



New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

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NHIAC Product #: 2023-05805

April 2023 Report

05 June 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

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*The data for this year is not finalized and is current as of 05/10/2023

Overdose Death Data						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	2023* Death Update As of 5/2023
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	436	485	91
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	404	426	85
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	36	56	10
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	63	97	20
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	73

⇒ 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.

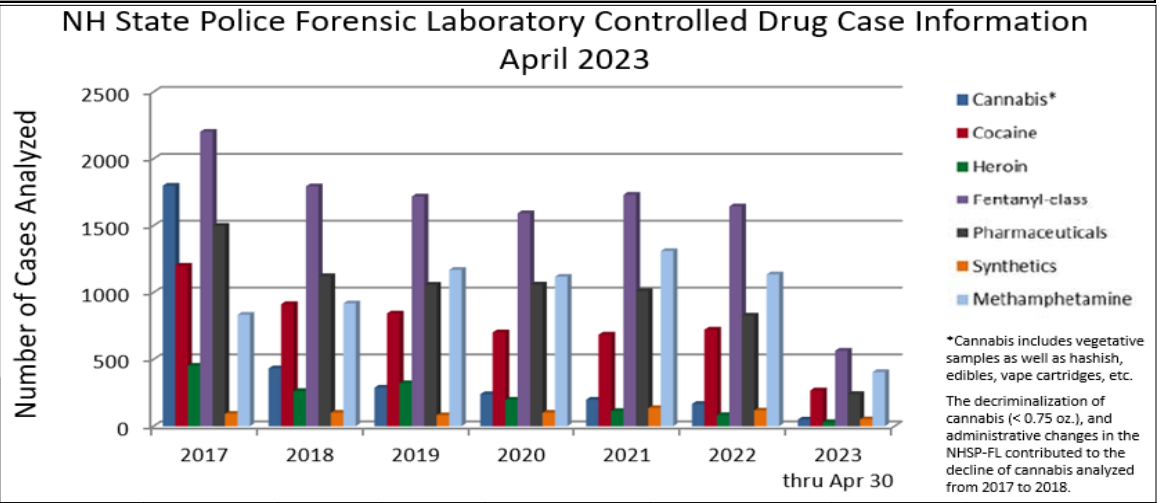
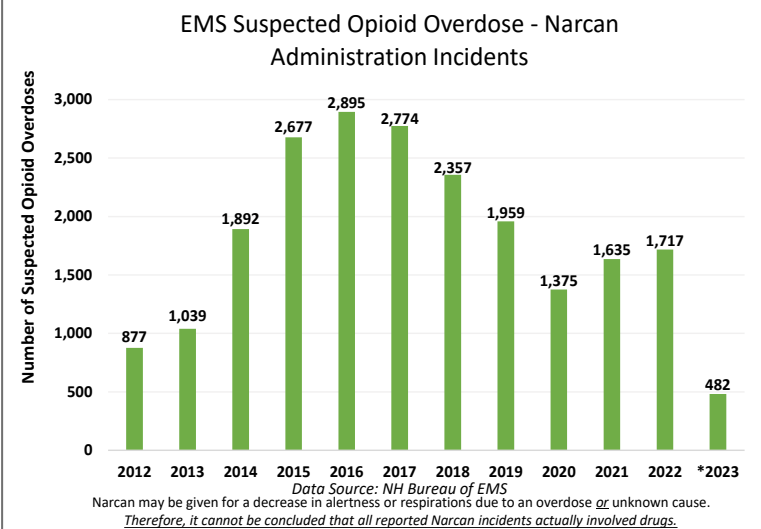
Previous versions of the Drug Environment Report can be found at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov>

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

New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire are rising. 2022 deaths are nearly finalized and show at least an 11% increase from calendar year 2021. This is the third consecutive yearly increase in NH, and return us to levels not witnessed since 2016-2018, when drug overdose deaths in NH were at their highest.

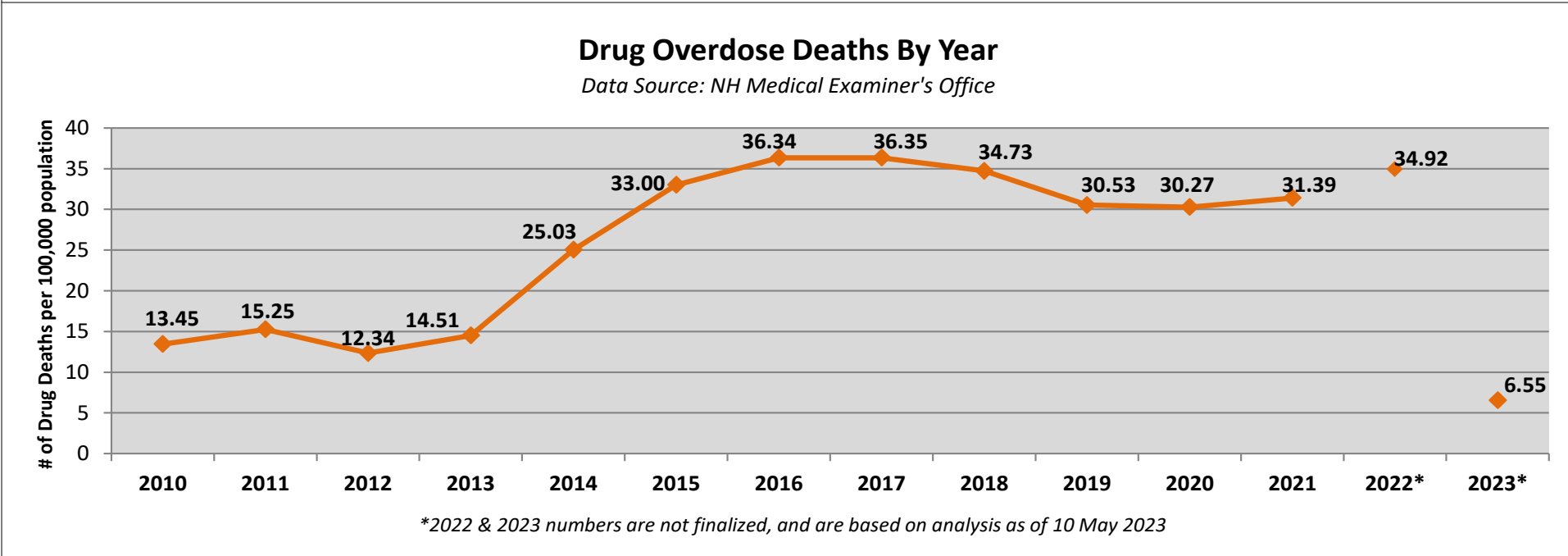
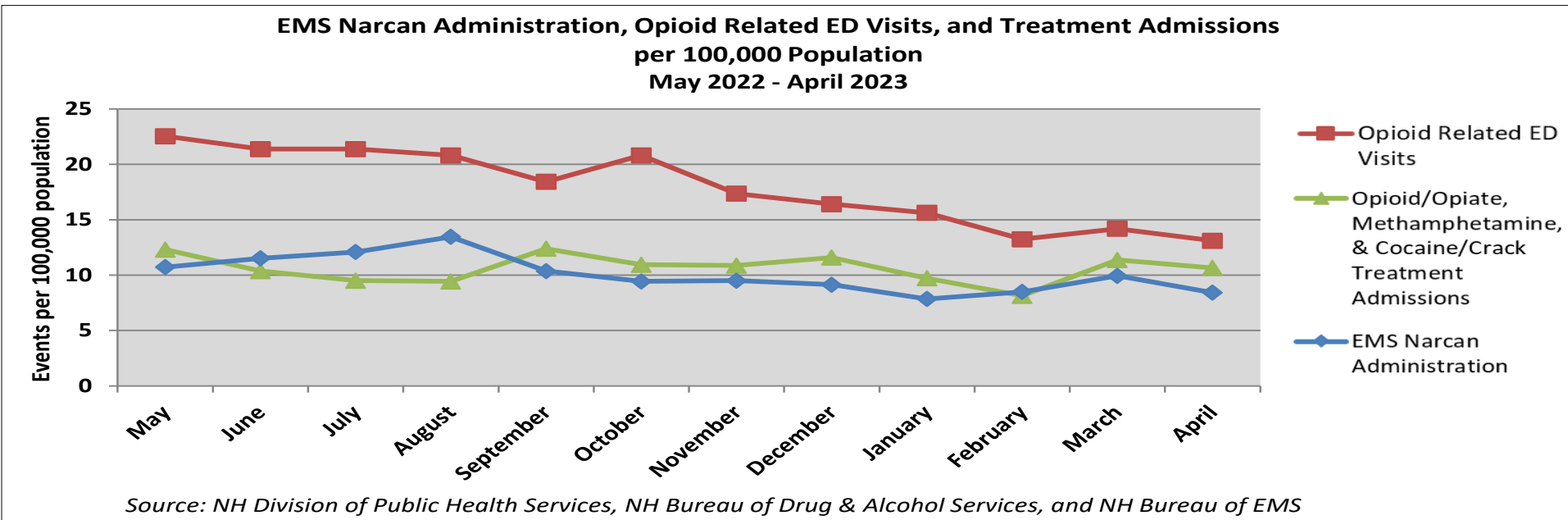
April 2023 Data Summary			
	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from March to April	↓ 15%	↓ 6%	↓ 8%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Cheshire	Hillsborough	Coos
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39



Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2017	1799	1201	453	2202	1499	93	834
2018	433	913	264	1794	1123	101	919
2019	289	843	322	1718	1058	83	1169
2020	240	702	199	1593	1060	101	1118
2021	199	685	114	1731	1011	136	1310
2022	167	722	84	1644	827	118	1136
2023 thru Apr 30	50	268	31	565	241	52	405
Apr 2023	14	62	9	120	62	13	86

2022 Overdose Deaths (As of 5/10/2023 - 0 Deaths Pending Tox, Year Still Not Finalized)					
Percent Change: All Overdose Deaths (2021 to 2022)	Percent Change: Opioid Deaths (2021 to 2022)	Percent Change: Meth Deaths (2021 to 2022)	Percent Change: Cocaine Deaths (2021 to 2022)	County w/ Most Deaths Per Capita	Age Group w/ Most Deaths
↑ 11%	↑ 6%	↑ 54%	↑ 56%	Coos	30-39 Year Olds

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



Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

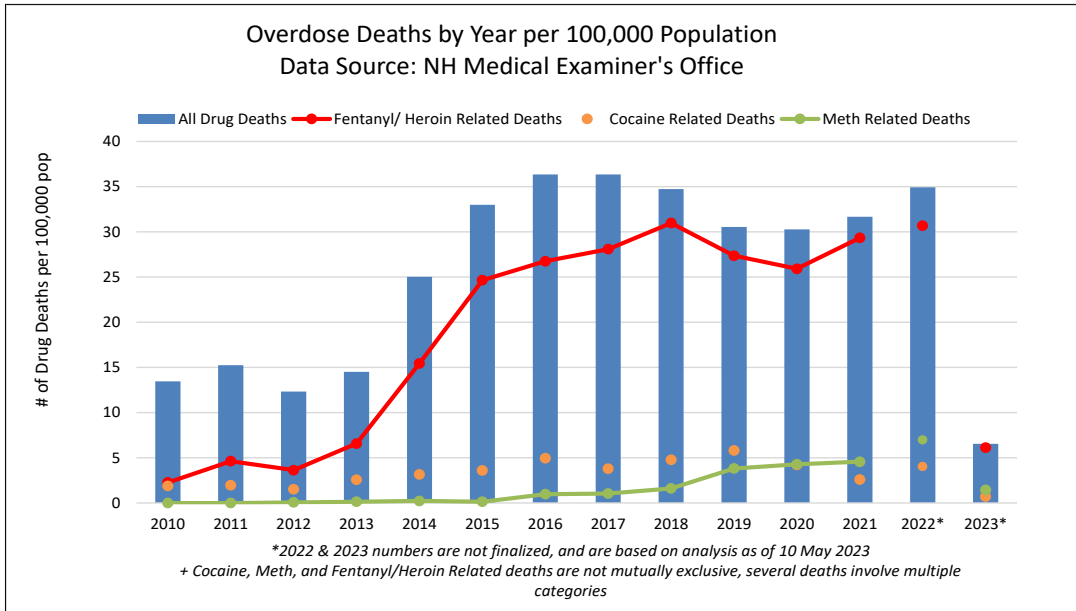
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- For 2023, as of 10 May 2023, there are 91 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 73 cases pending toxicology.
- So far for 2023, Belknap County has the highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita, at 1.45 deaths per 10,000 population. Sullivan County is in a close second with 1.38 overdose deaths per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of drug overdose deaths is 30-39 years, which represents 32% of all overdose deaths for 2023.

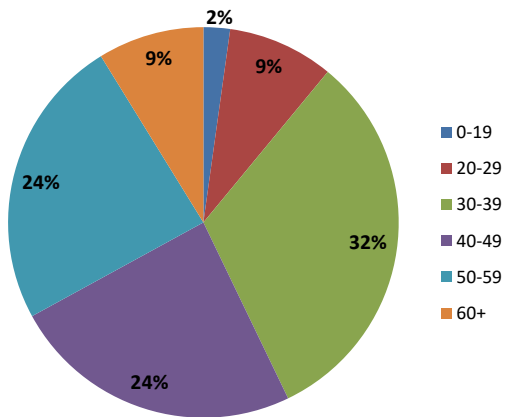
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- Analysis is based on county where the drug (s) is suspected to have been used.

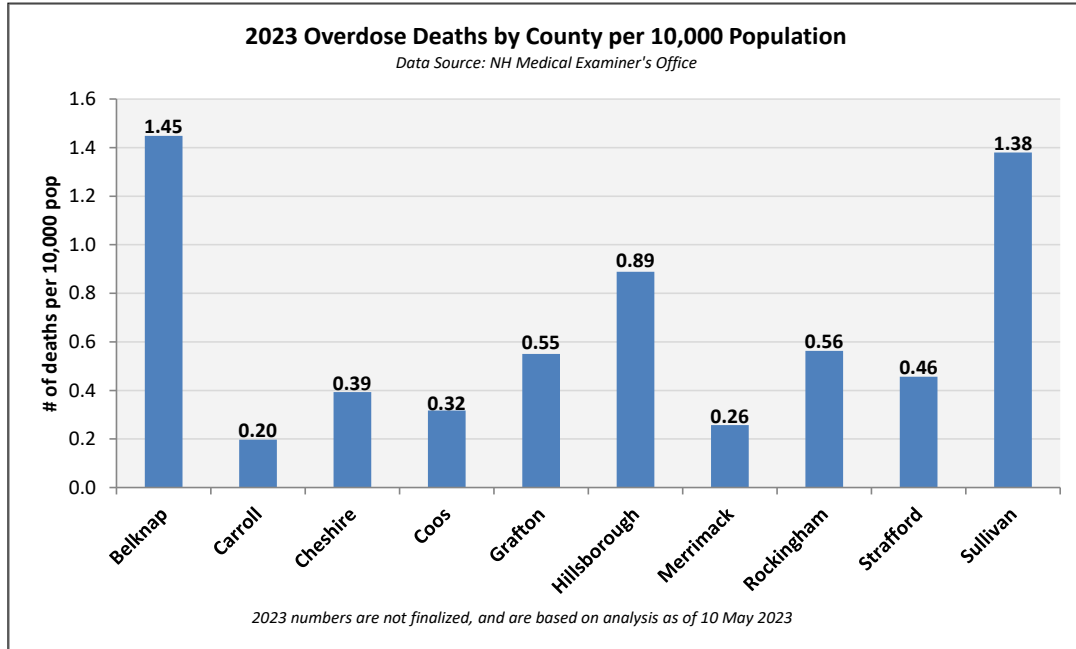


Overdose Deaths by Age 2023*

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office



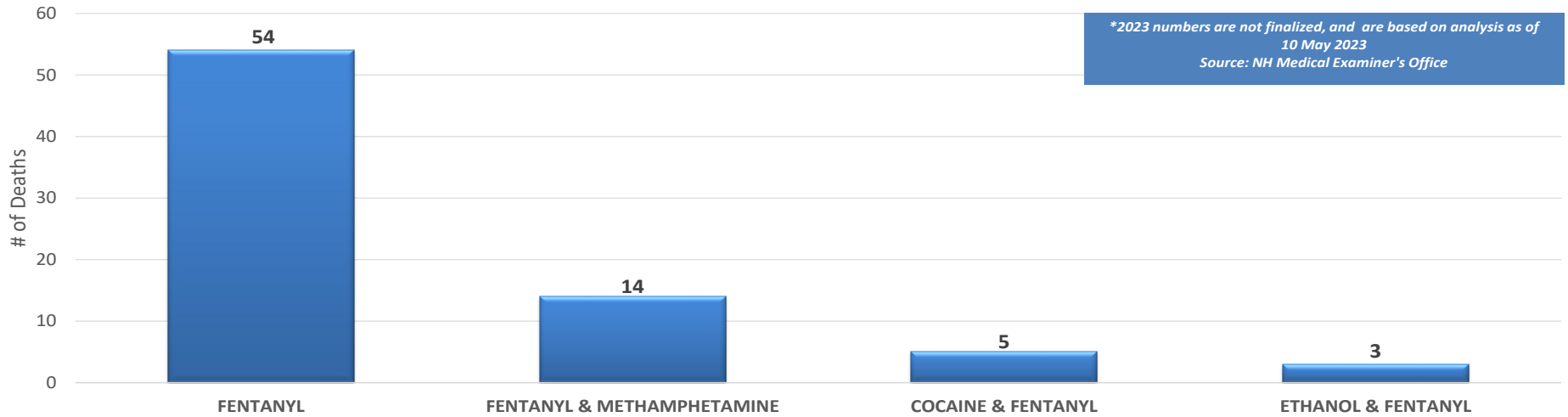
*2023 numbers are not finalized, and based on analysis as of 10 May 2023



Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

**Cocaine, Fentanyl Class and/or Methamphetamine Combination Related Drug Deaths
2023**



2023 Cocaine, Fentanyl Class and/or Methamphetamine Combination Related Drug Deaths that were noted once or twice*

METHAMPHETAMINE	DONEPEZIL, DULOXETINE, FENTANYL, LEVETIRACETAM, METHAMPHETAMINE & METOPROLOL	COCAINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	COCAINE	AMPHETAMINE, COCAINE, FENTANYL & GABAPENTIN	*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice
FENTANYL & METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE & ETHANOL	BROMAZOLAM, BUPRENORPHINE, DIPHENHYDRAMINE, ETHANOL, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & VALERYLFENTANYL	ACETYLFENTANYL, EPHEDRINE, ETHANOL, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN & METHAMPHETAMINE	

