



# New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

## New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

Phone: (603) 223.3859

[NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov](mailto:NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov)

Fax: (603) 271.0303



NHIAC Product #: 2023-06030

**October 2023 Report**

28 November 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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Overdose Death Data						
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023*
Total Overdose Deaths	471	415	417	436	486	327
Deaths Involving Opioids	420	372	357	404	427	298
Deaths Involving Cocaine	65	79	58	36	56	48
Deaths Involving Meth	22	52	59	63	97	44
Deaths Pending Toxicology	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	61

\*The data for this year is not finalized and is current as of 11/13/2023.

- ⇒ 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>

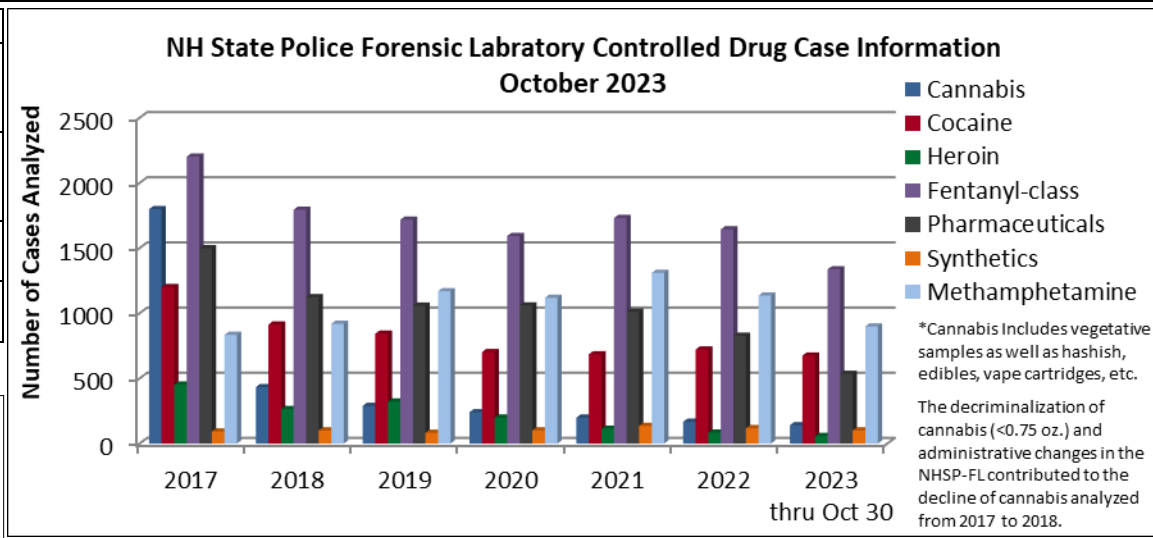
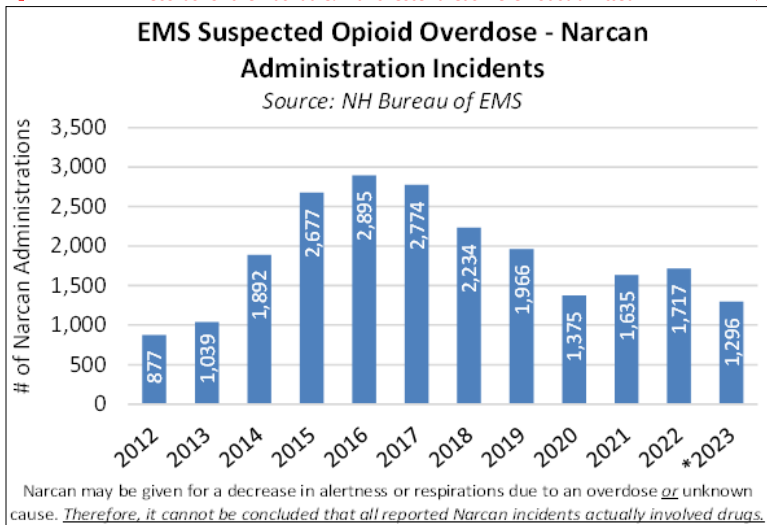
The monthly online DMI viewer can be found at: <https://nhvieww.maps.arcgis.com>

New Hampshire's Drug Environment Summary:

- Drug overdose deaths in New Hampshire are rising. 2022 deaths show an 11.5% increase from calendar year 2021. This is the third consecutive yearly increase in NH and returns us to levels not witnessed since 2016-2018, when drug overdose deaths in NH were at their highest.

October 2023 Data Summary			
	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from September to October	↓ 3%	↓ 16%	↑ 8%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Hillsborough	Hillsborough	Hillsborough
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	>26	30-39

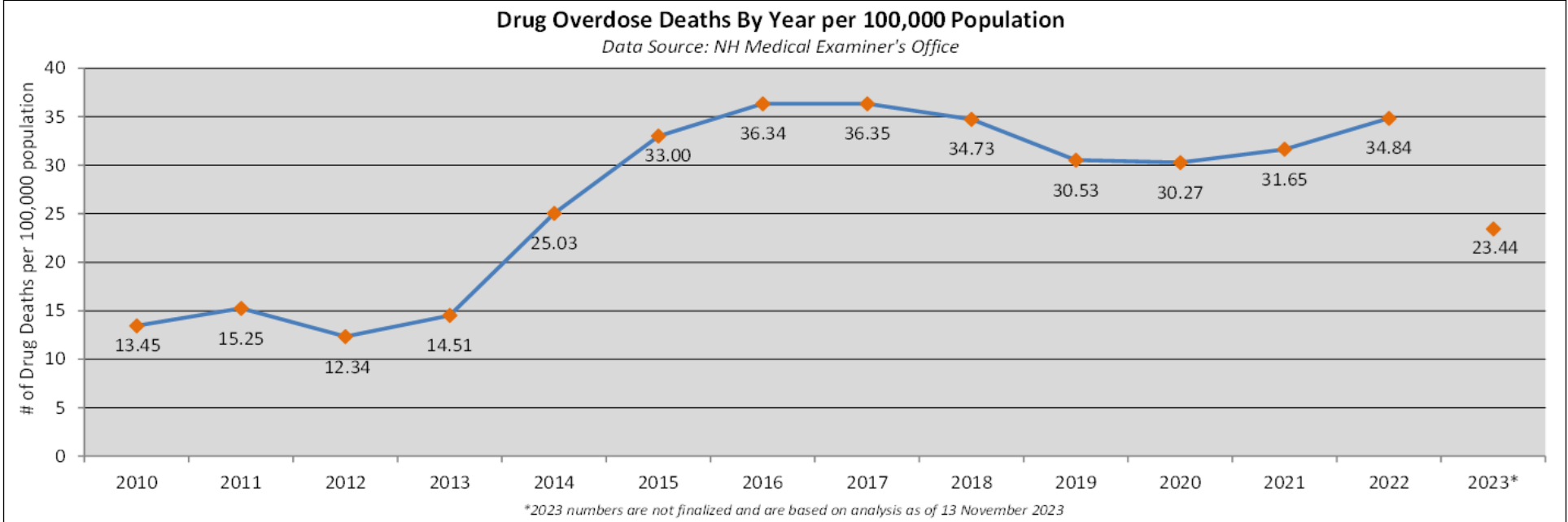
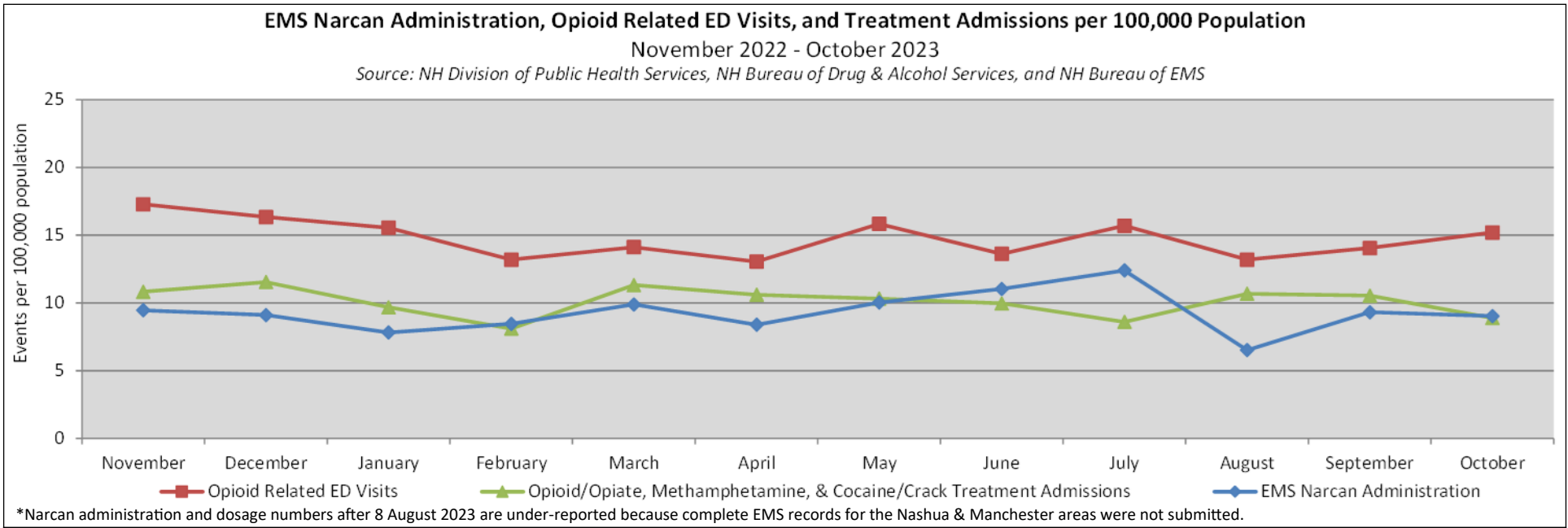
↑ \* Narcan administrations after 8 August 2023 are under-reported because complete EMS records for the Nashua & Manchester areas were not submitted. ↓



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 31 Oct	141	675	58	1,337	535	101	899
Oct 2023	5	81	3	125	49	4	96

