratory testing.

December 2022 Data Summary			
	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from November to December	↓ -4%	↑ 7%	↓ -5%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Sullivan	Hillsborough	Coos
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39

NH State Police Forensic Laboratory Controlled Drug Case Information
December 2022



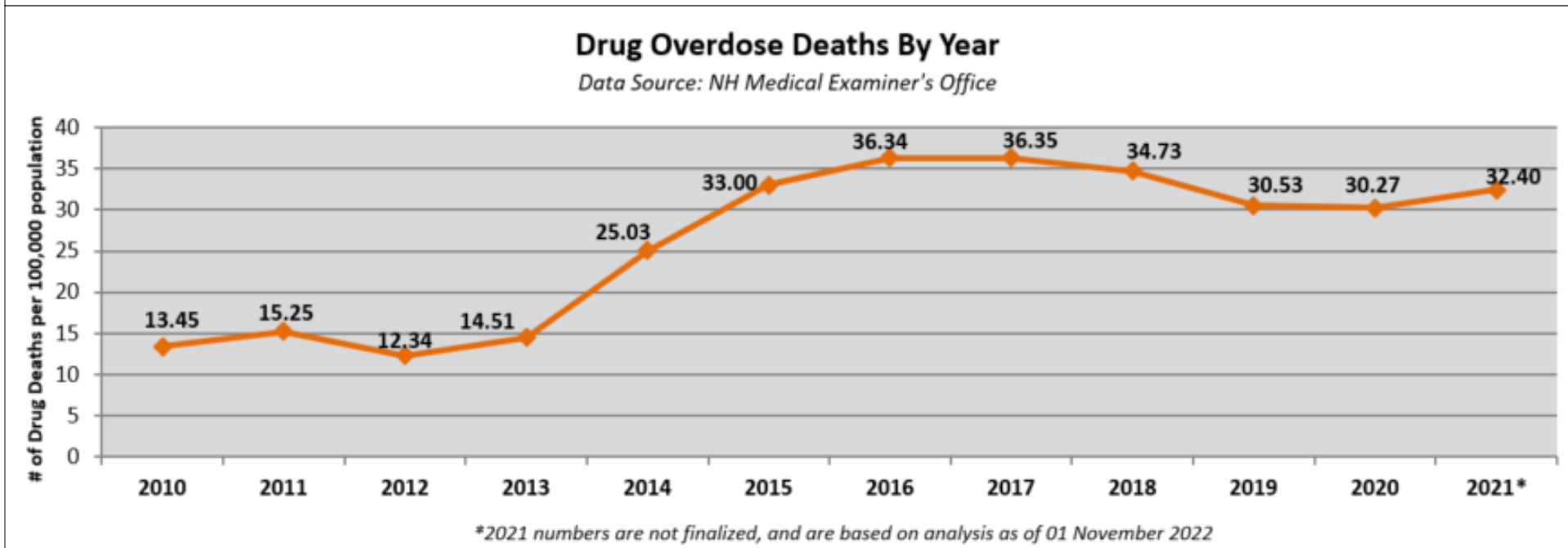
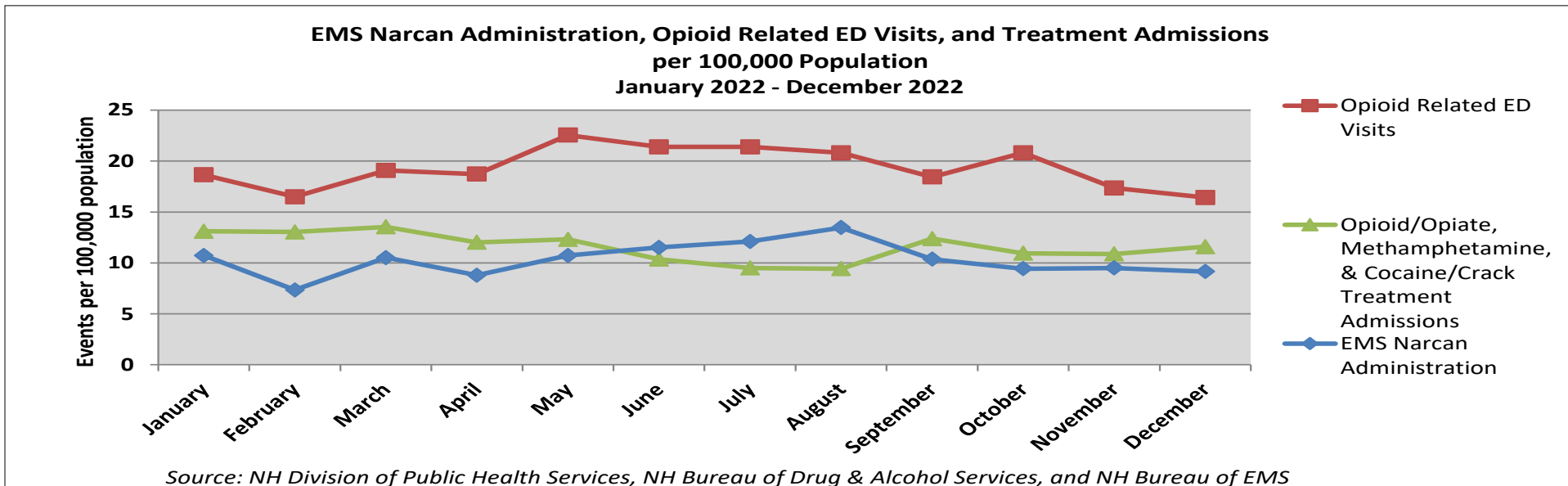
Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2016	2,173	759	847	1,547	1,311	99	404
2017	1,799	1,201	453	2,202	1,499	93	834
2018	433	913	264	1,794	1,123	101	919
2019	289	843	322	1,718	1,058	83	1,169
2020	240	702	199	1,593	1,060	101	1,118
2021	199	685	114	1,731	1,011	136	1,310
2022 (thru Dec 31)	167	722	84	1,644	827	118	1,136
Dec 2022	20	54	4	117	57	7	83



DATA WILL BE UPDATED WHEN AVAILABLE

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:



Office of the Chief Medical Examiner Drug Overdose Death Report

2022 Drug Overdose Death Numbers

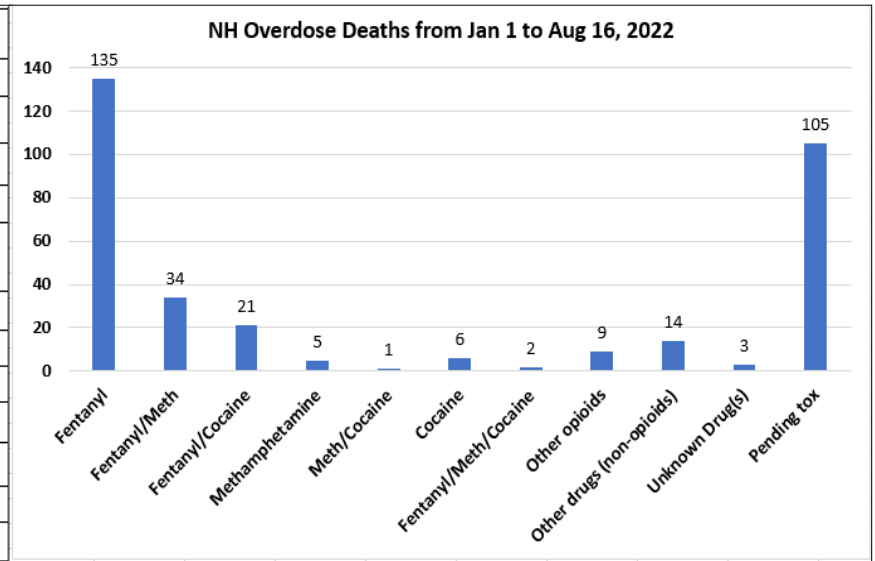
Current as of: 16 September 2022

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



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

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



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

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:

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

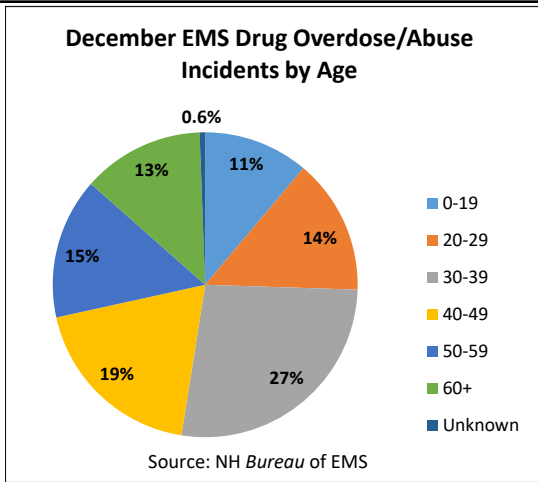
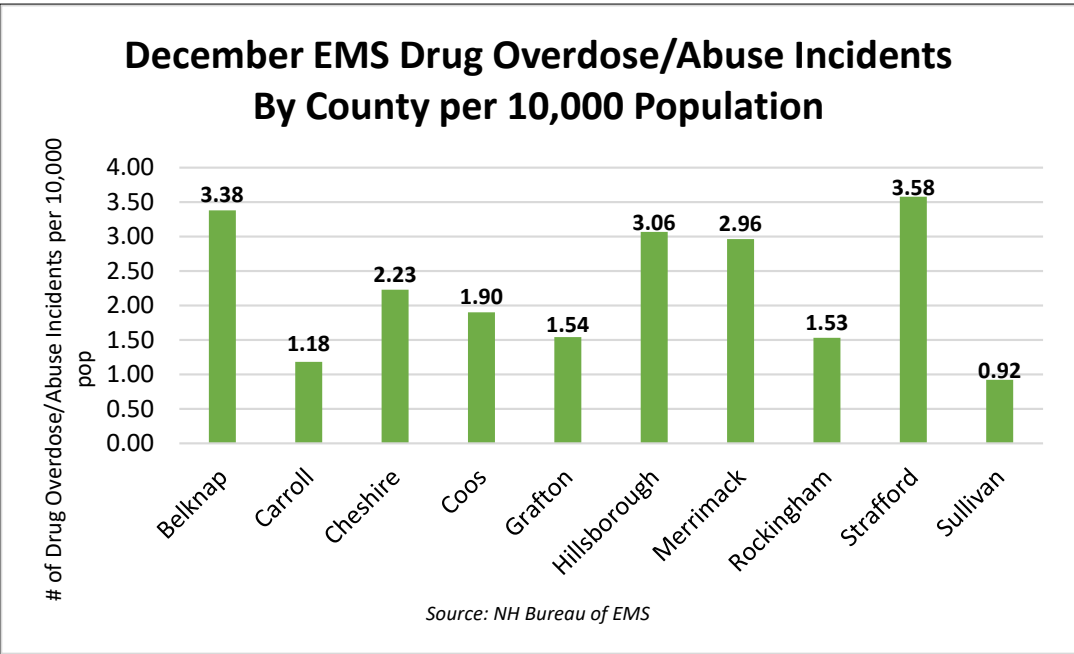
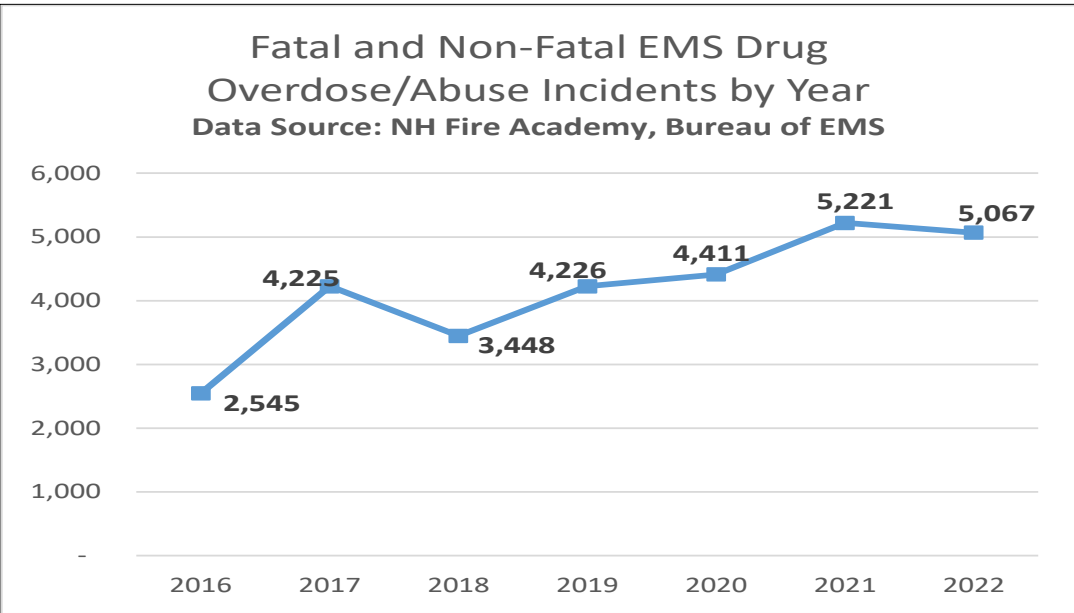
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Analyst Notes:

- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents increased 4% from November to December.
- In December, Strafford County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 3.58 incidents per 10,000 population. Belknap County was second highest with 3.38 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 27% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in December.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in December.

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

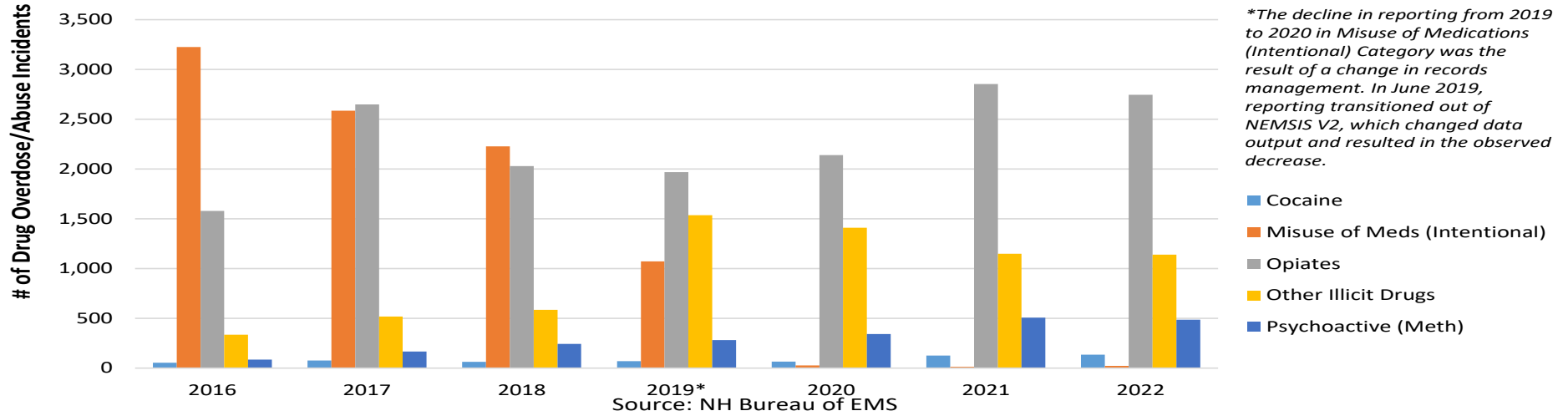
- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. **Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.**
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records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



