



New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

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NHIAC Product #: 2022-5264

March 2022 Report



25 March 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	2020 Death Update As of 4/2021	2021 Death Update As of 4/2022
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	406	381
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	350	323
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	56	30
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	58	54
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	8	44

⇒ Population data source: [2020 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 2020 estimated population of each county.

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

The monthly online DMI viewer can be found at: <https://nhview.desc.nh.gov/iac/dmi/>

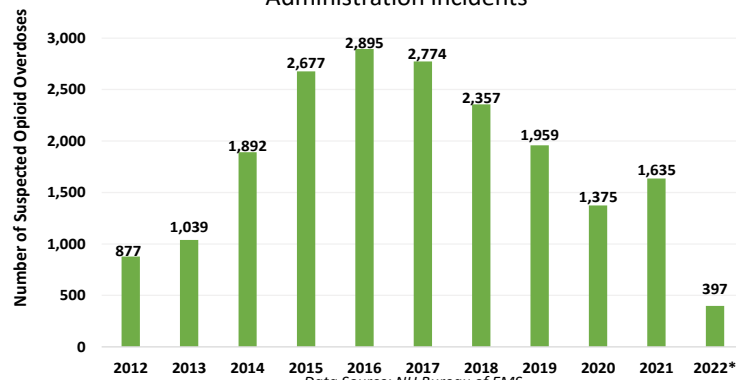
New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug Overdose Deaths peaked in 2017, at 490. However, the continued availability of public-use naloxone (Narcan) since it first became available in June 2015, very likely contributes to a continued decline in both overdose deaths and EMS provided Narcan administration, statewide.

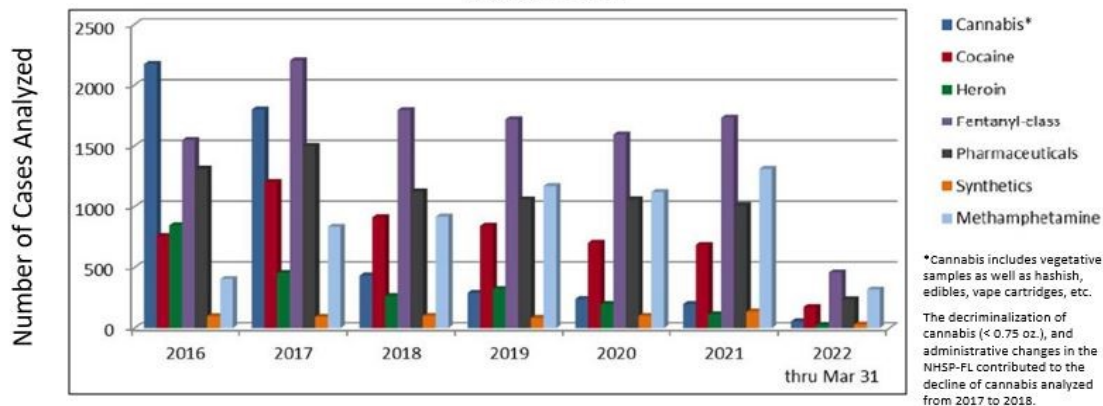
March 2022 Data Summary

	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from February to March	↑ 46%	↑ 4%	↑ 16%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Strafford	Hillsborough	Strafford
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39

EMS Suspected Opioid Overdose - Narcan Administration Incidents



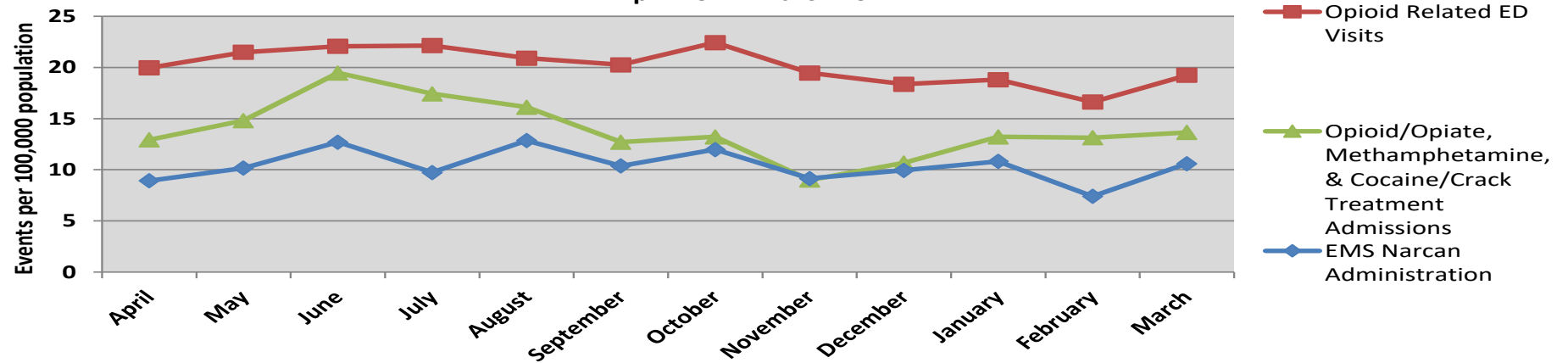
Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose or unknown cause. Therefore, it cannot be concluded that all reported Narcan incidents actually involved drugs.

NH State Police Forensic Laboratory Controlled Drug Case Information
March 2022

Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2016	2173	759	847	1547	1311	99	404
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 (thru Mar 31)	56	174	26	458	237	30	318
Mar 2022	16	71	13	192	96	12	142

DATA WILL BE UPDATED IN SPRING 2022

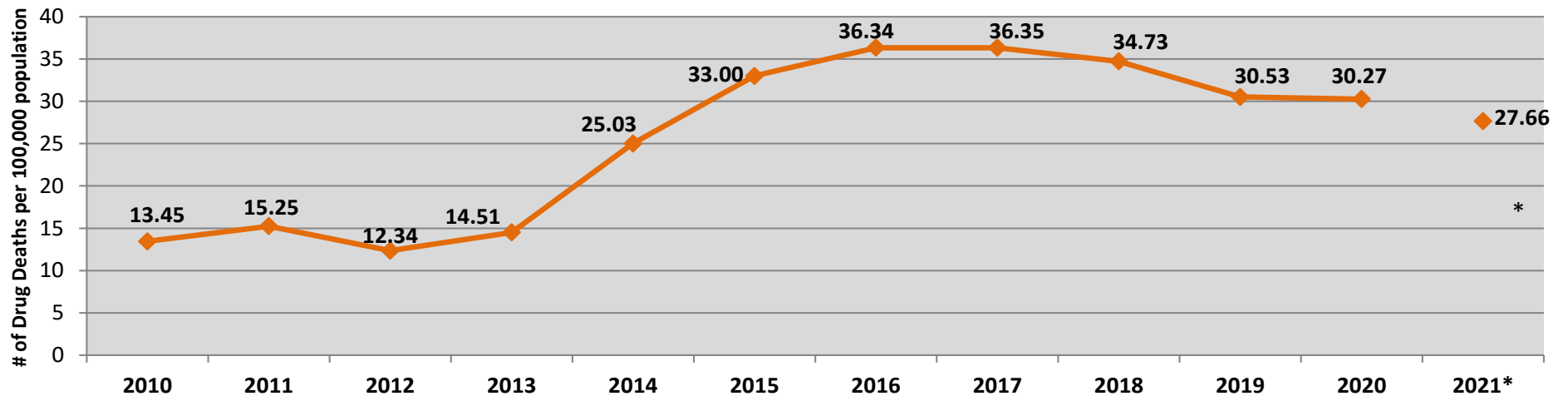
All Overdose Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Opioid Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Meth Deaths (2019 to 2020)	Percent Change: Cocaine Deaths (2019 to 2020)	County w/ Most Deaths Per Capita	Age Group w/ Most Deaths
↑ 0.48%	↓ -4%	↑ 13%	↓ -27%	Strafford	30-39 Year Olds

Overview: Trends for Narcan, ED Visits, Treatment Admissions, and Overdose Deaths:**EMS Narcan Administration, Opioid Related ED Visits, and Treatment Admissions
per 100,000 Population
April 2021- March 2022**

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



*2021 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 12 April 2022

Drug Overdose Deaths:

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

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

Trends:

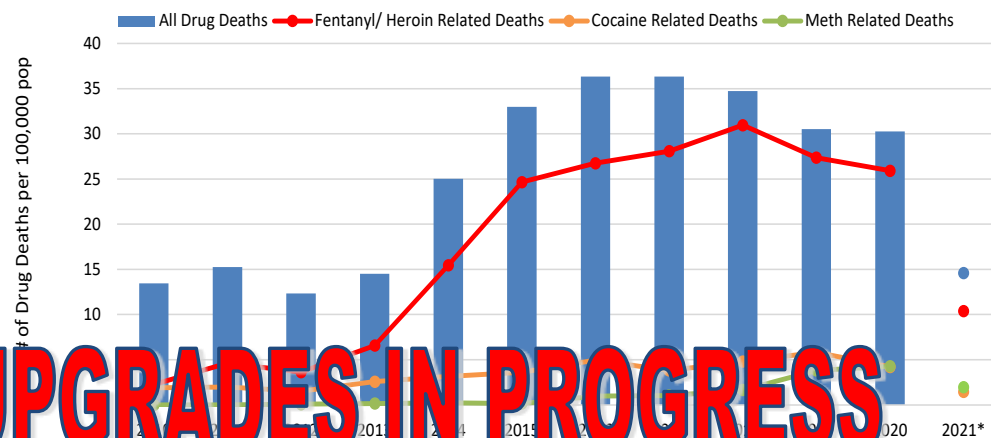
- As of 16 September, there are 201 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 83 cases pending toxicology for 2021.
- So far in 2021, Coos County has the highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita, at 2.40 deaths per 10,000 population. Sullivan County is second highest with 2.05 overdose deaths per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of drug overdose deaths is 30-39 years, which represents 28% of all overdose deaths for 2021.

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

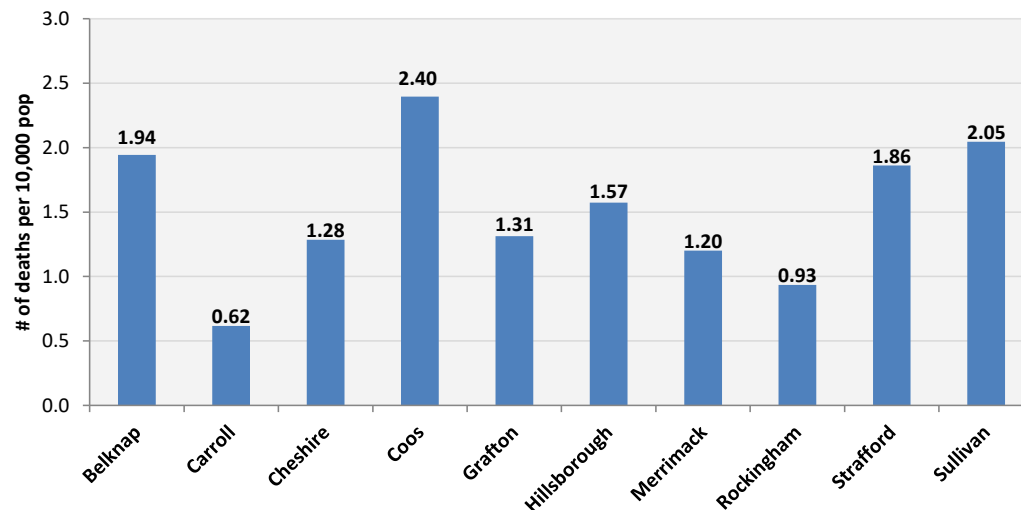
OCME DATABASE UPGRADES IN PROGRESS
DATA WILL BE UPDATED IN SPRING 2022

Overdose Deaths by Year per 100,000 Population

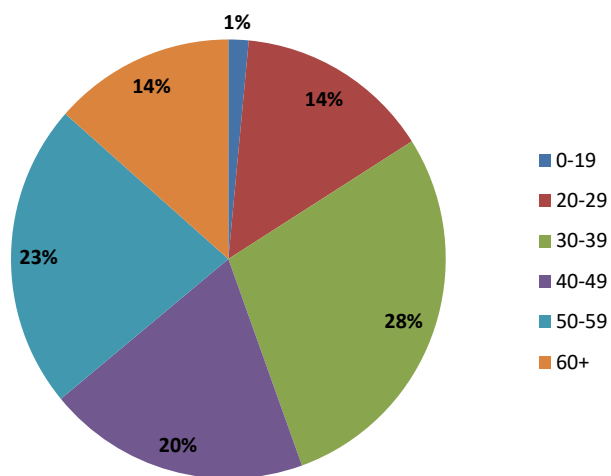
Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

**2021 Overdose Deaths by County per 10,000 Population**

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

**Overdose Deaths by Age 2021***

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

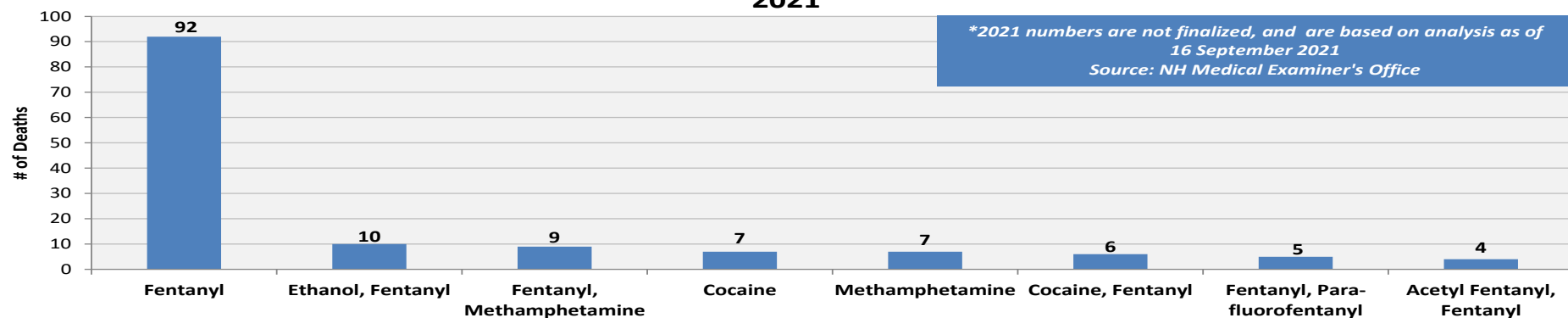


*2021 numbers are not finalized, and based on analysis as of 16 September 2021

2021 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 16 September 2021

Drug Overdose Deaths (Continued):

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

**Cocaine, Methamphetamine, and/or Fentanyl Class Combination Related Drug Deaths
2021**

2021 Total Drug Deaths	Fentanyl Class Deaths	Cocaine Deaths	Meth Deaths
201	139	20	27

**OCME DATABASE UPGRADES IN PROGRESS
DATA WILL BE UPDATED IN SPRING 2022**

Ethanol, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine	Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Para-fluorofentanyl	Acetyl Fentanyl, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine	Cocaine, Fentanyl, Gabapentin	Ethanol, Fentanyl, Methadone	Etizolam, Fentanyl, Para-fluorofentanyl	Fentanyl, Heroin, Methamphetamine	Fentanyl, Oxycodone, Para-fluorofentanyl
Ethanol, Fentanyl, Para-fluorofentanyl	3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, Fentanyl	Alprazolam, Ethanol, Fentanyl	Cocaine, Fentanyl, Para-fluorofentanyl	Ethanol, Fentanyl, Mitragynine	Fentanyl, Gabapentin	Fentanyl, Methadone, Para-fluorofentanyl	Fentanyl, Promethazine
Fentanyl, Hydrocodone	Acetyl Fentanyl, Diphenhydramine, Ethanol, Fentanyl	Alprazolam, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine	Cocaine, Ketamine	Ethanol, Fentanyl, Phenobarbital	Fentanyl, Gabapentin, Mirtazapine	Fentanyl, Methamphetamine, Methylenedioxymethamphetamine	Para-fluorofentanyl

*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice

Overdose Deaths by Town* - 2021 + (Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office)

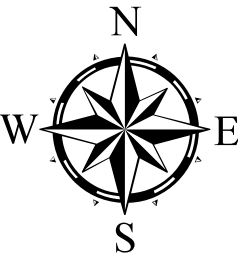
*Location where the drug(s) is suspected to have been used.

+2021 data was reported on September 16, 2021
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.