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:**



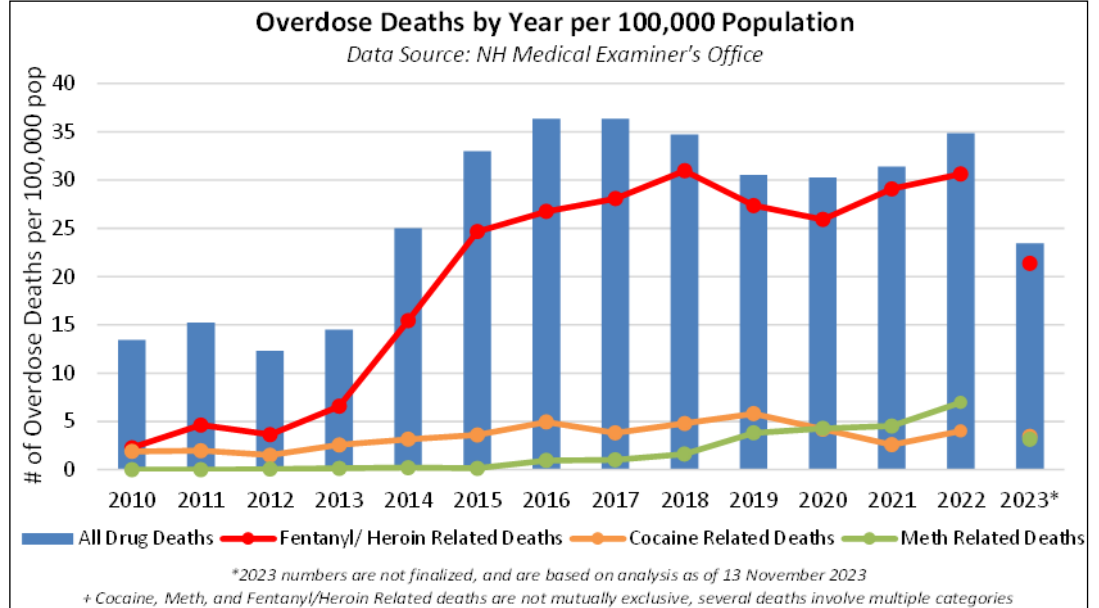
**Drug Overdose Deaths:**

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

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

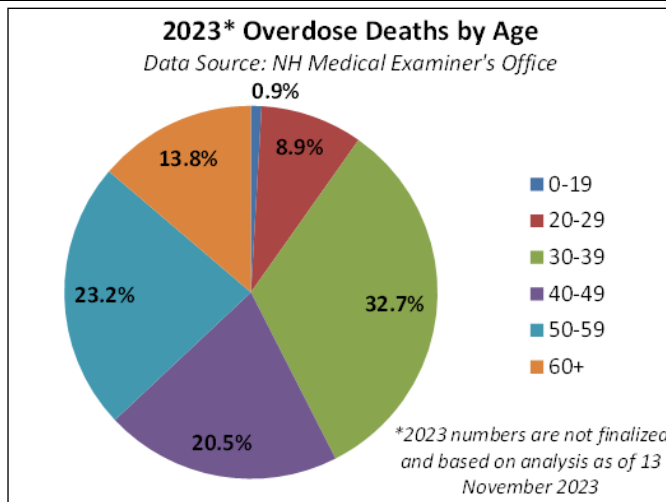
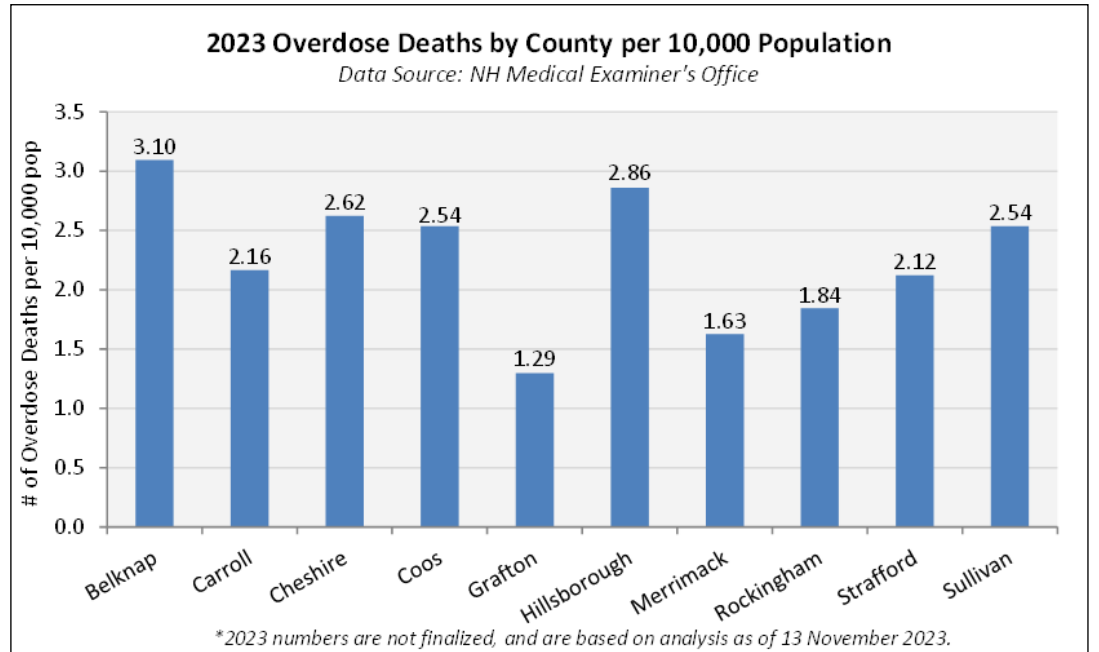
**Trends:**

- For 2023, as of 13 November 2023, there are 327 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 61 cases pending toxicology.
- So far for 2023, Belknap County has the highest suspected drug use resulting in overdose deaths per capita, at 3.10 deaths per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County follows closely with 2.86 overdose deaths per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of drug overdose deaths is 30-39 years, which represents almost 33% of all overdose deaths for 2023.



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

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



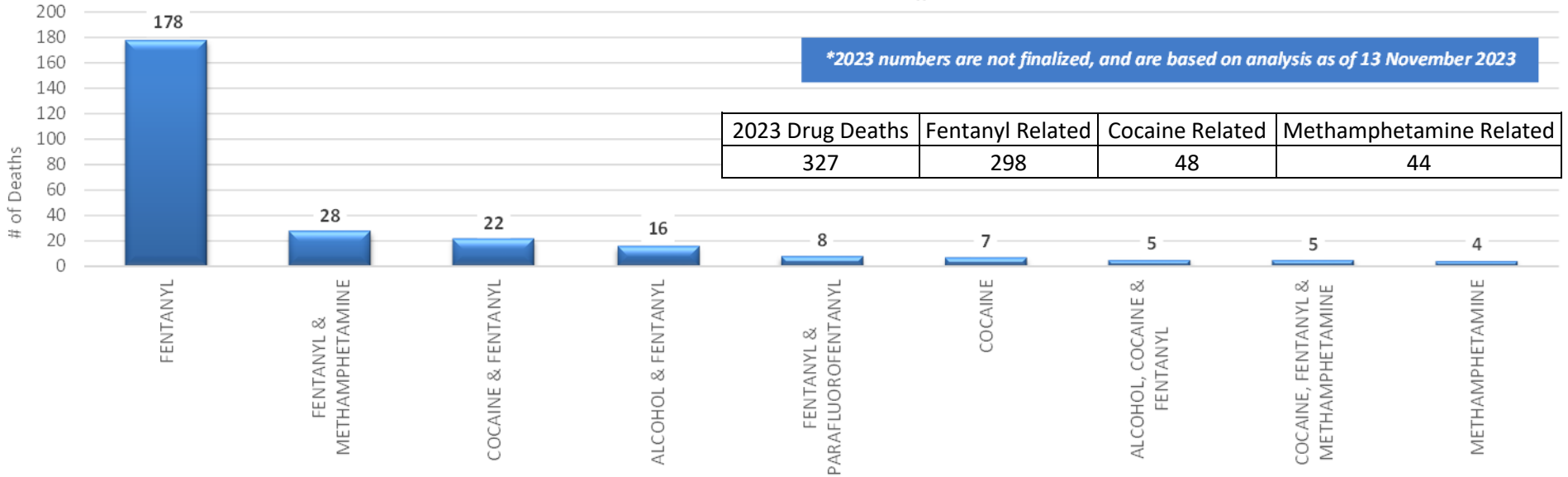
**Drug Overdose Deaths:**

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

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

Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

\*2023 numbers are not finalized, and are based on analysis as of 13 November 2023



2023 Drug Deaths	Fentanyl Related	Cocaine Related	Methamphetamine Related
327	298	48	44

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

ACETYLFENTANYL & FENTANYL	FENTANYL & METHYLENEDIOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE	ALCOHOL, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	CLONAZEPAM, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	BROMAZOLAM, FENTANYL, FLUBROMAZEPAM, ISOTONITAZENE & XYLAZINE
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	ACETYLFENTANYL, COCAINE & FENTANYL	CLONAZEPAM, COCAINE, FENTANYL & HYDROXYZINE	BROMAZOLAM & FENTANYL	AMPHETAMINE, COCAINE, FENTANYL & GABAPENTIN
ALCOHOL, FENTANYL & OXYCODONE	ACETAMINOPHEN, CYCLOBENZAPRINE, FENTANYL, OXYCODONE & XYLAZINE	FENTANYL & METHADONE	DIPHENHYDRAMINE, FENTANYL & OXYCODONE	CLONAZEPAM, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN & METHADONE
*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice				COCAINE, FENTANYL & PARAFENTANYL

