



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 #: 2023-05706

February 2023 Report

23 March 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
Drug Overdose Deaths Map	_____	6
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents	_____	7
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents Map	_____	9
EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	_____	10
EMS Narcan Administration Incidents Map	_____	12
Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits	_____	13
Treatment Admissions	_____	15
Situational Awareness	_____	17

- ⇒ 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.

	Overdose Death Data				2022 Death Update As of 3/2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	436	463
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	404	409
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	36	55
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	63	100
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	14

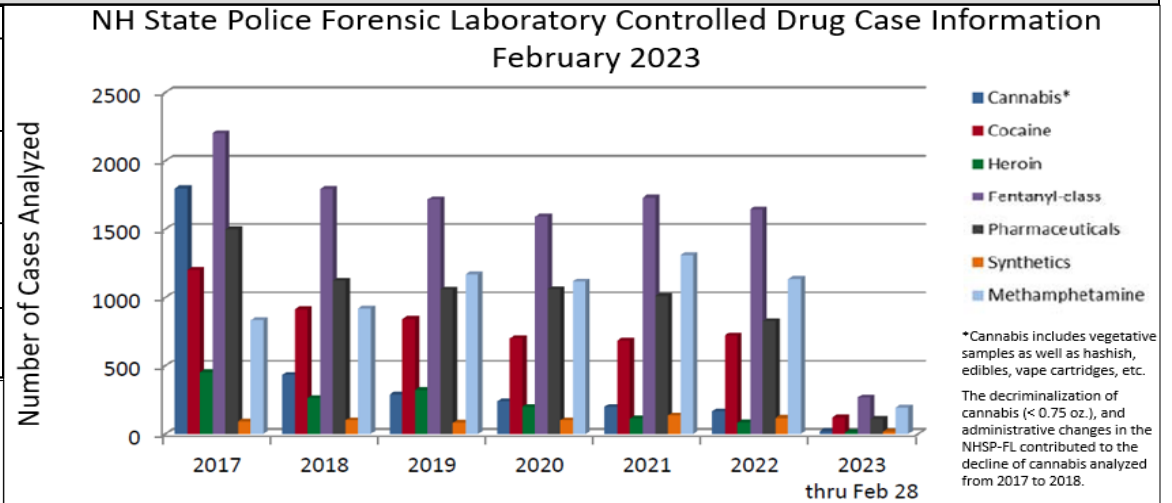
Previous versions of the Drug Environment Report can be found at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov>

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

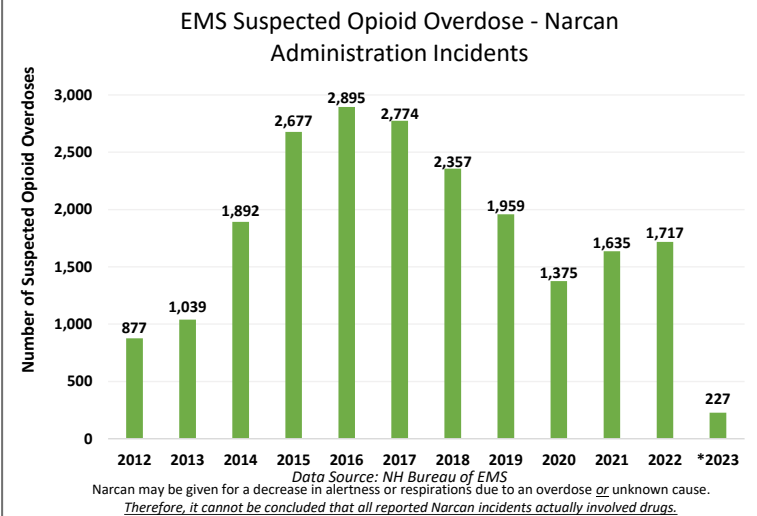
New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire are rising. From 2020 to 2021, NH experienced a 4.5% increase, and projections for 2022 show an additional ~9% increase. If projections prove true, this would be 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.

February 2023 Data Summary			
	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from January to February	↑ 8%	↓ -16%	↓ -15%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Strafford	Hillsborough	Sullivan
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39



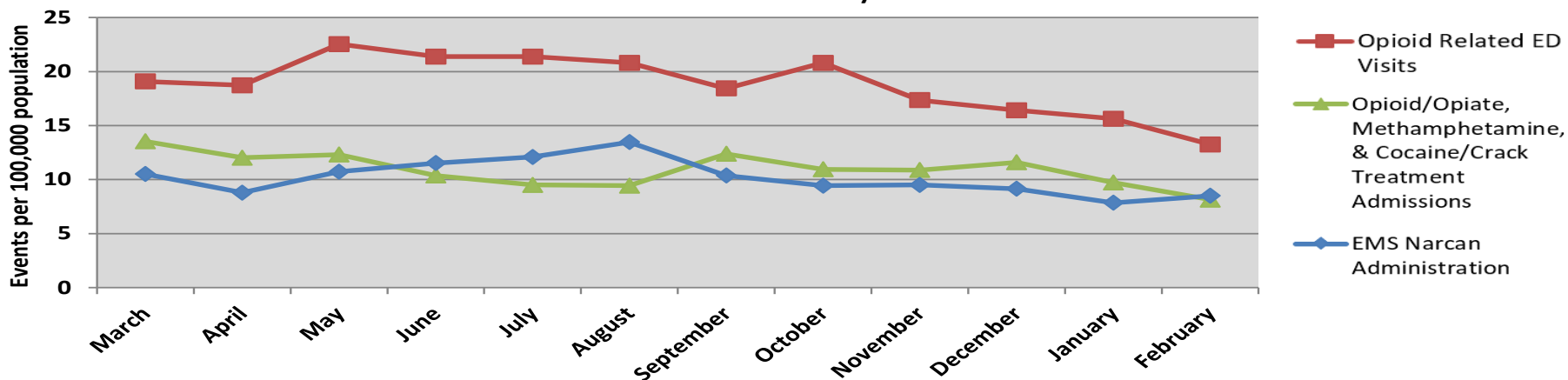
Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2017	1,799	1,201	453	2,202	1,499	93	834
2018	433	913	264	1,794	1,123	101	919
2019	289	843	322	1,718	1,058	83	1,169
2020	240	702	199	1,593	1,060	101	1,118
2021	199	685	114	1,731	1,011	136	1,310
2022	167	722	84	1,644	827	118	1,136
2023 thru Feb 28	21	122	14	268	111	18	194
Feb 2023	11	68	8	159	65	11	105



2022 Overdose Deaths (As of 3/10/2023 - 14 Deaths Still Pending Toxicology)					
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
↑ 4%	↑ 1%	↑ 59%	↑ 53%	Coos	30-39 Year Olds

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

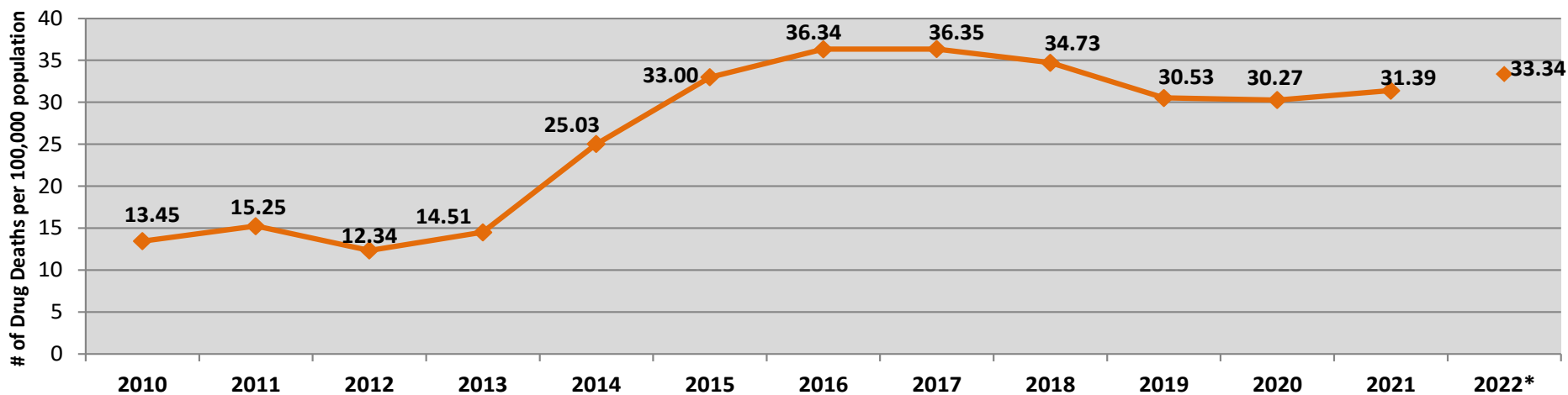
EMS Narcan Administration, Opioid Related ED Visits, and Treatment Admissions per 100,000 Population March 2022 - February 2023



