



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 #: 2024-06114

December 2023 Report

30 January 2024

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	2022	2023*
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	436	486	381
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	404	427	342
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	36	56	59
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	63	97	54
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	46

*The data for 2023 is not finalized and is current as of 1/11/2024.

- ⇒ Population data source: [2022 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 2022 estimated population of each county.
- ⇒ If your agency is looking for further breakdowns than what is in this document please contact the NHIAC.

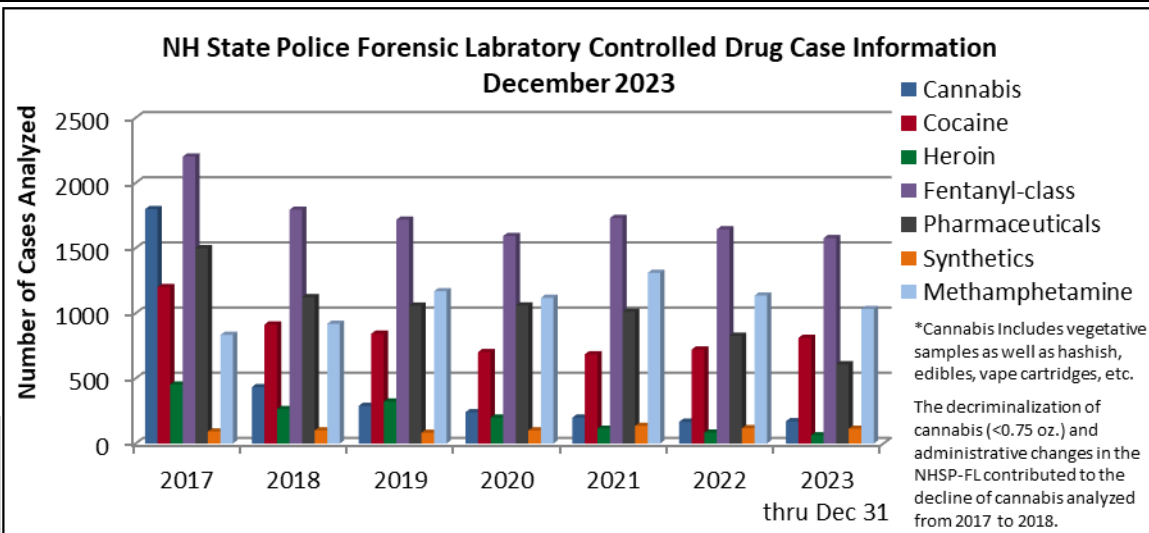
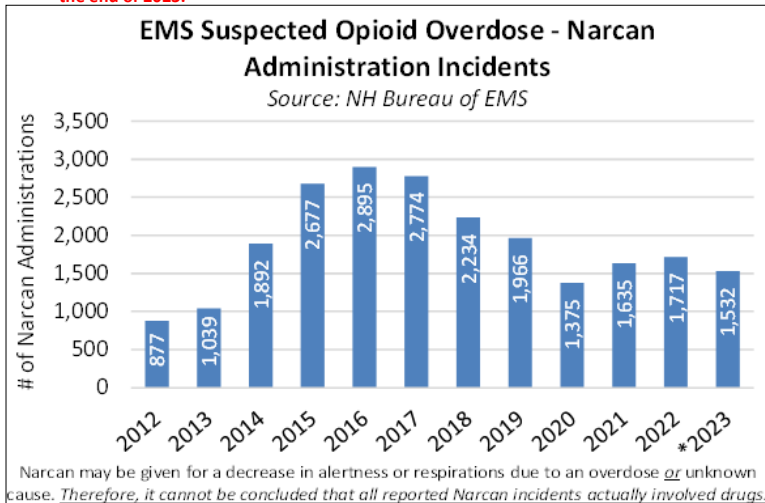
Previous versions of the Drug Environment Report can be found at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov>

New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire appear to be decreasing for 2023. This would be the first decrease in the last four years. Deaths in 2022 increased 11.5% compared to 2021, which was the third consecutive yearly increase in NH. 2022 numbers resembled those from 2016-2018 when drug overdose deaths in NH were at their highest.

December 2023 Data Summary			
	*EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	**Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from November to December	↓ 16%	↓ 23%	↓ 16%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Sullivan	Hillsborough	Coos
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	>26	30-39

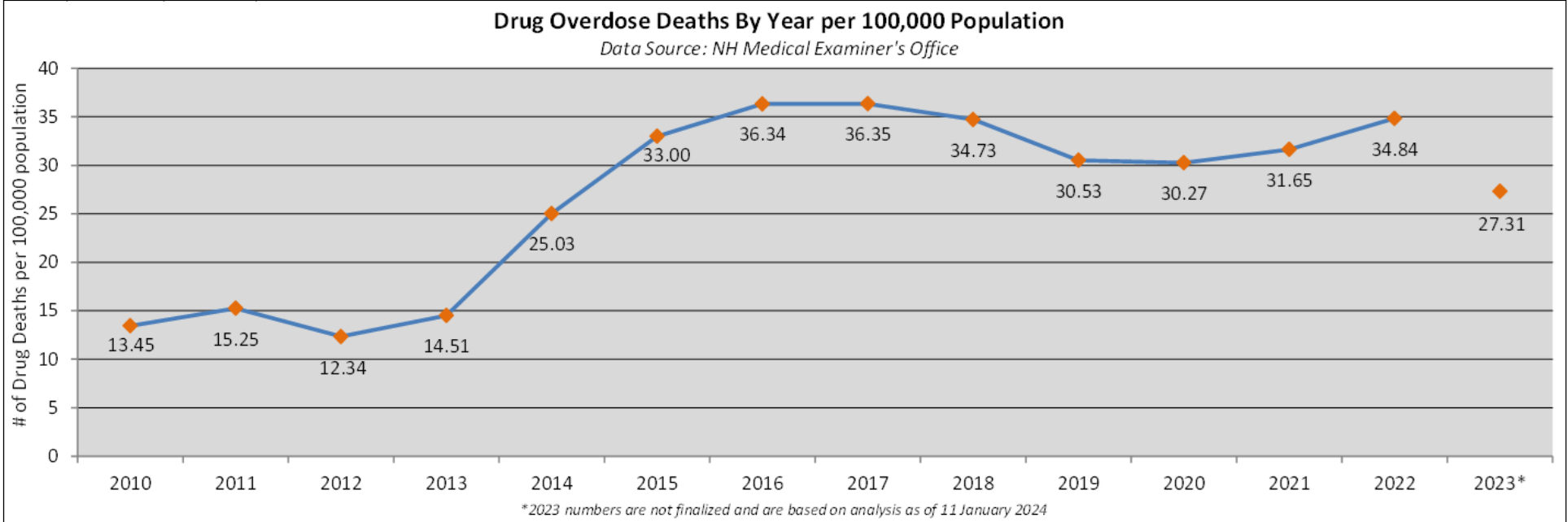
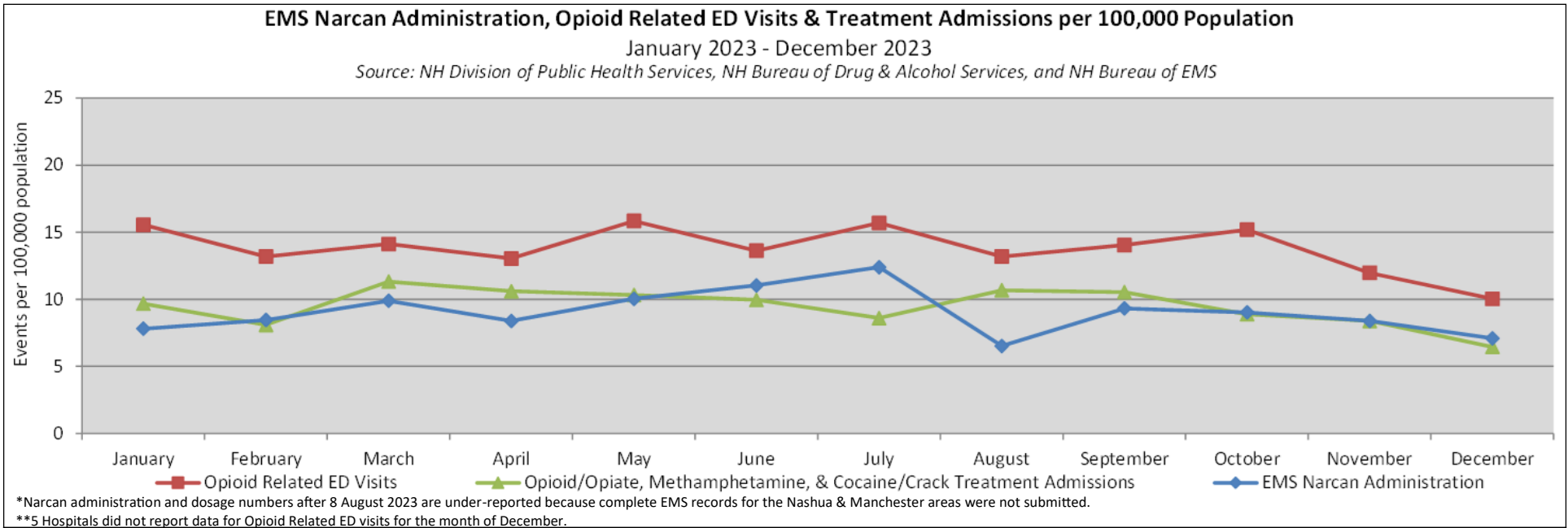
*Narcan administrations after 8 August 2023 are under-reported because complete EMS records for the Nashua & Manchester areas were not submitted.
 **From February to October, 4 hospitals did not report data for Opioid Related ED visits. As of November, 5 hospitals are not reporting data resulting in the significant decline at the end of 2023.



Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
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	167	722	84	1,644	827	118	1,136
2023 thru Dec 31	171	811	63	1,577	609	114	1,033
Dec 2023	11	69	3	124	32	5	74

2022 Overdose Deaths (Finalized as of 7/11/2023)					
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
↑ 11.5%	↑ 6%	↑ 54%	↑ 56%	Coos	30-39 Year Olds

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



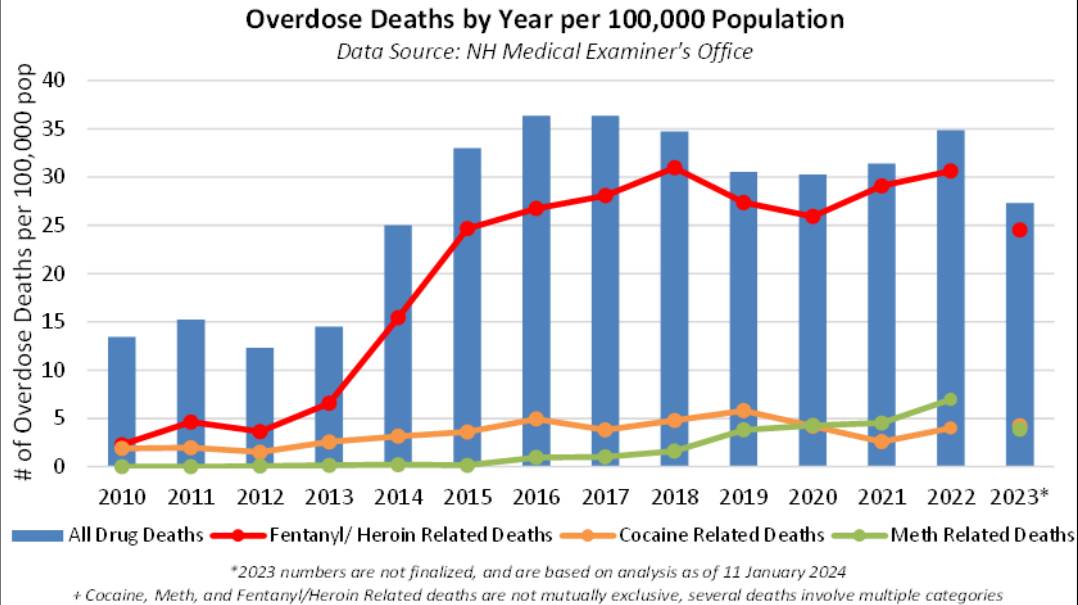
Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

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

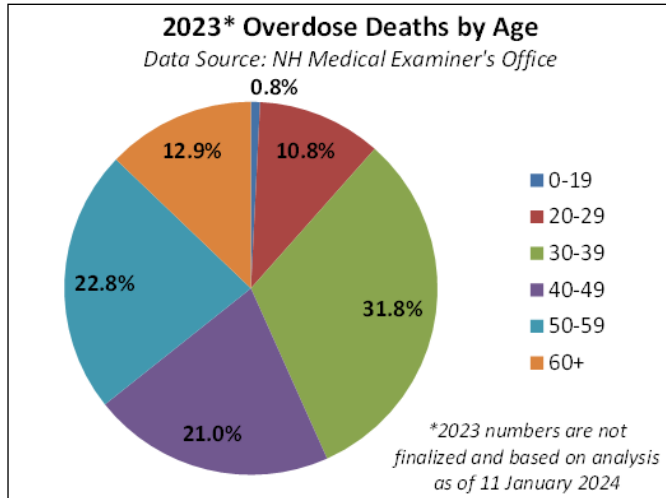
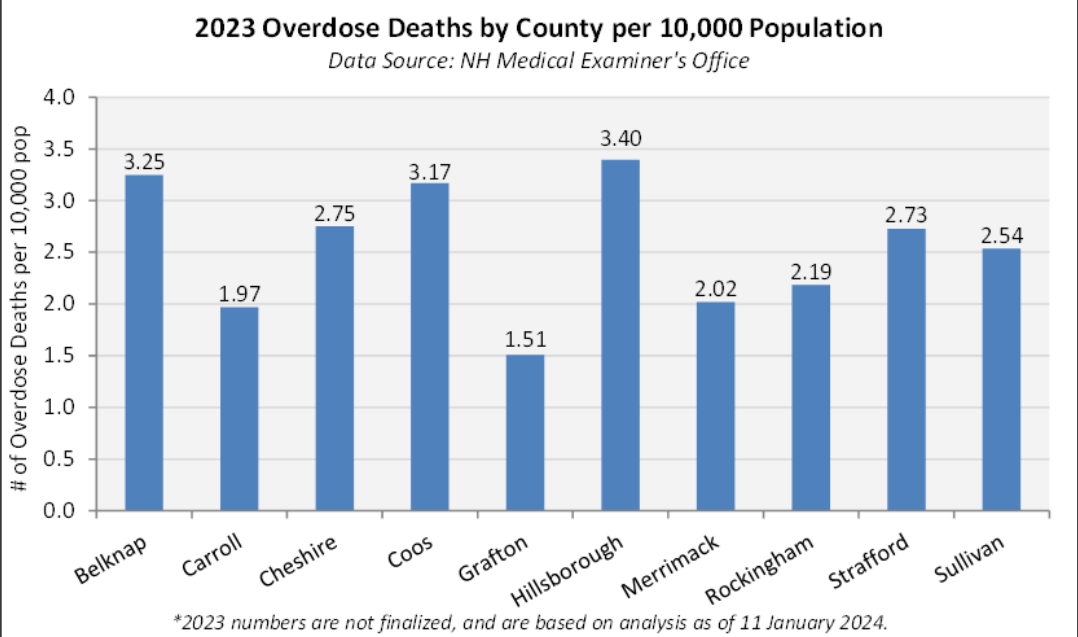
Trends:

- For 2023, as of 11 January 2024, there are 381 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 46 cases pending toxicology.
- So far for 2023, Hillsborough County has the highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita, at 3.40 deaths per 10,000 population. Belknap County follows closely with 3.25 overdose deaths per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of drug overdose deaths is 30-39 years, which represents almost 32% of all overdose deaths for 2023.
- Males account for 70% of the total drug overdose deaths so far in 2023.
- Males between the ages of 30-39 account for about 23% of the total drug overdose deaths so far in 2023.



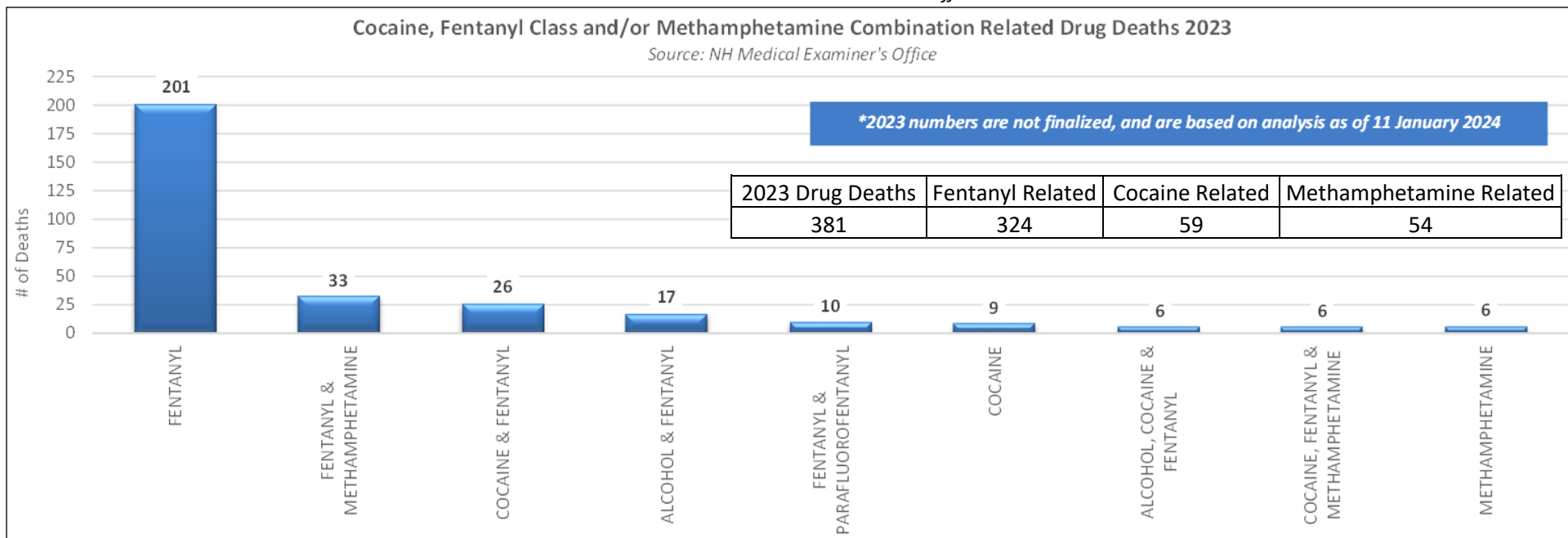
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