83 CASES PENDING
9 Cases have an unknown location

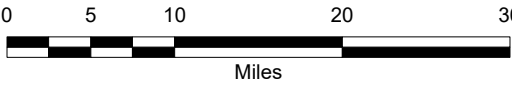
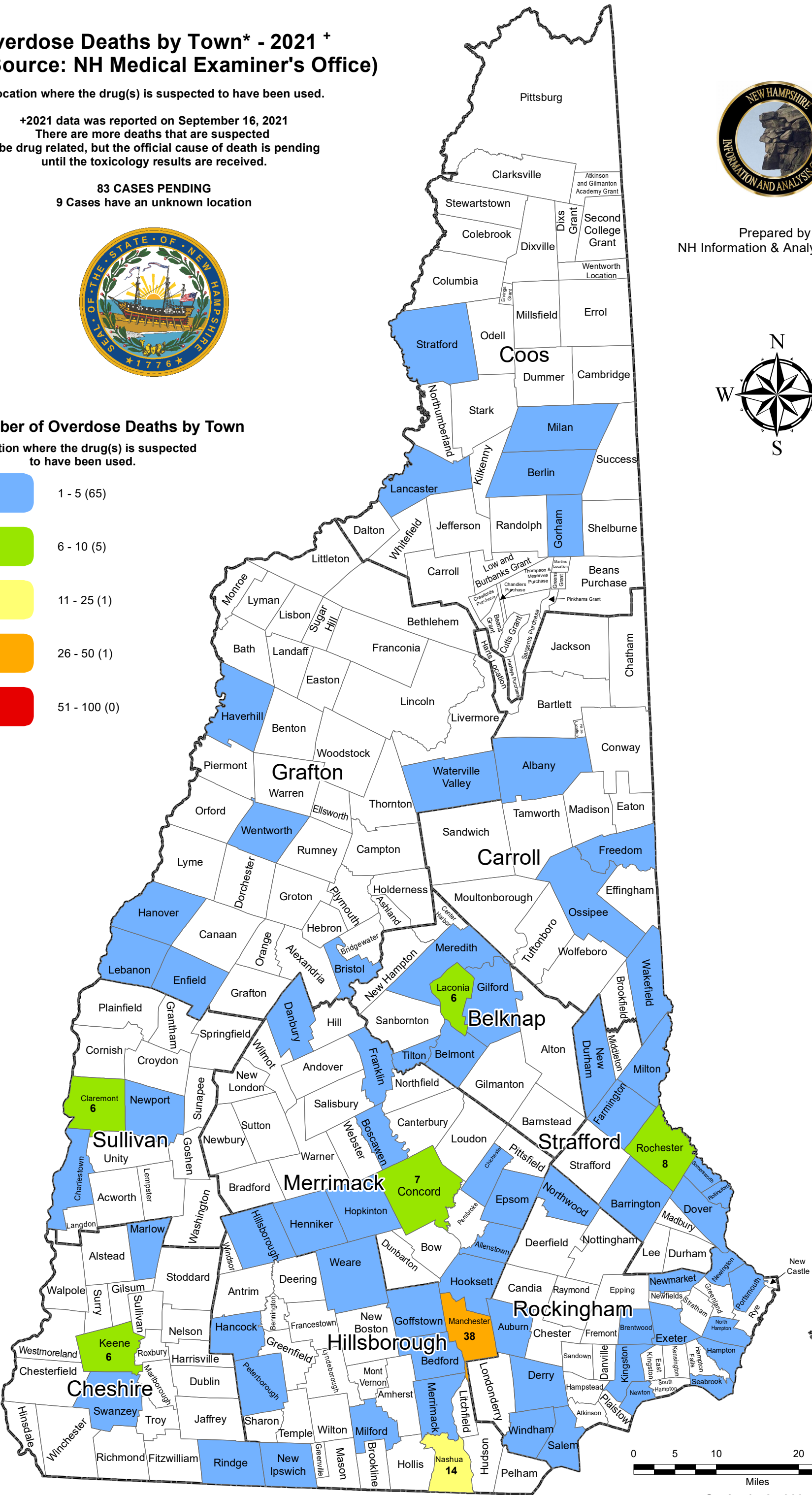


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Number of Overdose Deaths by Town

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




Scale: 1:725,000

NEW SECTION

EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:

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

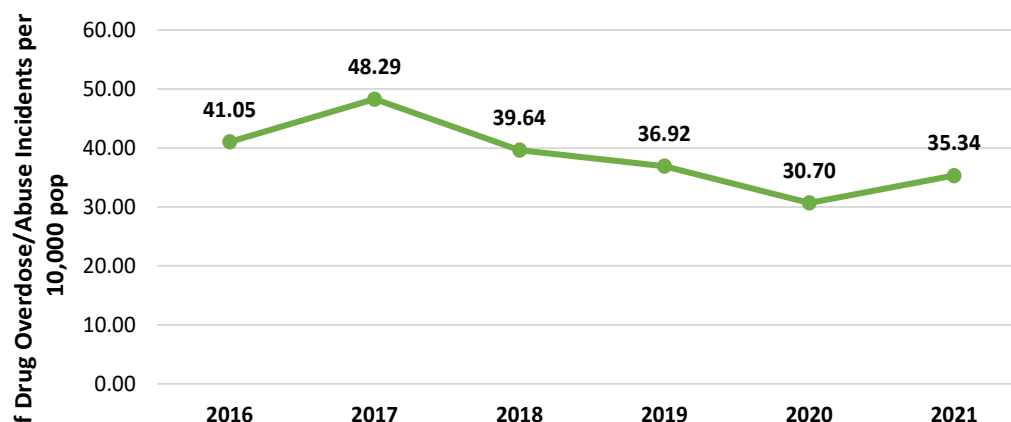
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Analyst Notes:

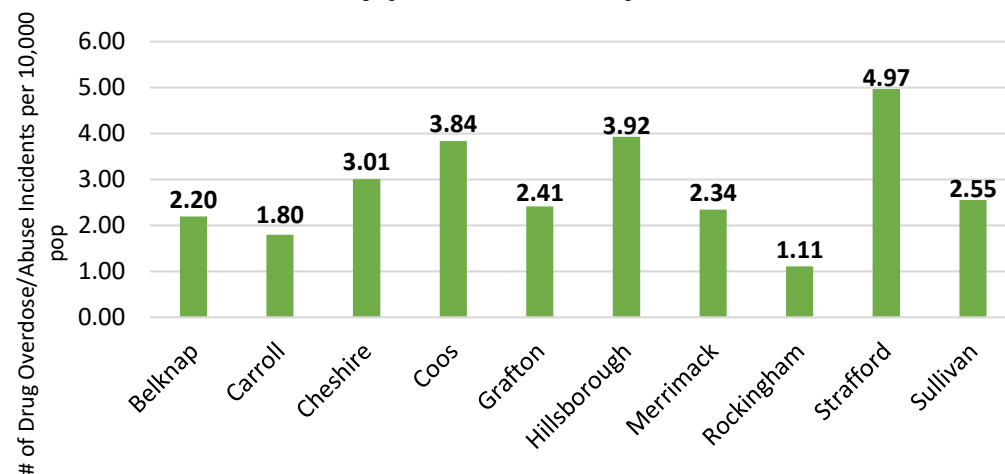
- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents increased by 19% from February to March.
- In March, Strafford County had the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 4.97 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second highest with 3.92 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 35% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in March.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in March.

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

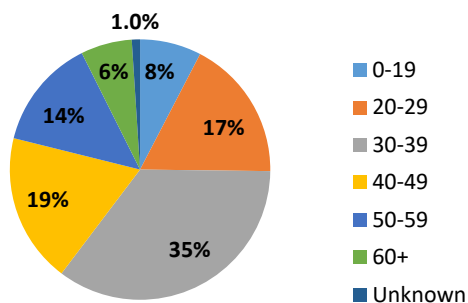
- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records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

Number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year Per 10,000 Population