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

Drug Overdose Deaths By Year

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office



*2022 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 10 March 2023

Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

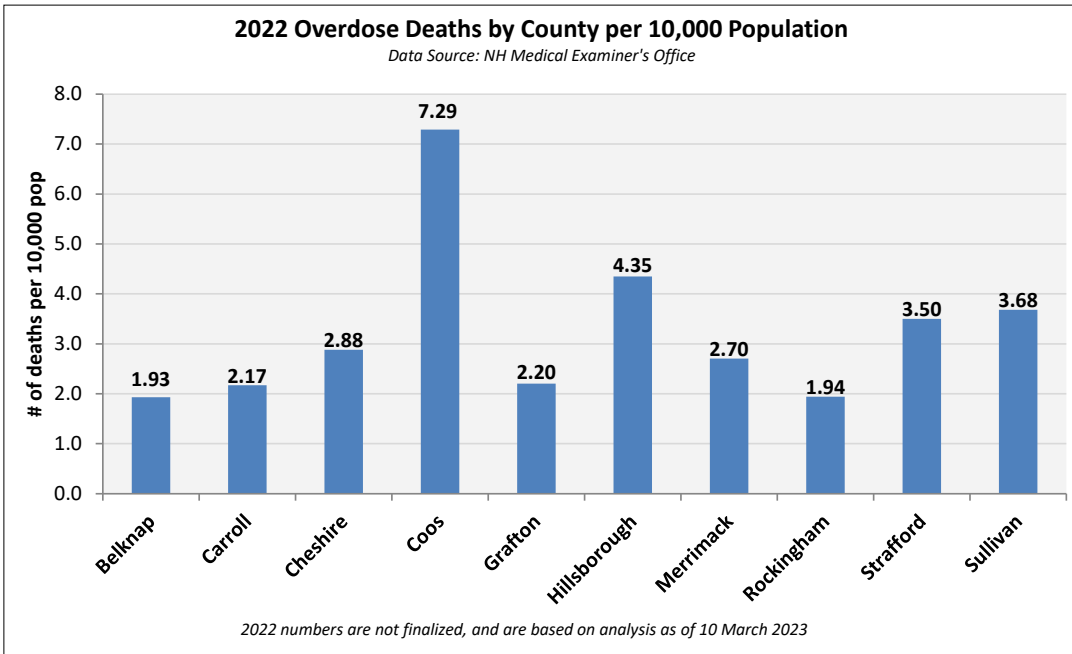
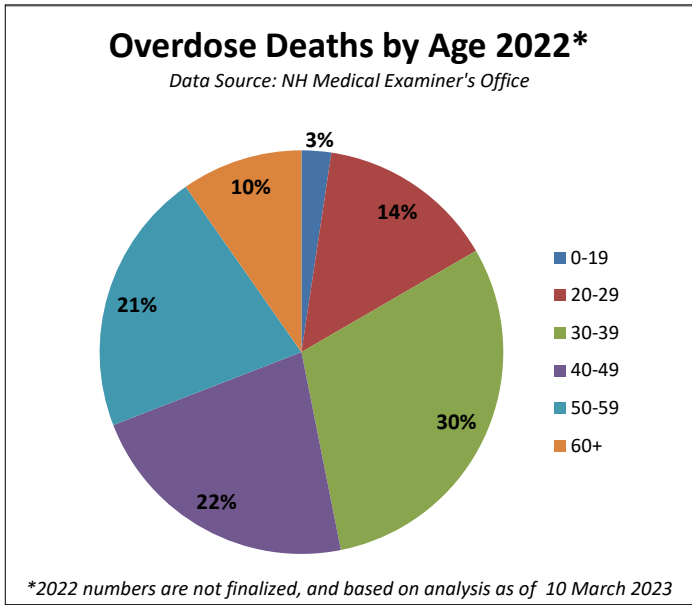
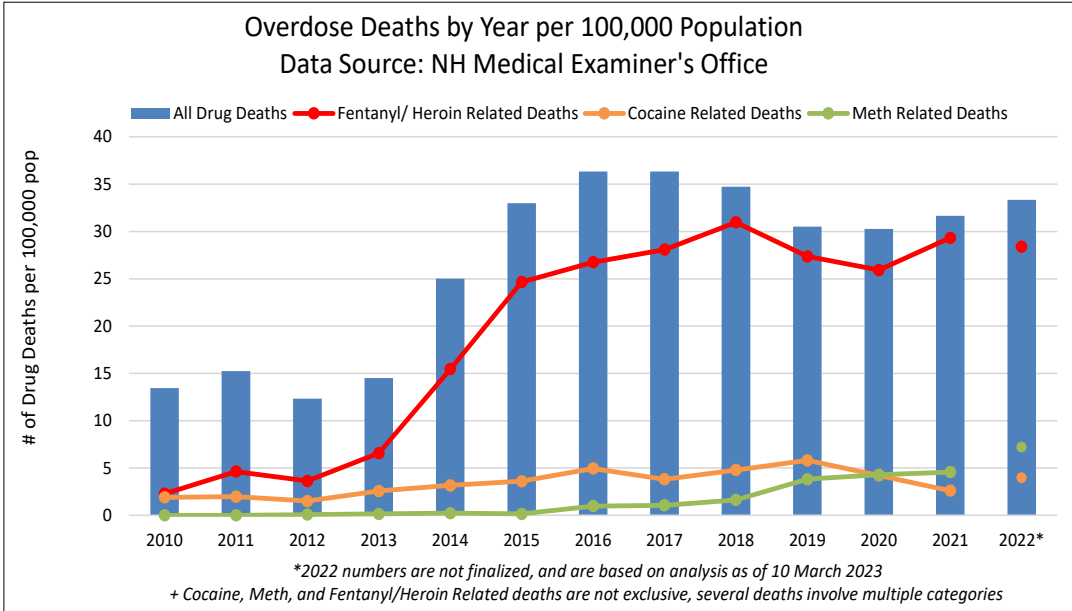
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- As of 10 March 2023, there are 463 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 14 cases pending toxicology for 2022.
- So far for 2022, Coos County has the highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita, at 7.29 deaths per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County is second highest with 4.35 overdose deaths per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of drug overdose deaths is 30-39 years, which represents 30% of all overdose deaths for 2022.

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

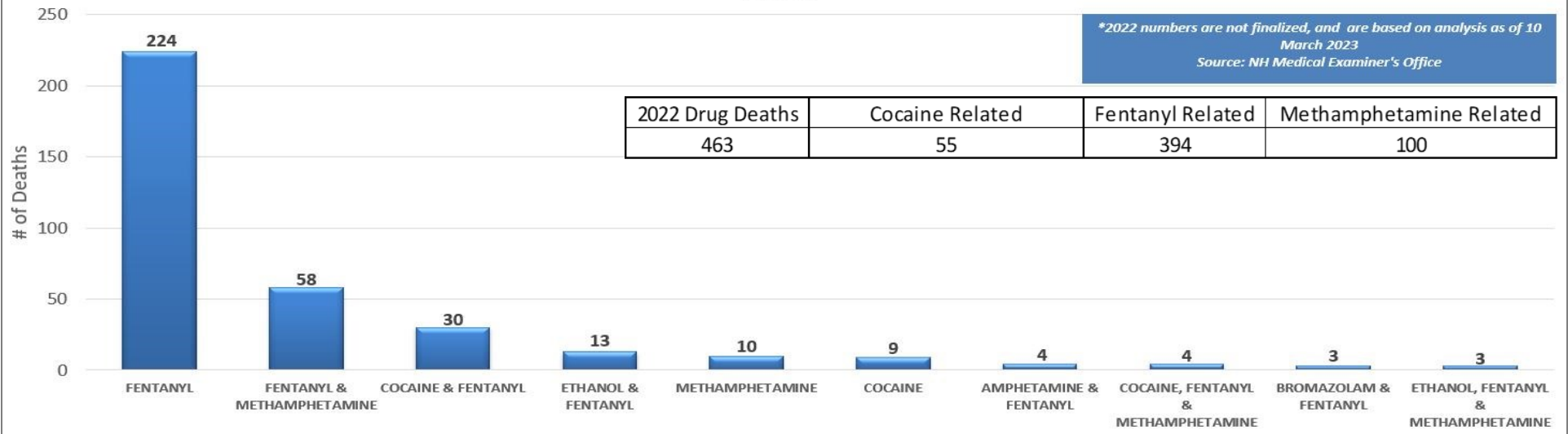
- Analysis is based on county where the drug (s) is suspected to have been used.



Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

**Cocaine, Fentanyl Class and/or Methamphetamine Combination Related Drug Deaths
2022**



2022 Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and/or Fentanyl Class Combination Related Drug Deaths that were noted once or twice*

4-ANPP, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL, HYDROXYZINE & METHAMPHETAMINE	FENTANYL & ISOTONITAZENE	ACETYL FENTANYL, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	BUPRENORPHINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	ETHANOL, FENTANYL & PAROXETINE	FENTANYL & MYTRAGININE
ACETYL FENTANYL & FENTANYL	FENTANYL & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	ACETYL FENTANYL, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & SERTRALINE	BUPROPION & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE, DULOXETINE, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN, METHAMPHETAMINE & METHYLPHENIDATE	ETHANOL, OXYCODONE, FENTANYL & XYLAZINE	FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL
ALCOHOL & FENTANYL	FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN, METHADONE & METHAMPHETAMINE	AMLODIPINE & FENTANYL	AMPHETAMINES, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	COCAETHYLENE, COCAINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	COCAINE, FENTANYL & OXYCODONE	ETIZOLAM, FENTANYL & FLUBROMAZOLAM	HEROIN, FENTANYL, & METHAMPHETAMINE
BROMAZEPAM, CYCLOBENZAPRINE, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN & METHAMPHETAMINE	FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE	AMPHETAMINE, ARIPIPIRAZOLE & FENTANYL	BROMAZELAM, FENTANYL, FLUBROMAZEPAM & XYLAZINE	COCAINE & HEROIN	COCAINE, FENTANYL & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	FENTANYL & FLUBROMAZOLAM	METHAMPHETAMINE & OXYCODONE
BROMAZOLAM & FENTANYL	4-ANPP, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	AMPHETAMINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	BROMAZOLAM, COCAINE & FENTANYL	COCAINE & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE, FENTANYL, & METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE	FENTANYL & GABAPENTIN	METHAMPHETAMINE & OXYCODONE
COCAINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	4-ANPP, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	AMPHETAMINE, ETHANOL, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	BROMAZOLAM, CYCLOBENZAPRINE, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN, METHADONE, METHAMPHETAMINE & OXYCODONE	COCAINE & MORPHINE	ETHANOL & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	FENTANYL & METHADONE	PARAFLUOROFENTANYL
EPHEDRINE, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE	ACETYL FENTANYL, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	4-ANPP, FENTANYL & XYLAZINE	BROMAZOLAM & FENTANYL	ETHANOL, FENTANYL & FLUOXETINE	*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice		