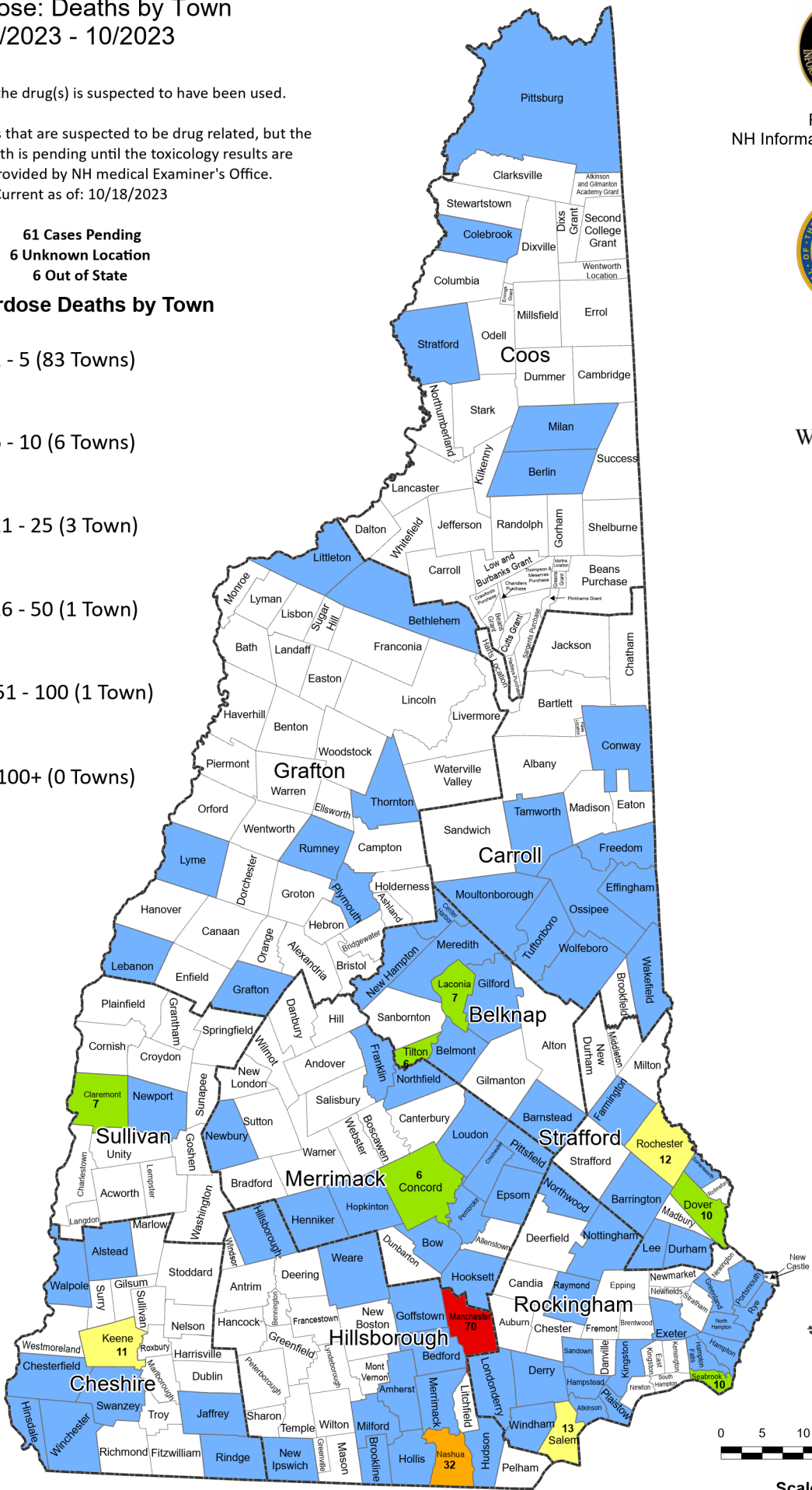
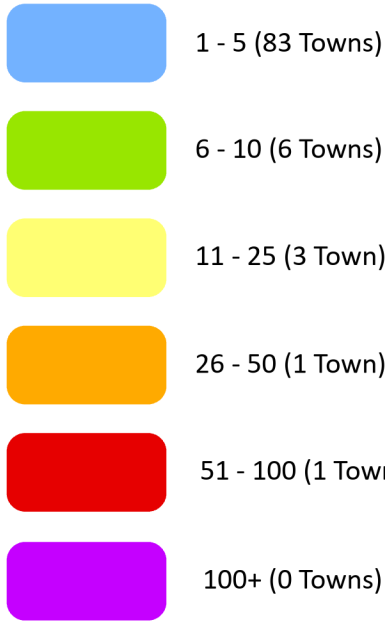
# Overdose: Deaths by Town 1/2023 - 10/2023

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

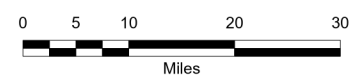
There are more deaths that are suspected to be drug related, but the official cause of death is pending until the toxicology results are received. Data provided by NH medical Examiner's Office.  
Current as of: 10/18/2023

61 Cases Pending  
6 Unknown Location  
6 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)

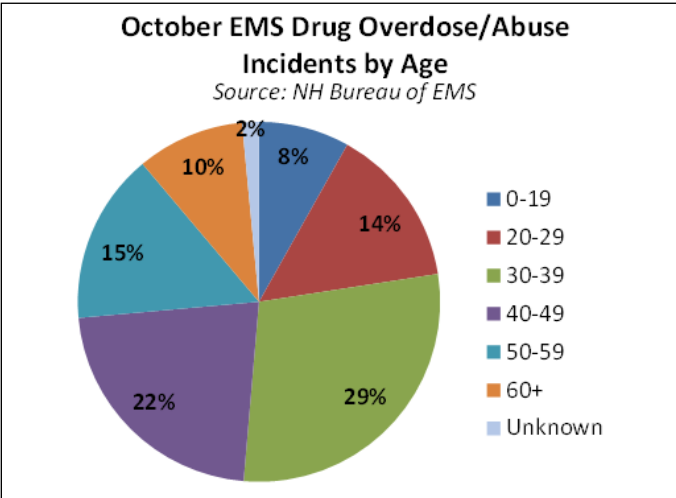
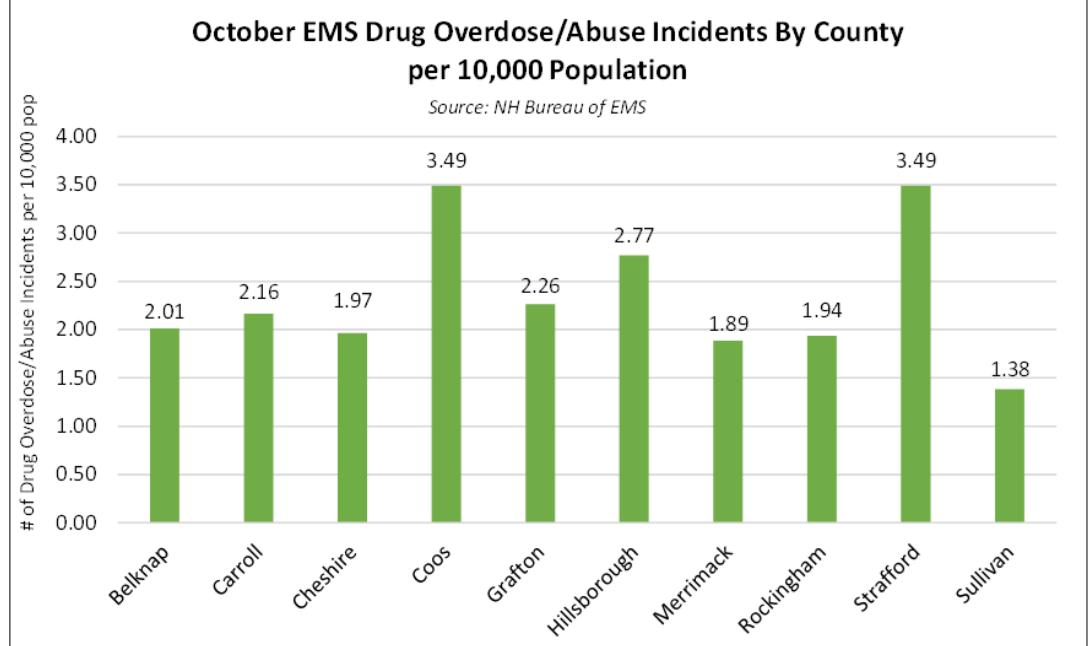
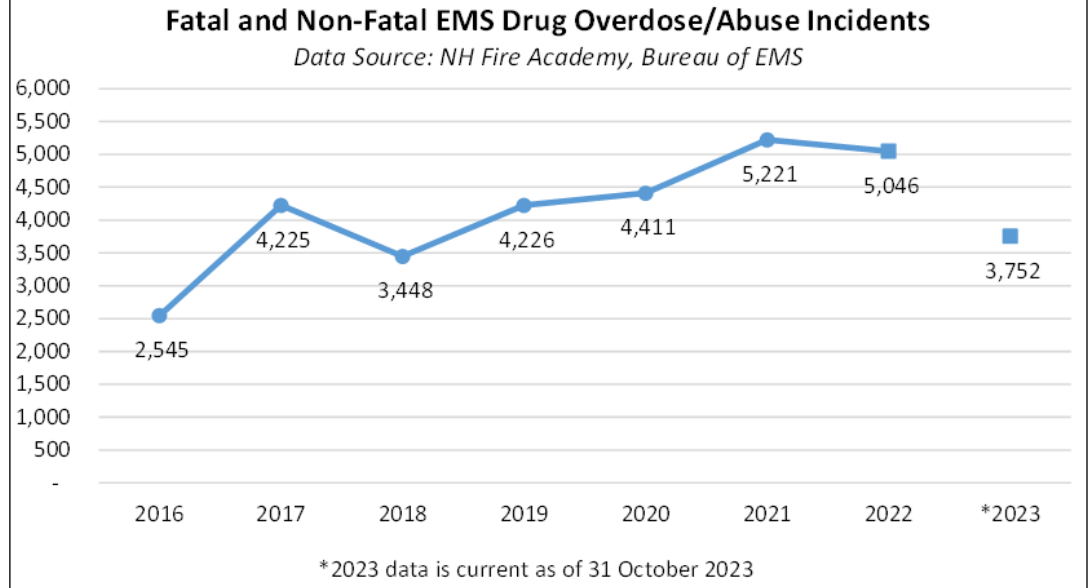
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**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 increased 15% from September to October.
- In October, Strafford and Coos Counties saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 3.49 incidents per 10,000 population. Hillsborough County followed with 2.77 per 10,000 population.
- The 30-39 age group had the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents with 96, representing 29% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in October.
- 62% of those who experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in October 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.