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



Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office



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

ACETYLFENTANYL & FENTANYL	FENTANYL & METHADONE	ALCOHOL, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	CLONAZEPAM, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	AMPHETAMINE, COCAINE, FENTANYL & GABAPENTIN
ALCOHOL & COCAINE	DONEPEZIL, DULOXETINE, FENTANYL, LEVETIRACETAM, METHAMPHETAMINE & METOPROLOL	ALCOHOL, BROMAZOLAM, BUPRENORPHINE, DIPHENHYDRAMINE, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & VALERYLFENTANYL	COCAINE, FENTANYL, LORAZEPAM, METHYLPHENIDATE, RITALINIC ACID & SERTRALINE	ACETYLFENTANYL, ALCOHOL, EPHEDRINE, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN & METHAMPHETAMINE
ALCOHOL, COCAINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	FENTANYL & METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE	CLONAZEPAM, COCAINE, FENTANYL & HYDROXYZINE	ACETAMINOPHEN, CYCLOBENZAPRINE, FENTANYL, OXYCODONE & XYLAZINE	BROMAZOLAM, FENTANYL, FLUBROMAZEPAM, ISOTONITAZENE & XYLAZINE
ALCOHOL, FENTANYL & OXYCODONE	BROMAZOLAM & FENTANYL	ACETYLFENTANYL, COCAINE & FENTANYL	DIPHENHYDRAMINE, FENTANYL & OXYCODONE	CLONAZEPAM, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN & METHADONE
COCAINE & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE, FENTANYL & PARAFLUROFENTANYL	4-ANPP, COCAINE, FENTANYL	COCAINE & HEROIN	4-ANPP, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE

*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:

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

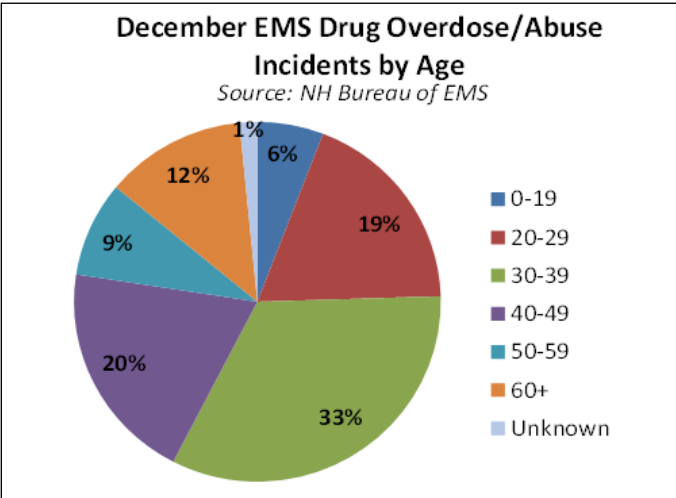
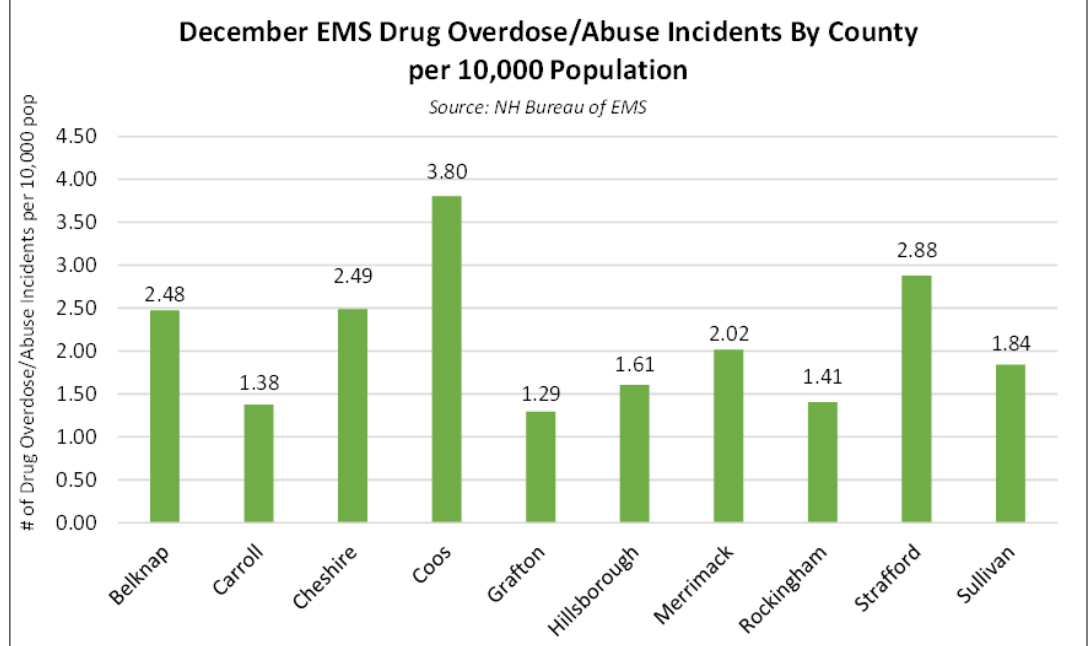
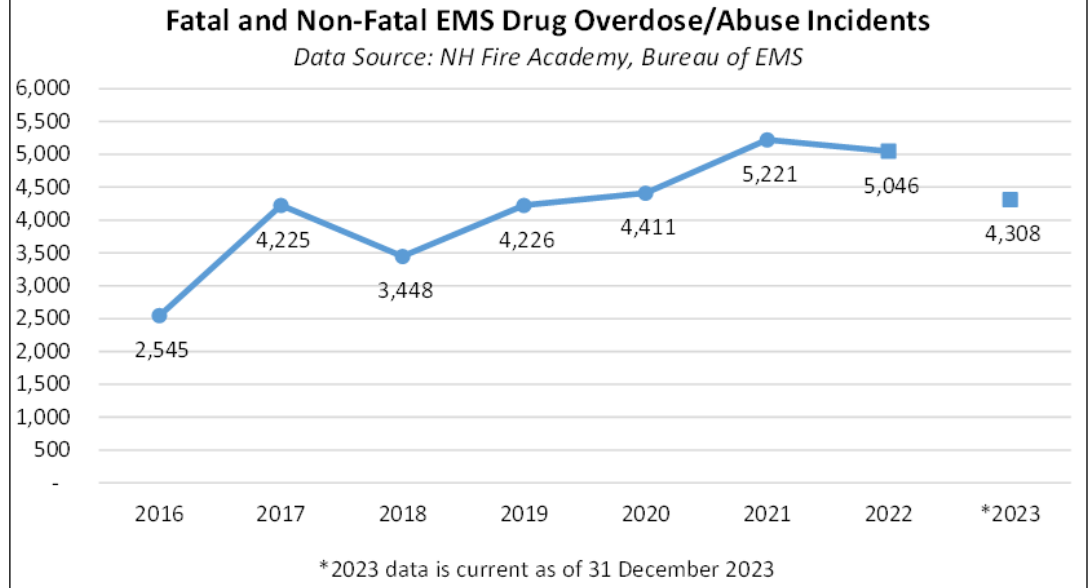
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Trends:

- ***Overdose numbers after 8 August 2023 are under-reported because complete EMS records for the Nashua & Manchester areas were not submitted.**
- Based on reported numbers EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents decreased 6% from November to December.
- In December, Coos County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 3.80 incidents per 10,000 population. Strafford County followed with 2.88 per 10,000 population.
- The 30-39 age group had the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents with 85, representing 33% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in December.
- 63% of those who experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in December were male.