Source: NH Bureau of EMS

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

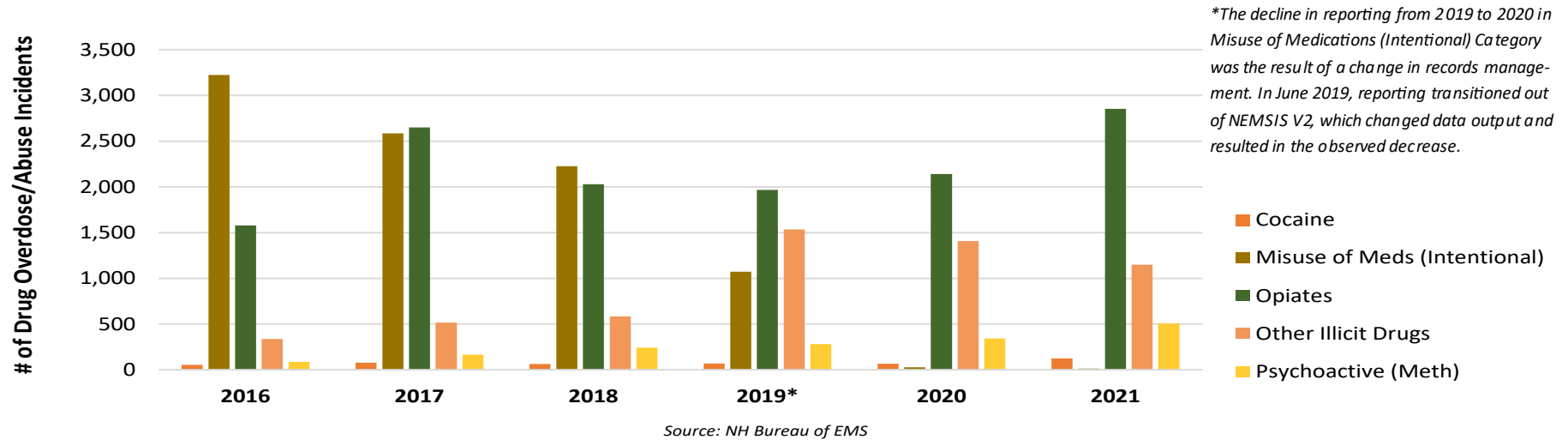
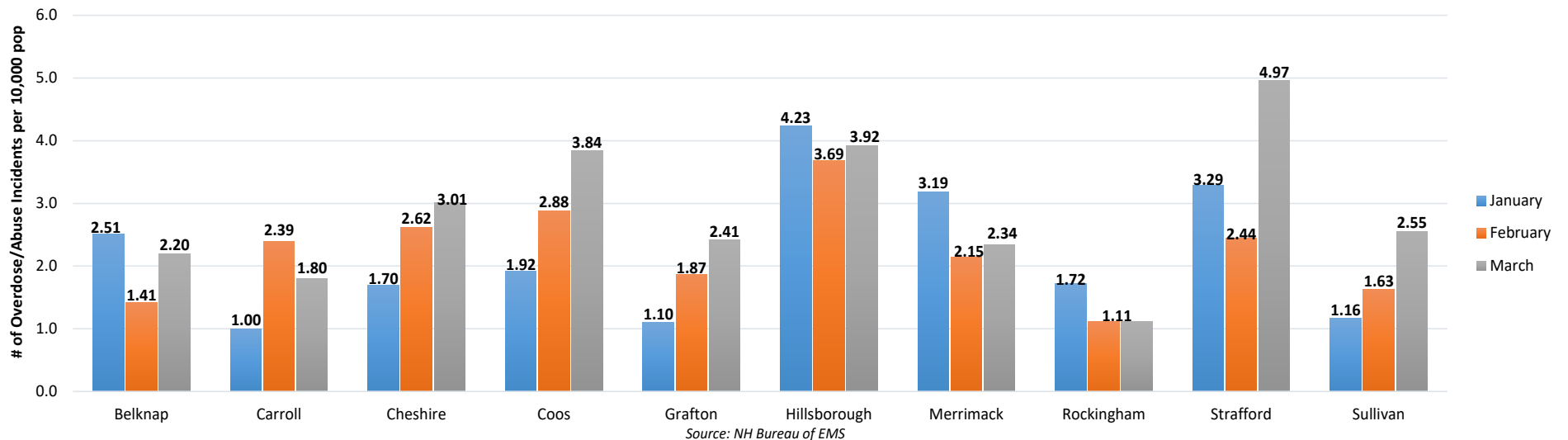
Source: NH Bureau of EMS

March EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Age

Source: NH Bureau of EMS

NEW SECTION**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 04/1/2021 – 03/31/2022

*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



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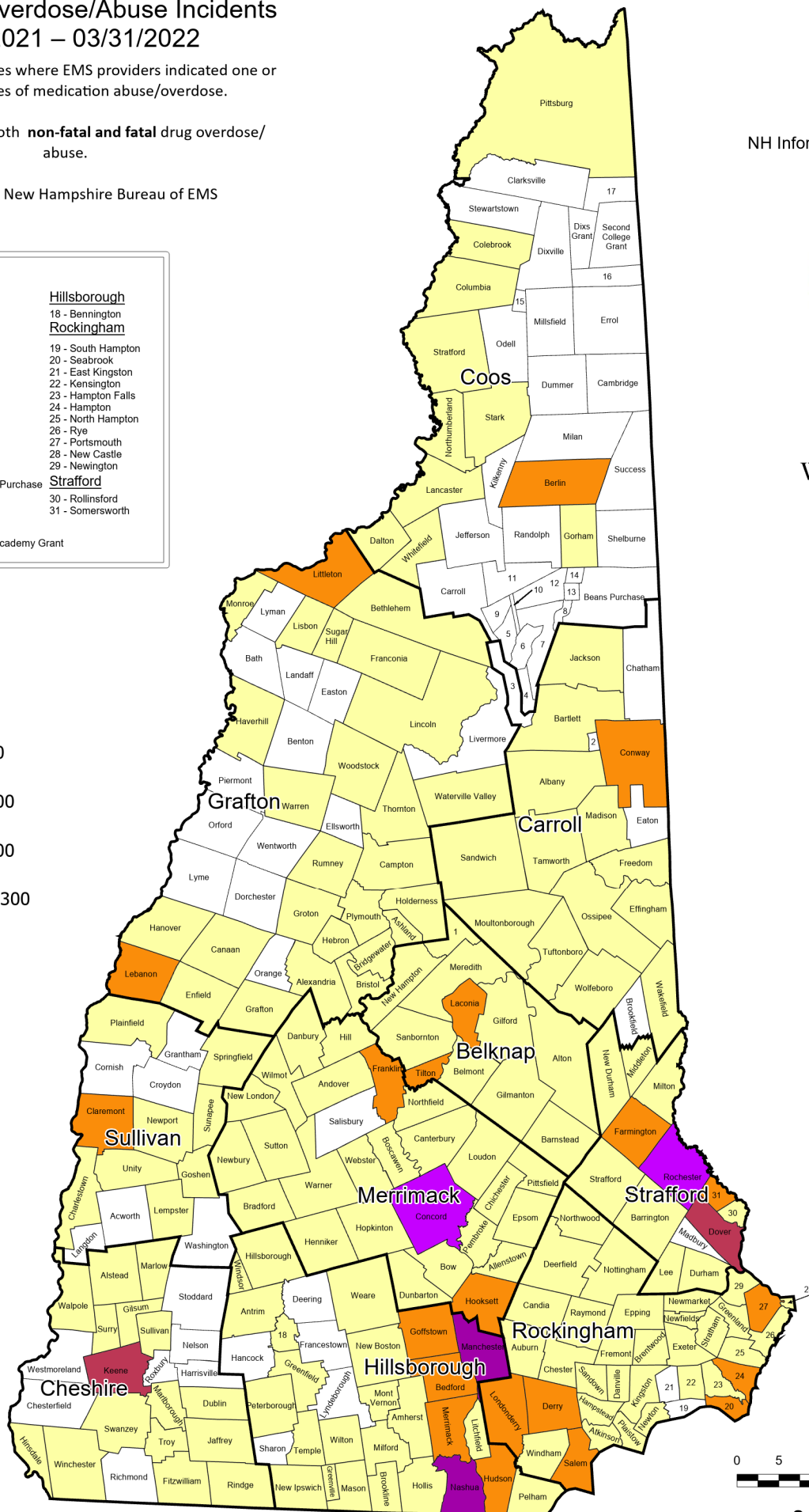
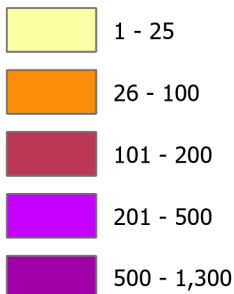
Rockingham

- 30 - Rollinsford
- 31 - Somersworth

Strafford

- 30 - Rollinsford
- 31 - Somersworth

Town Totals




0 5 10 20 30

Miles
Scale: 1:1,150,000

EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:

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

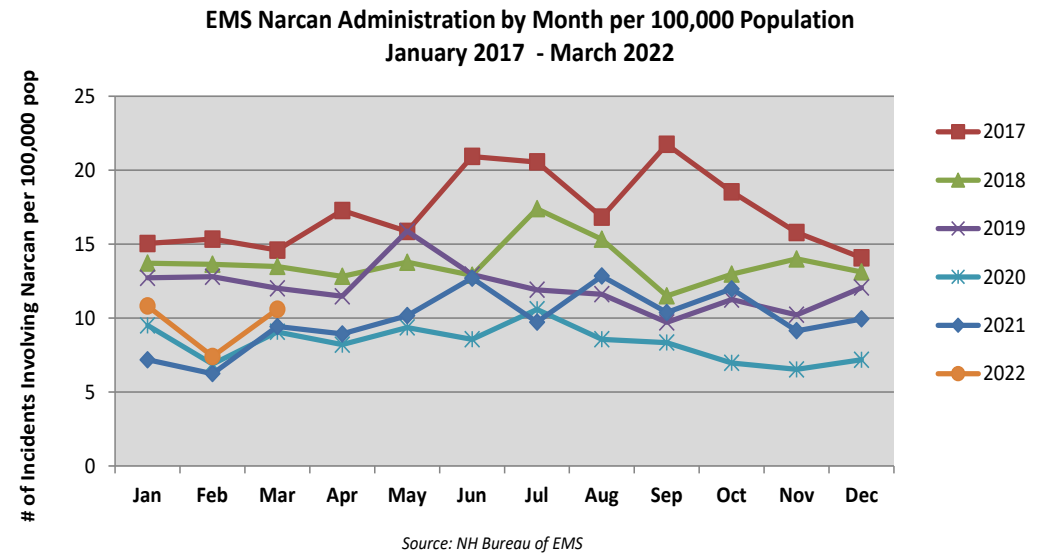
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Trends:

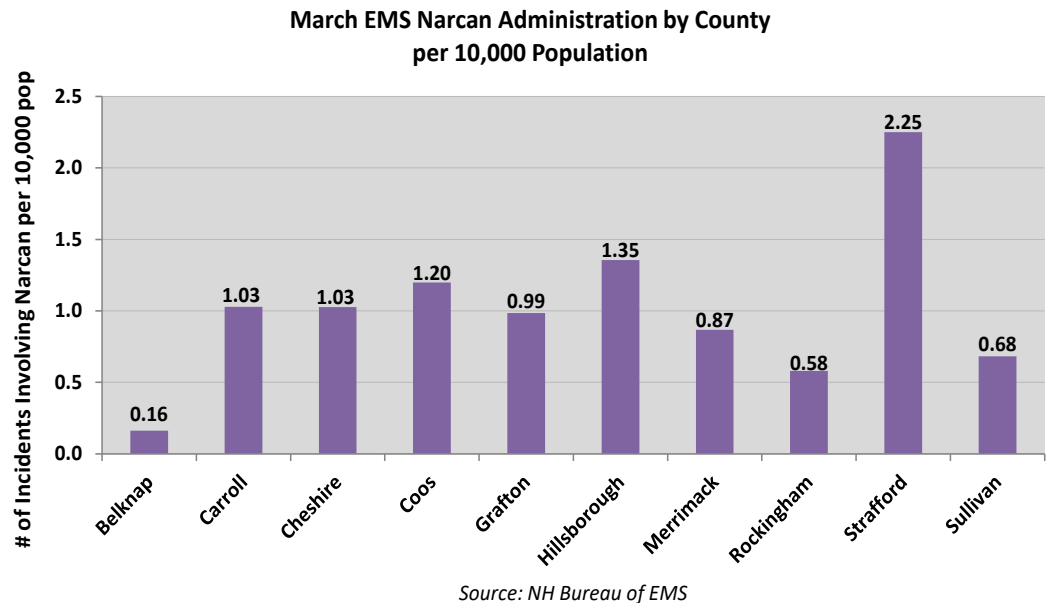
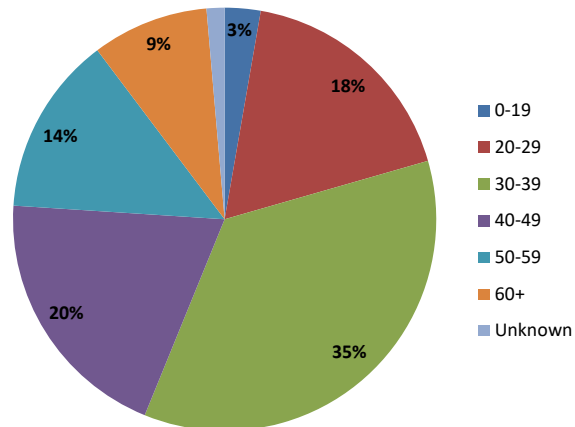
- EMS Narcan administration incidents increased by 46% from February to March.
- In March, Strafford County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 2.25 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second highest with 1.35 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 35% of all EMS Narcan administrations in March.

*****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.

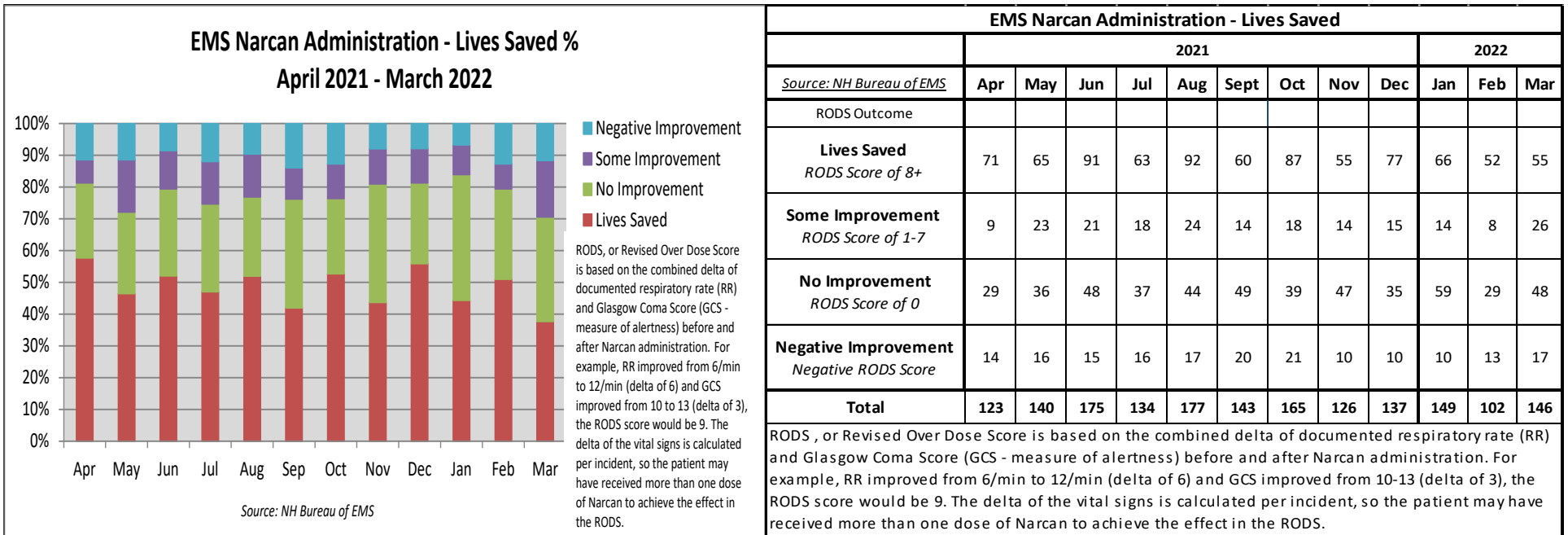
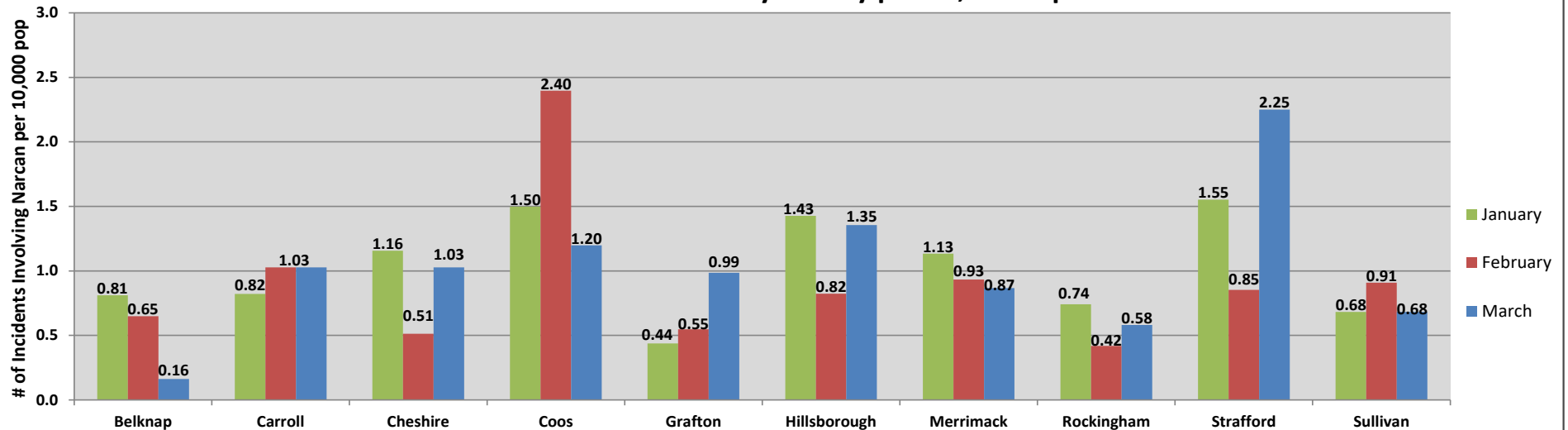