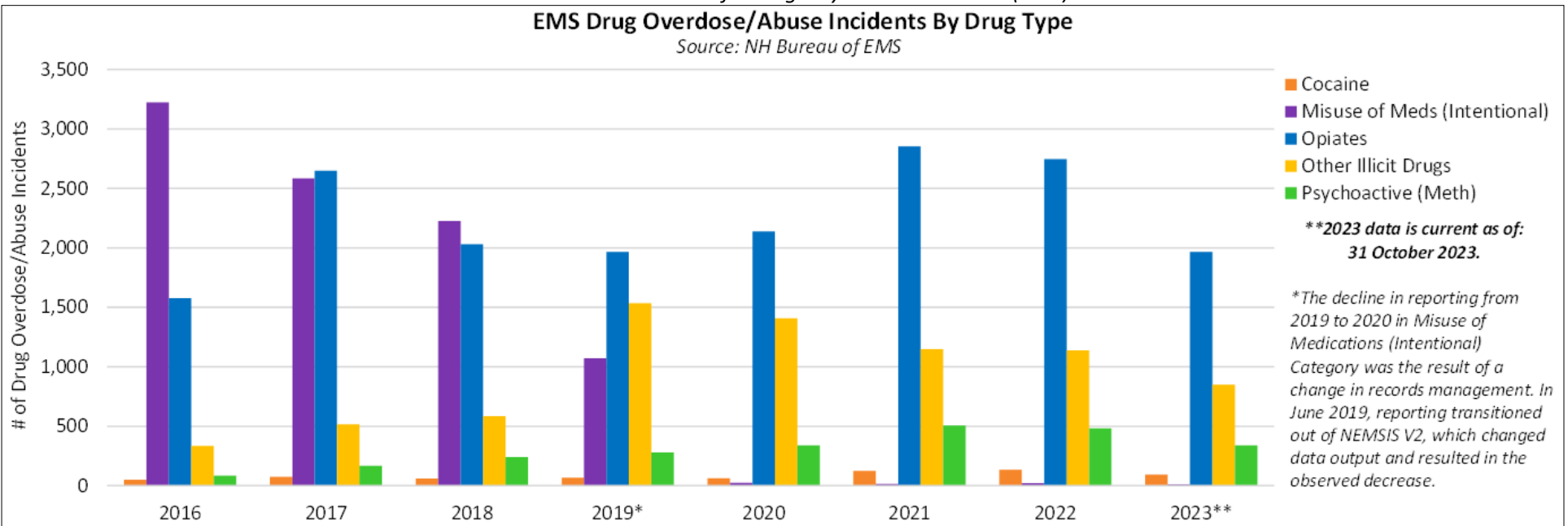


**EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):**

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

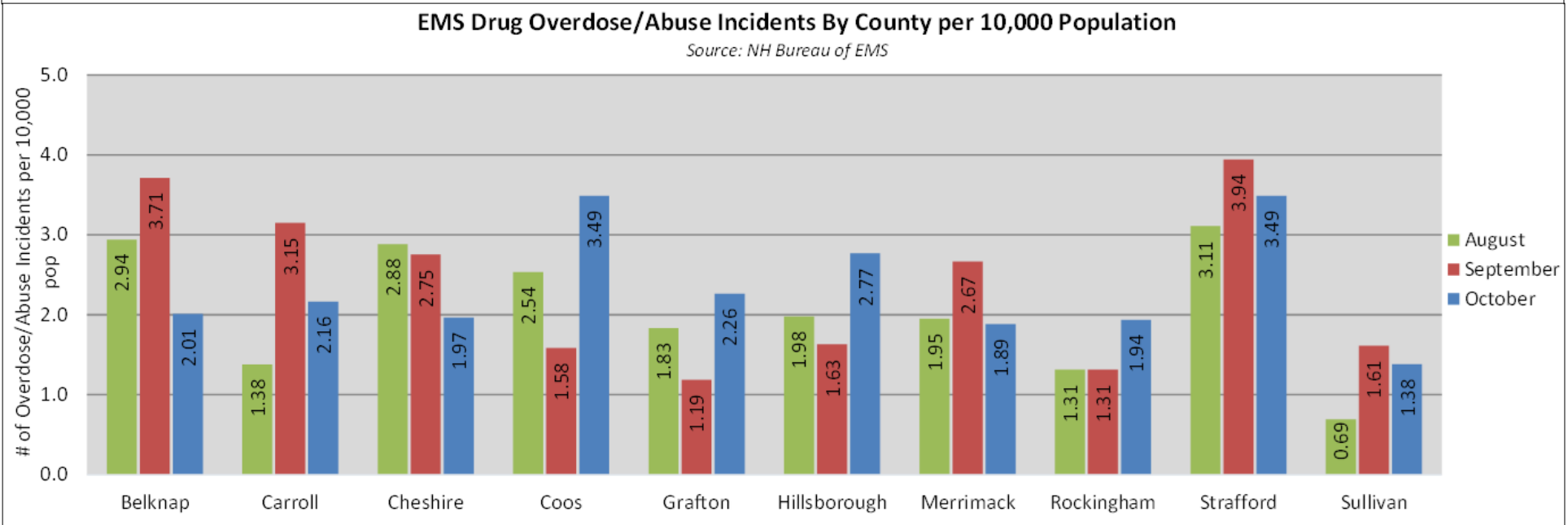
**EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents By Drug Type**

Source: NH Bureau of EMS



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

Source: NH Bureau of EMS





# EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents 11/2022 - 10/2023

\*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

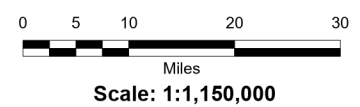
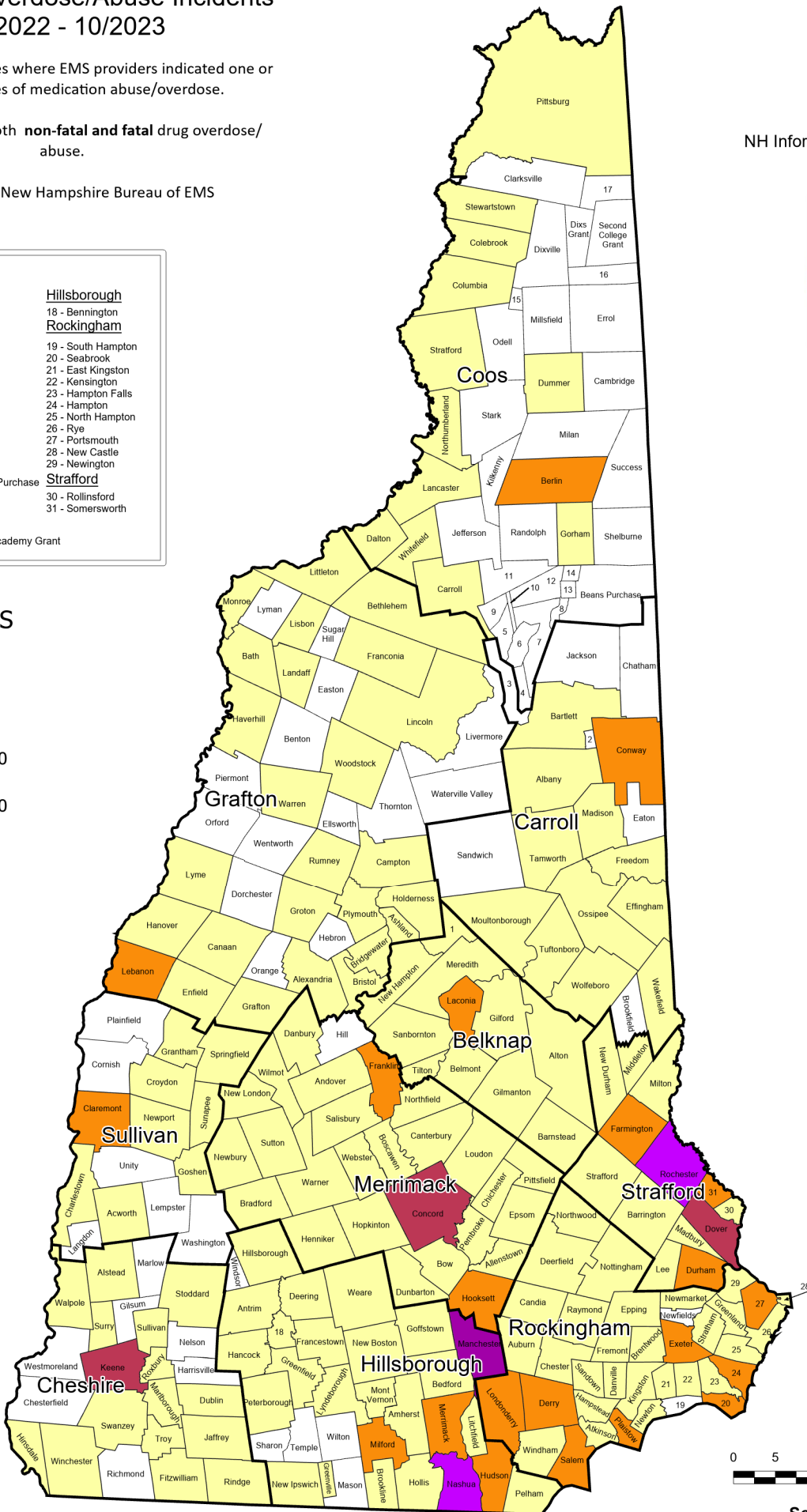
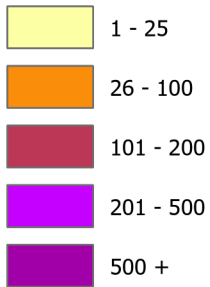