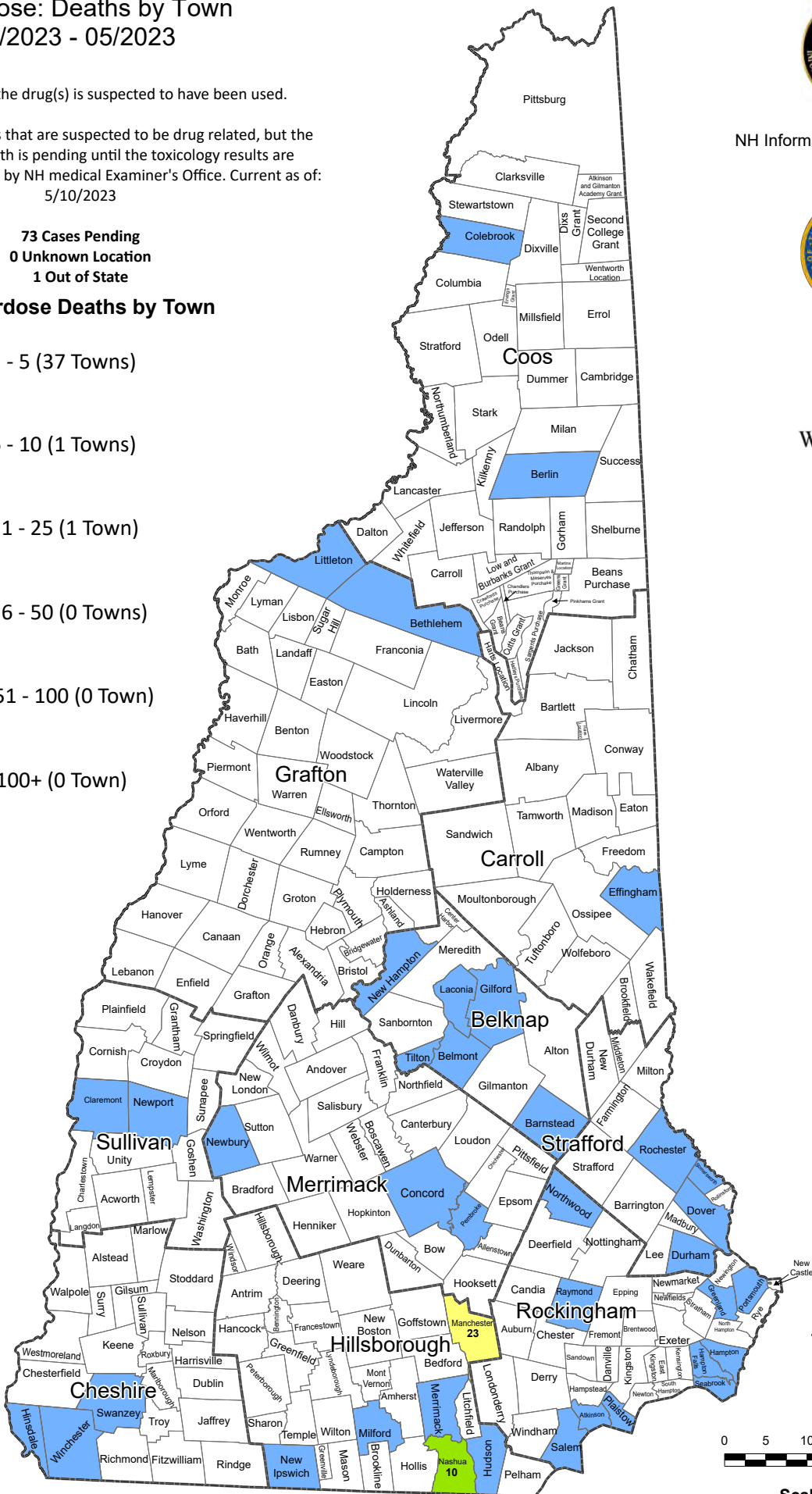
Overdose: Deaths by Town 1/2023 - 05/2023

Location is where the drug(s) is suspected to have been used.

There are more deaths that are suspected to be drug related, but the official cause of death is pending until the toxicology results are received. Data provided by NH medical Examiner's Office. Current as of: 5/10/2023

73 Cases Pending
0 Unknown Location
1 Out of State

Number of Overdose Deaths by Town



Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center



Scale: 1:1,150,000

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:

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

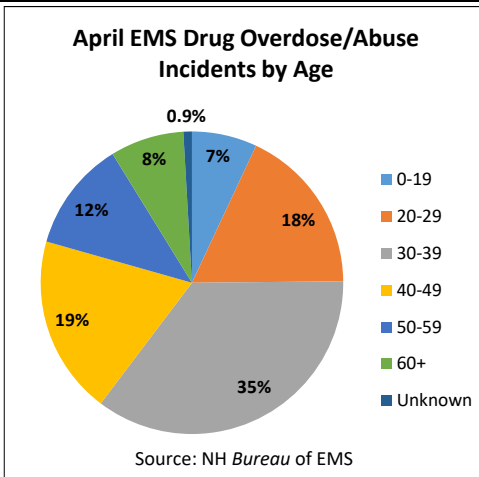
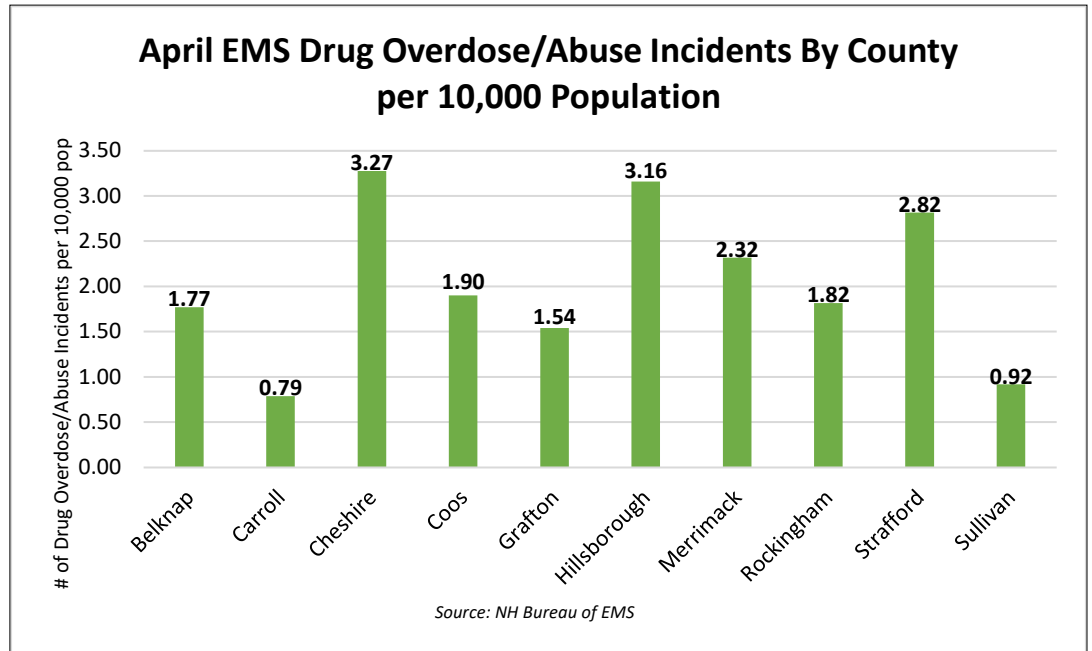
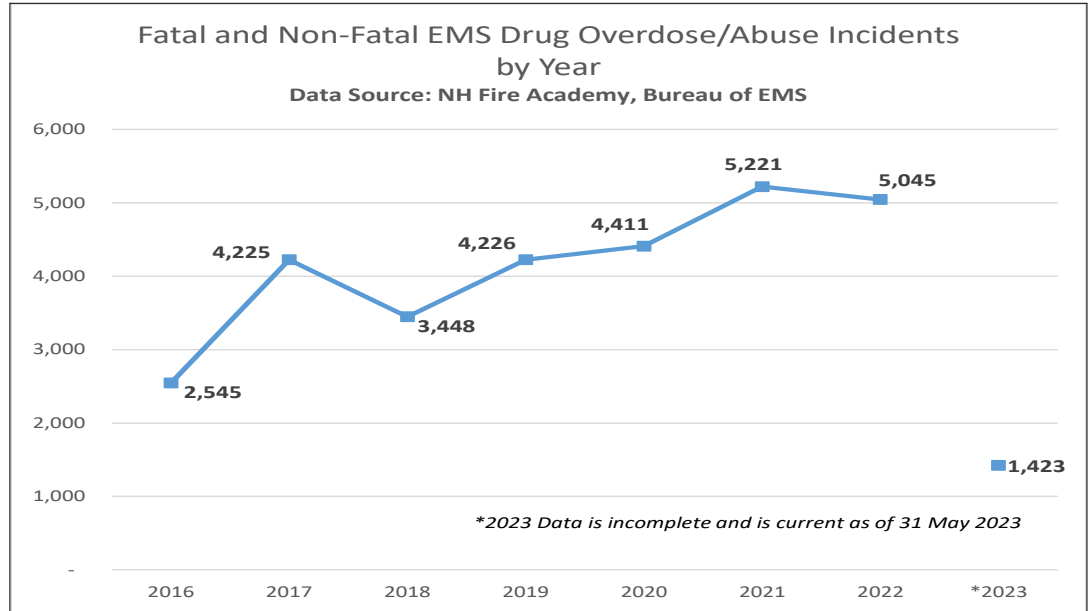
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Analyst Notes:

- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents decreased 20% from March to April.
- In April, Cheshire County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 3.27 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was close second with 3.16 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 35% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in April.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in April.