March EMS Narcan Administration by Age Group



EMS Narcan Administration Incidents (Continued):

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

**EMS Narcan Administration by County per 10,000 Population**

Source: NH Bureau of EMS

EMS/Narcan Administration by Town

04/1/2021 – 03/31/2022

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



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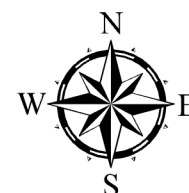
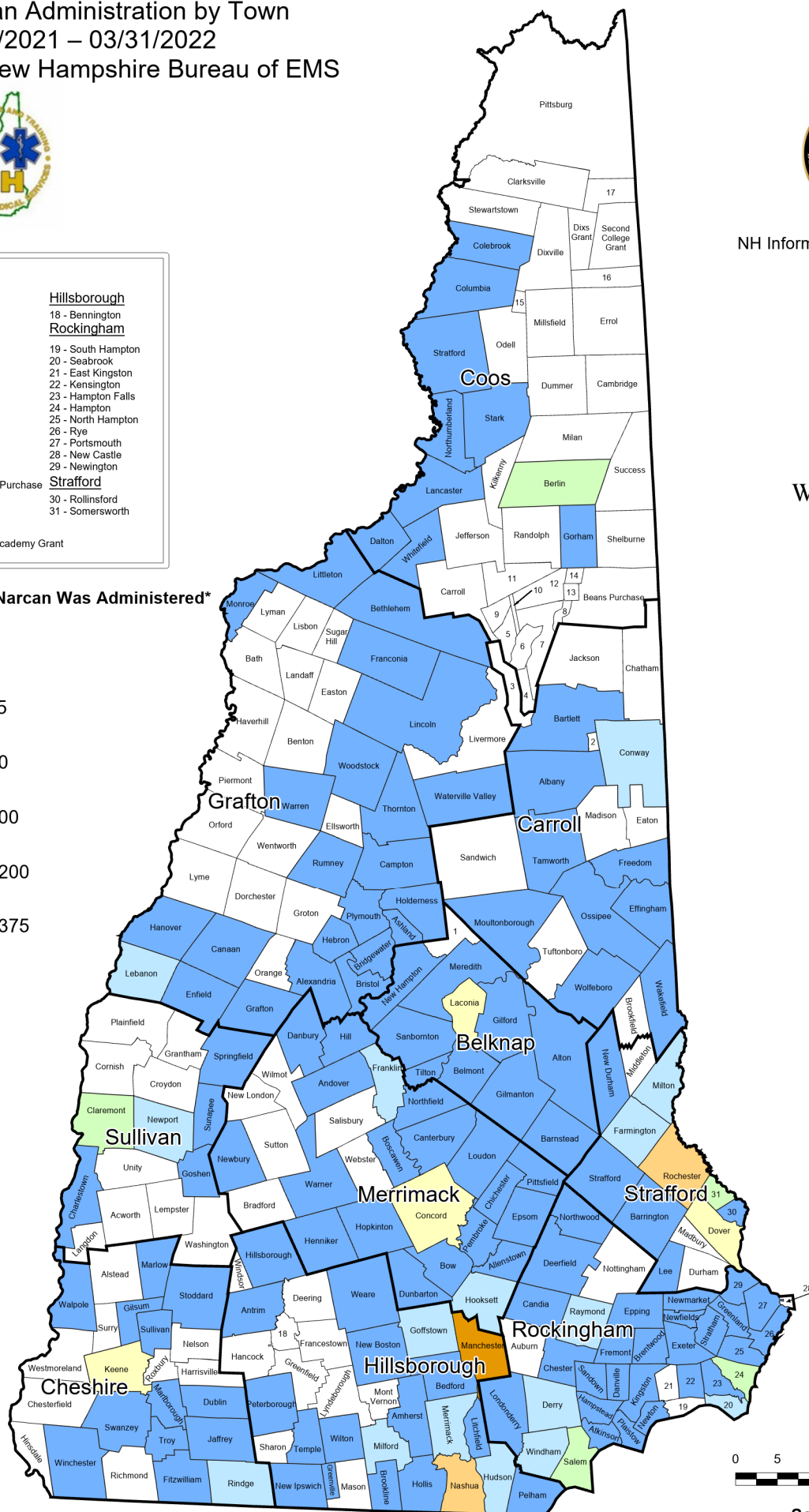
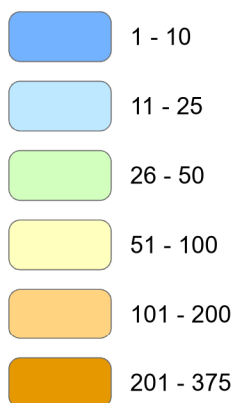
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- 31 - Somersworth

Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered



0 5 10 20 30


Miles

Scale: 1:1,150,000

Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

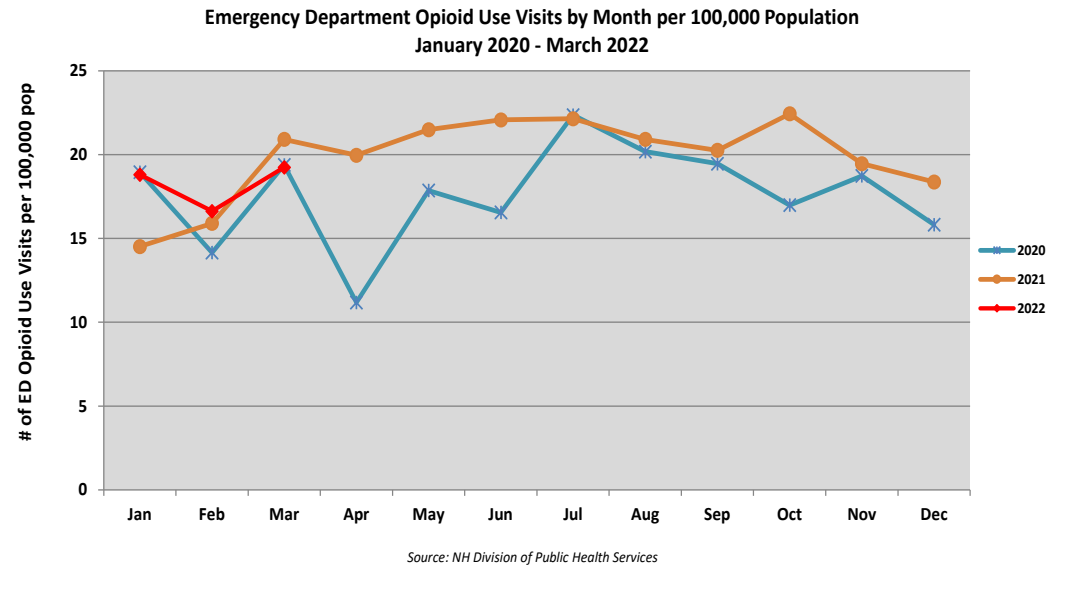
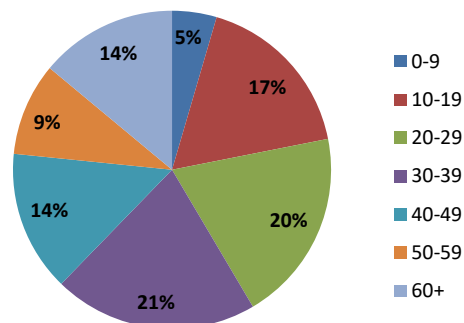
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.