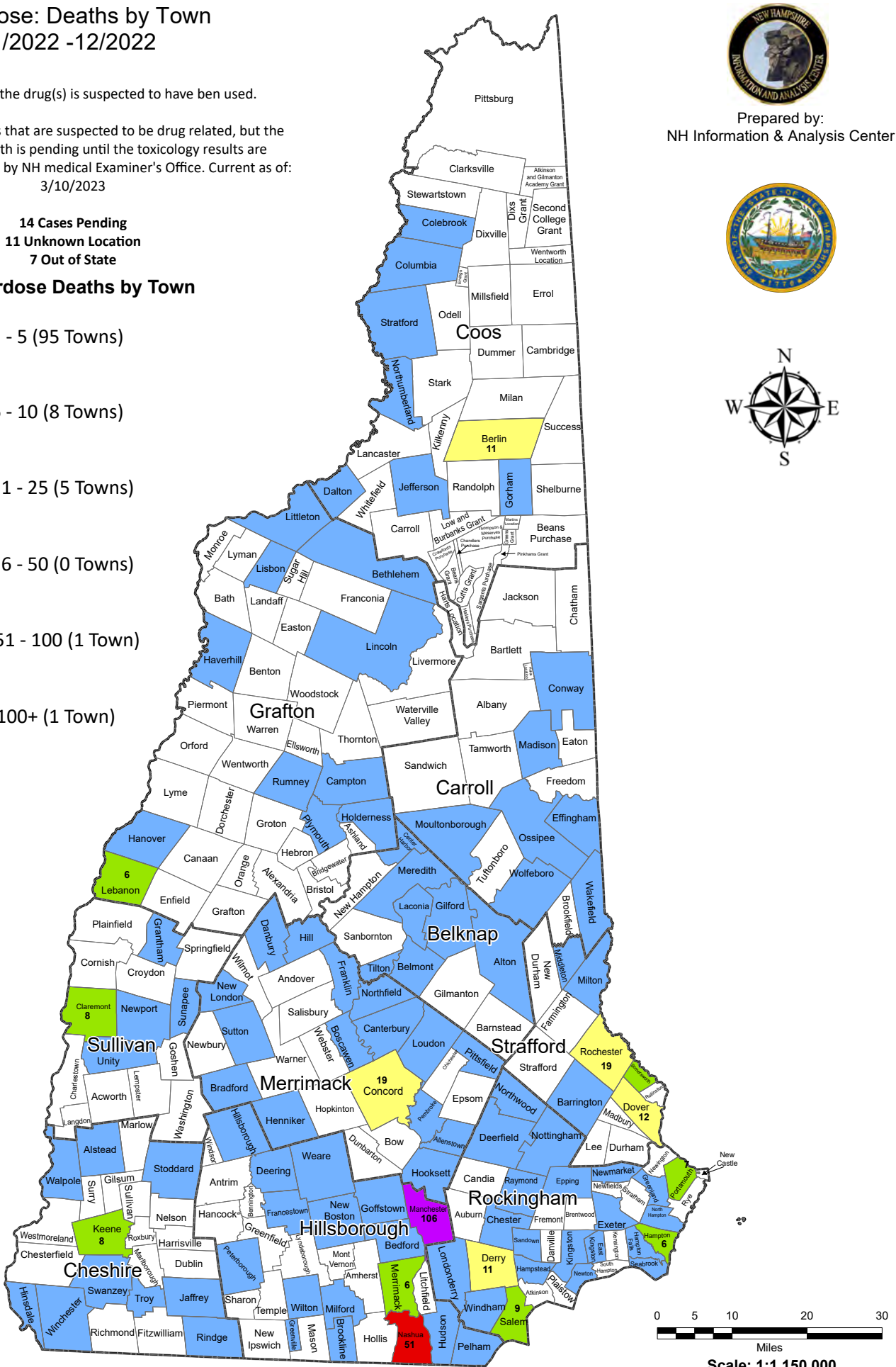
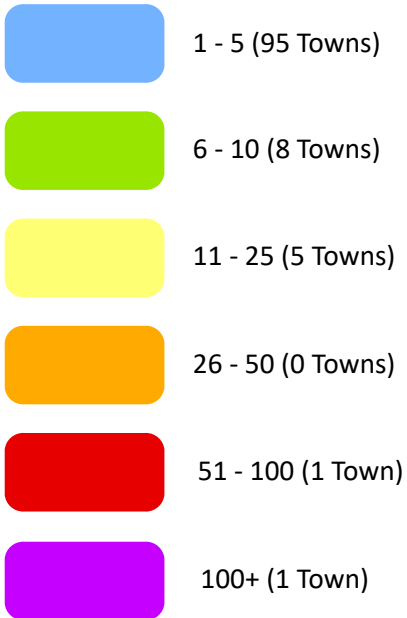
Overdose: Deaths by Town 1/2022 - 12/2022

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: 3/10/2023

14 Cases Pending
11 Unknown Location
7 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)

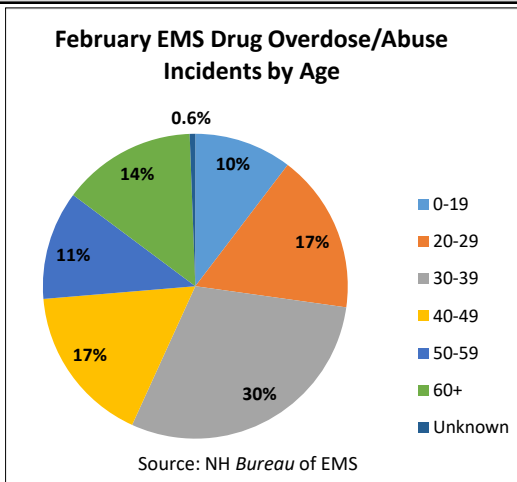
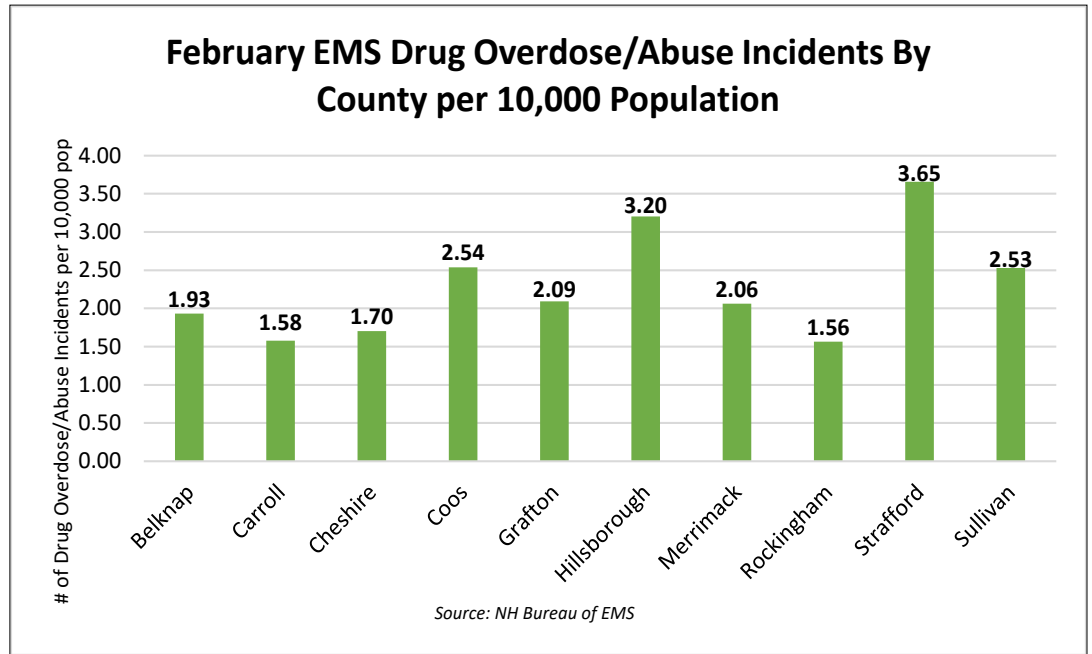
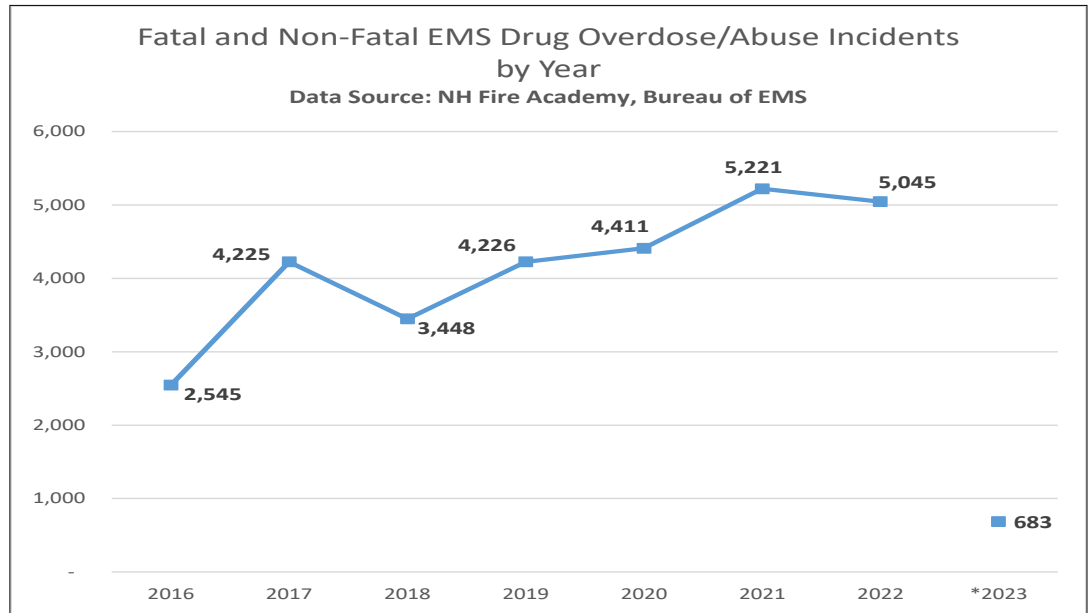
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Analyst Notes:

- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents decreased 2% from January to February.
- In February, Strafford County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 3.65 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was a close second with 3.20 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 30% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in February.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in February.