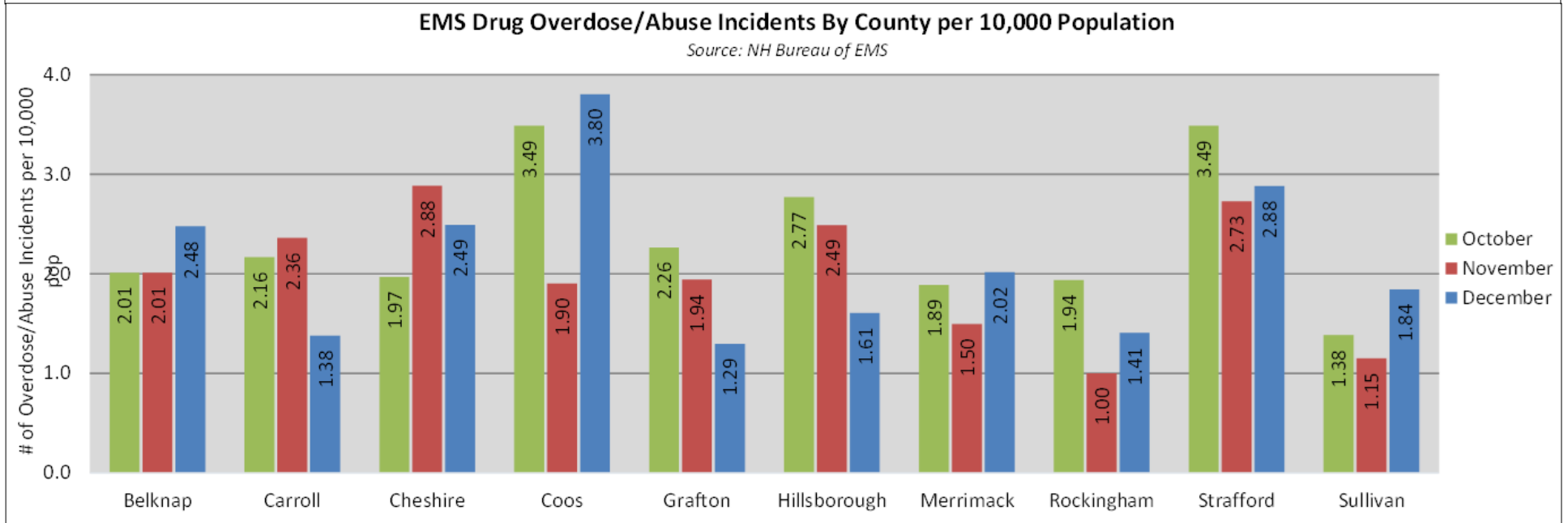
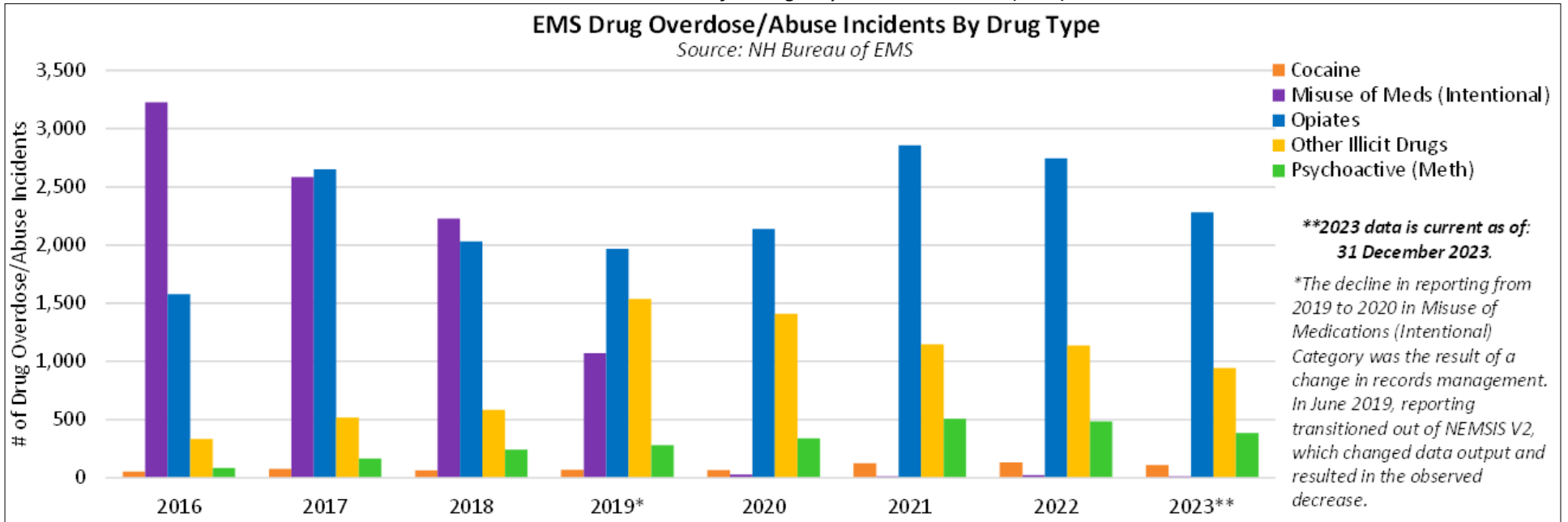
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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.



EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):

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



EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents

1/2023 - 12/2023

*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.

*1 Unknown Location

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



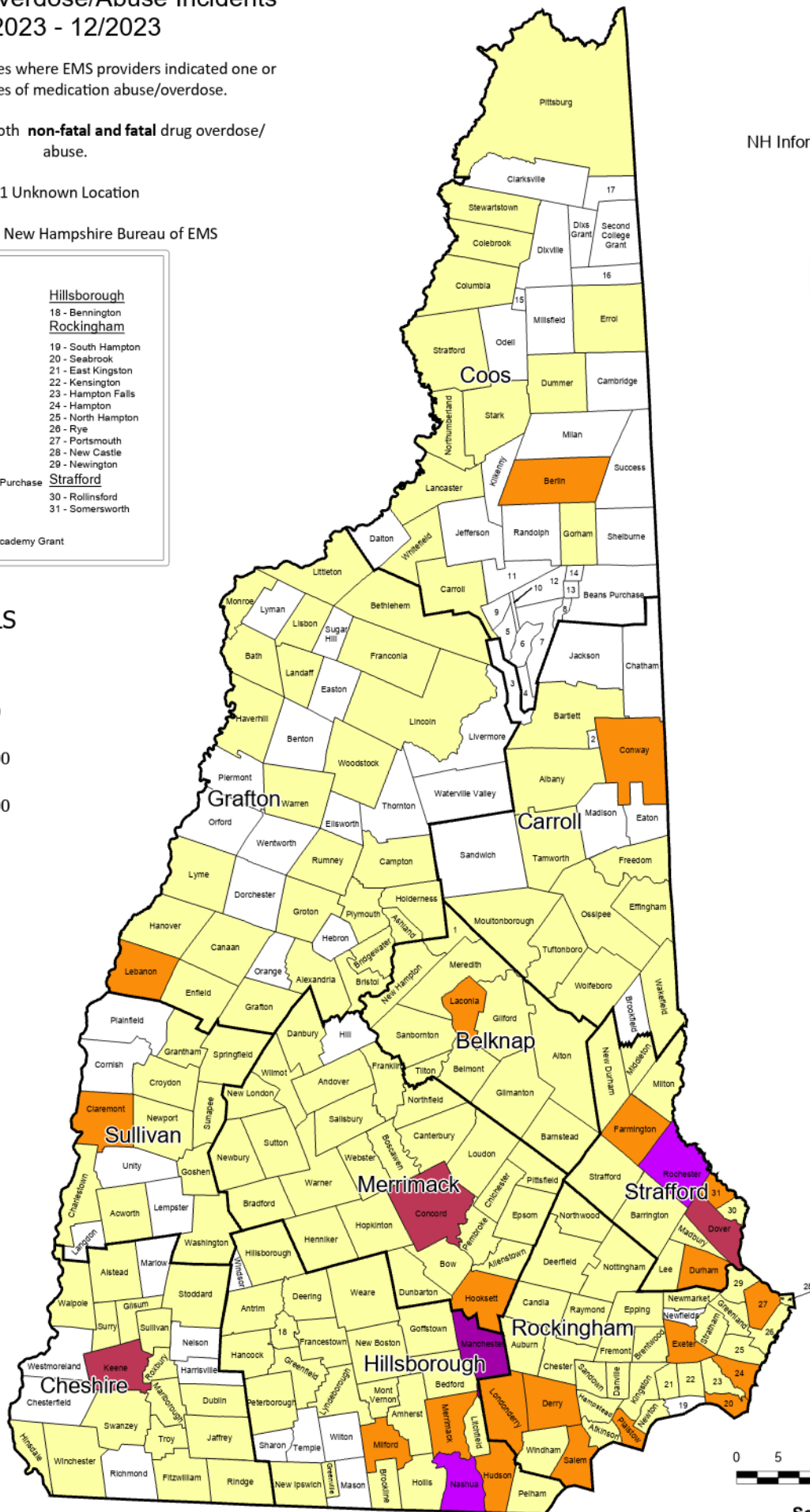
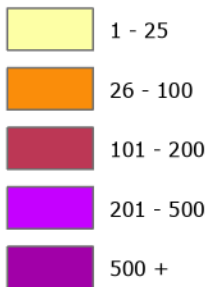
Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center



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TOWN TOTALS



EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:

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

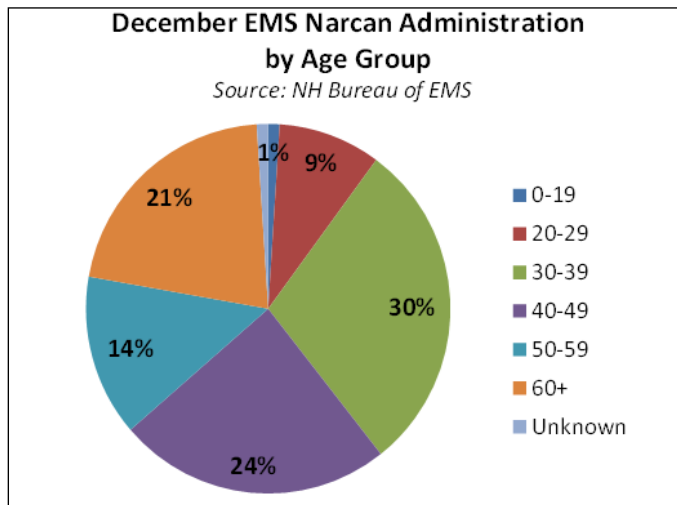
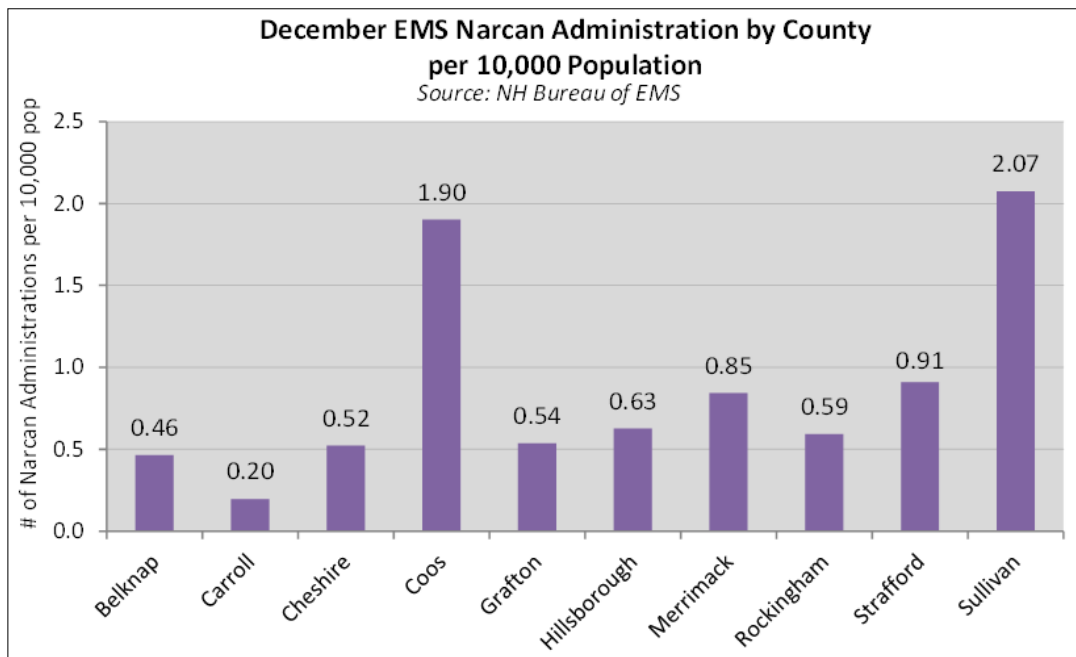
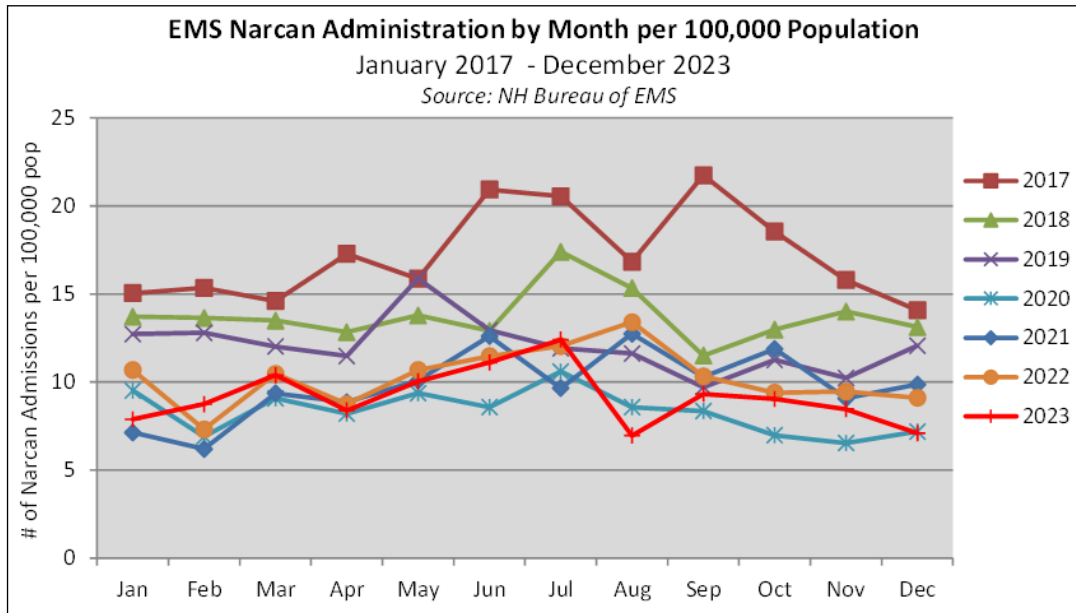
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- *Narcan administration and dosage numbers after 8 August 2023 are under-reported because complete EMS records for the Nashua & Manchester areas were not submitted.
- Based on reported numbers EMS Narcan administration incidents decreased 16% from November to December.
- In December, Sullivan County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 2.07 incidents per 10,000 population. Coos County followed with 1.90 administrations per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 30% of all EMS Narcan administrations in December.
- Males accounted for 66% of those who were reported to have received Narcan 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.*

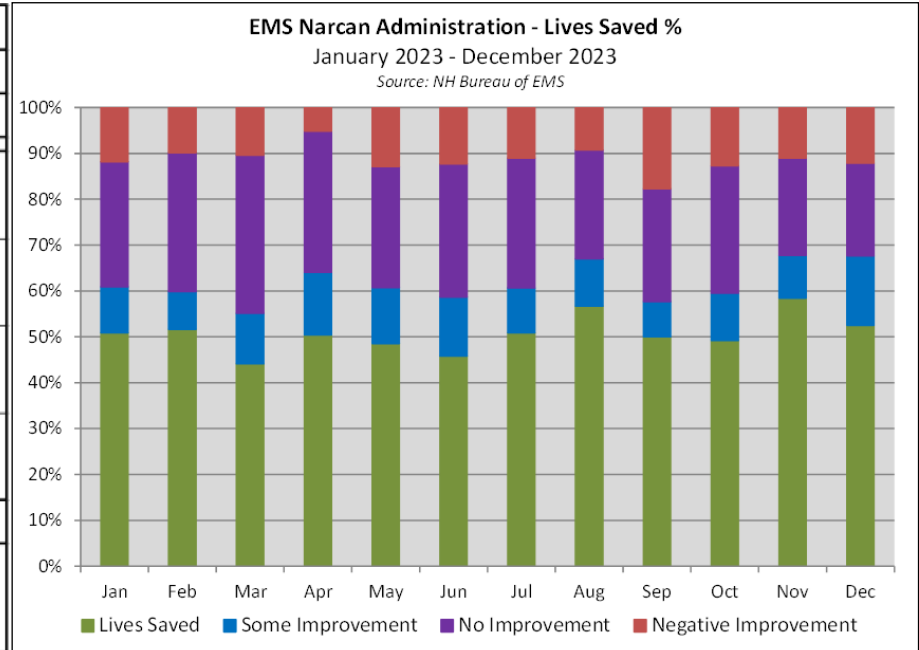


EMS Narcan Administration Incidents (Continued):

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

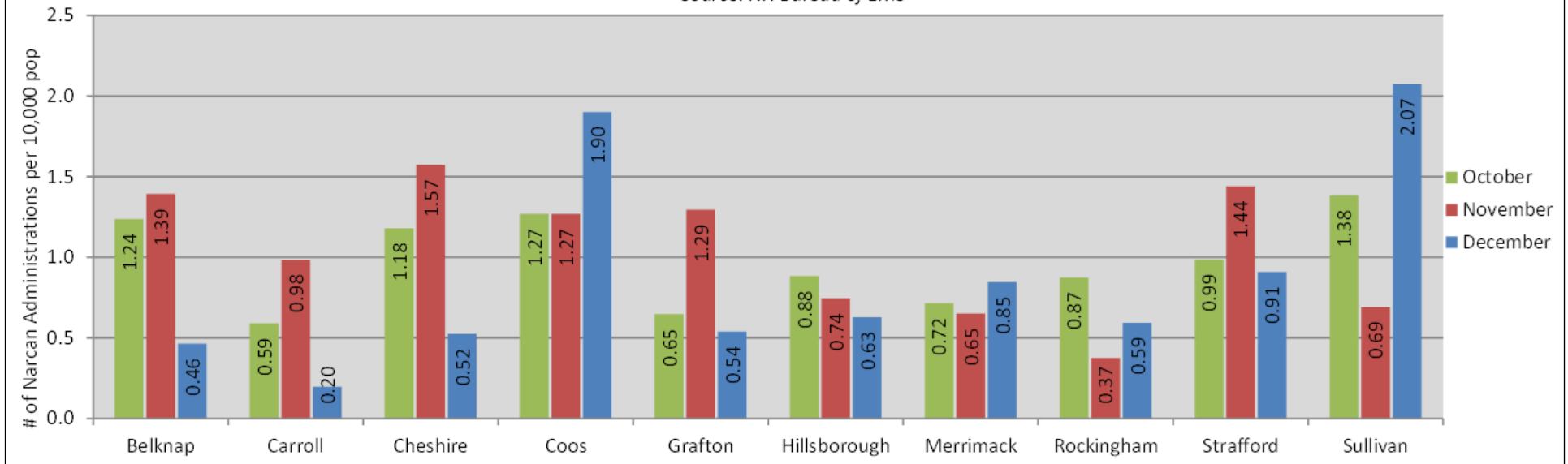
EMS Narcan Administration - Lives Saved												
RODS Outcome	2023											
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
Lives Saved <i>RODS Score of 8+</i>	56	63	64	59	68	71	88	55	65	62	69	52
Some Improvement <i>RODS Score of 1-7</i>	11	10	16	16	17	20	17	10	10	13	11	15
No Improvement <i>RODS Score of 0</i>	30	37	50	36	37	45	49	23	32	35	25	20
Negative Improvement <i>Negative RODS Score</i>	13	12	15	6	18	19	19	9	23	16	13	12
Total	110	122	145	117	140	155	173	97	130	126	118	99

RODS, or Revised Over Dose Score is based on the combined delta of documented respiratory rate (RR) and Glasgow Coma Scale (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 County per 10,000 Population