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## TOWN TOTALS



**EMS Narcan Administration Incidents:**

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

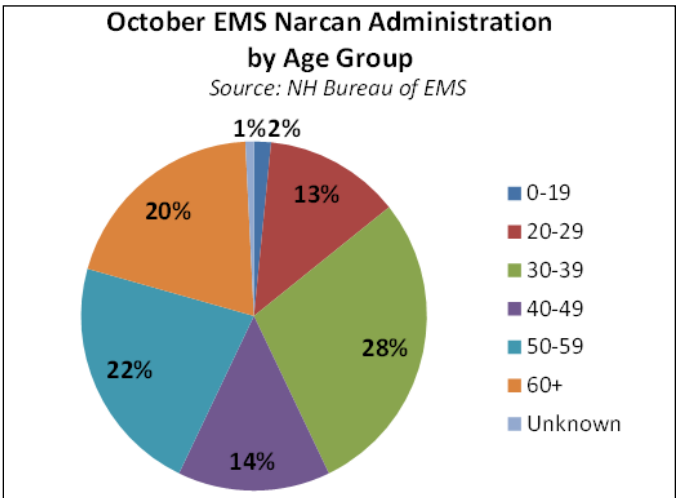
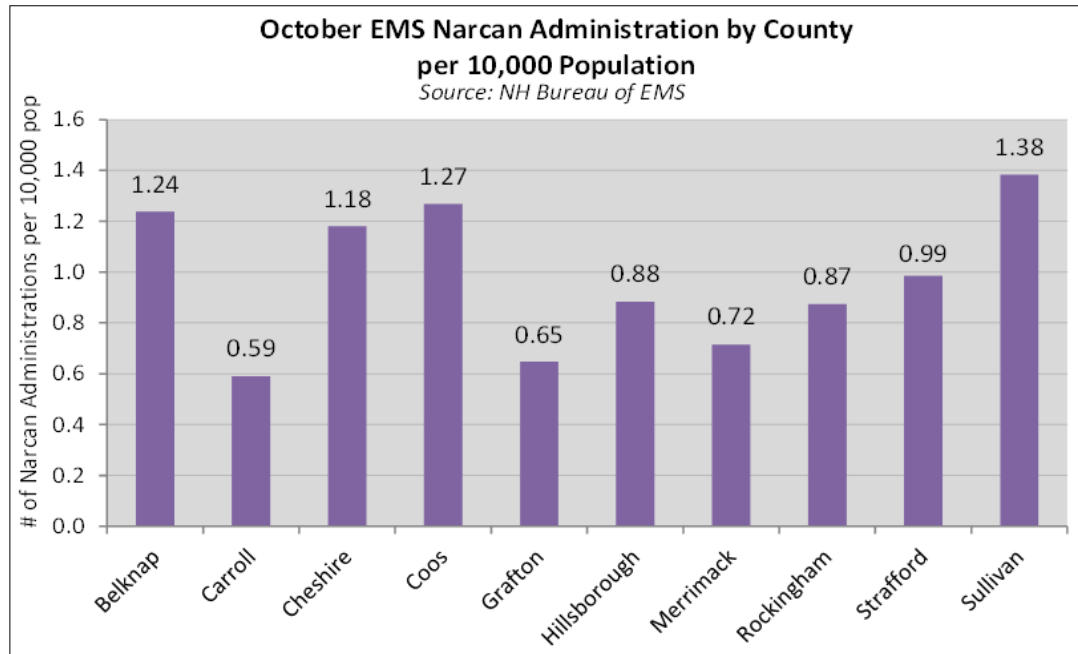
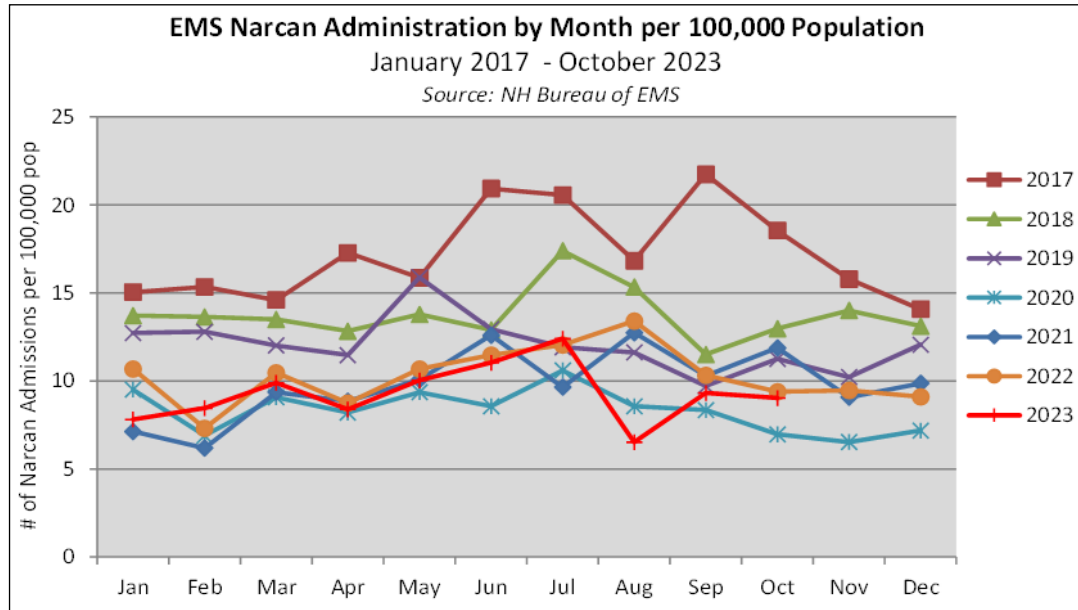
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**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 3% from September to October.
- In October, Sullivan County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.38 incidents per 10,000 population. Coos County followed with 1.27 administrations per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 28% of all EMS Narcan administrations in October.
- Males accounted for 62% of those who were reported to have received Narcan in October.

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

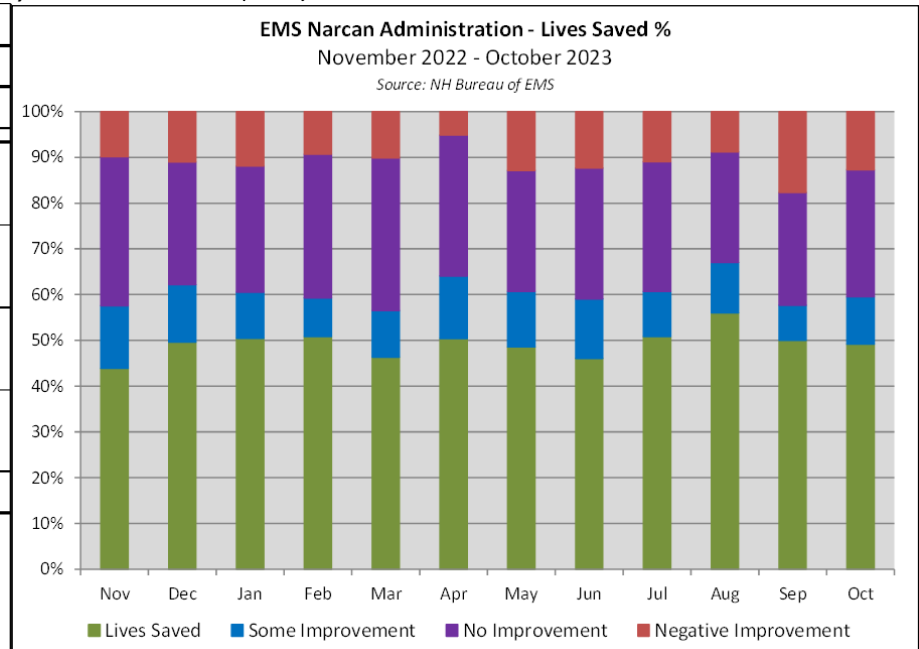
- Narcan data in this report involves the number of incidents where Narcan was administered, NOT the number of doses of Narcan during a certain time period. Multiple doses may be administered during an incident.
- Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose or unknown 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)

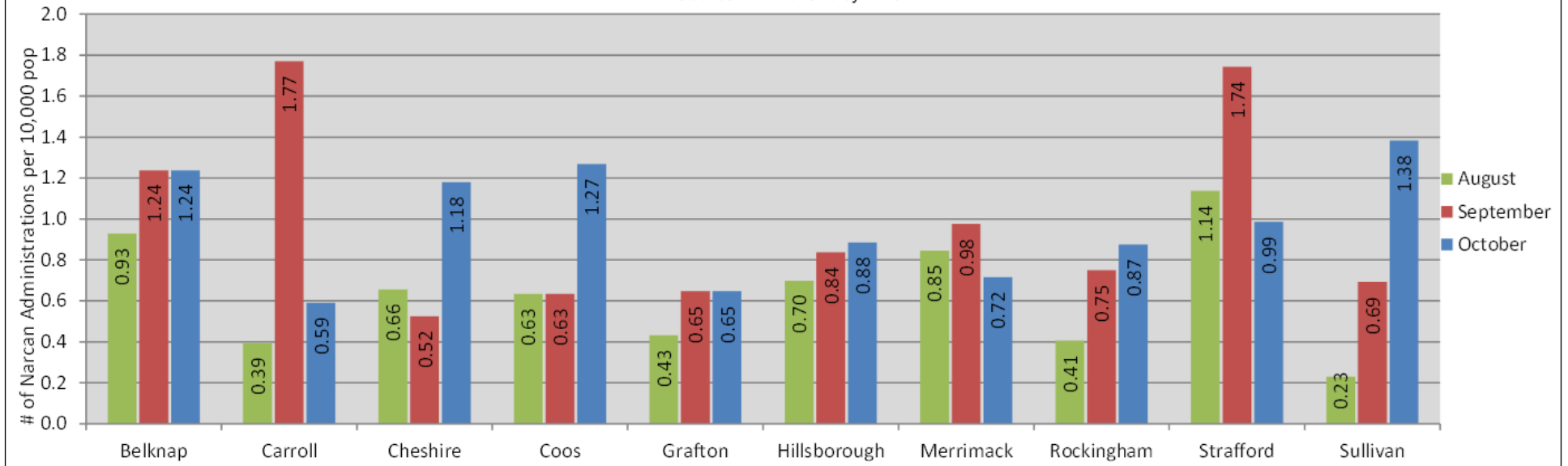
EMS Narcan Administration - Lives Saved												
RODS Outcome	2022		2023									
	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
Lives Saved <i>RODS Score of 8+</i>	58	63	55	60	64	59	68	71	88	51	65	62
Some Improvement <i>RODS Score of 1-7</i>	18	16	11	10	14	16	17	20	17	10	10	13
No Improvement <i>RODS Score of 0</i>	43	34	30	37	46	36	37	44	49	22	32	35
Negative Improvement <i>Negative RODS Score</i>	13	14	13	11	14	6	18	19	19	8	23	16
<b>Total</b>	<b>132</b>	<b>127</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>118</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>117</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>173</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>130</b>	<b>126</b>