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

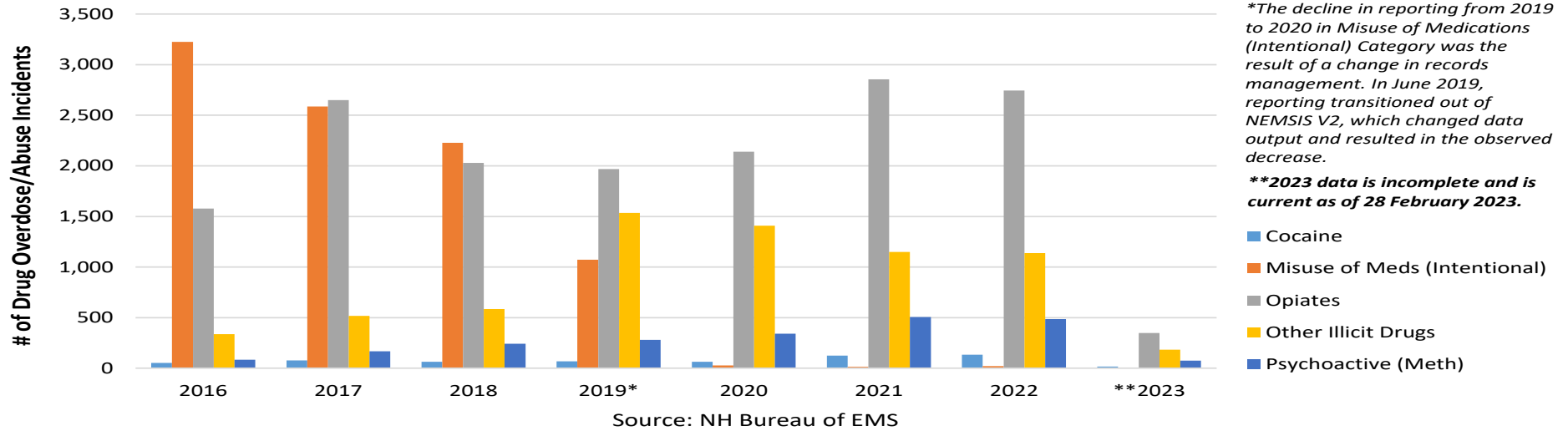
- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. **Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.**
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records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



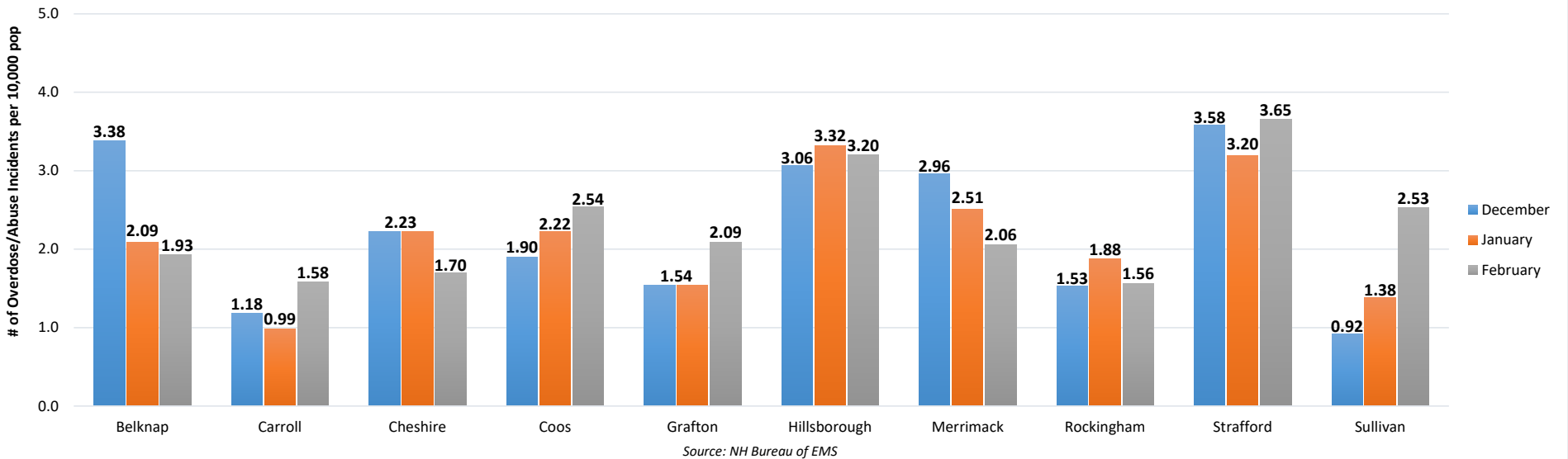
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):

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

3/2022 - 2/2023

*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

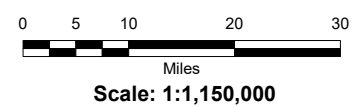
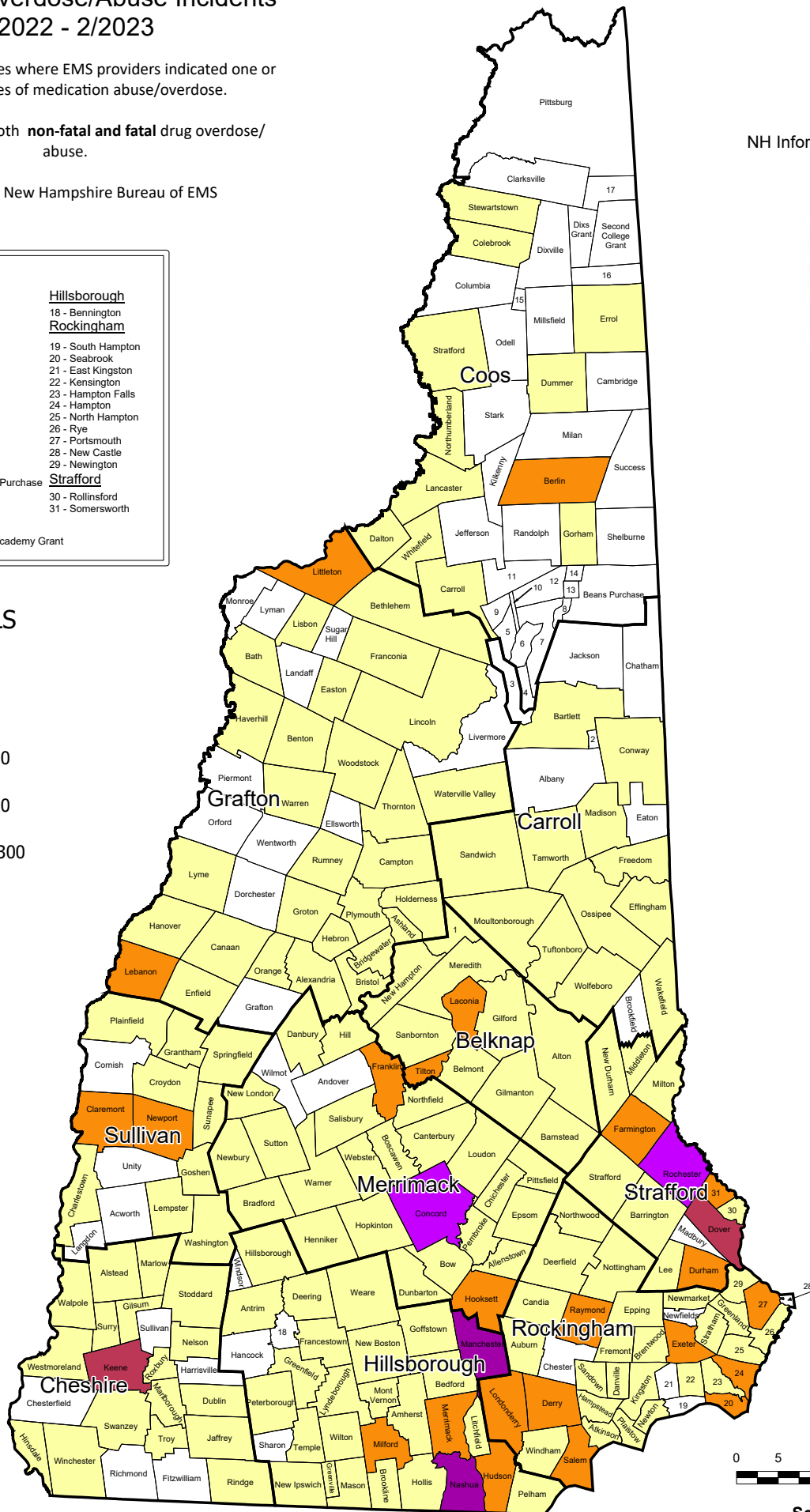
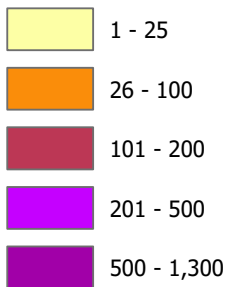


Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center



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)

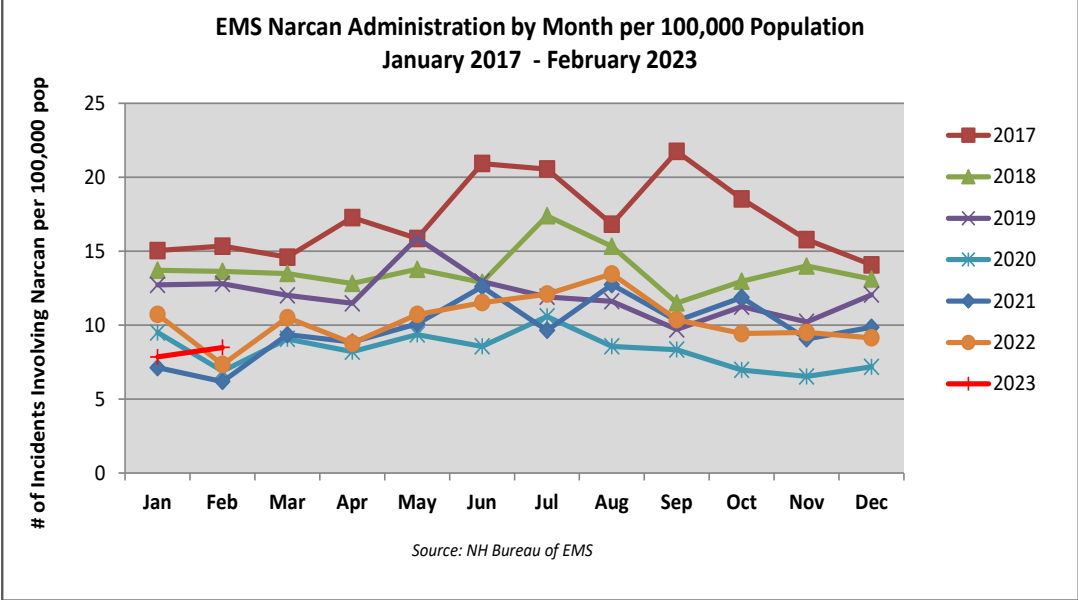
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

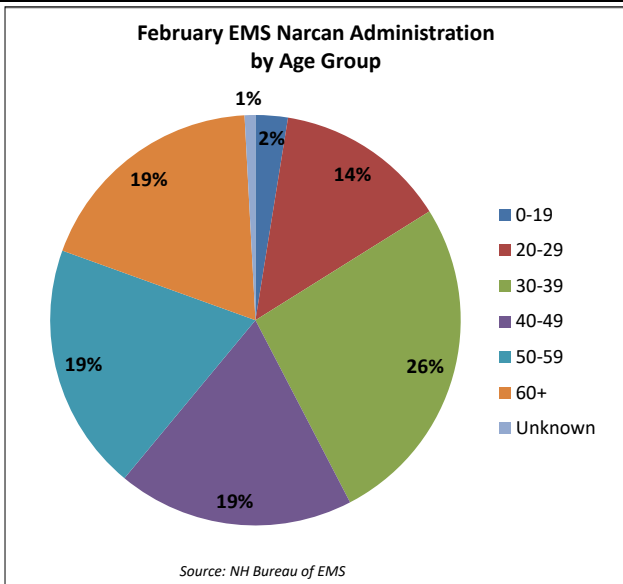
- EMS Narcan administration incidents increased by 8% from January to February.
- In February, Strafford County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.60 incidents per 10,000 population. Sullivan County was second with 1.38 incidents per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 26% of all EMS Narcan administrations in February.

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

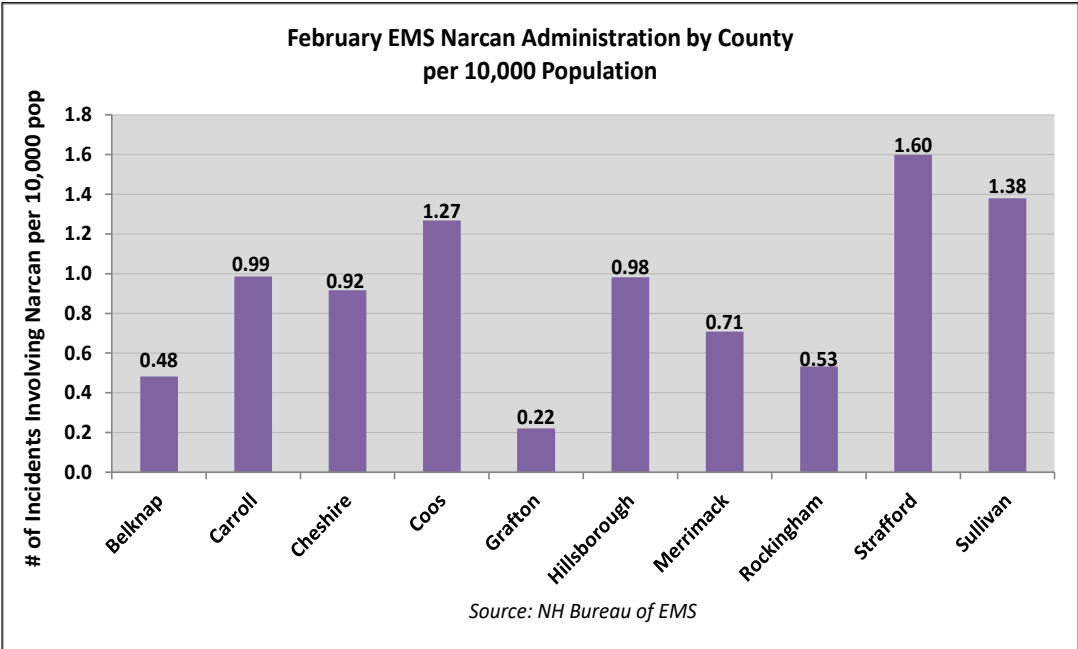
- Narcan data in this report involves the number of incidents where Narcan was administered, NOT the number of doses of Narcan during a certain time period. Multiple doses may be administered during an incident.
- Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose or unknown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



Source: NH Bureau of EMS



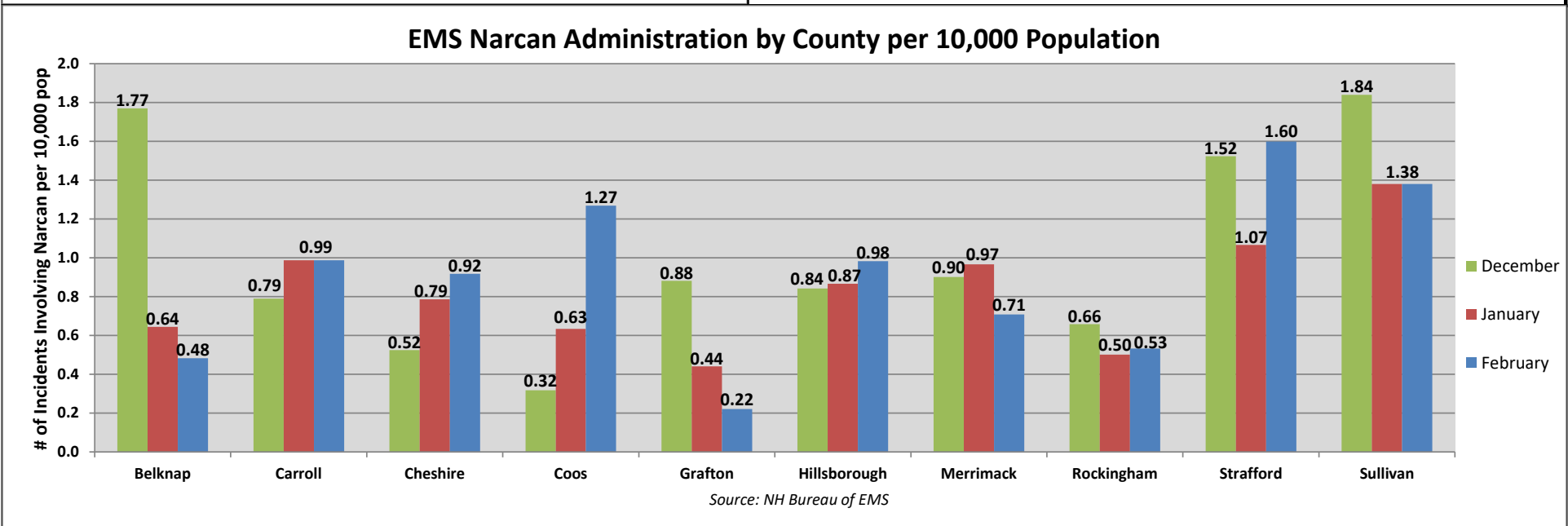
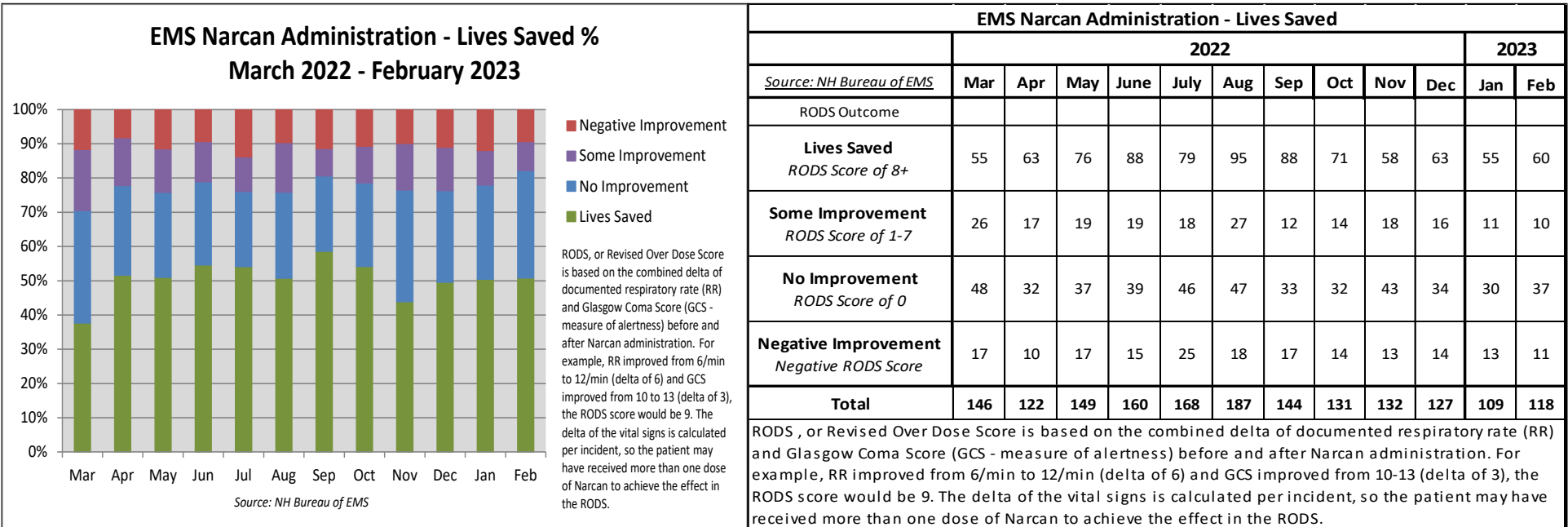
Source: NH Bureau of EMS



