**New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative**

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

Phone: (603) 223.3859  
Fax: (603) 271.0303

NHIAC Product #: 2022-5342

**May 2022 Report**

**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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section Title</th>
<th>Table of Contents:</th>
<th>Page #</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summary</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Overview</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Overdose Deaths</td>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drug Overdose Deaths Map</td>
<td></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents Map</td>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Narcan Administration Incidents</td>
<td></td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EMS Narcan Administration Incidents Map</td>
<td></td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits</td>
<td></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Admissions</td>
<td></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Situational Awareness</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Substance Use Disorder Treatment/Recovery Resource Link</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Overdose Death Data**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Overdose Deaths</td>
<td>471</td>
<td>415</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>406</td>
<td>381</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Involving Opioids</td>
<td>420</td>
<td>372</td>
<td>357</td>
<td>350</td>
<td>323</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Involving Cocaine</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Involving Meth</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deaths Pending Toxicology</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>44</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

Population data source: 2020 Census | State Data Center | NH Office of Strategic Initiative

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](https://www.dhhs.nh.gov)

The monthly online DMI viewer can be found at: [https://nhview.maps.arcgis.com](https://nhview.maps.arcgis.com)
New Hampshire’s Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug Overdose Deaths peaked in 2017, at 488. 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.
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
June 2021 - May 2022

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*

**Trends:**
- As of 16 September, there are 201 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 83 cases pending toxicology for 2021.
- So far for 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.

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

---

**Overdose Deaths by Year per 100,000 Population**

*Data Source: NH Medical Examiner’s Office*

- All Drug Deaths
- Fentanyl/Heroin Related Deaths
- Cocaine Related Deaths
- Meth Related Deaths

---

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

*Data Source: NH Medical Examiner’s Office*

- Belknap: 1.94
- Carroll: 0.62
- Cheshire: 1.28
- Coos: 2.40
- Grafton: 1.31
- Hillsborough: 1.57
- Merrimack: 1.20
- Rockingham: 0.93
- Strafford: 1.86
- Sullivan: 2.05

---

**Overdose Deaths by Age 2021**

*Data Source: NH Medical Examiner’s Office*

- 0-19: 1%
- 20-29: 23%
- 30-39: 28%
- 40-49: 20%
- 50-59: 23%
- 60+: 14%

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

---

**OCME DATABASE UPGRADES IN PROGRESS**

DATA WILL BE UPDATED IN 2022
Drug Overdose Deaths (Continued):

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

Please note, the drugs identified in the death numbers below are not mutually exclusive. A number of these drug overdose deaths include multiple drug types.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class Combination</th>
<th>2021 Total Drug Deaths</th>
<th>Fentanyl Class Deaths</th>
<th>Cocaine Deaths</th>
<th>Meth Deaths</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cocaine, Fentanyl, Methamphetamine</td>
<td>201</td>
<td>139</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OCME DATABASE UPGRADES IN PROGRESS

*2021 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 16 September 2021
Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

DATA WILL BE UPDATED IN 2022

UNCLASSIFIED—AUTHORIZED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE
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

Number of Overdose Deaths by Town
*Location where the drug(s) is suspected to have been used.

- 1 - 5 (65)
- 6 - 10 (5)
- 11 - 25 (1)
- 26 - 50 (1)
- 51 - 100 (0)

Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

Scale: 1:725,000
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:
Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Analyst Notes:
- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents increased by 7% from April to May.
- In May, Strafford County had the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 4.58 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County was second highest with 4.04 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 34% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in May.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in May.

***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

*The decline in reporting from 2019 to 2020 in Misuse of Medications (Intentional) Category was the result of a change in records management. In June 2019, reporting transitioned out of NEMSIS V2, which changed data output and resulted in the observed decrease.

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

**2022 data is only current through May 2022

Source: NH Bureau of EMS

Belknap  Carroll  Cheshire  Coos  Grafton  Hillsborough  Merrimack  Rockingham  Strafford  Sullivan
EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents
06/1/2021 – 05/31/2022

*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
EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:

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

Trends:
- EMS Narcan administration incidents increased by 22% from April to May.
- In May, Belknap County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.94 incidents per 10,000 population. Strafford county saw the second highest with 1.86 incidents per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 34% of all EMS Narcan administrations in May.

***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 %
June 2021 - May 2022

RODS, or Revised Over Dose Score is based on the combined delta of documented respiratory rate (RR) and Glasgow Coma Score (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 to 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

[Graph showing the number of incidents involving Narcan per 10,000 population by county and month.]

EMS Narcan Administration - Lives Saved

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source: NH Bureau of EMS</th>
<th>2021</th>
<th>2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lives Saved</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>102</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RODS Score of 8+</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>146</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RODS Score of 1-7</td>
<td>143</td>
<td>122</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RODS Score of 0</td>
<td>145</td>
<td>149</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative Improvement</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Negative RODS Score</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some Improvement</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Some RODS Score of 1-7</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No Improvement</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No RODS Score of 0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RODS, or Revised Over Dose Score is based on the combined delta of documented respiratory rate (RR) and Glasgow Coma Score (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 to 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

[Graph showing the number of incidents involving Narcan per 10,000 population by county and month.]

Source: NH Bureau of EMS

NH Drug Monitoring Initiative

Drug Environment Report — UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED — AUTHORIZED FOR PUBLIC RELEASE

11
*Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered*
Trends:
- Opioid related ED visits increased by 20% from April to May.
- In May, residents from Strafford County had the most opioid related ED visits per capital with 3.59 visits per 10,000 population. Sullivan County was second with 3.25 visits per 10,000 population.
- In May, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 28%.

*** 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 keywords 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

### Emergency Department Opioid Use Visits per 100,000 Population

**June 2021 - May 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
Trends:
- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 2% from April to May.
- In May, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 8.79 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males than females were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in May for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions decreased 26% from April to May.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased 36% from April to May.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions increased 4.5% from April to May.

*** 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

#### Heroin/Fentanyl, Rx Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack Treatment Admissions by Month per 100,000 Population

**June 2021 - May 2022**

- **Heroin/Fentanyl**
- **Rx Opiates**
- **Methamphetamine**
- **Cocaine/Crack**

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

**Source:** NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services
NEW HAMPSHIRE SAFE STATIONS

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 |

NH Governor Warning After Increase in Fatal Overdoses:

CONCORD, NH — New Hampshire Gov. Chris Sununu and other state officials issued a warning Friday after a recent increase in fatal drug overdoses in the state.

The warning comes as more overdoses have been reported in Manchester and Nashua in particular as a result of fentanyl being mixed with other drugs, including cocaine, methamphetamine and marijuana, officials said.

“Fentanyl is deadly and is being mixed with other drugs across the state,” Sununu said in a statement. “We urge the public remain aware, vigilant, and cautious – it is an all hands on deck effort to raise awareness for this deadly and concerning trend. We will continue to target our resources at the state level to provide impactful and effective treatment, prevention, and recovery services to those who need them.”

Officials said the overdoses are primarily due to readily available access to cheap, potent fentanyl, which is being mixed with other substances. Fentanyl is about 50 times more powerful than heroin, with just two milligrams representing a potentially deadly dose.

Source: [https://www.necn.com](https://www.necn.com) (13 May 2022)

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