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

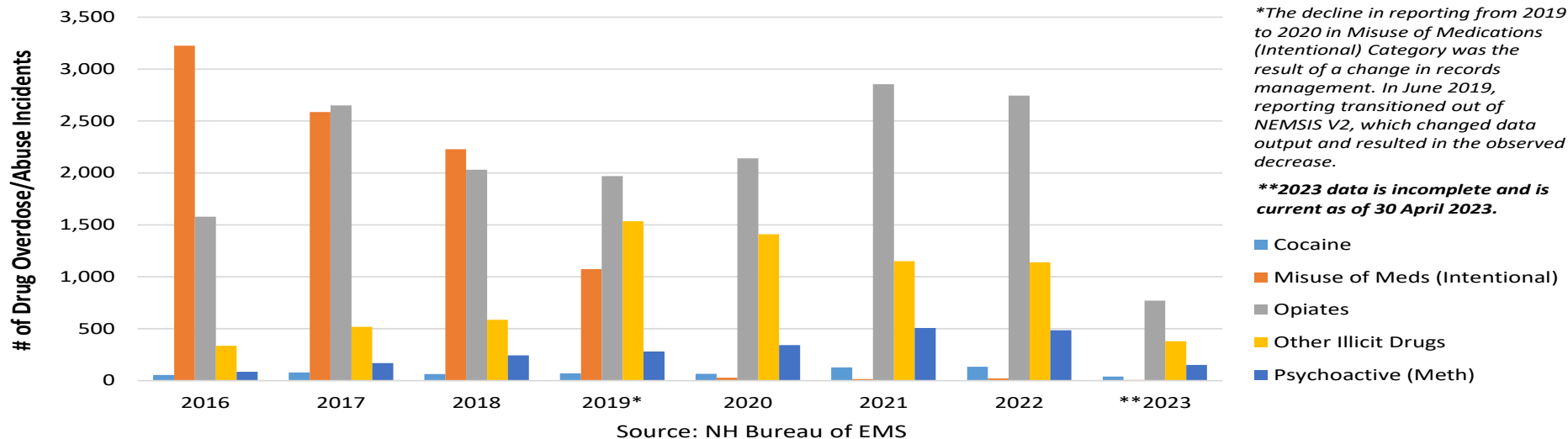
- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. **Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.**
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records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



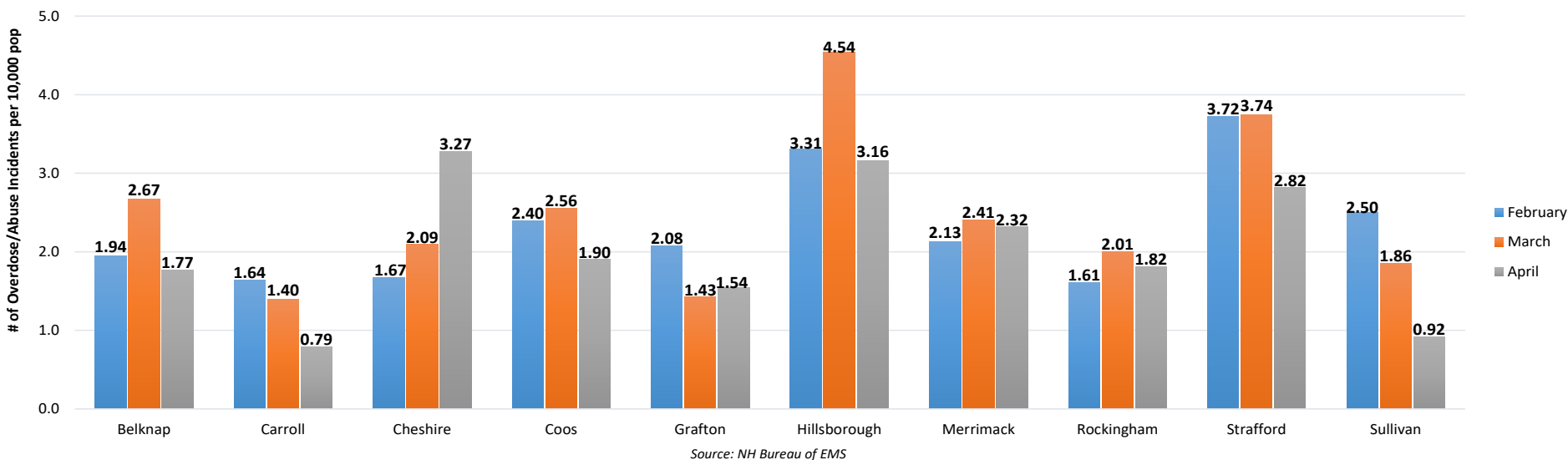
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):

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

5/2022 - 4/2023

*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

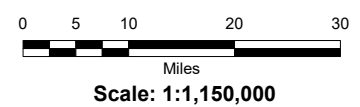
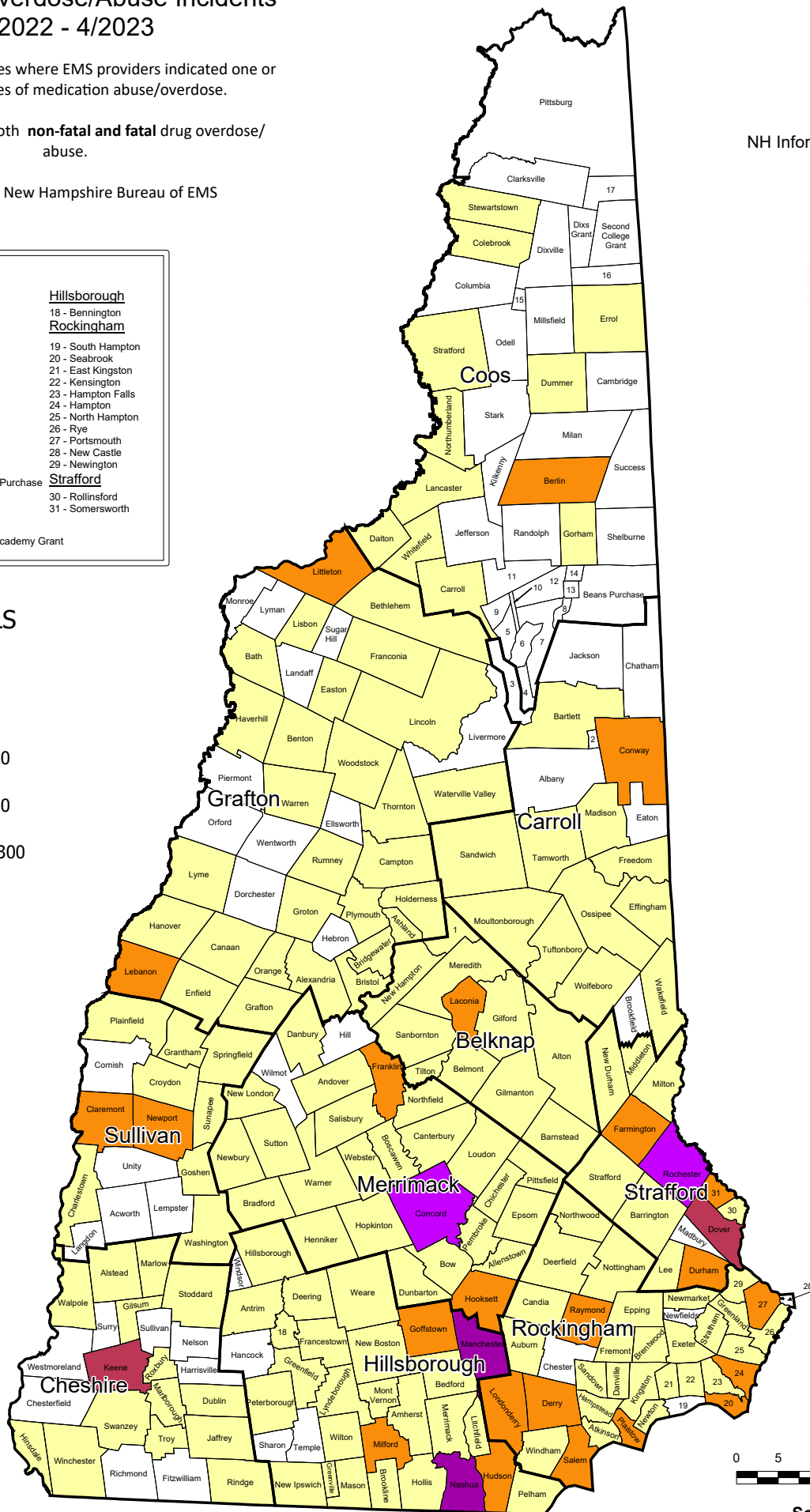
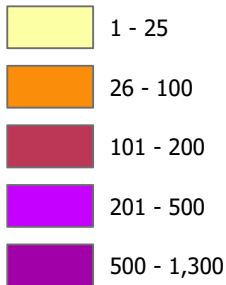


Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center



INDEX	
<u>Belknap</u>	<u>Hillsborough</u>
1 - Center Harbor	18 - Bennington
<u>Carroll</u>	<u>Rockingham</u>
2 - Hales Location	19 - South Hampton
3 - Harts Location	20 - Seabrook
<u>Coos</u>	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	<u>Strafford</u>
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)