Source: NH Bureau of EMS

EMS Narcan Administration Incidents (Continued):

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



EMS/Narcan Administration by Town

3/2022 - 2/2023

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



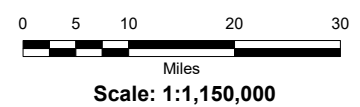
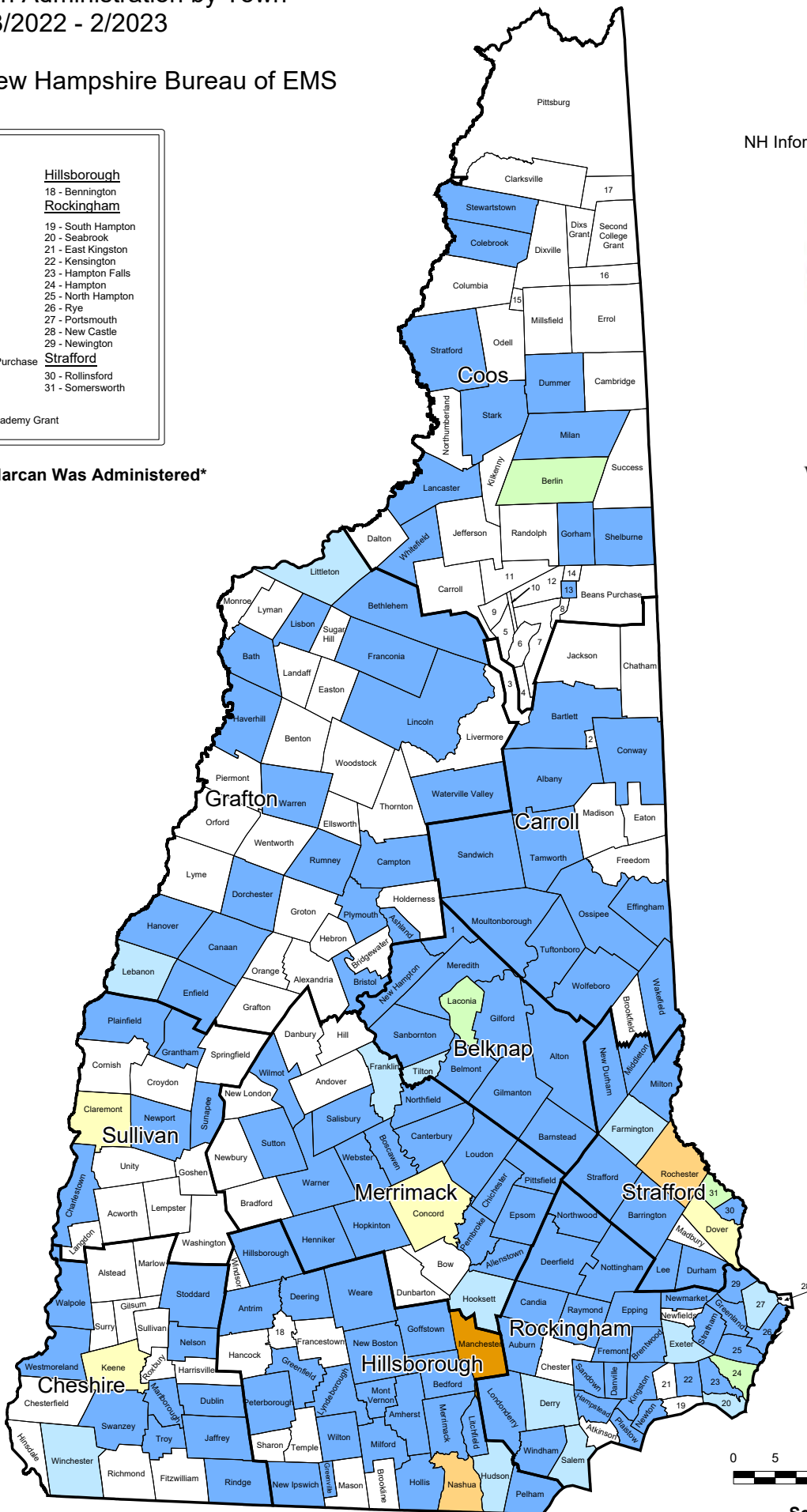
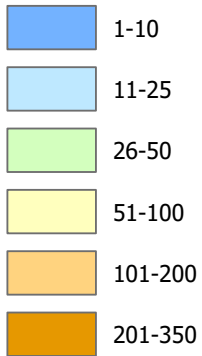
Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

INDEX

Belknap	Hillsborough
1 - Center Harbor	18 - Bennington
Carroll	Rockingham
2 - Hales Location	19 - South Hampton
3 - Harts Location	20 - Seabrook
Coos	21 - East Kington
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	

Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered

Range



Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

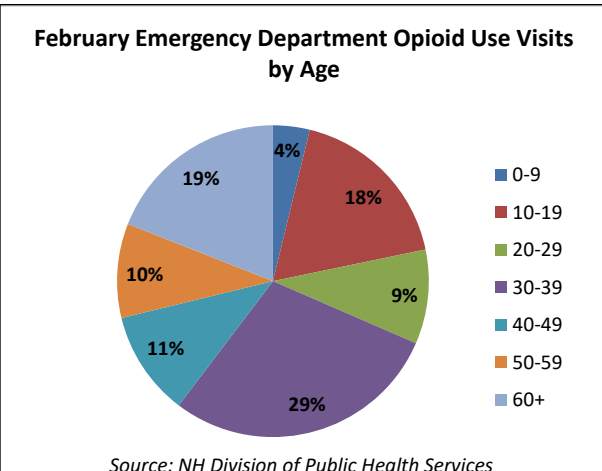
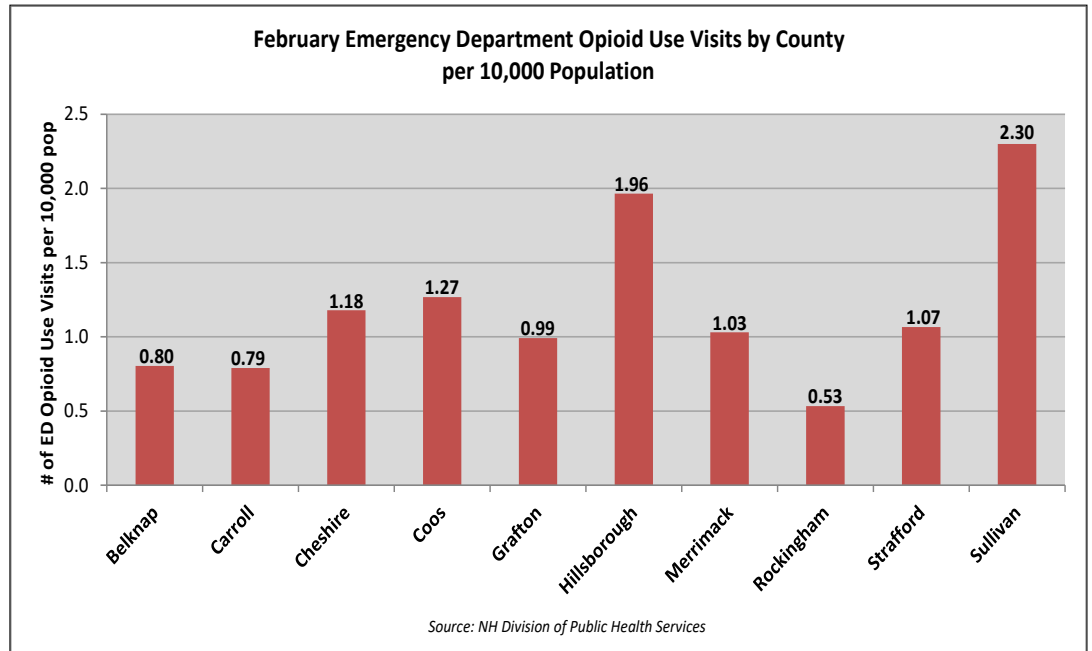
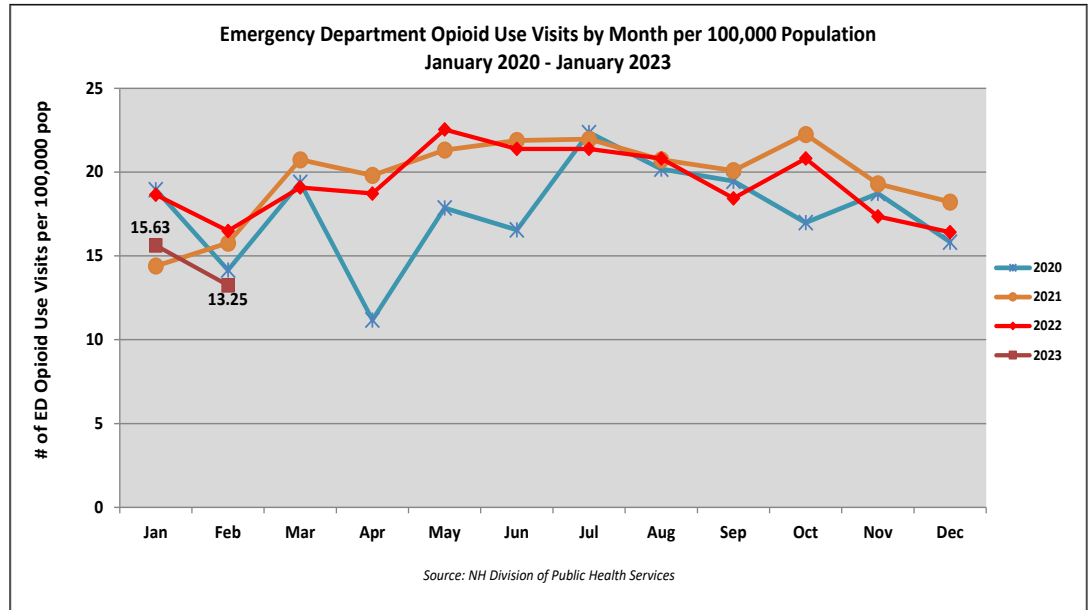
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