Source: NH Bureau of EMS



EMS/Narcan Administration by Town 1/2023 - 12/2023

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

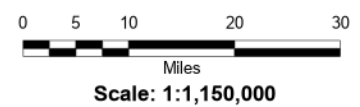
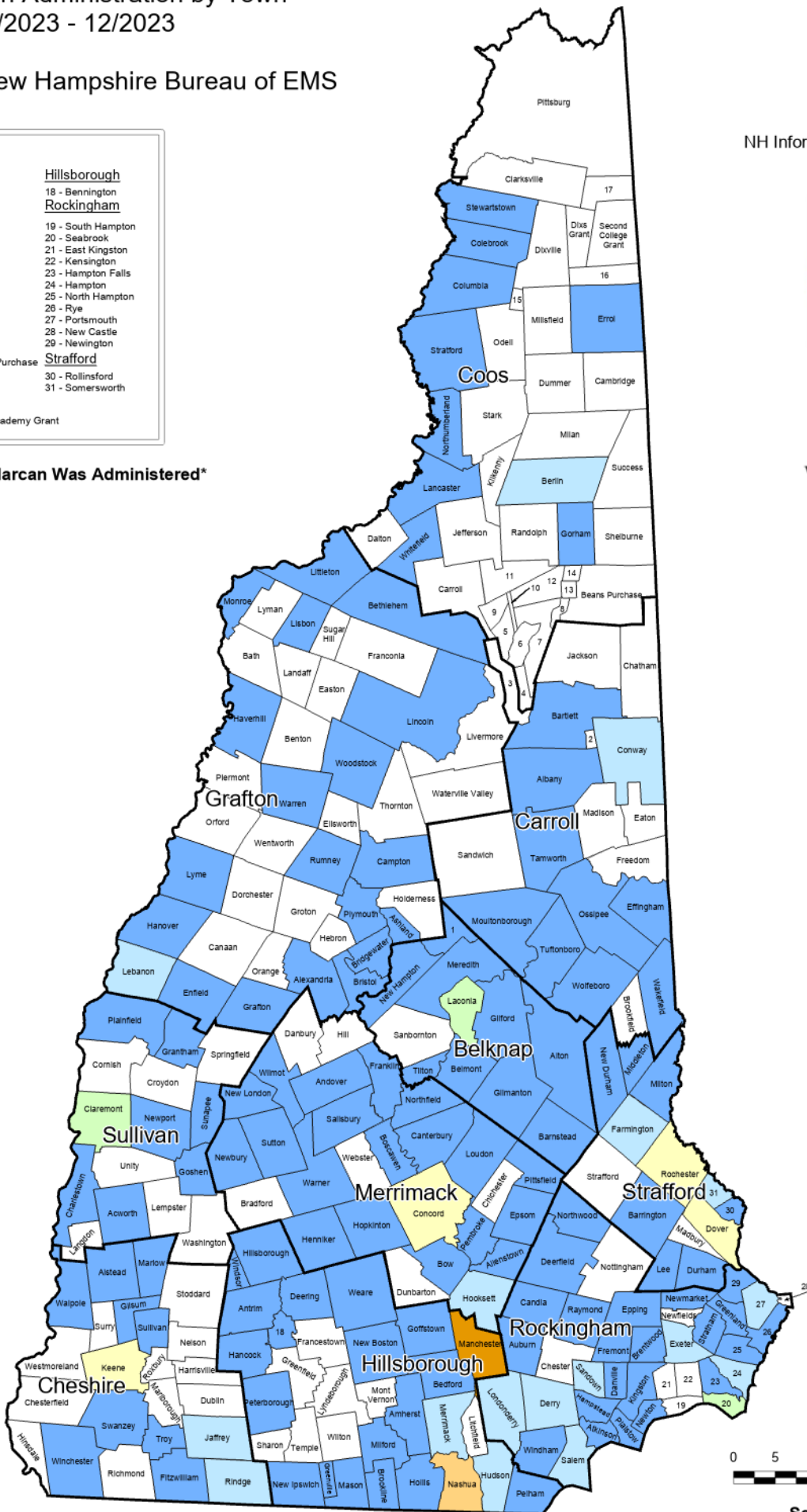
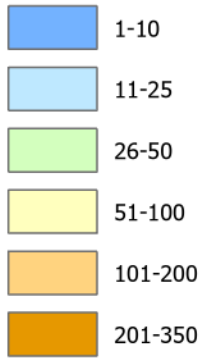
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Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered

Range



Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

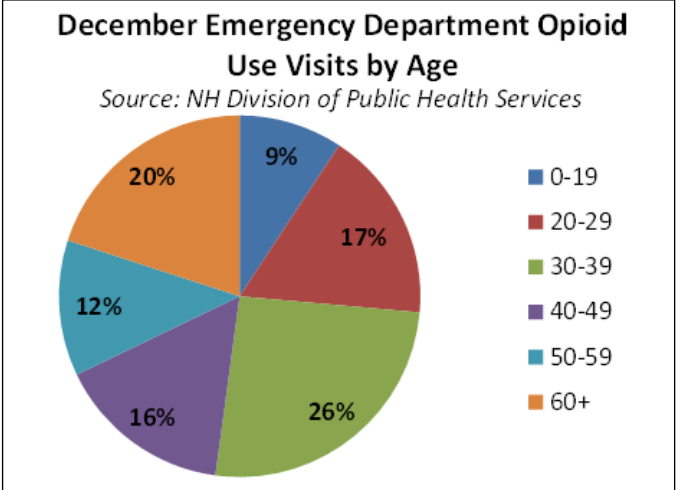
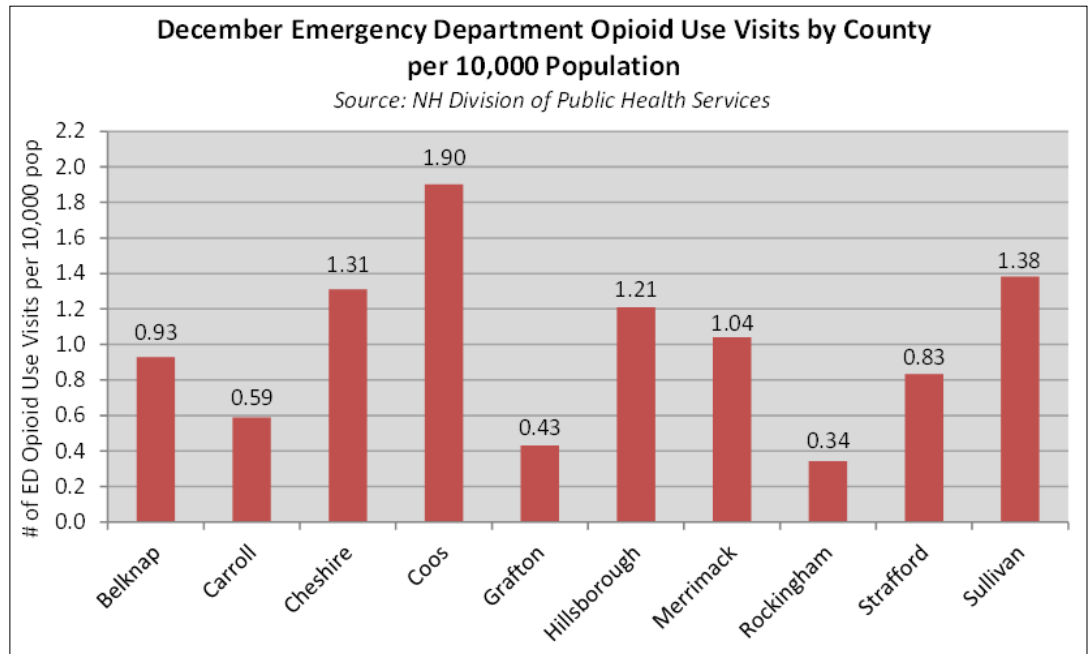
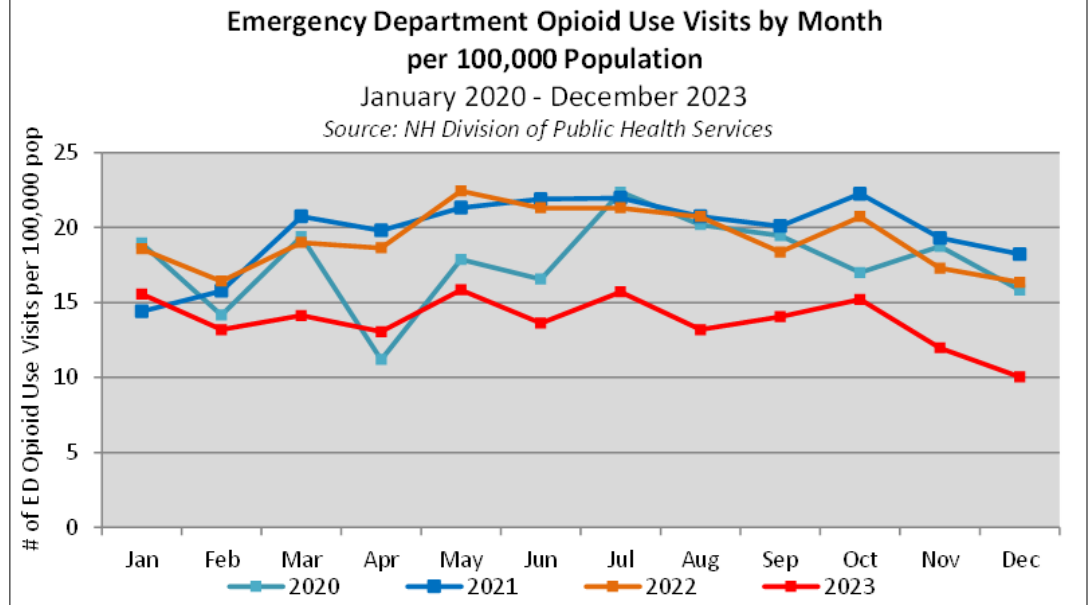
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- *From February to October, 4 hospitals did not report data for Opioid Related ED visits. As of November, 5 hospitals are not reporting data resulting in the significant decline at the end of 2023.
- Opioid related ED visits decreased by 18% from November to December.
- In December, residents from Coos County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 1.90 visits per 10,000 population. Sullivan County followed with 1.38 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%.
- Males accounted for 49% of opioid related ED visits in December.