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 10-13 (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

11/2022 - 10/2023

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



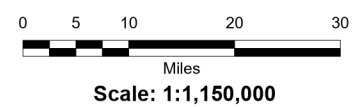
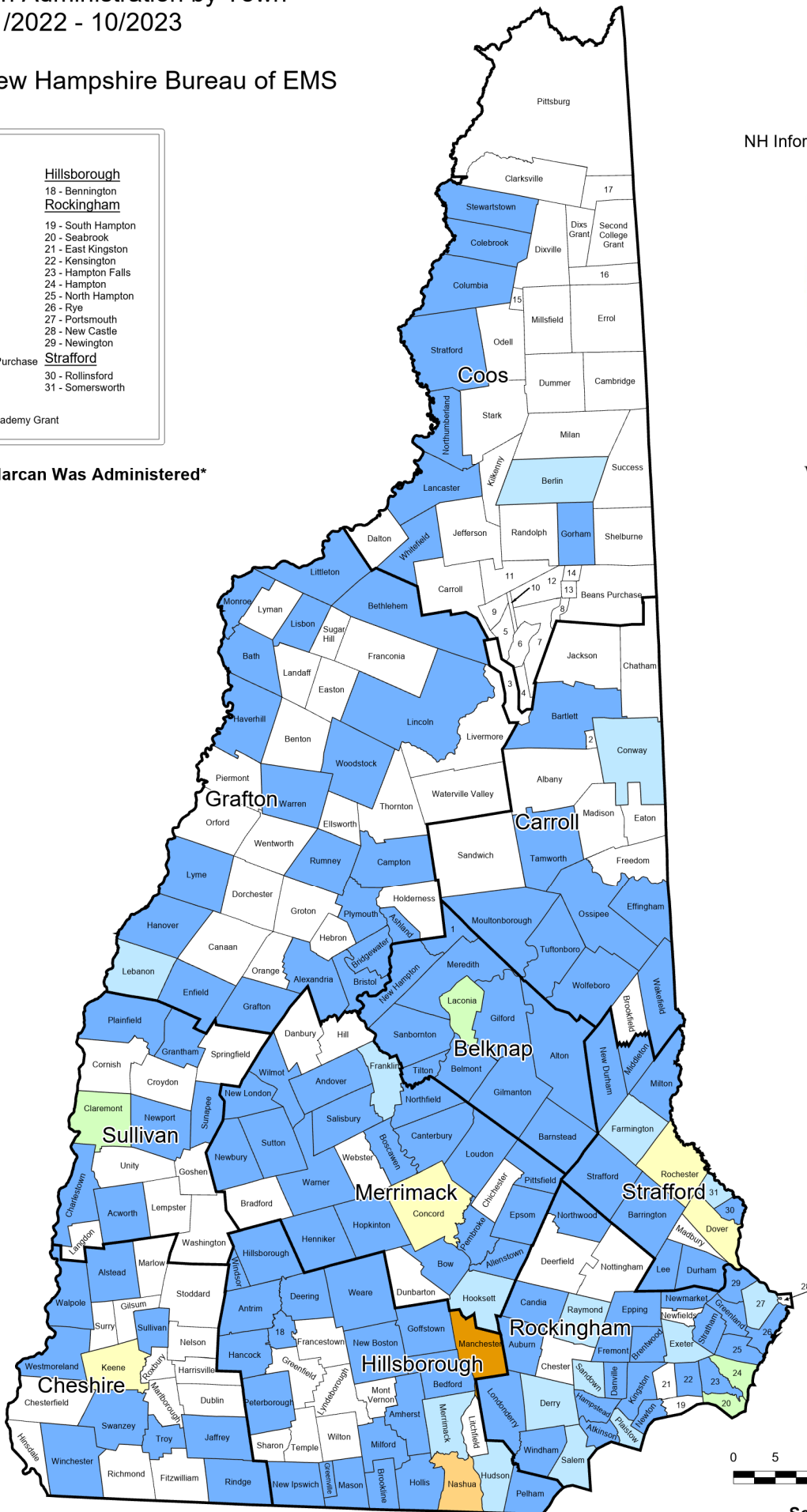
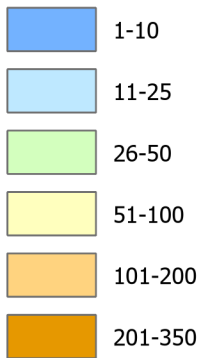
Prepared by:  
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### \*Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered\*

#### Range



**Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits:**

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

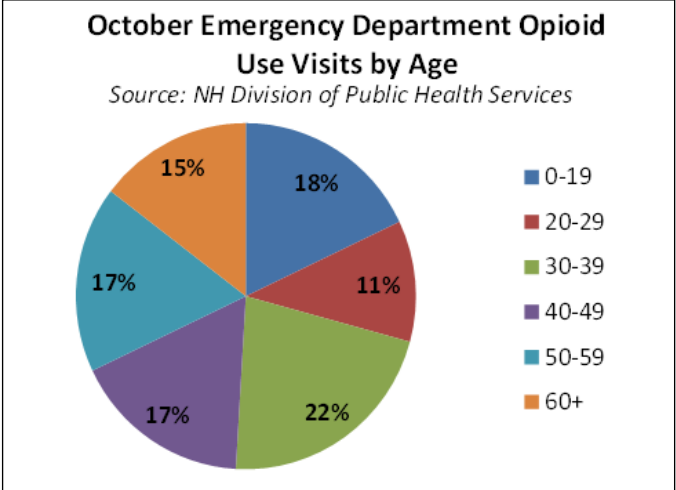
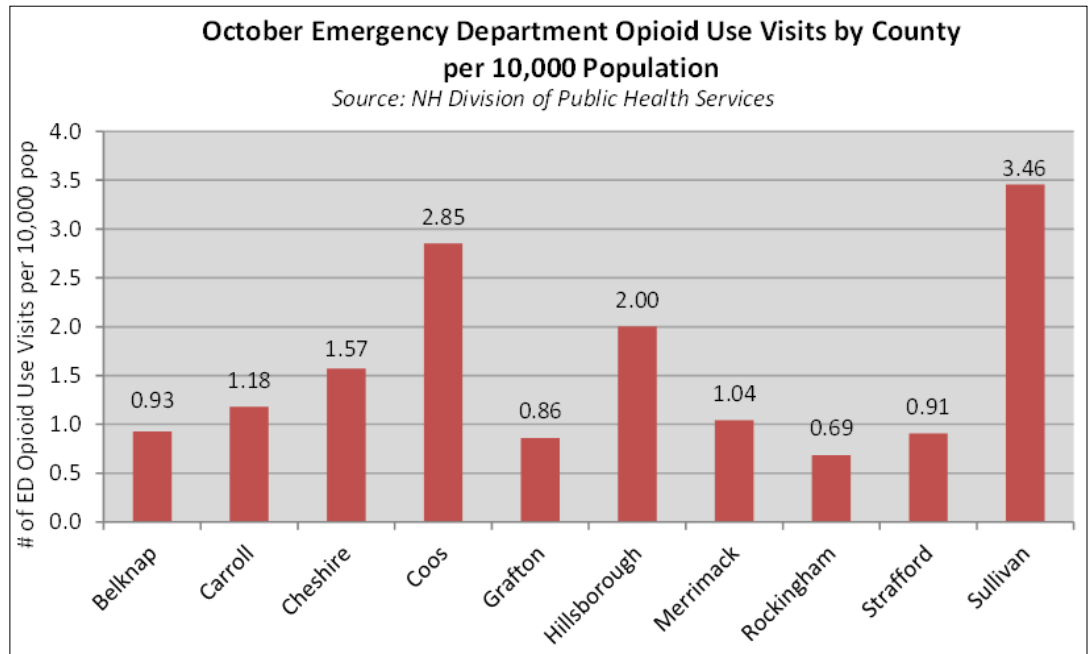
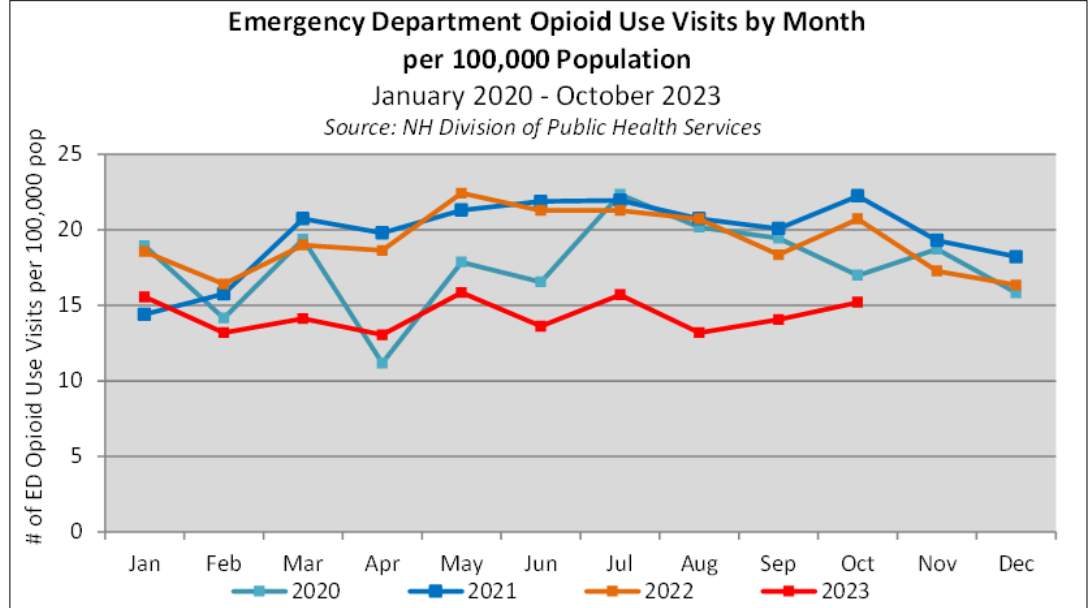
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**Trends:**

- Opioid related ED visits increased by 8% from September to October.
- In October, residents from Sullivan County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 3.46 visits per 10,000 population. Coos County followed with 2.85 visits per 10,000 population.
- In October, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 22%.
- Males accounted for 56% of opioid related ED visits in October.