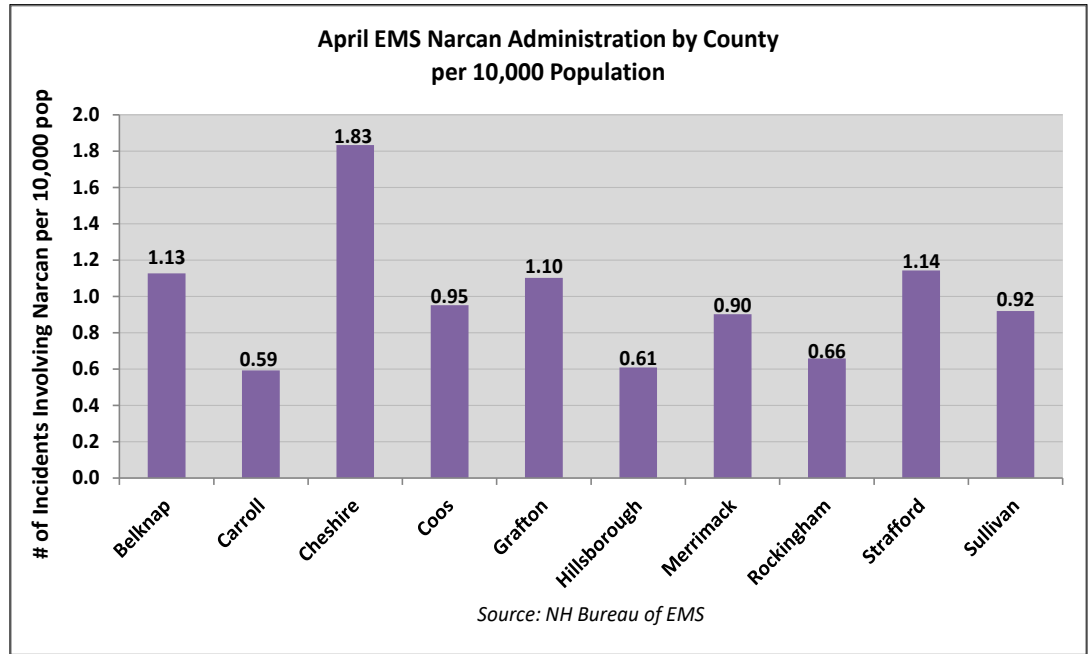
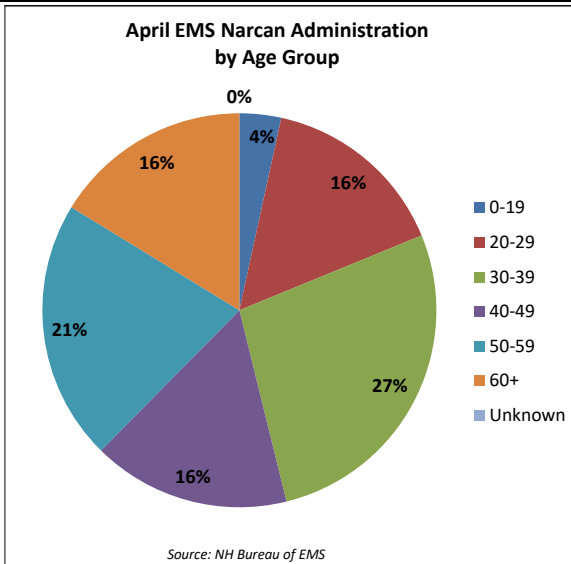
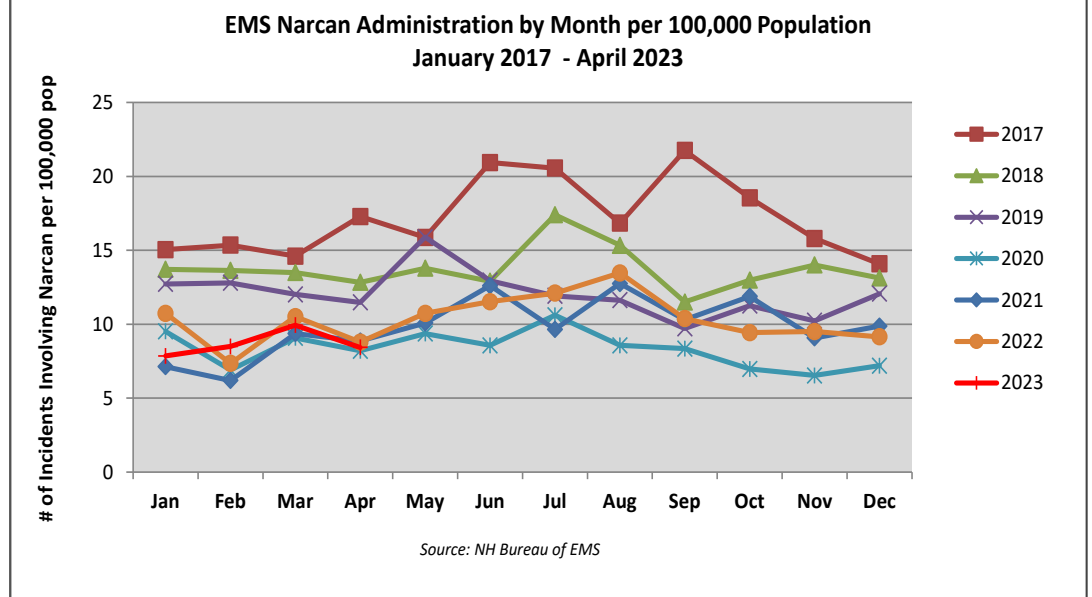
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- EMS Narcan administration incidents decreased by 15% from March to April.
- In April, Cheshire County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.83 incidents per 10,000 population. Strafford, Belknap and Grafton Counties were all nearly tied for second, with 1.14, 1.13 and 1.10 admissions per 10,000 population, respectively.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 27% of all EMS Narcan administrations in April.

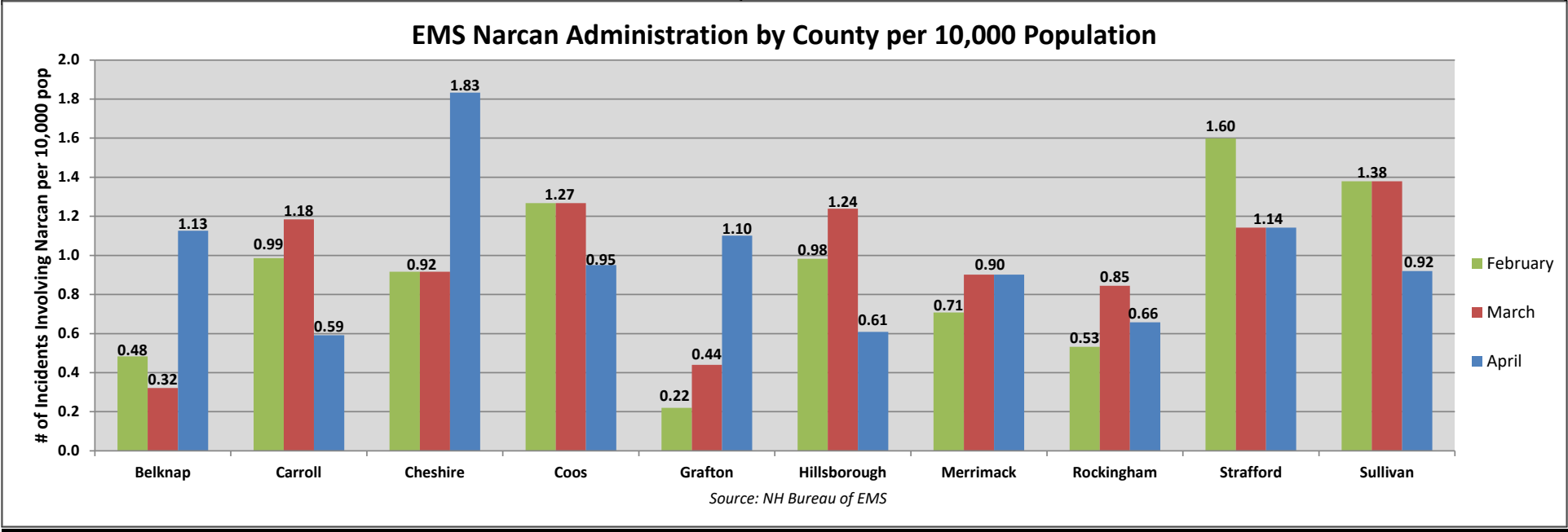
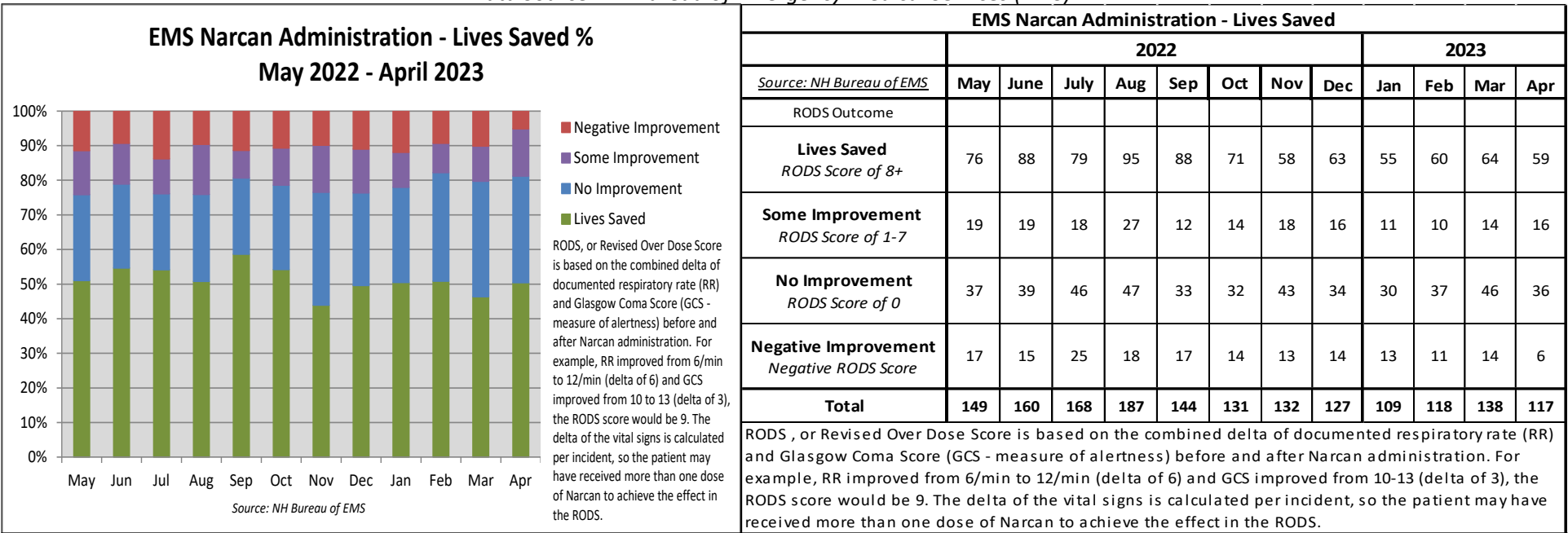
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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