Trends:

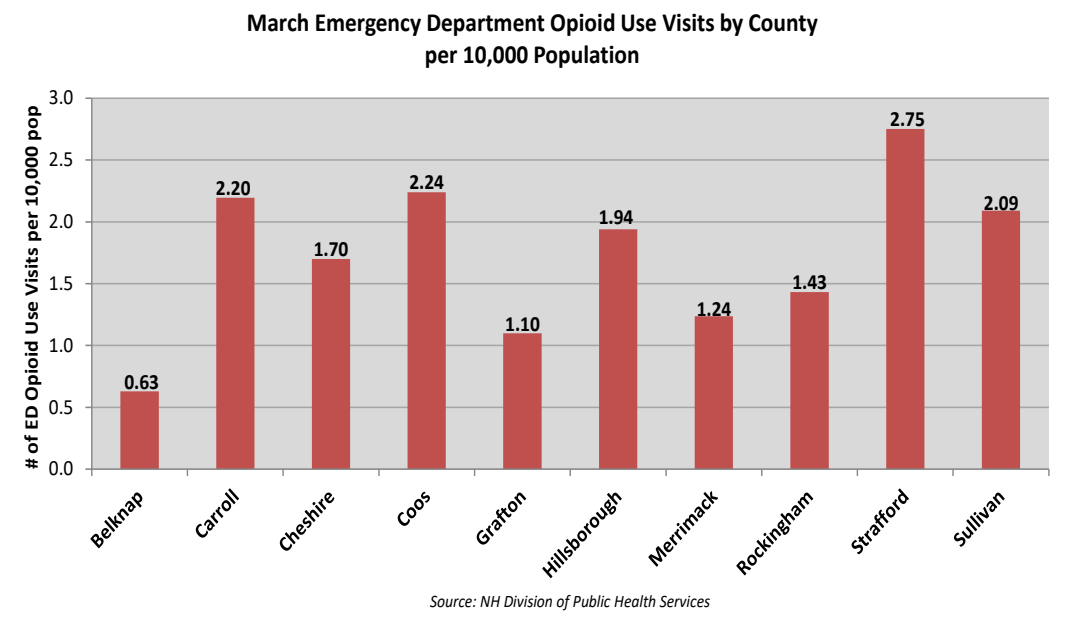
- Opioid related ED visits increased by nearly 16% from February to March.
- In March, residents from Strafford County had the most opioid related ED visits per capital with 2.75 visits per 10,000 population. Coos and Carroll nearly tied for second, with 2.24 and 2.20 visits per 10,000 population, respectively.
- In March, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 21%.

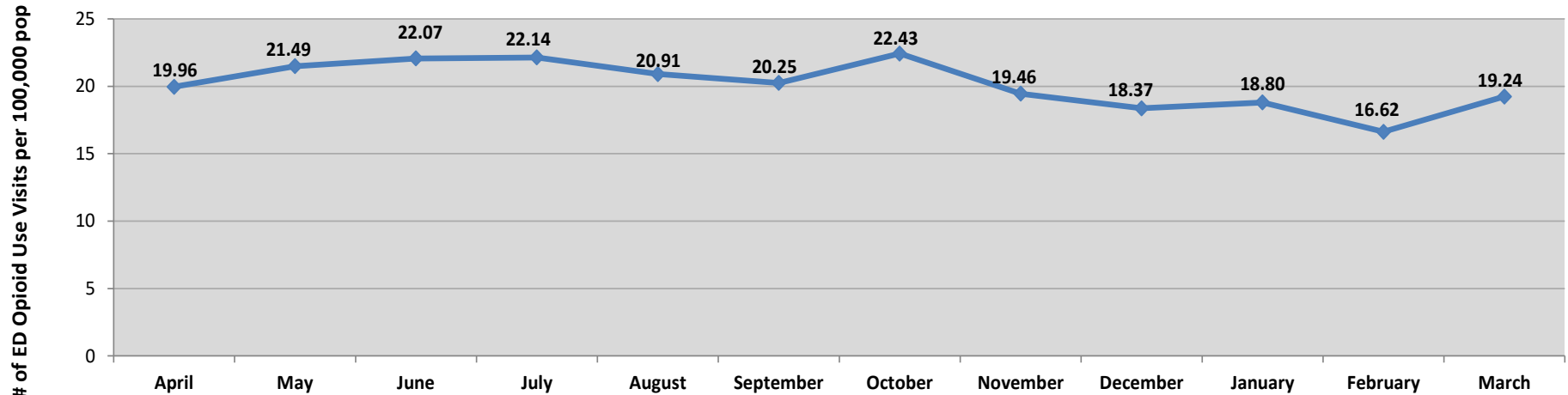
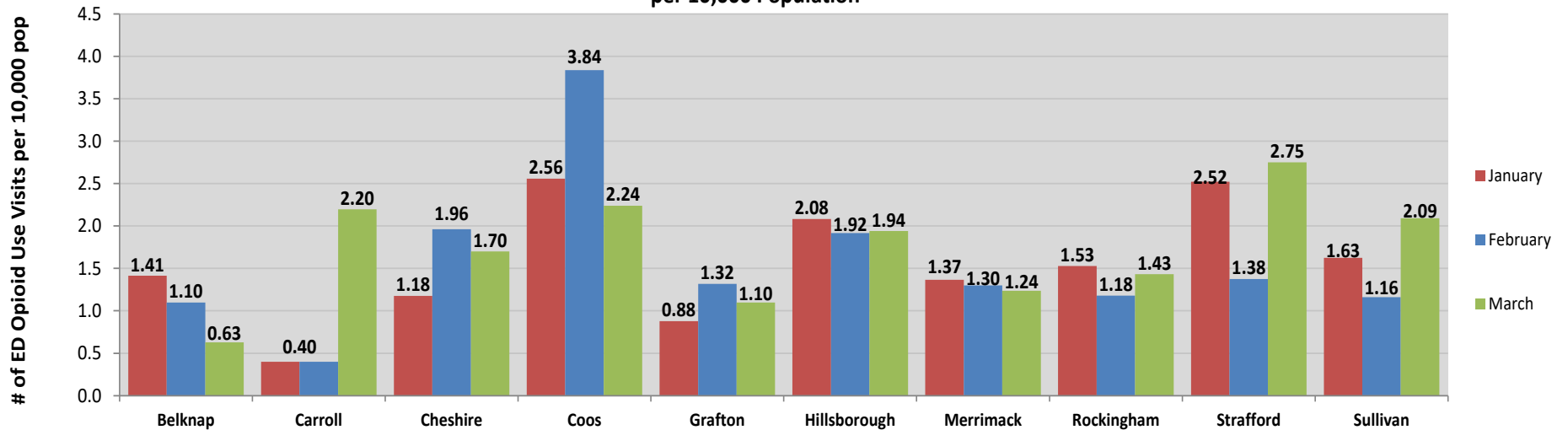
***** IMPORTANT DATA NOTES *****

- ***Important Note*:** 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."

**March Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits by Age**

Source: NH Division of Public Health Services




Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits (Continued):*Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services***Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits per 100,000 Population
April 2021 - March 2022***Source: NH Div. of Public Health Services***Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits by County
per 10,000 Population***Source: NH Div. of Public Health Services*

Treatment Admissions:

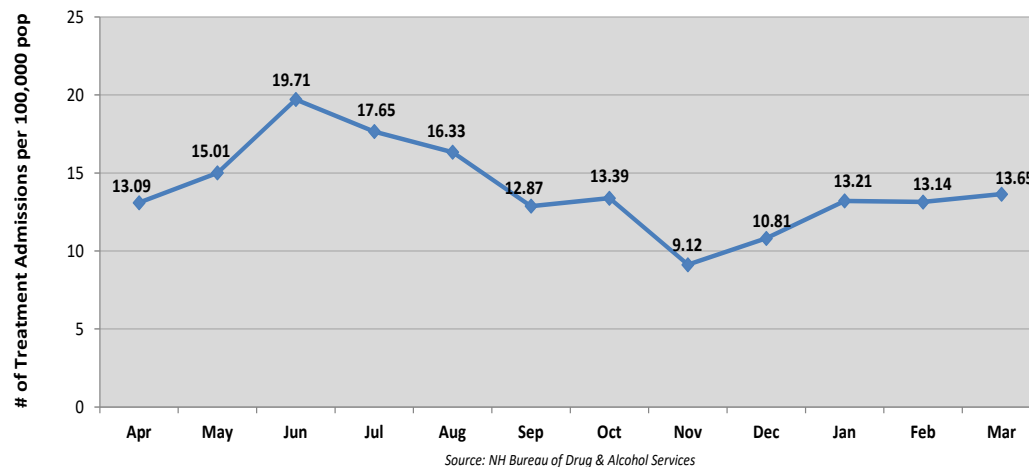
Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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


Trends:

- Opioid/opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 4% from February to March.
- In March, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 10.52 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males than females were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in March for Opioid/Opium, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased 85% from February to March.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 20% from February to March.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions decreased by 4% from February to March.