Trends:

- Opioid related ED visits decreased by 15% from January to February.
- In February, residents from Sullivan County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 2.30 visits per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second with 1.96 visits per 10,000 population.
- In February, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 29%.

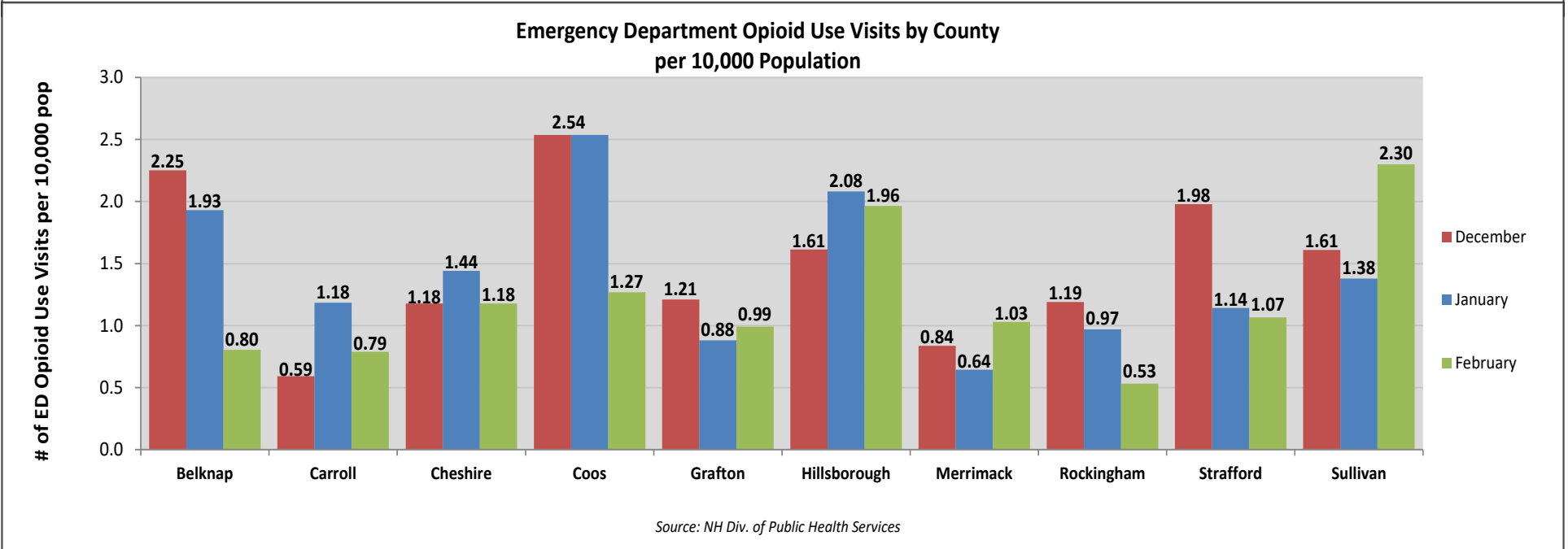
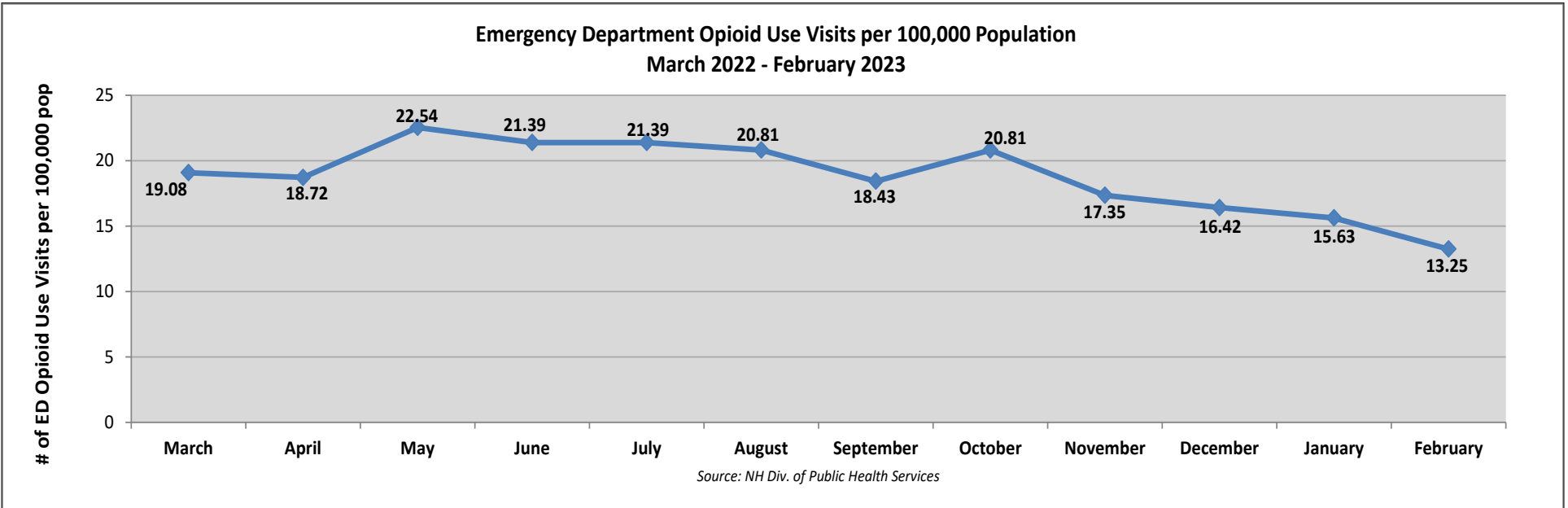
***** IMPORTANT DATA NOTES *****

- **Jan & Feb Data Note:** Four hospitals are temporarily not reporting data to the relevant system and thus are not included in this months 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.
- 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



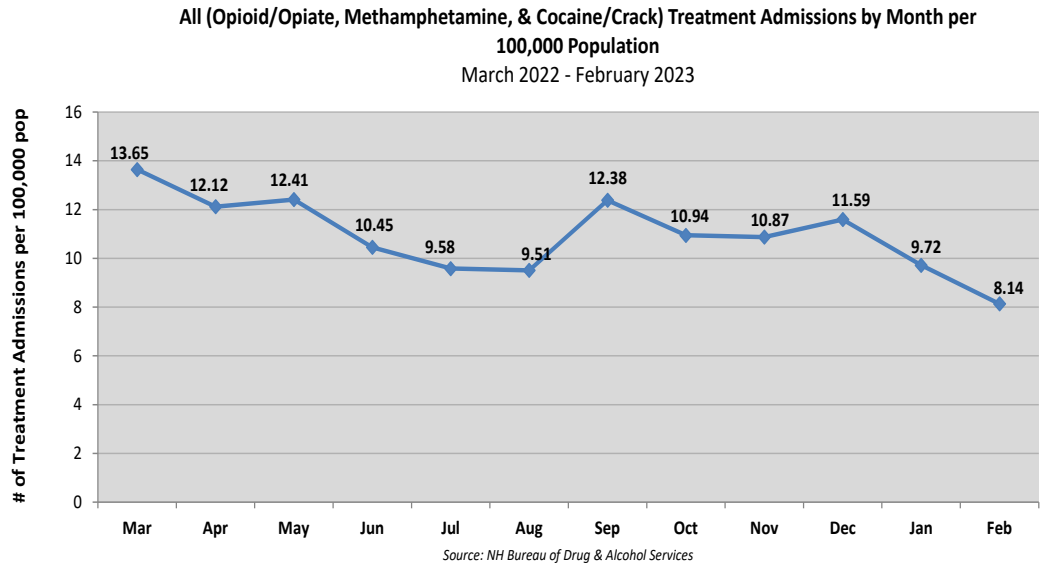
Treatment Admissions:

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

Trends:

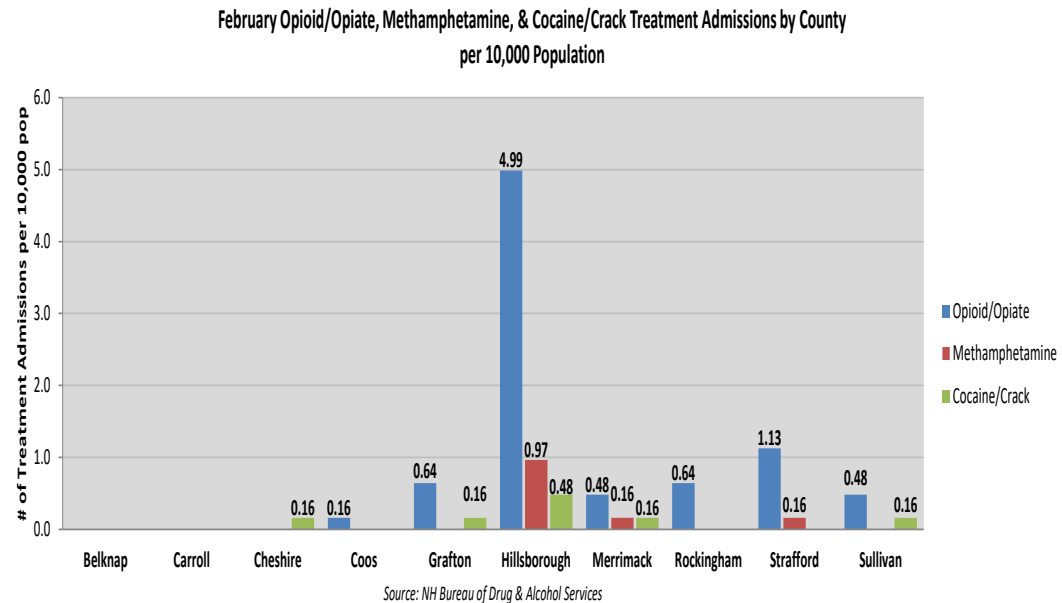
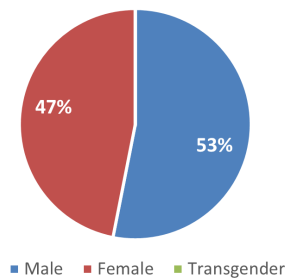
- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased 16% from January to February.
- In February, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 4.99 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in February for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use, than females or transgenders.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased by 7% from January to February.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased by 31% from January to February.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions decreased by 18% from January to February.



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

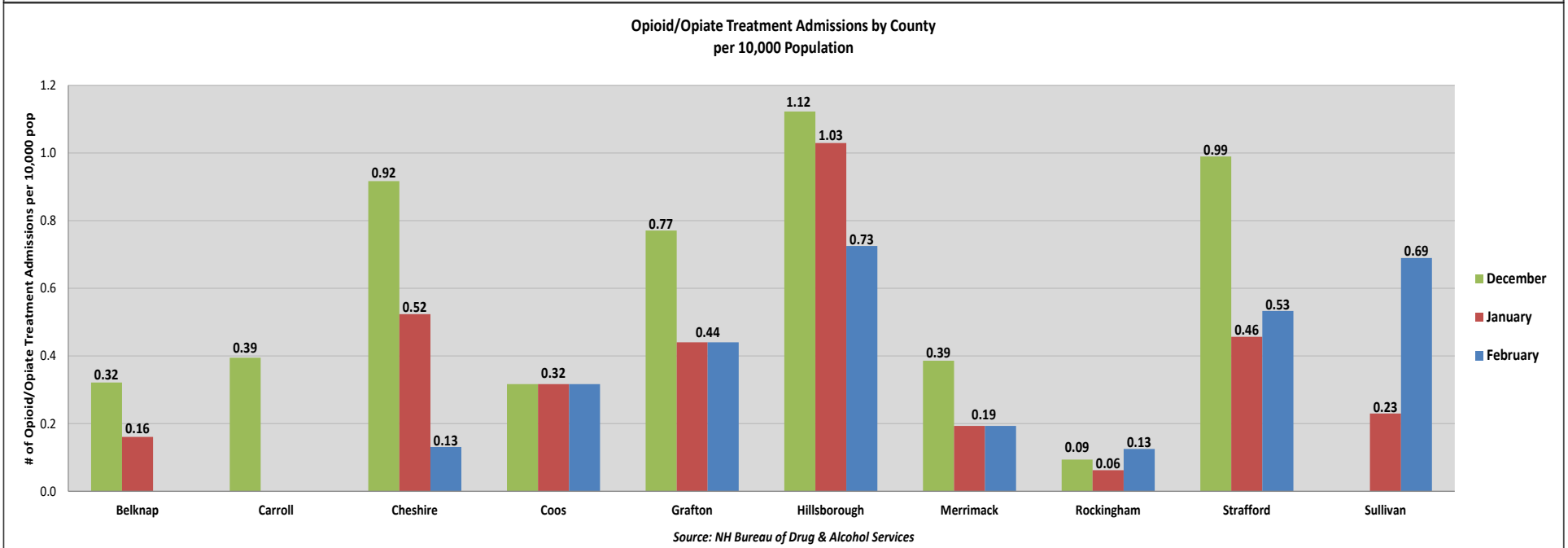
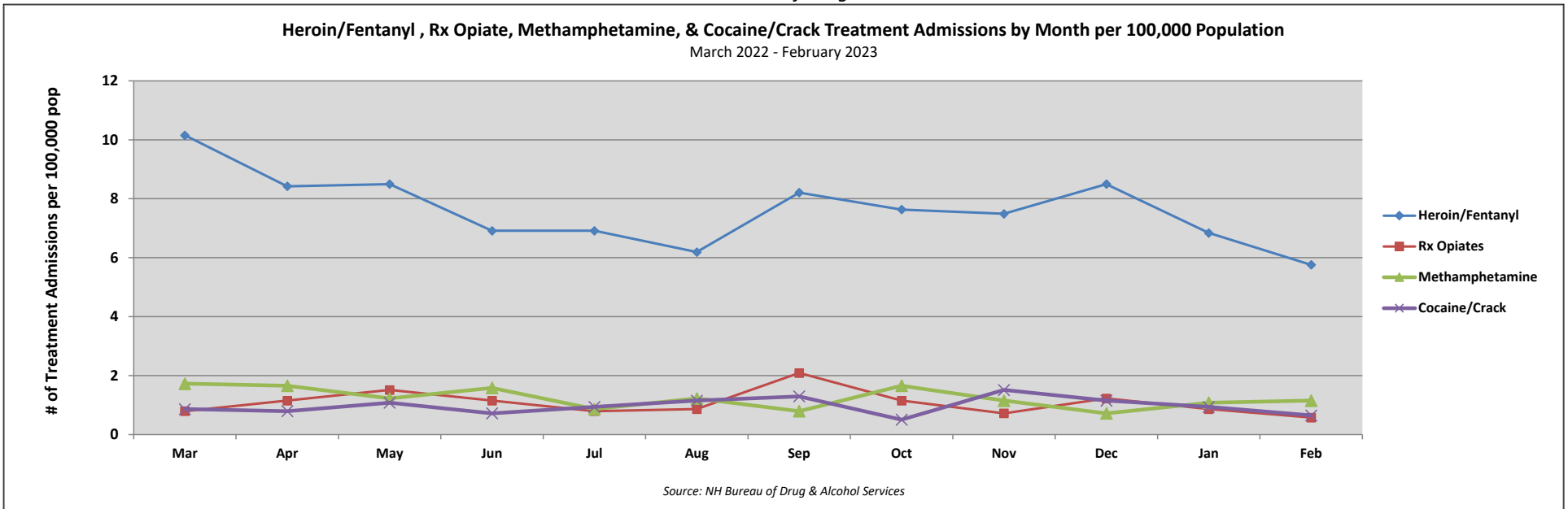
- County represents where the patient resides.
- These data represent treatment admissions to state funded facilities.
- These data have decreased due to numerous factors. The Affordable Care Act has been fully implemented, resulting in increased access to affordable health insurance and coverage for 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.

February Treatment Admissions by Gender



Treatment Admissions (Continued):

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services



Situational Awareness/Press Reporting:**NH DHHS Warns of Dangerous, Non-Opioid Animal Tranquilizer**

Concord, NH – The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) is warning residents of an increase in the presence of the animal tranquilizer, xylazine, added to opioid street drugs like heroin and fentanyl. Xylazine-positive overdose deaths doubled in the Northeast between [2020 and 2021](#). It is a non-opioid sedative used in veterinary medicine and causes sedation, respiratory depression, slow heart rate, and muscle relaxation in humans.

DHHS has issued [information to healthcare providers](#) on how to respond and treat xylazine misuse and overdoses. Anyone can get help with substance use disorder (SUD) by accessing the [Doorway](#), or call 2-1-1.

“The increased presence of xylazine circulating in the Northeast is concerning,” Dr. Jonathan Ballard, Chief Medical Officer for DHHS stated. “When added to opioid drugs like heroin and fentanyl, it may increase the risk of overdose and death.”

Xylazine is also known to cause severe withdrawal symptoms when stopped and repeated exposure to xylazine may lead to severe, necrotic skin ulcers. Individuals with substance use disorder (SUD) may not know they are ingesting xylazine as it is often mixed with other drugs.

Source: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov> (16 Feb 2023)

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