5/2022 - 4/2023

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



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NH Information & Analysis Center

INDEX

Belknap

1 - Center Harbor

Carroll

2 - Hales Location

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4 - Hadleys Purchase

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Rockingham

19 - South Hampton

20 - Seabrook

21 - East Kington

22 - Kensington

23 - Hampton Falls

24 - Hampton

25 - North Hampton

26 - Rye

27 - Portsmouth

28 - New Castle

29 - Newington

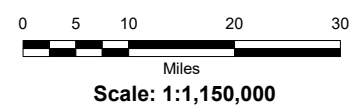
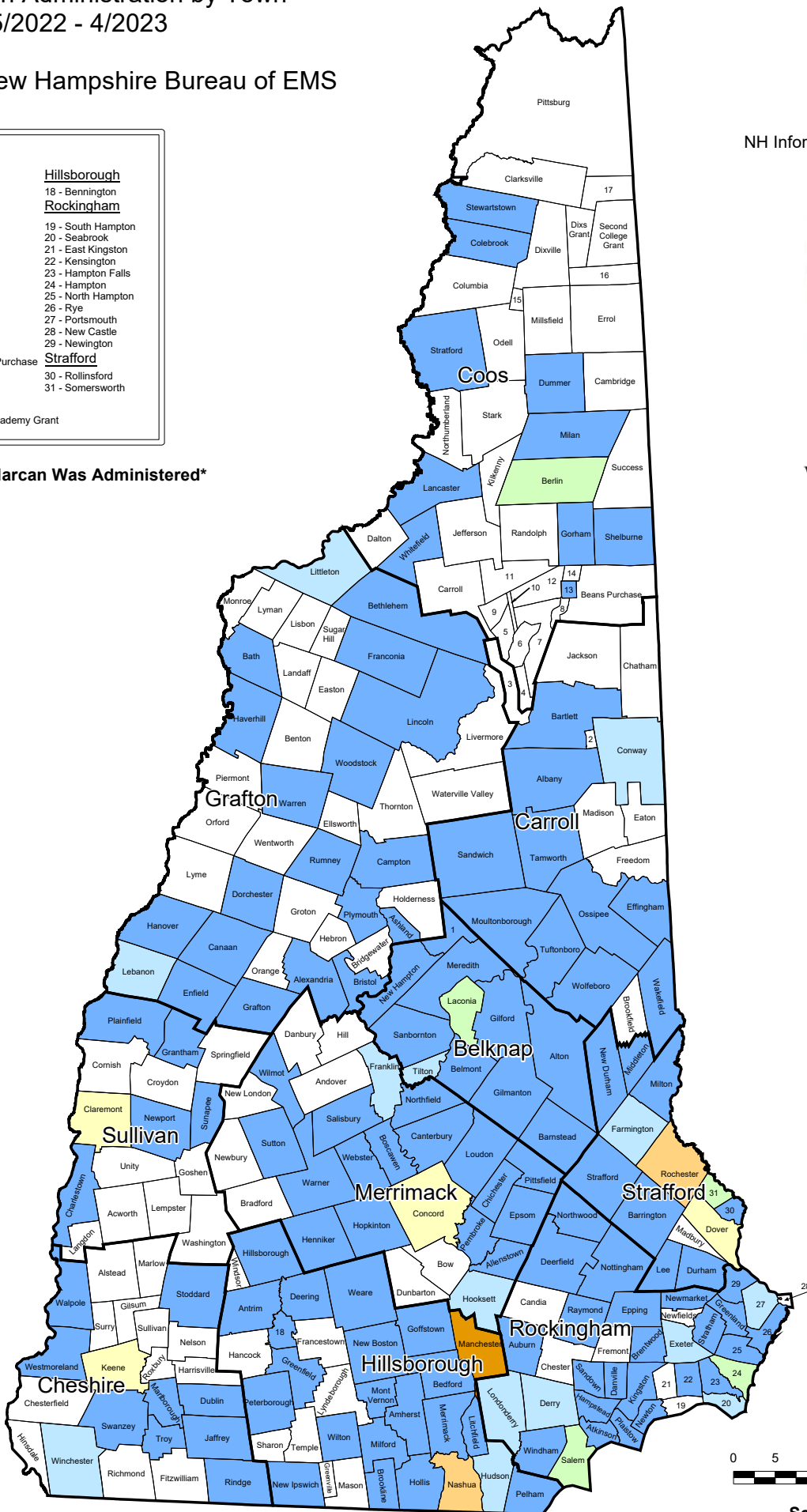
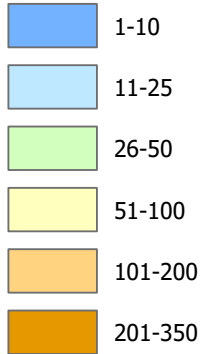
Strafford

30 - Rollinsford

31 - Somersworth

Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered

Range



Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

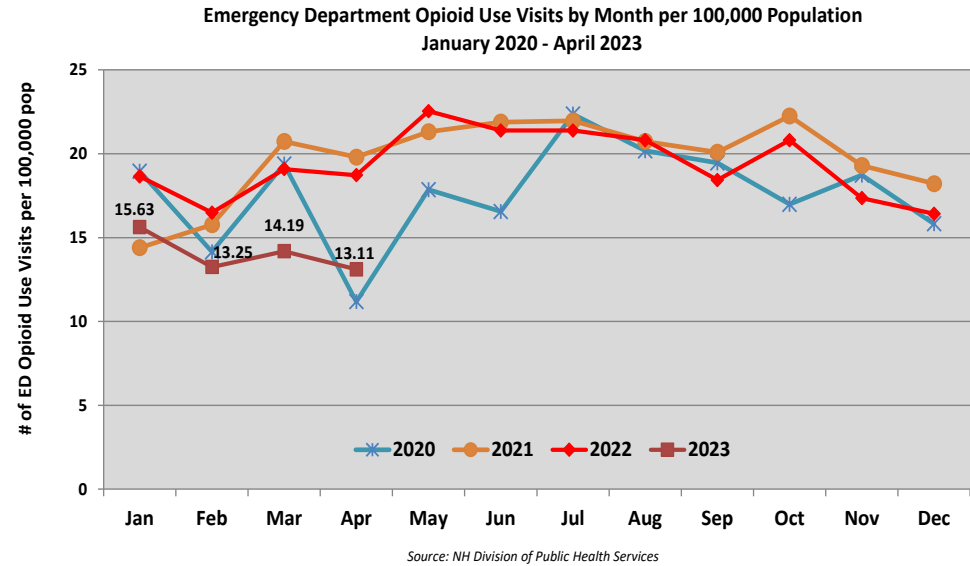
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Trends:

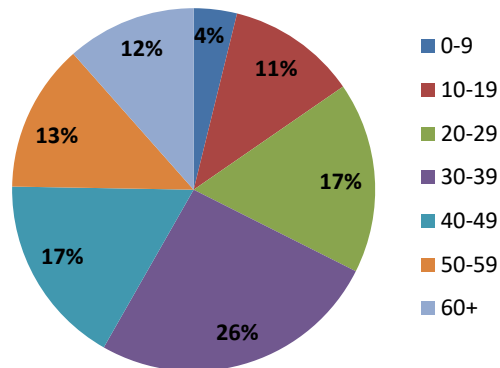
- Opioid related ED visits decreased by 8% from March to April.
- In April, residents from Coos County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 2.22 visits per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second with 1.75 visits per 10,000 population.
- In April, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 26%.

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

- **Data Note (April 2023):** Four hospitals are temporarily not reporting data to the relevant system and thus are not included in this month's data set.
- 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.