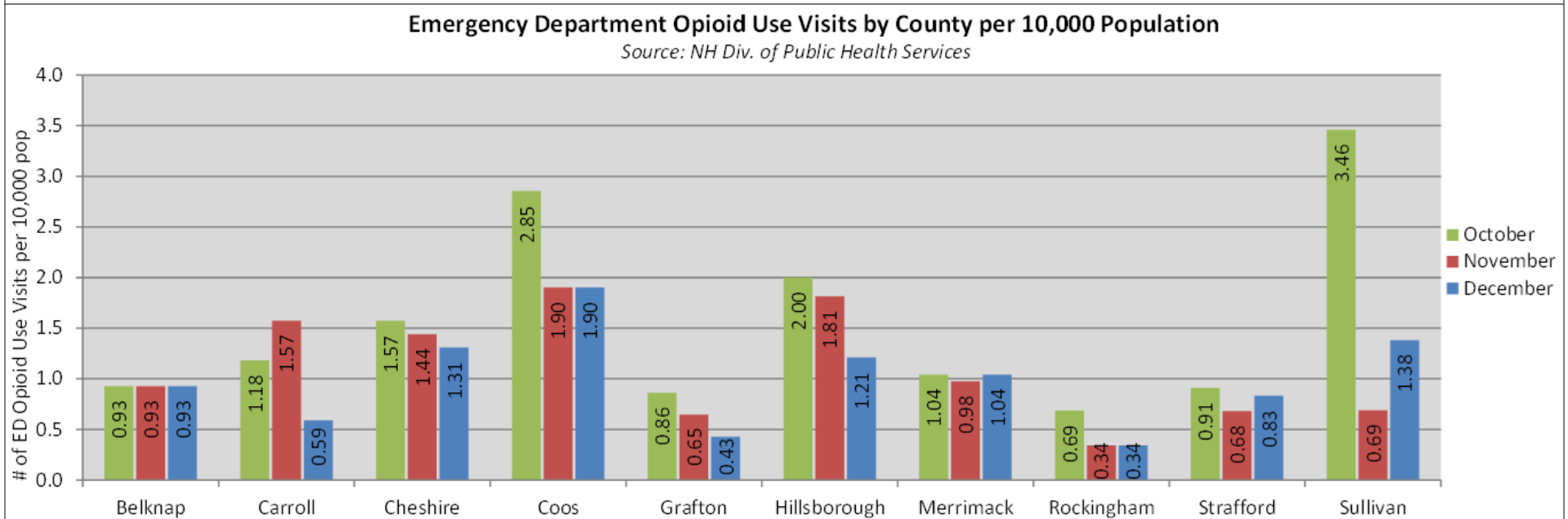
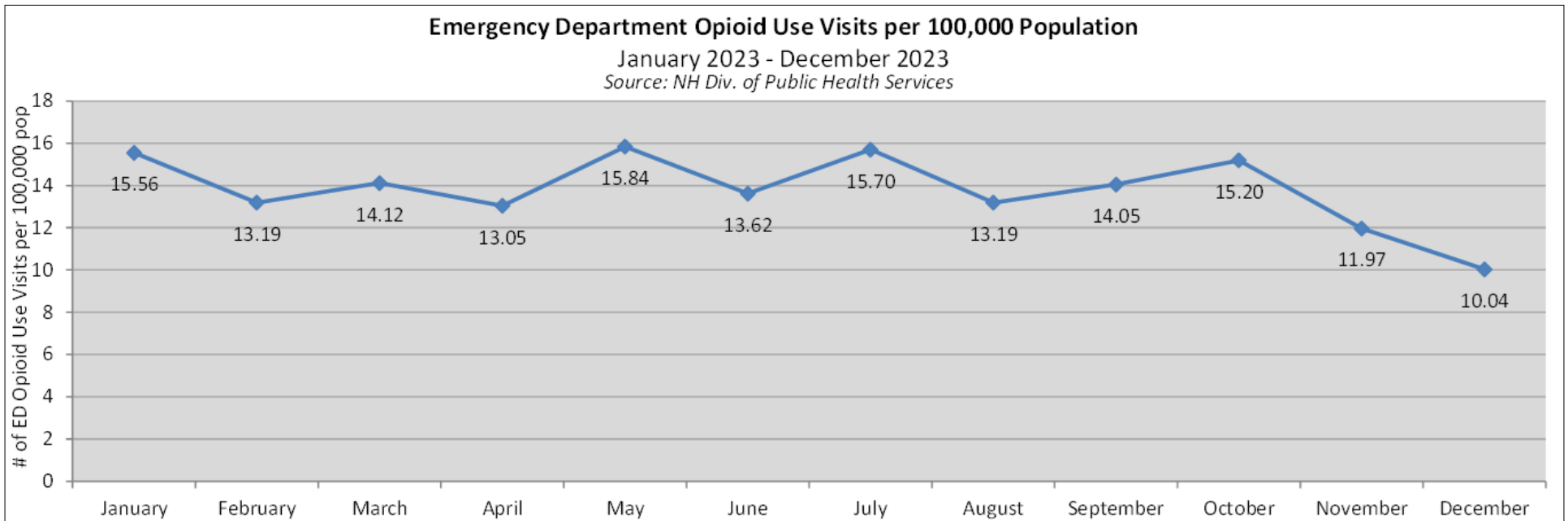
***** IMPORTANT DATA NOTES *****

- 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

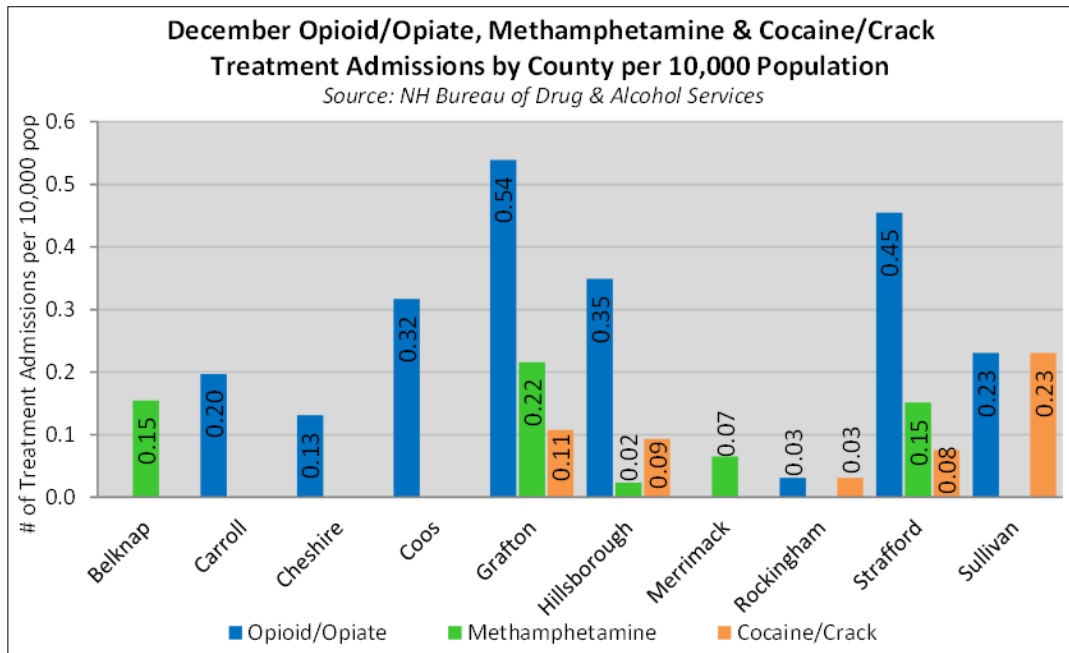
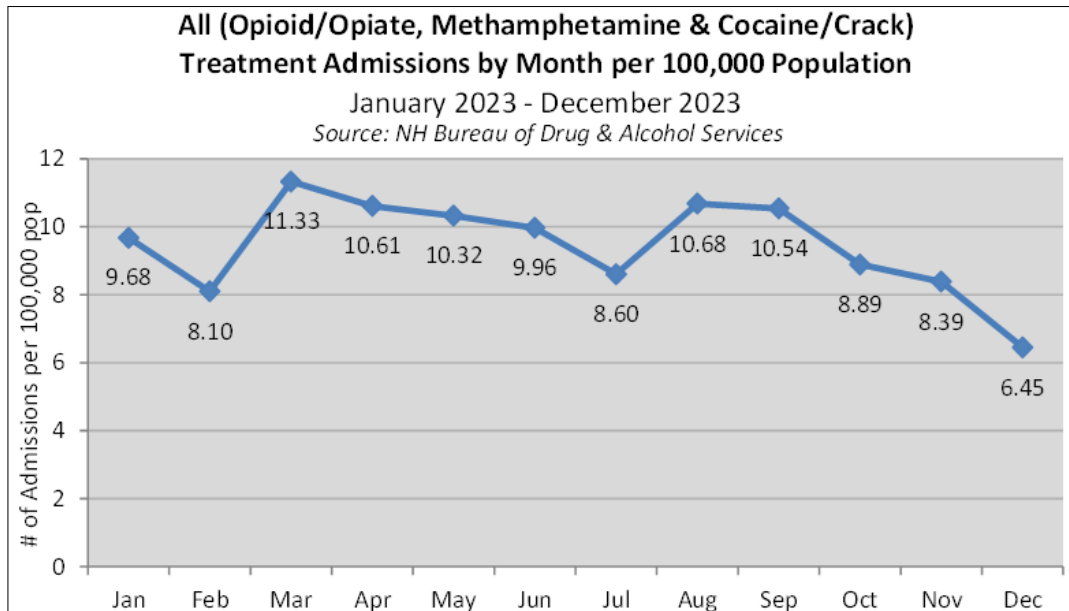
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased by 23% from November to December.
- In December, Grafton County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 0.54 admissions per 10,000 population.
- Males accounted for 61% of those admitted to state funded treatment facilities in December for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine & Cocaine/Crack use.
- From November to December, Methamphetamine treatment admissions decreased by 33%, Cocaine/crack admissions decreased by 28%, and Heroin/Fentanyl admissions decreased by 19%.