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

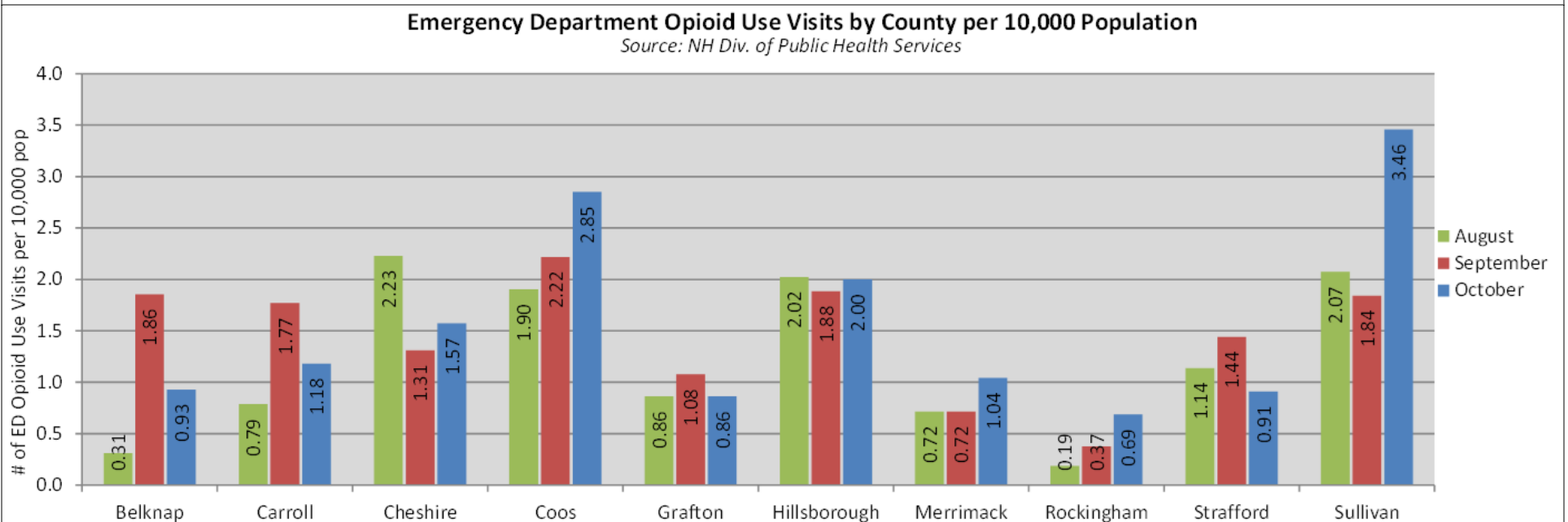
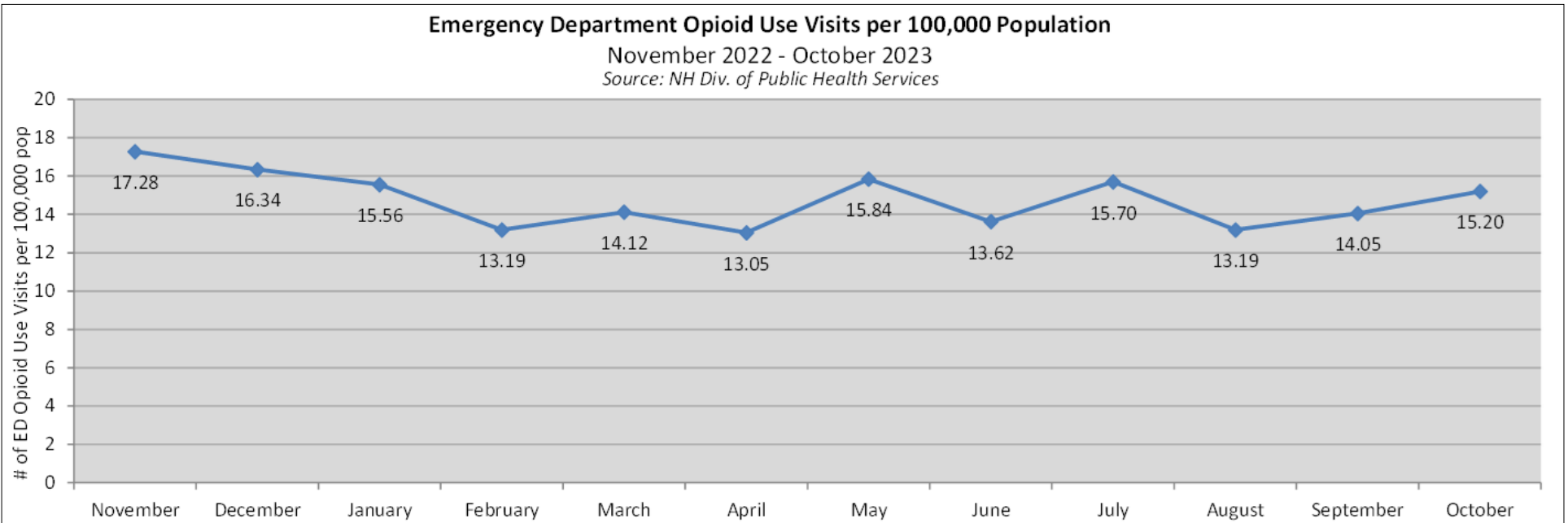
- **Data Note (October 2023):** Four hospitals are temporarily not reporting data to the relevant system and thus are not included in this months data set.
- The data being reported starting January 2020 has different collection criteria than previous months/years. Due to the new collection criteria, 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

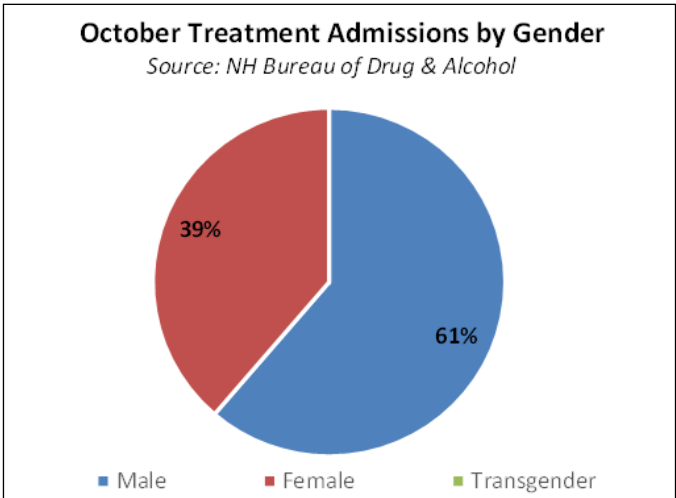
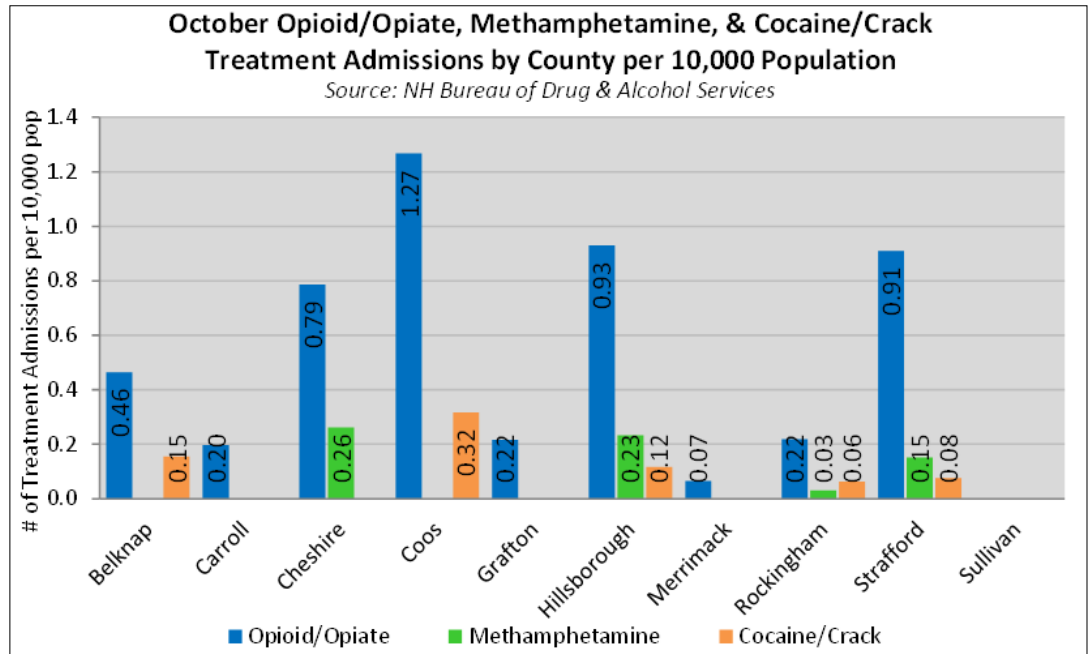
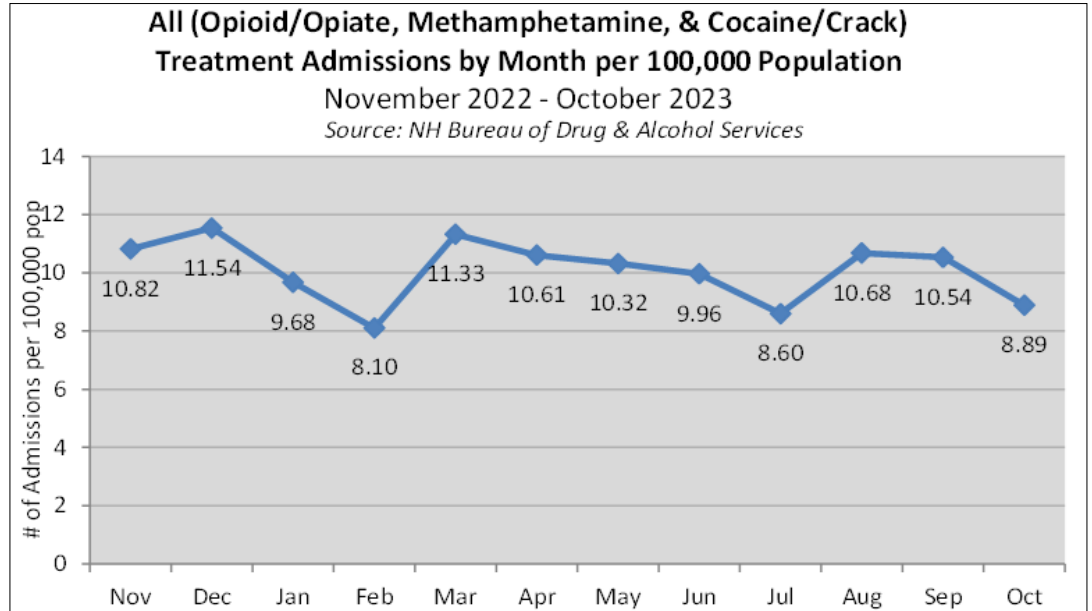
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**Trends:**

- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions decreased by 16% from September to October.
- In October, Coos County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 1.27 admissions per 10,000 population.
- Males accounted for 61% of those admitted to state funded treatment facilities in October for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine & Cocaine/Crack use.
- From September to October, Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased by 30%, Cocaine/crack admissions increased by 40%, and Heroin/Fentanyl admissions decreased by 31%.

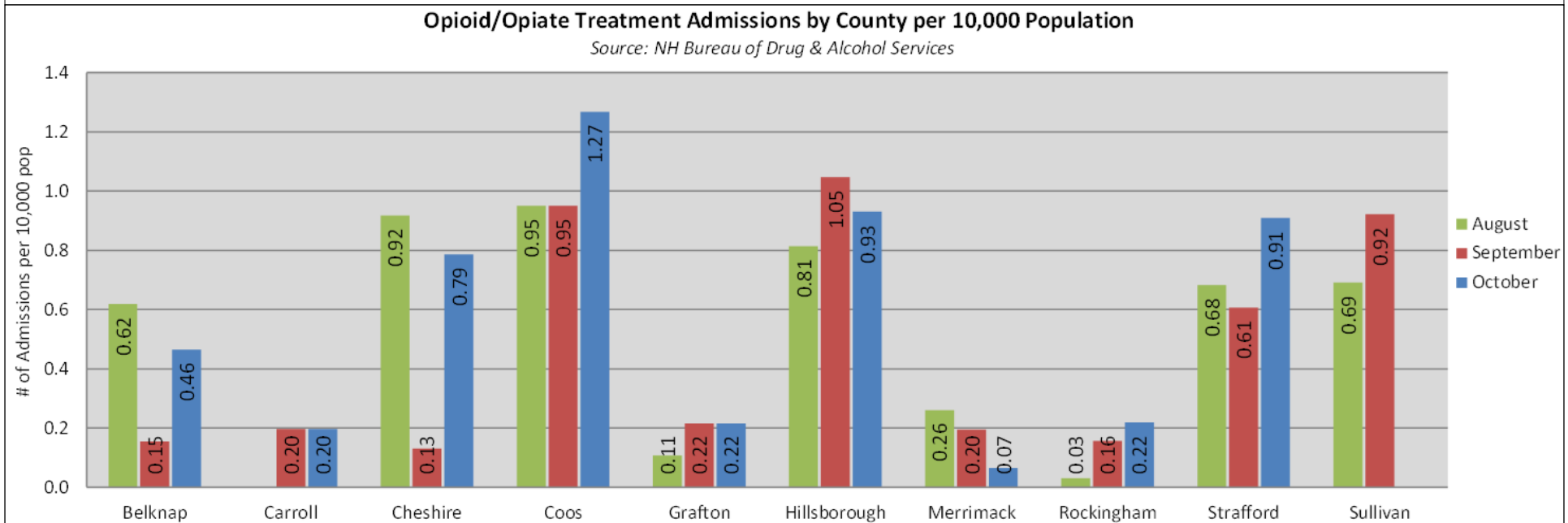
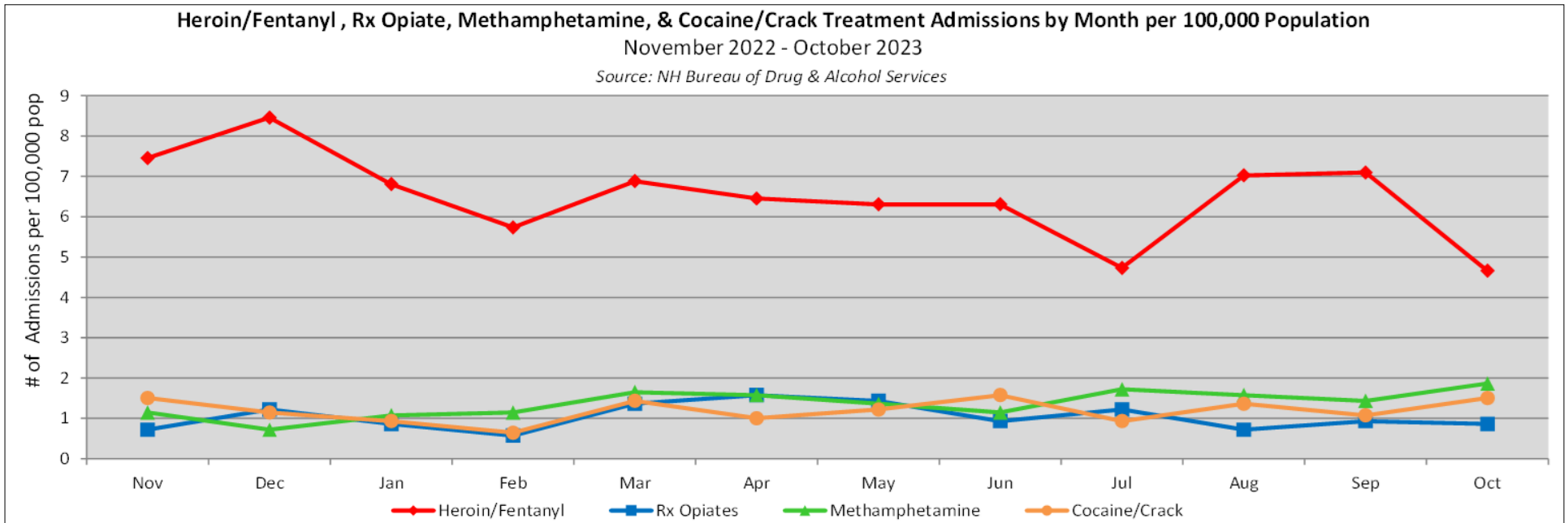
**\*\*\*IMPORTANT DATA NOTES\*\*\***

- 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:****Over 220 Pounds of Suspected Controlled Substances Seized Including Pills Shaped to Resemble Heart Shaped Candy**

“An estimated 10 million doses of controlled substances have been seized, including eight million doses of fentanyl and methamphetamine laced pills and powder. The total street value of the drugs seized is upwards of \$8 million. Three [people] have been arrested in connection with allegedly running this large-scale drug trafficking organization (DTO) on the North Shore of Massachusetts. On Nov. 1, searches were conducted at four locations in Lynn. The searches resulted in what is believed to be one of the largest single-location seizures of fentanyl and methamphetamine in Massachusetts and the region. Over 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of controlled substances were seized. The seizure included nine kilograms (20 pounds) of pink heart shaped fentanyl-laced pills pressed to look like candy. The following drug quantities were seized from the basement of a two-family residential home that was occupied by multiple families and small children:

- More than 10 kgs (22 pounds) of white powder and rock like substances which field tested positive for methamphetamine and cocaine base;
- More than 17 kgs (37 pounds) of suspected raw methamphetamine which equates to approximately more than 3.5 million individual doses;
- Approximately 280,000 counterfeit Percocet pills, believed to contain fentanyl, weighing 28 kgs (61 pounds) with a street value in the range of approximately \$1.4 million to over \$7 million;
- More than 27 kgs (59 pounds) of counterfeit Adderall pills, believed to contain methamphetamine; and
- Approximately 1.8 kgs (four pounds) of brown rock and powder-like substances, which tested positive for cocaine, fentanyl, and methamphetamine. This quantity of fentanyl equates to about 900,000 individual doses.

Additional narcotics and five firearms were also seized during the searches.”

Source: <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/over-220-pounds-suspected-controlled-substances-seized-including-pills-shaped-resemble-heart> (November 2023)

**Honduras seizes nearly half ton of fentanyl in first opioid bust**

“Honduran police discovered nearly half a metric ton of the synthetic drug fentanyl hidden in a shipping container, officials said on Wednesday, in the first such seizure of the opioid in the Central American country. [The] Security Minister said in a social media post that the record haul of 493 kilograms (1,087 pounds) of fentanyl came on a ship that originated in Britain and arrived at the Cortes port, due north of the industrial city of San Pedro Sula, on Honduras' Atlantic Coast. Police are investigating whether Honduras was the ship's final destination, or if it was only meant to be a stop on its way elsewhere, according to officials. Honduras has for years been a transit point for cocaine trafficked from South American nations including Colombia and Bolivia en route to the United States, but its role in the fentanyl trade is poorly understood.”

Source: <https://www.saltwire.com/nova-scotia/news/honduras-seizes-nearly-half-ton-of-fentanyl-in-first-opioid-bust-100910165/> (November 2023)

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