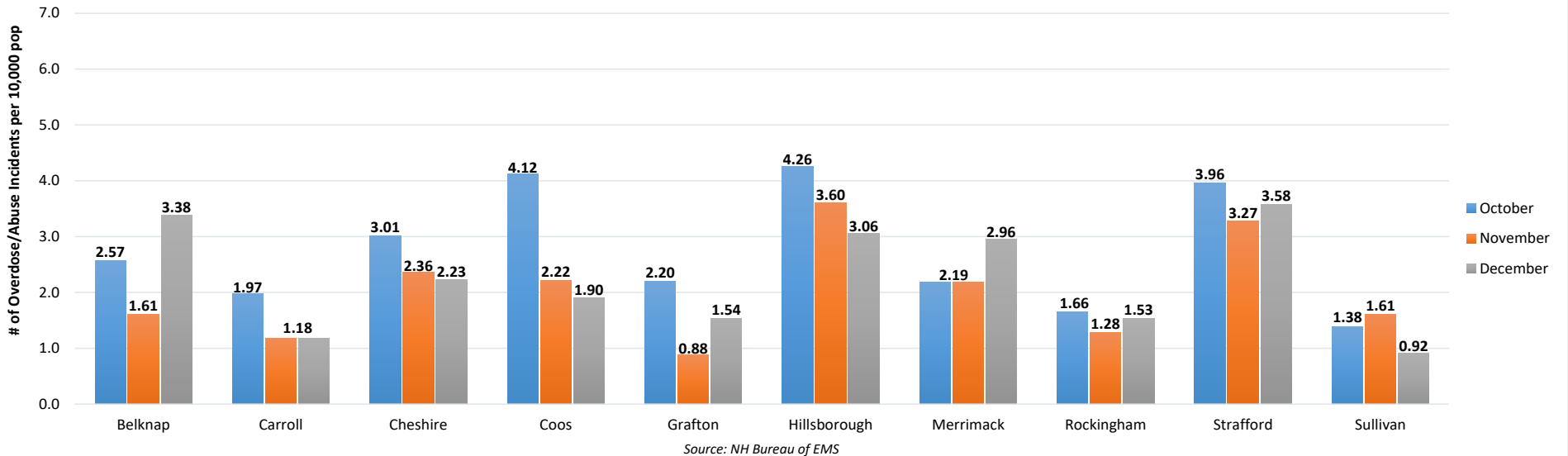
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):

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

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents By Drug Type



EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents By County per 10,000 Population



EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents 1/2022 - 12/2022

*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

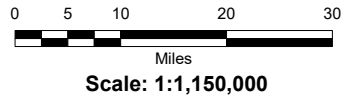
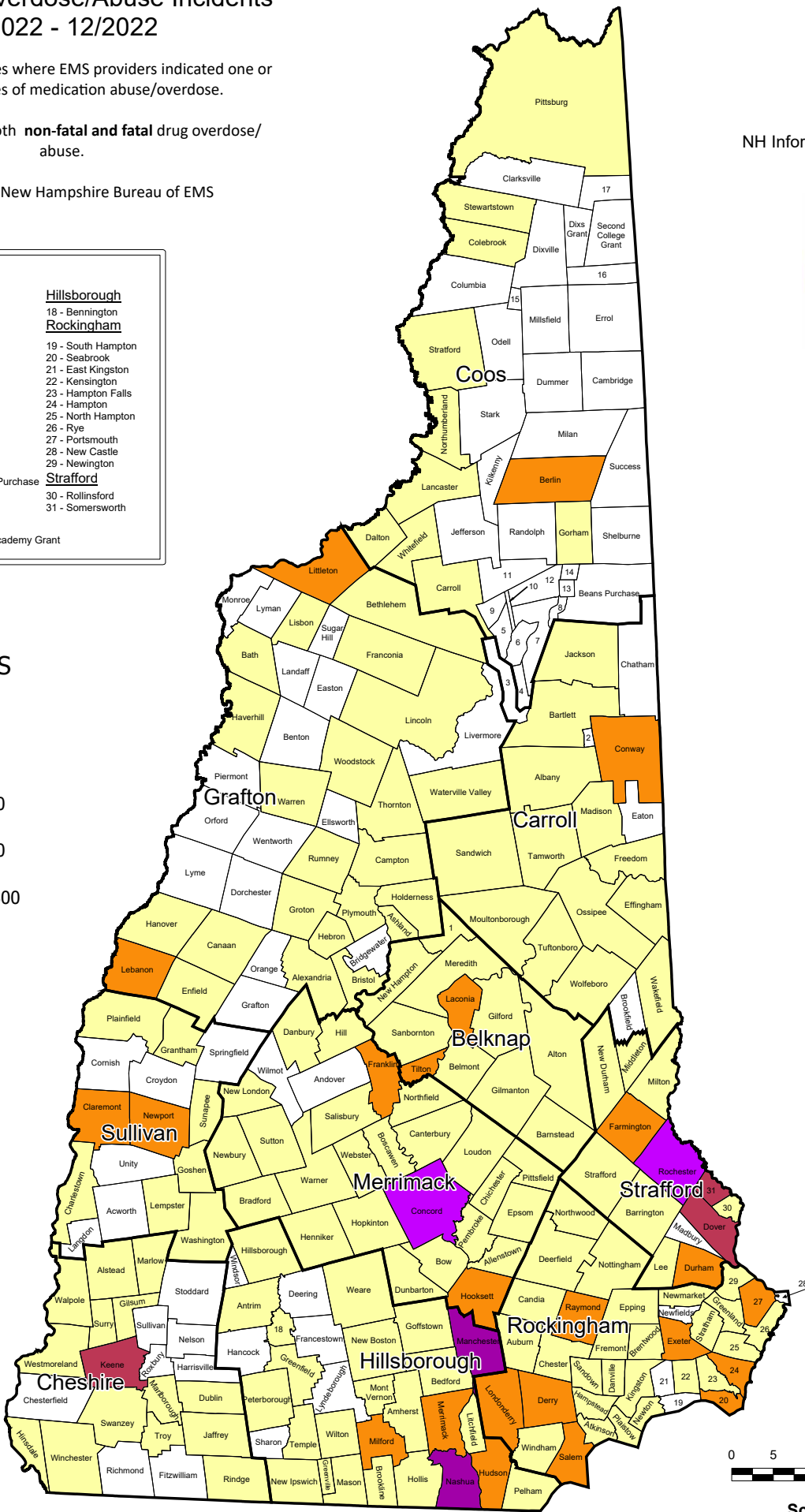
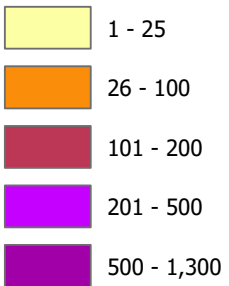


Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center



INDEX	
Belknap	Hillsborough
1 - Center Harbor	18 - Bennington
Carroll	Rockingham
2 - Hales Location	19 - South Hampton
3 - Harts Location	20 - Seabrook
Coos	21 - East Kingston
4 - Hadleys Purchase	22 - Kensington
5 - Beans Grant	23 - Hampton Falls
6 - Cutts Grant	24 - Hampton
7 - Sargents Purchase	25 - North Hampton
8 - Pinkhams Grant	26 - Rye
9 - Crawfords Purchase	27 - Portsmouth
10 - Chandlers Purchase	28 - New Castle
11 - Low & Burbanks Grant	29 - Newington
12 - Thompson & Meserves Purchase	Strafford
13 - Greens Grant	30 - Rollinsford
14 - Martins Location	31 - Somersworth
15 - Ervings Grant	
16 - Wentworth Location	
17 - Atkinson & Gilman Academy Grant	

TOWN TOTALS



EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:

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

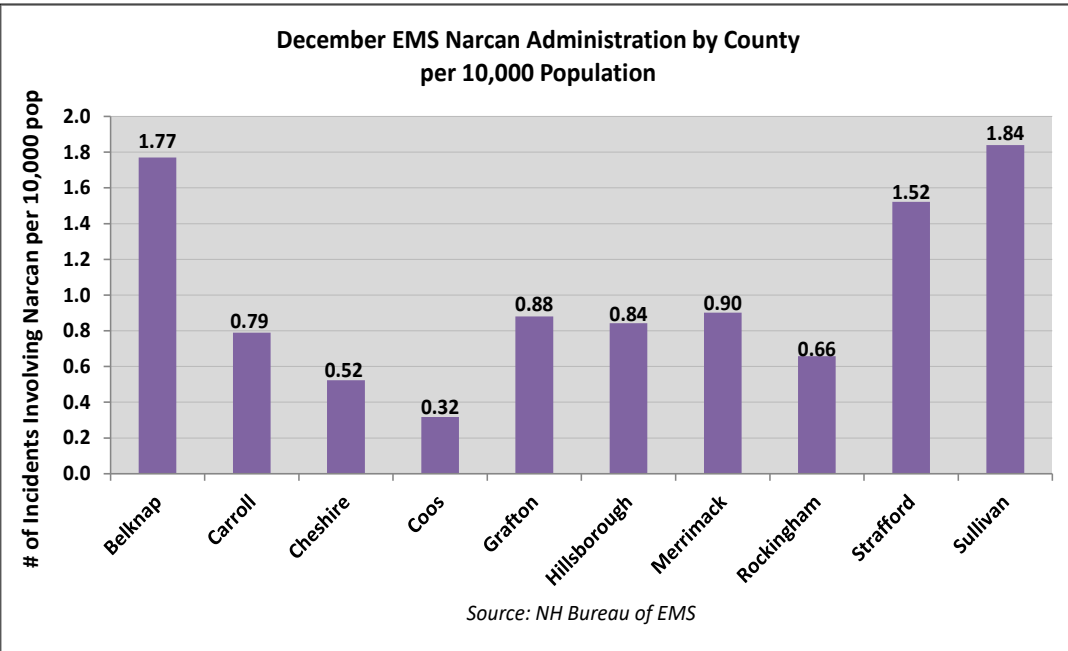
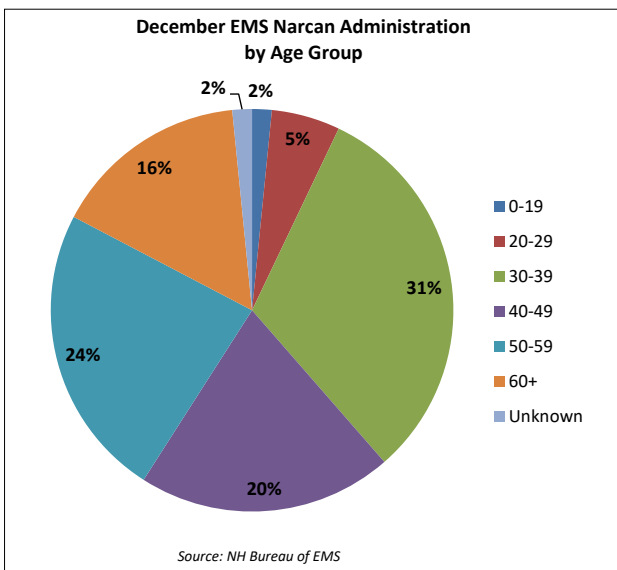
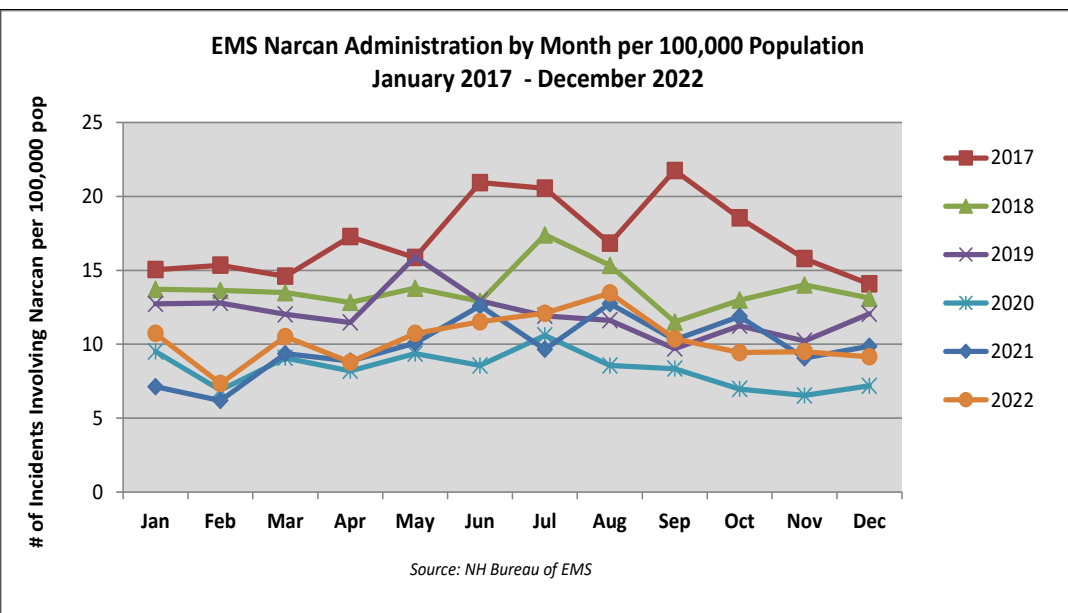
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- EMS Narcan administration incidents decreased by 4% from November to December.
- In December, Sullivan County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.84 incidents per 10,000 population. Belknap county was second with 1.77 incidents per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 31% of all EMS Narcan administrations in December.

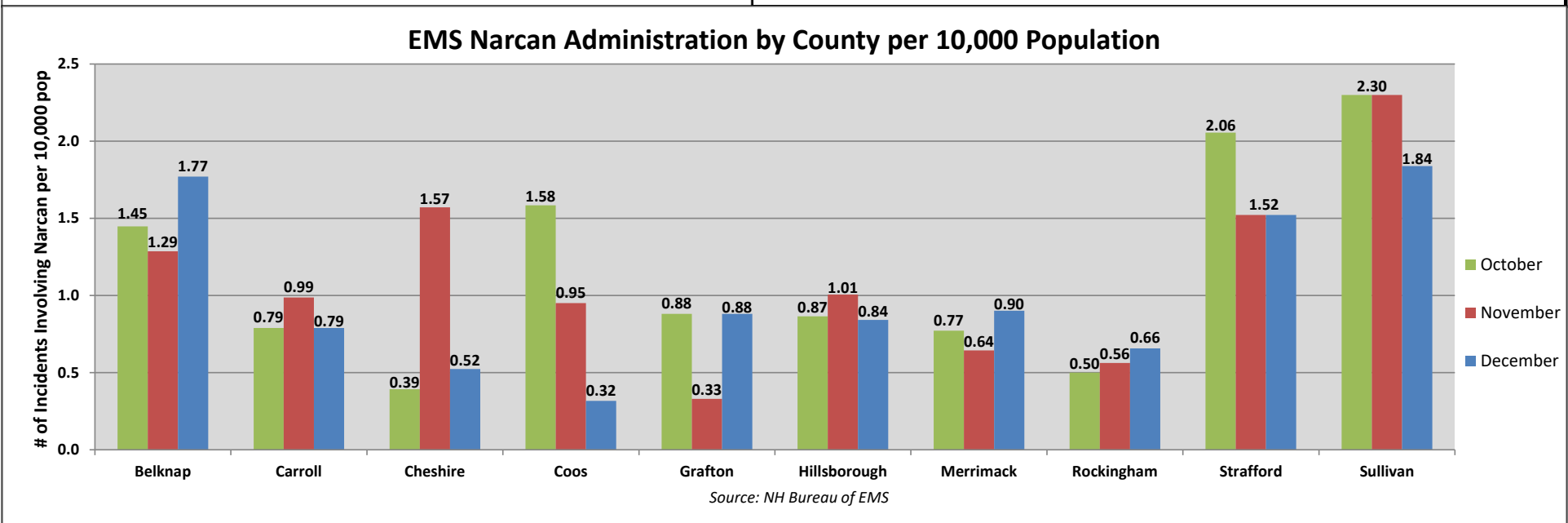
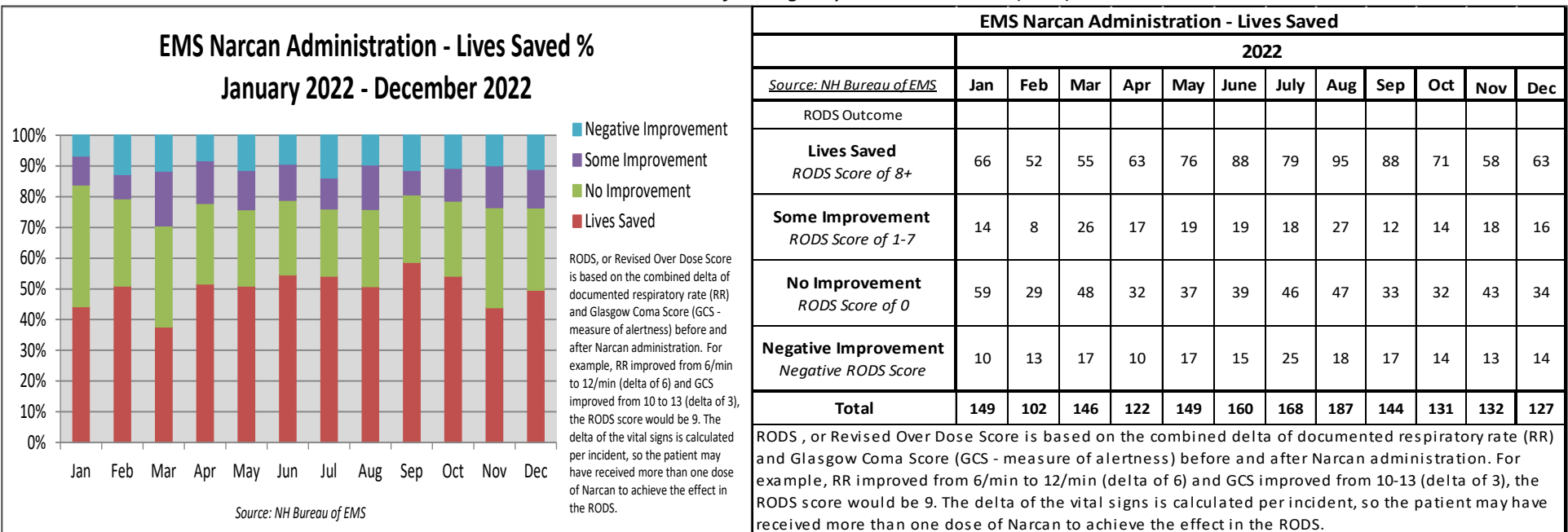
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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)