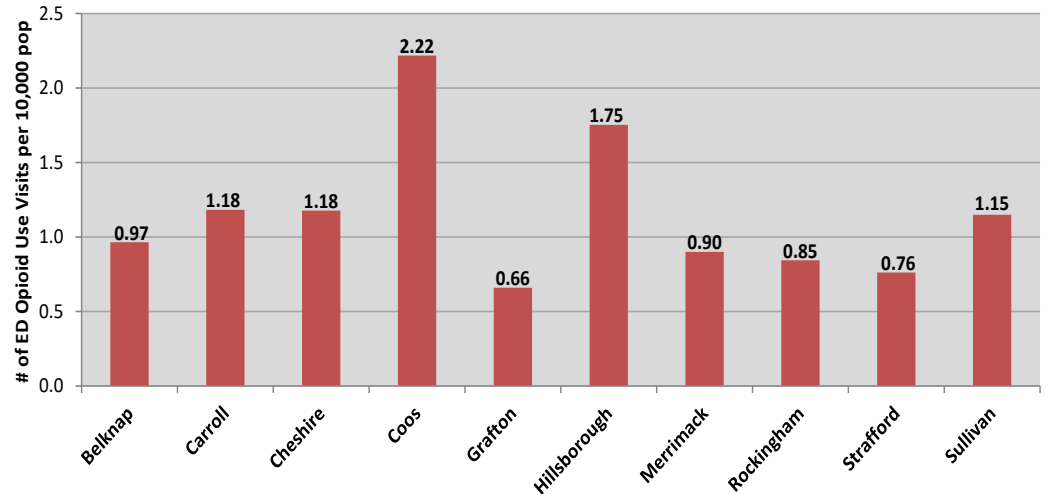


April Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits by Age



Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

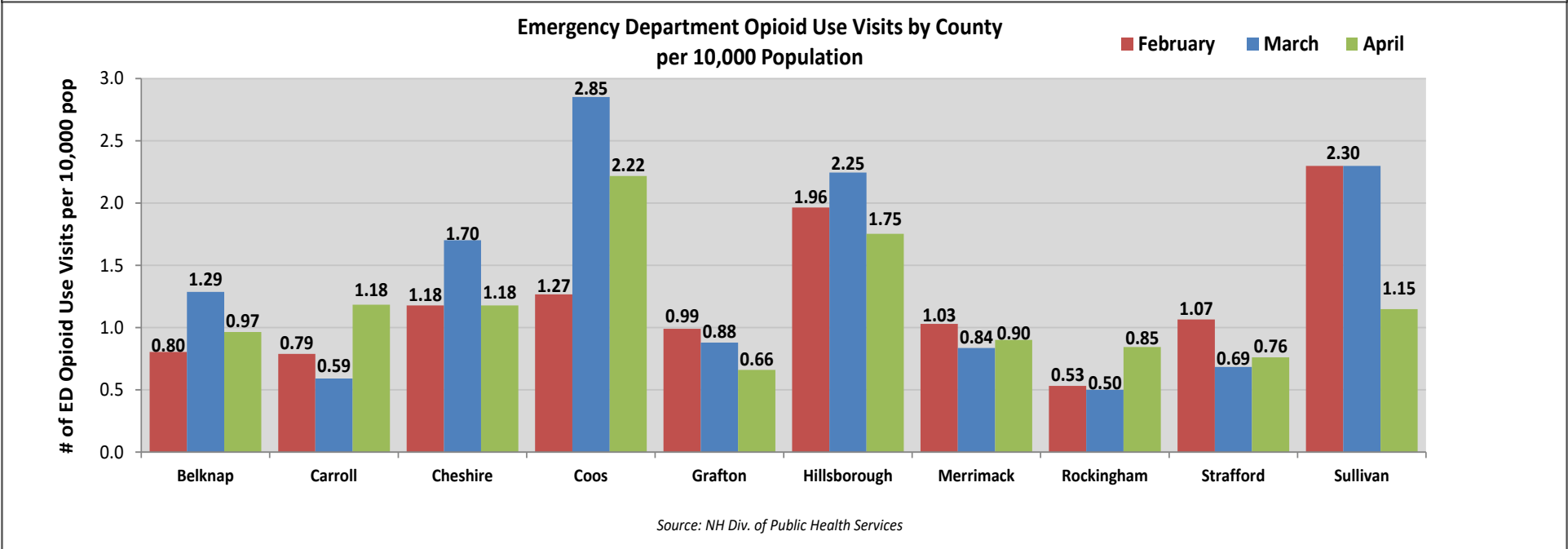
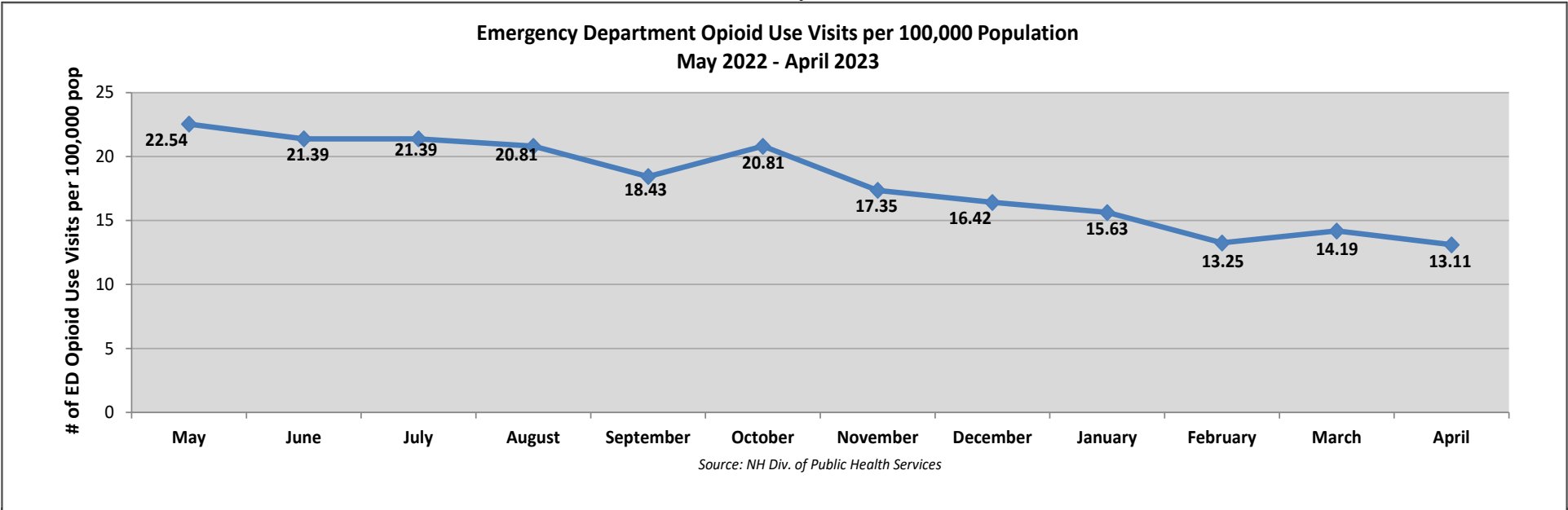
April Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits by County per 10,000 Population



Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits (Continued):

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services



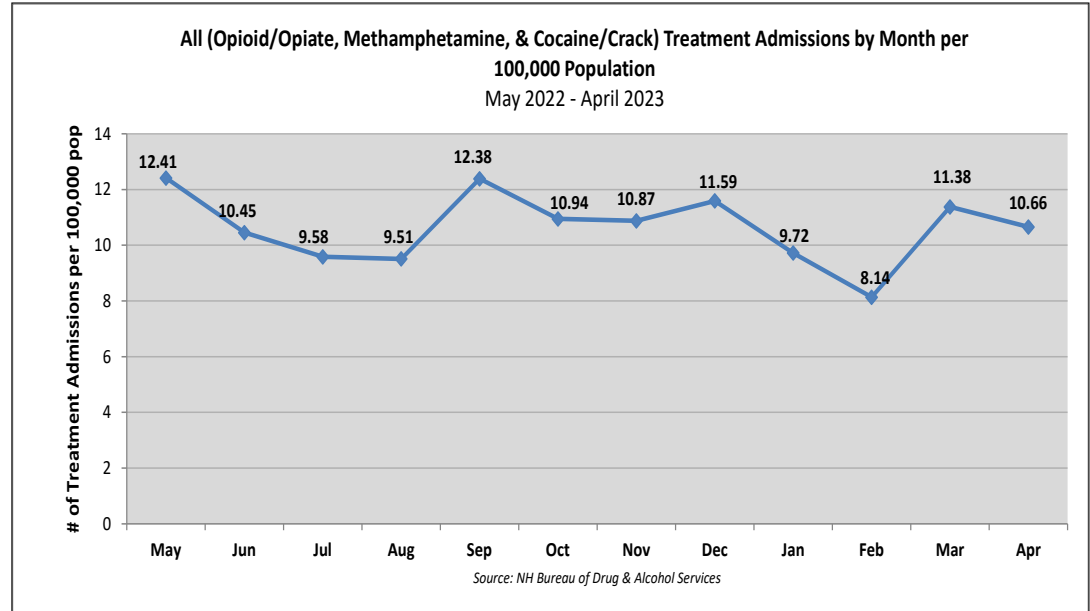
Treatment Admissions:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