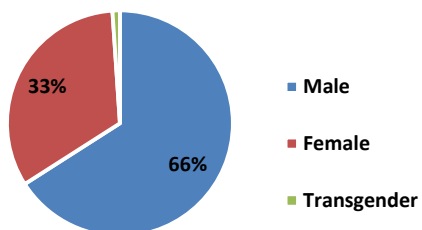
All (Opioid/Opium, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack) Treatment Admissions by Month per 100,000 Population
April 2021 - March 2022



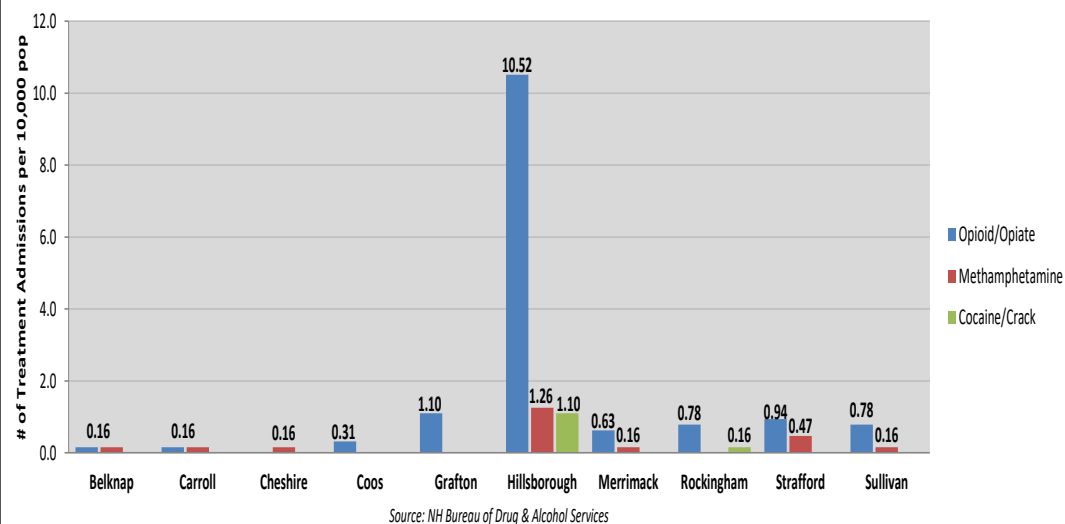
*** IMPORTANT DATA
NOTES ***

- 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.

March Treatment
Admissions by Gender



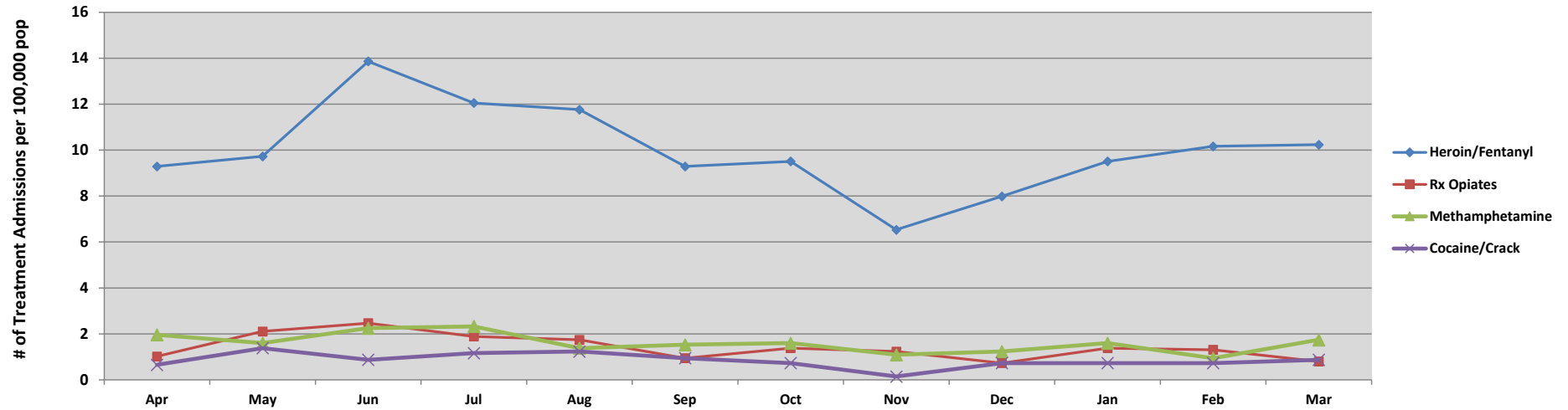
March Opioid/Opium, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack Treatment Admissions by County per 10,000 Population



Treatment Admissions (Continued):

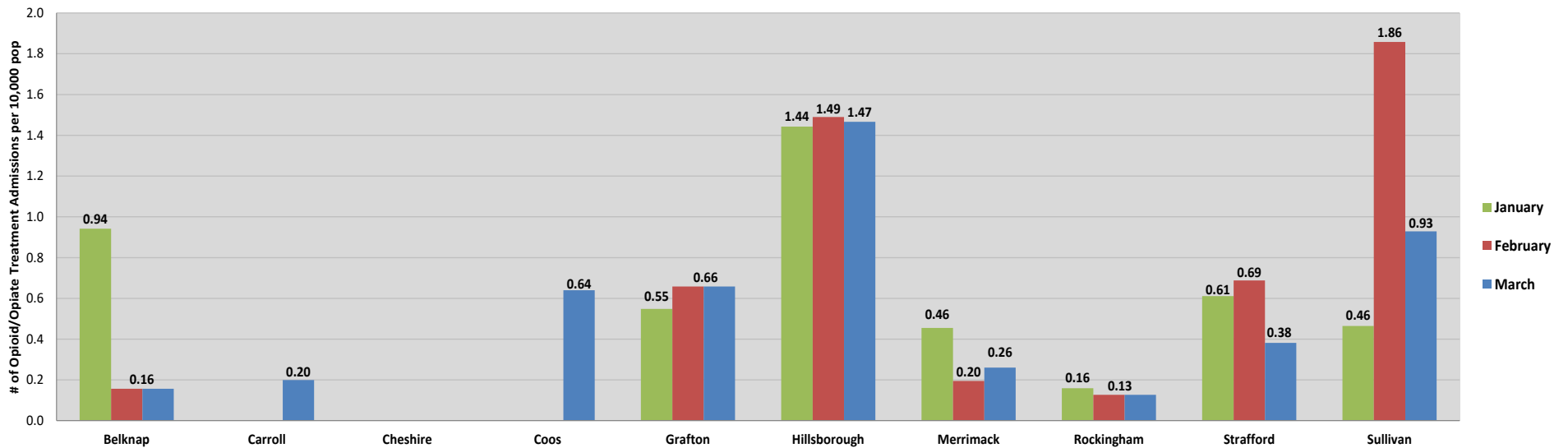
Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Heroin/Fentanyl, Rx Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack Treatment Admissions by Month per 100,000 Population
April 2021- March 2022



Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Opioid/Opiate Treatment Admissions by County
per 10,000 Population



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

Little by Little, N.H. is Seeing Progress in its Efforts to Reduce Drug Overdose Deaths

Concord, NH— Earlier this month, the Department of Health and Human Services announced drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire have dropped 11 percent since 2018. But there's actually been no decrease in the last three of those years – except if you look at just opioid deaths. The rest of the country saw drug deaths spike during the pandemic. New Hampshire was one of the few that didn't.

The commission leading the state's drug overdose response hit some of its three-year goals but fell short of others. The latter, it says, were intentionally shoot-for-the stars aspirational. There is no question the state has made progress fighting the drug overdose epidemic. But evaluating that success – and deciding where to invest resources – requires looking at the details, not a single metric.

And the state has done that well, according to those who've been part of the effort. In Manchester and Nashua, for example, AMR, which provides medical transport in those cities, tracks where the opioid overdoses and deaths happen, such as home, hotel, or vehicle and whether they've seen the person before to better understand what's needed.

"New Hampshire has been very purposeful in implementing evidence-based strategies around the opioid epidemic in a really comprehensive way, and not every state has done that," said Amy Daniels, director of the New Hampshire Center for Excellence in Addressing Alcohol and Drug Misuse at JSI. "What the evidence shows is that it takes a lot of different strategies to get your arms around this problem, and that's what New Hampshire is doing."

Source: <https://www.nhpr.org> (21 March 2022)

A full list of Substance Use Disorder Treatment Facilities and Recovery Support Services can be found [here](#) or by calling 211.