EMS/Narcan Administration by Town 1/2022 - 12/2022

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

INDEX

Belknap

1 - Center Harbor

Carroll

2 - Hales Location

3 - Harts Location

Coos

4 - Hadleys Purchase

5 - Beans Grant

6 - Cutts Grant

7 - Sargents Purchase

8 - Pinkhams Grant

9 - Crawfords Purchase

10 - Chandlers Purchase

11 - Low & Burbanks Grant

12 - Thompson & Meserves Purchase

13 - Greens Grant

14 - Martins Location

15 - Ervings Grant

16 - Wentworth Location

17 - Atkinson & Gilman Academy Grant

Hillsborough

18 - Bennington

Rockingham

19 - South Hampton

20 - Seabrook

21 - East Kingston

22 - Kensington

23 - Hampton Falls

24 - Hampton

25 - North Hampton

26 - Rye

27 - Portsmouth

28 - New Castle

29 - Newington

30 - Rollinsford

31 - Somersworth

32 - Dover

33 - Dover

34 - Dover

35 - Dover

36 - Dover

37 - Dover

38 - Dover

39 - Dover

40 - Dover

41 - Dover

42 - Dover

43 - Dover

44 - Dover

45 - Dover

46 - Dover

47 - Dover

48 - Dover

49 - Dover

50 - Dover

51 - Dover

52 - Dover

53 - Dover

54 - Dover

55 - Dover

56 - Dover

57 - Dover

58 - Dover

59 - Dover

60 - Dover

61 - Dover

62 - Dover

63 - Dover

64 - Dover

65 - Dover

66 - Dover

67 - Dover

68 - Dover

69 - Dover

70 - Dover

71 - Dover

72 - Dover

73 - Dover

74 - Dover

75 - Dover

76 - Dover

77 - Dover

78 - Dover

79 - Dover

80 - Dover

81 - Dover

82 - Dover

83 - Dover

84 - Dover

85 - Dover

86 - Dover

87 - Dover

88 - Dover

89 - Dover

90 - Dover

91 - Dover

92 - Dover

93 - Dover

94 - Dover

95 - Dover

96 - Dover

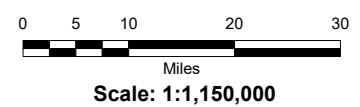
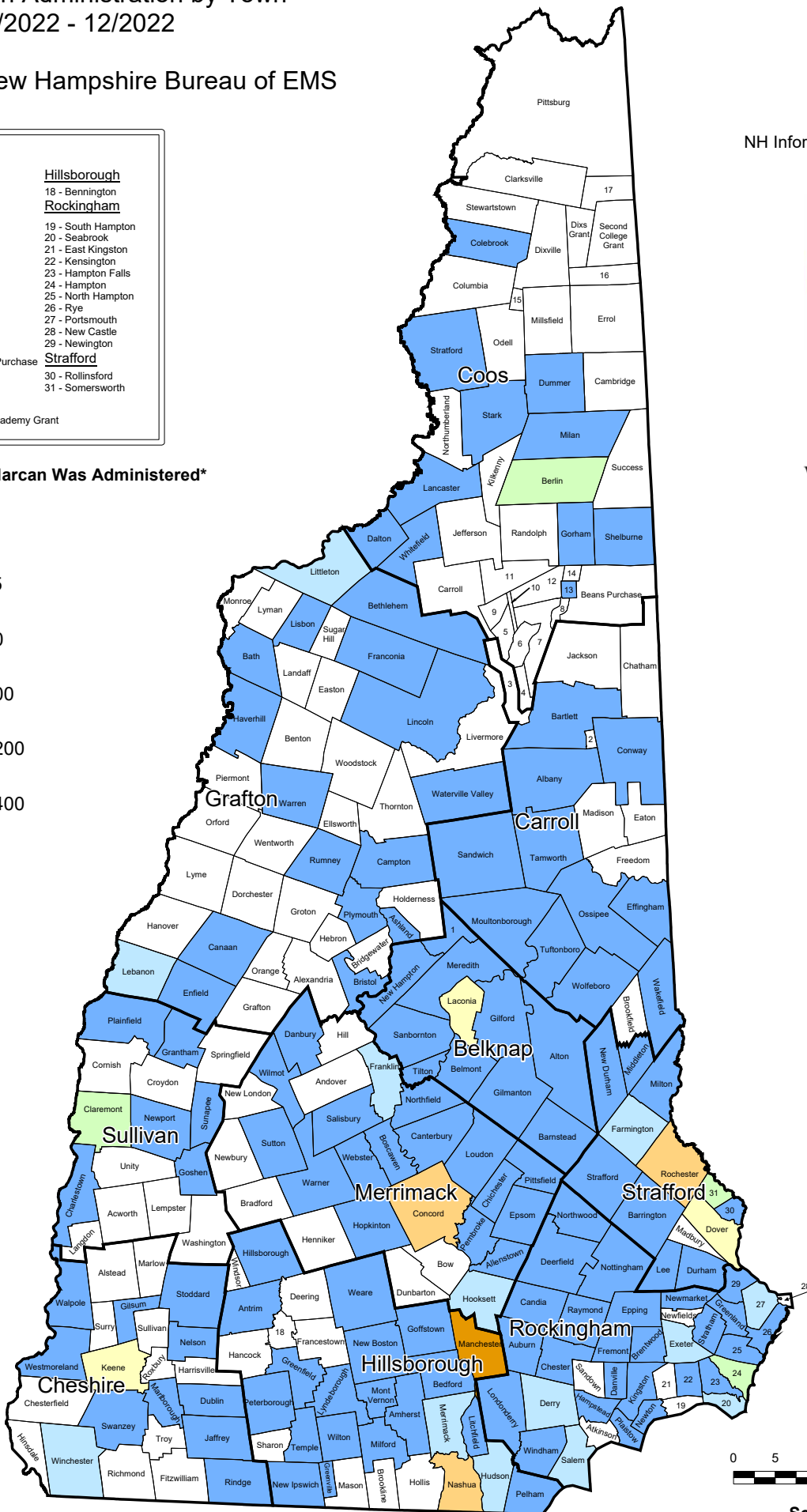
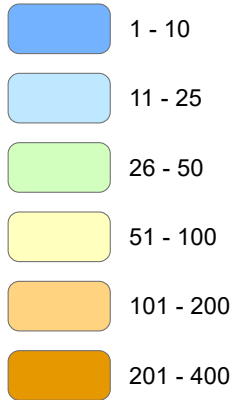
97 - Dover