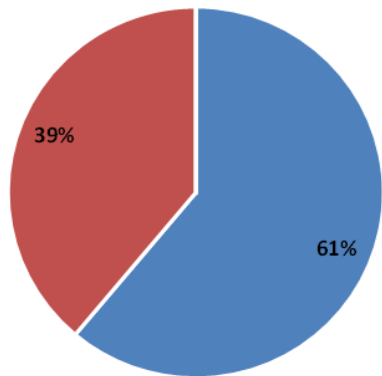
*****IMPORTANT DATA NOTES*****

- 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.



December Treatment Admissions by Gender

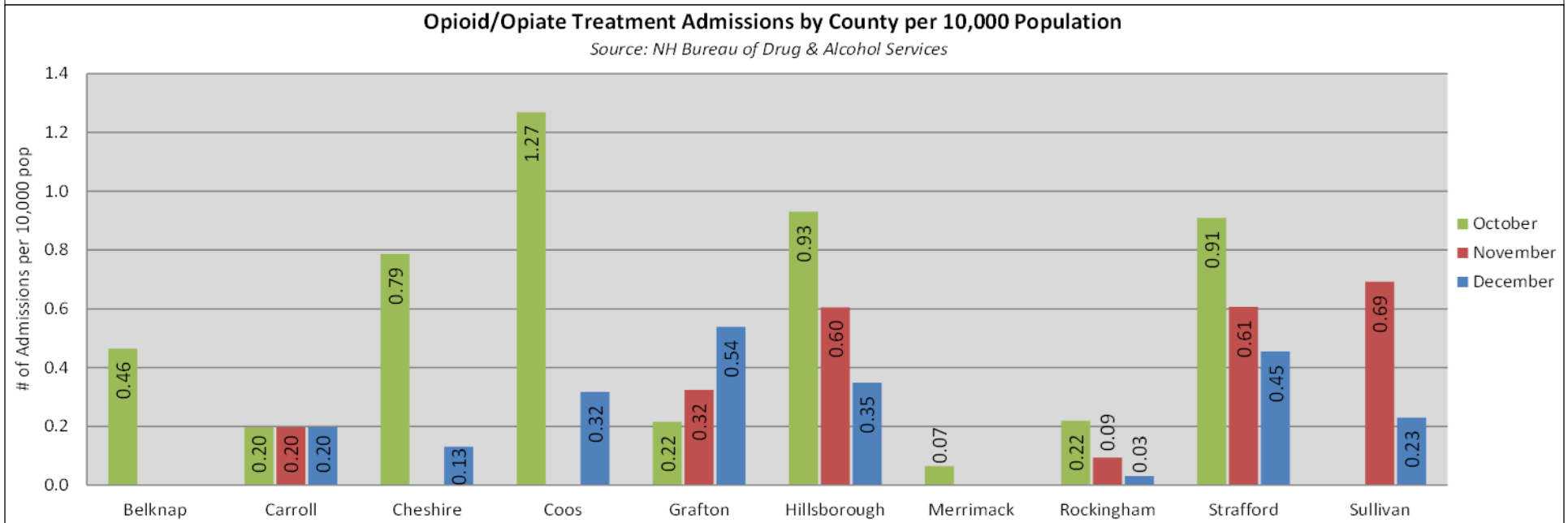
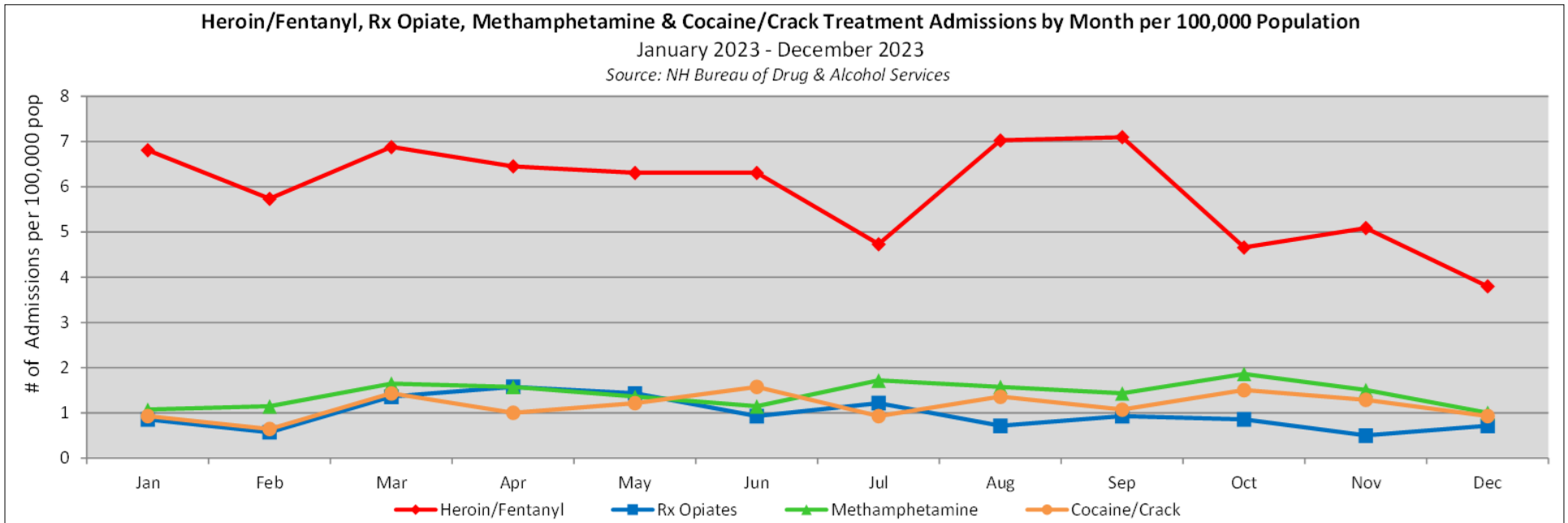
Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol



■ Male ■ Female ■ Transgender

Treatment Admissions (Continued):

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services



Situational Awareness/Press Reporting:**New Hampshire DHHS Announces Availability of New Opioid Reversal Medication**

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) announces statewide availability of the new overdose reversal medication nalmeferene. Like naloxone, nalmeferene is an opioid reversal medication that can be used to prevent opioid overdose deaths and reverse the effects of an overdose. DHHS has issued a standing order to all pharmacies across the state to dispense nalmeferene to individuals at risk of experiencing an opioid overdose, and to their family members, friends, or other people who may be able to assist at-risk individuals.

Source: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/programs-services/health-care/substance-misuse-treatment-services> (January 2024)

Fentanyl super labs in Canada pose new threat for U.S. opioid epidemic

U.S. authorities say they have little indication that Canadian-made fentanyl is being smuggled south in significant quantities. But at a time when record numbers of people are dying from overdoses in the United States, the spread of clandestine fentanyl labs in Canada has the potential to undermine U.S. enforcement efforts and worsen the opioid epidemic in both nations. Investigators in Canada say the labs are producing fentanyl for domestic users and for export to Australia, New Zealand and, they assume, the United States. "It'd be hard to believe it's not occurring," said the commander of the organized crime unit for police in Vancouver, a city hard-hit by fentanyl overdose deaths. "Most police leaders I've spoken to believe our production outstrips what our domestic demand is." CBP seized just two pounds of fentanyl along the northern border during the 2023 fiscal year, the agency's latest statistics show. "We are not seeing any sort of southbound flow of fentanyl into the United States from Canada," said the top Homeland Security Investigations agent in Seattle, who [had] consulted with fellow agents in Buffalo and Detroit. The super labs that police are finding in Canada differ because they are synthesizing the drug - not merely pressing pills - using precursor chemicals sourced primarily from China. The director of intelligence and investigations at the Canada Border Services Agency, estimated that 98 percent of the country's fentanyl-making materials are seized in Western Canada and originate in China. He said fewer seizures at maritime ports suggest smugglers may be increasingly using mail and courier services to get precursor chemicals into Canada; the packages are generally mislabeled to hide the true contents.

Source: https://www.wvnews.com/news/wvnews/fentanyl-super-labs-in-canada-pose-new-threat-for-u-s-opioid-epidemic/article_8b94f3ae-a282-11ee-b8ab-d3ef020ba45e.html (December 2023)

Virginia elementary school students receive medical attention after ingesting fentanyl-laced gummy bears

Several Virginia elementary school students needed medical attention Tuesday after eating gummy bears laced with what authorities said was fentanyl. The Amherst County Sheriff's Office said seven children at Central Elementary School in Amherst, Virginia, "experienced a reaction to ingesting gummy bears" while at school. School administrators immediately notified emergency services of the incident, according to Amherst County Public Schools. Five of the students had to receive medical attention. Emergency Medical Services (EMS) transported two students for medical attention, and three students were driven by their parents, the sheriff's office said. According to the Amherst County Public Schools superintendent's office, they "confirmed that the bag was brought from home by a student." The Amherst County Sheriff's Office is still investigating the incident.

Source: <https://abcnews.go.com/US/virginia-elementary-school-students-medical-attention-after-ingesting-fentanyl/story?id=105611083> (December 2023)

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