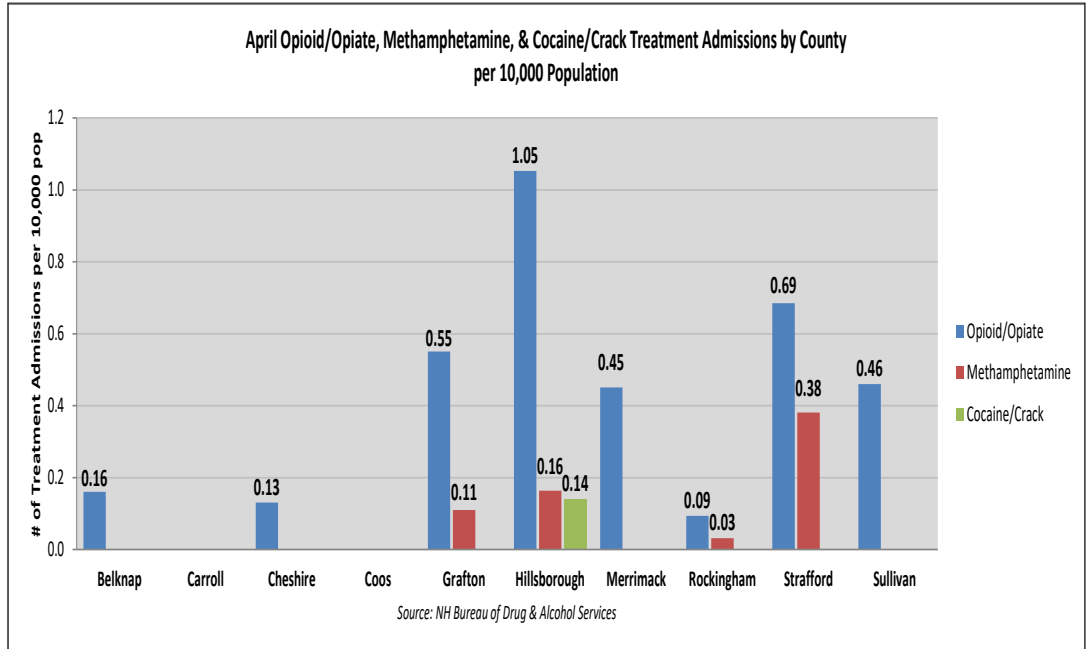
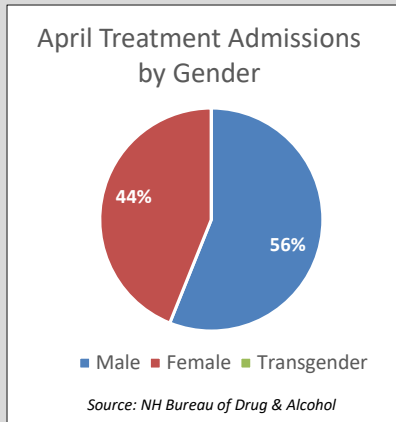
Trends:

- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased by 6% from March to April.
- In April, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 1.05 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in April for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use, than females.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions decreased by 4% from March to April.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased by 30% from March to April.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions decreased slightly (2%) from March to April.



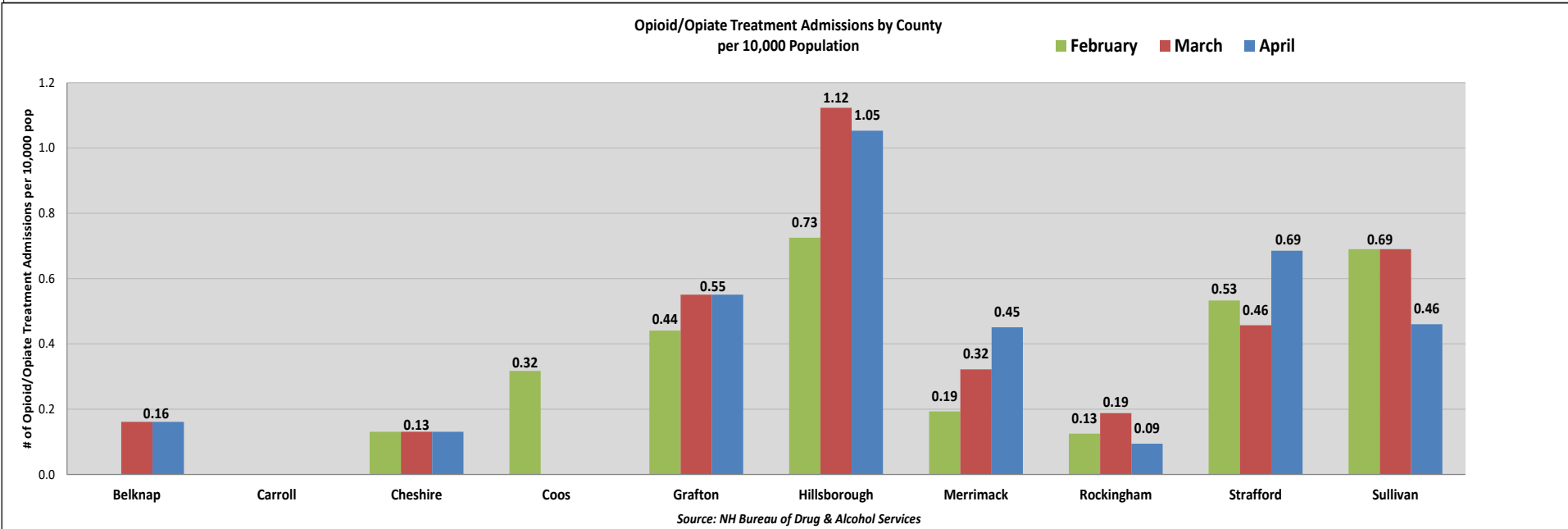
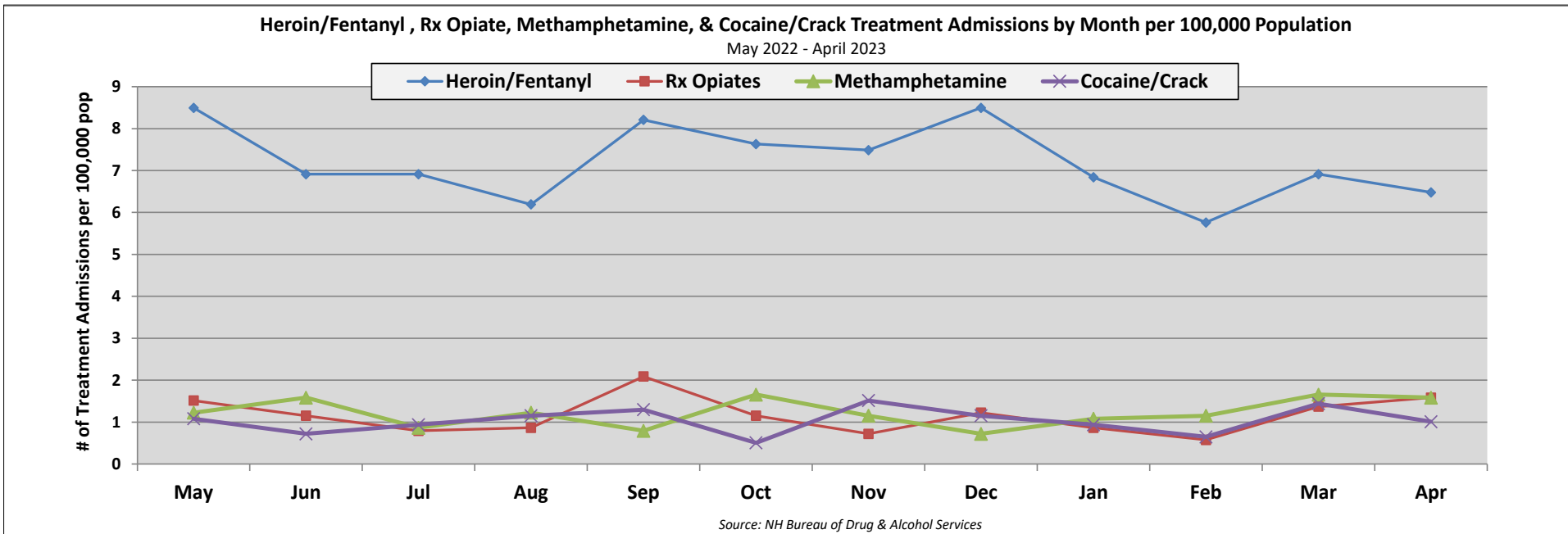
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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/Press Reporting:

Drug Overdose Deaths Topped 100,000 Again in 2022

Atlanta, Georgia - The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) on Wednesday, May 17, released a provisional count of overdose deaths last year that indicated the toll of the fentanyl crisis leveling off after two years of surges during the Covid-19 pandemic. The CDC counted 109,680 overdose deaths in 2022 compared with 109,179 deaths from a similar 2021 projection.

For overdose deaths to hover at such a high level demonstrates how fentanyl's ubiquity and potency continue to threaten the lives of illicit drug users. The count includes a mix of overdose deaths counted thus far—105,452 as of Wednesday—and other projected deaths. Overdose deaths tend to be counted slowly while coroners and medical examiners await toxicology results. The CDC will reduce the number in a later count for the year, removing deaths that ultimately weren't verified and those among non-U.S. residents. The revised count for 2021 was 106,699. The provisional data show parts of the Midwest and Appalachia that have long been hot spots for opioid fatalities have cooled off. West Virginia recorded an 8% decline in drug deaths last year, the data show. Neighboring Maryland declined the same amount. **But fatalities rose in parts of the Northeast, including Maine and New Hampshire.**

Source: <https://www.wsj.com> (17 May 2023)

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