98 - Dover

99 - Dover

100 - Dover

Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered



Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

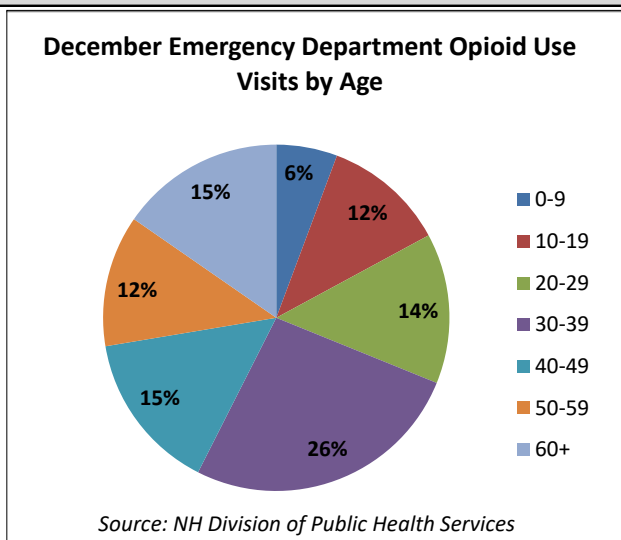
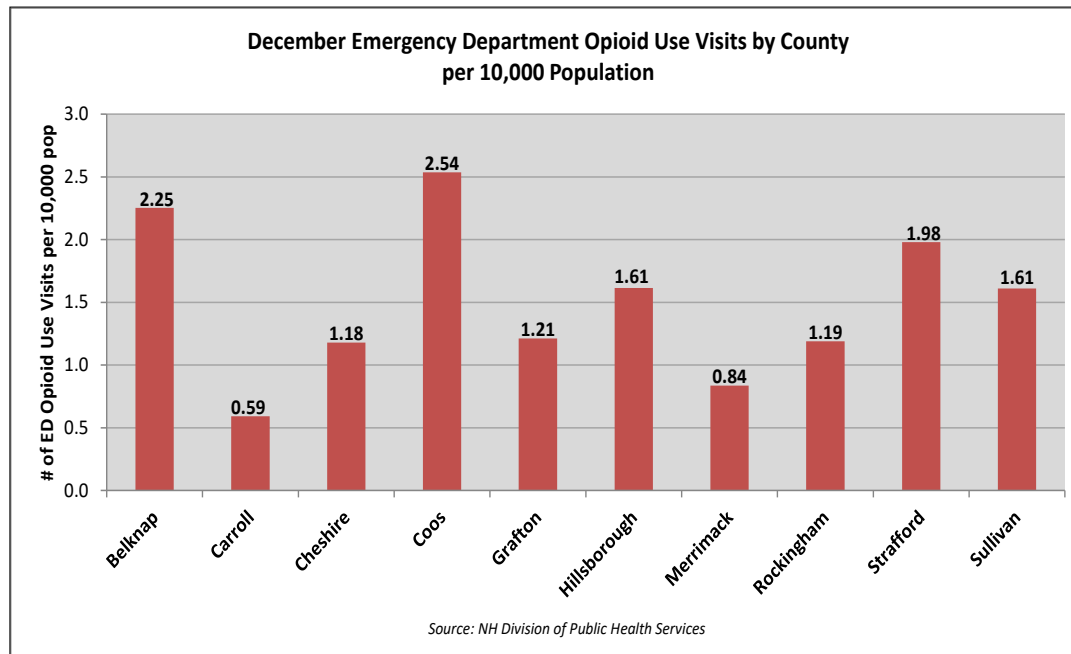
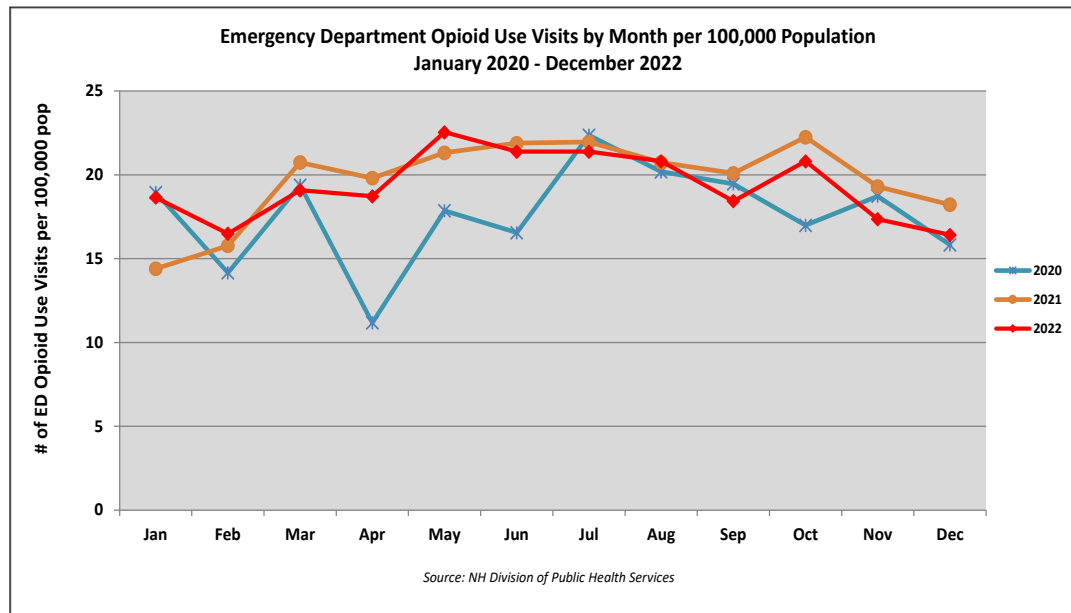
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- Opioid related ED visits decreased by 5% from November to December.
- In December, residents from Coos County had the most opioid related ED visits per capital with 2.54 visits per 10,000 population. Belknap County was second with 2.25 visits per 10,000 population.
- In December, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 26%.

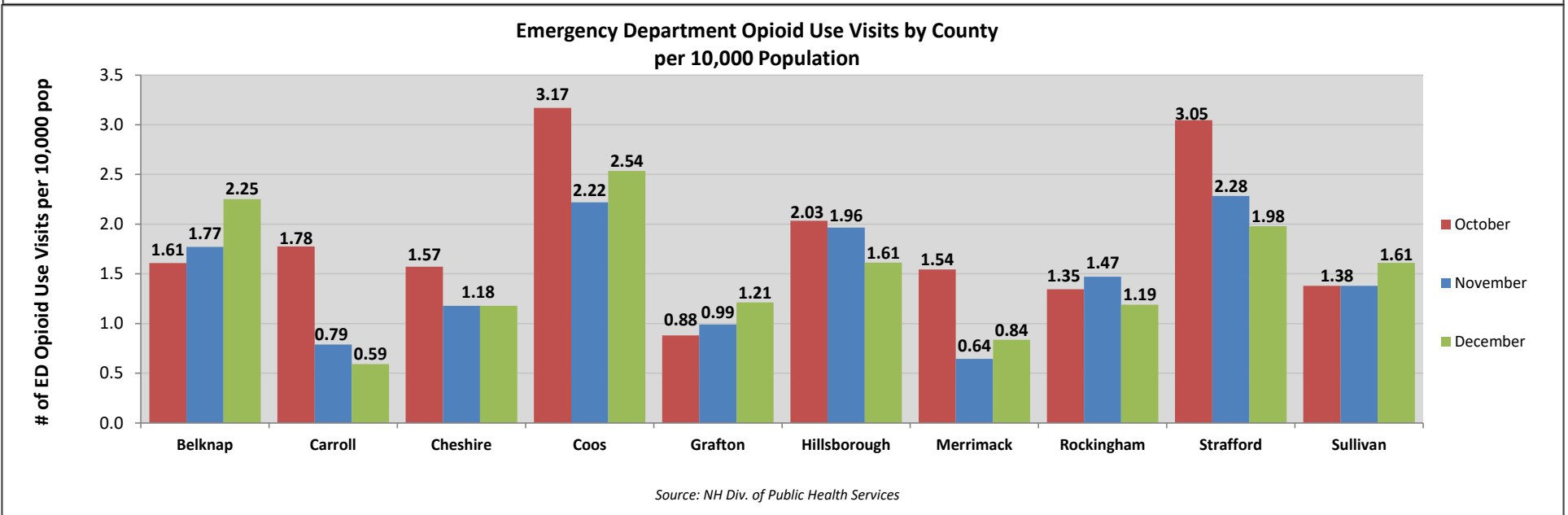
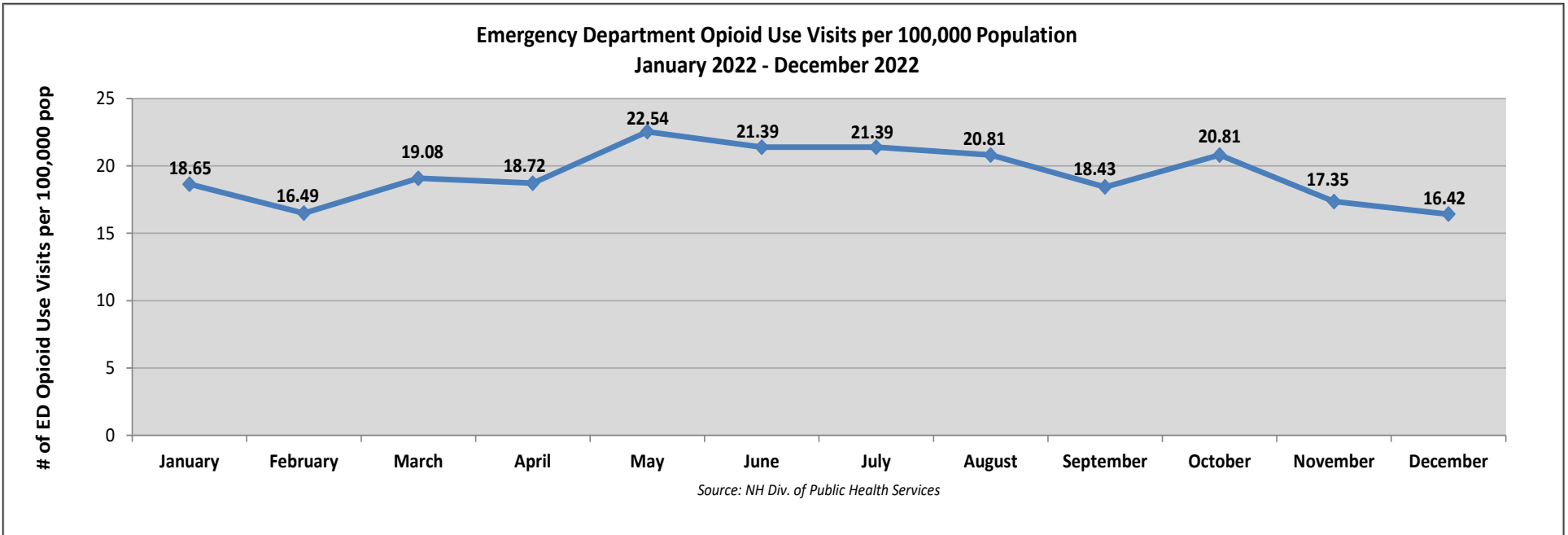
***** IMPORTANT DATA NOTES *****

- 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



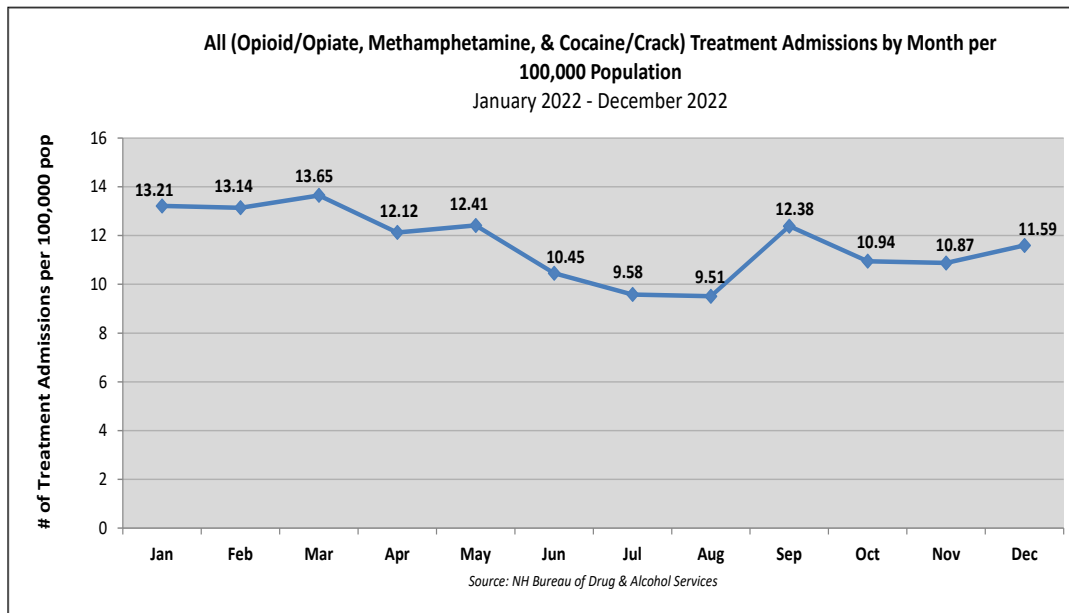
Treatment Admissions:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

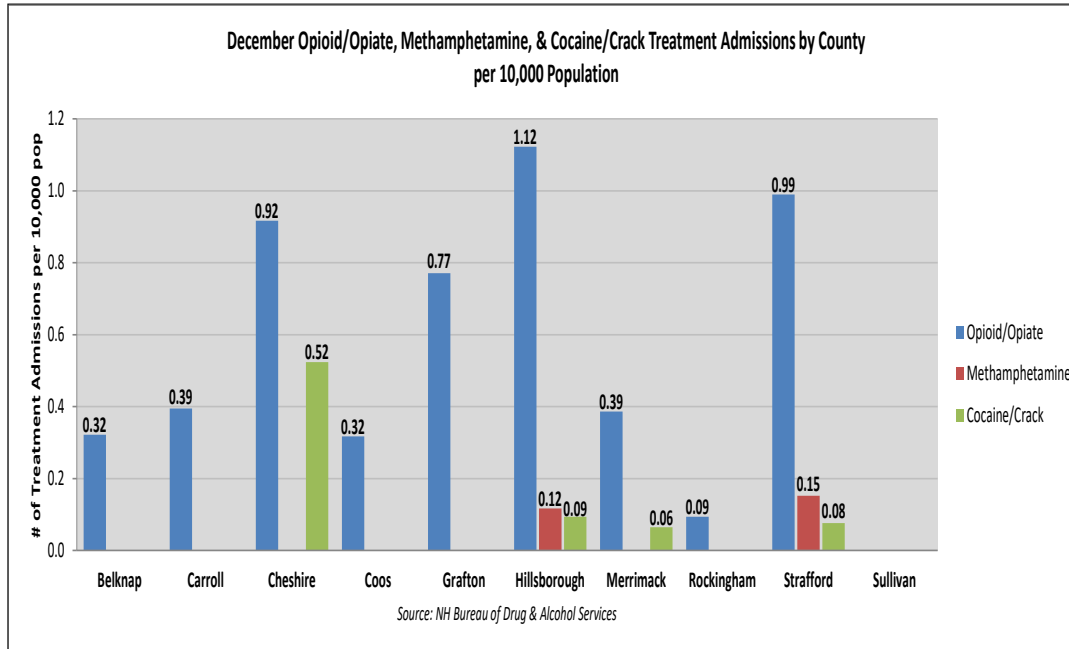
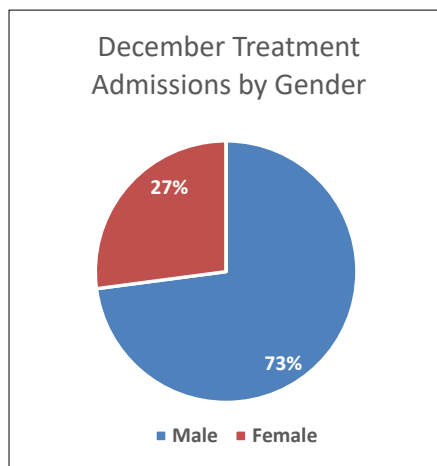
Trends:

- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 5% from November to December.
- In December, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 1.12 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males than females were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in December for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions decreased 38% from November to December.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased 24% from November to December.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions increased by 4% from November to December.



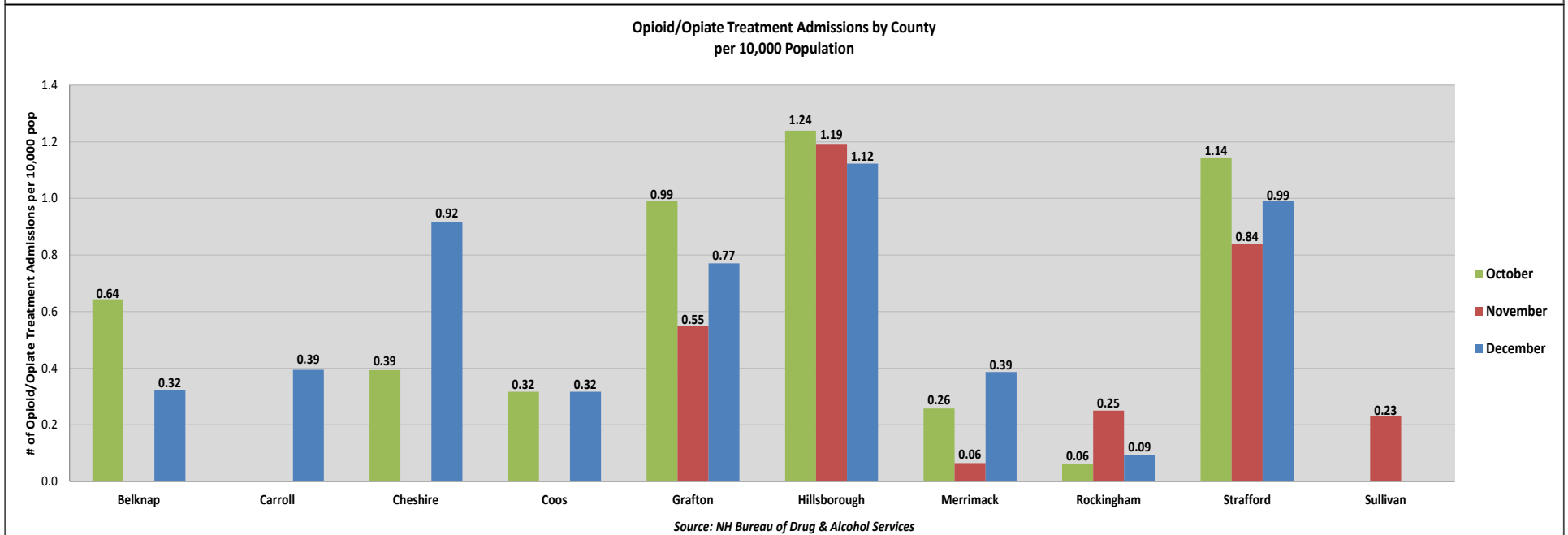
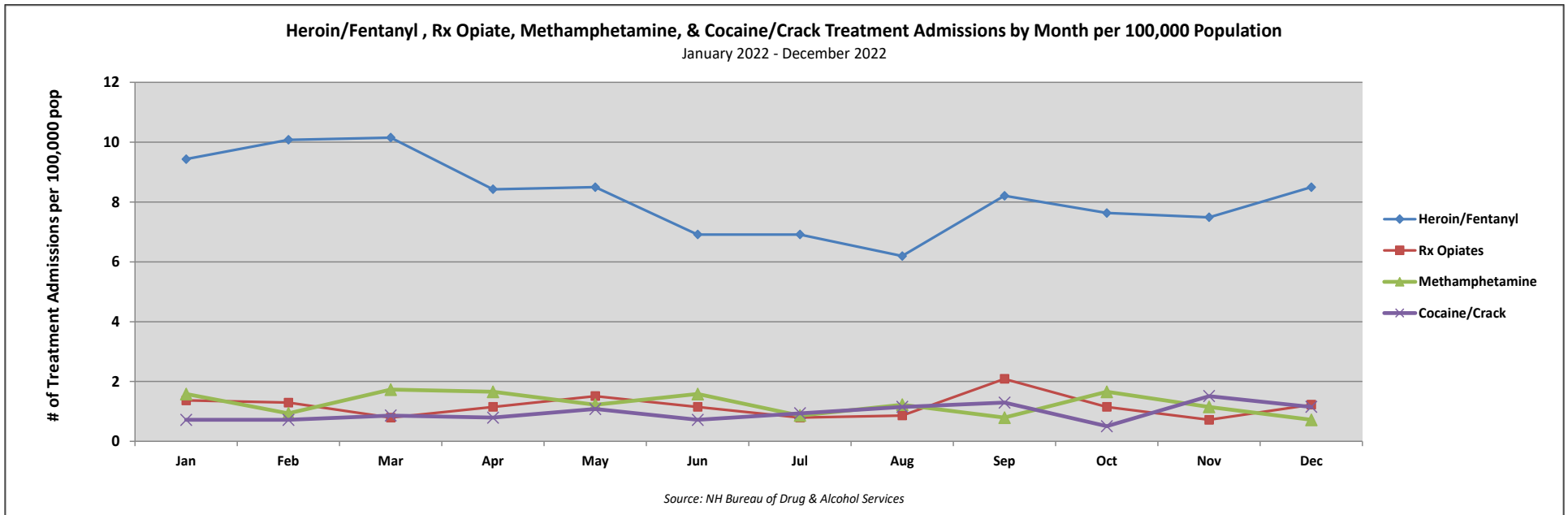
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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

'It's Kind of Russian Roulette': How an Animal Tranquilizer is Adding New Risks to Street Drugs in New Hampshire

Nate Weddle has struggled with heroin addiction for years. He first came to Manchester about four years ago to live in a sober house, and did well there. But moving out on his own was harder than he thought. Since then, he's gone back and forth between relapse and recovery. "I'm typically proud to be in recovery," he said. "But unfortunately I'm on the flip side of it now."

Lately, he's noticed that some heroin has an unusual effect on him. It'll knock him out immediately, and he won't wake up for hours. Weddle, who is 33, has been living on the street, where passing out suddenly can be dangerous. He's woken up to find his stuff stolen. Strange skin wounds have also appeared on his hand and arm, in places he wasn't injecting. The round, scabby sores looked almost like cigarette burns.

"And over time, they actually grew in size and got bigger," he said. Health workers are seeing similar symptoms in people across New Hampshire, and they suspect the cause is a substance called xylazine — an animal tranquilizer that's increasingly finding its way into street drugs across the country.

Source: <https://www.capeandislands.org> (20 Jan 2023)

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