

# Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs

**Expanding Our Response:**

Report on Action Plan Progress 2019 - 2021



# Overview

Expanding Our Response is the NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs' Action Plan to comprehensively address our state's addiction crisis. The three-year strategic plan served as a blueprint for shared efforts. The plan encompasses best practices and other key strategy recommendations made by Commission members, Commission Task Forces, and other key stakeholders. This presentation serves as the legislatively mandated 2021 Annual Report and provide updates on progress during the three years of the plan which will inform revisions in 2022.

This report summarizes the information provided by Commission member Departments and Agencies AND is not intended to represent the entirety of all alcohol and other drug related activity and spending in State government.

Included are the

- ▶ Action Plan Dashboard;
- ▶ Financial Reporting; and
- ▶ Examples of Progress on Strategies.



For more information on the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs, Reports, Data Dashboard, Task Forces, meetings, and membership please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

# NH Governor's Commission Action Plan Dashboard

[NHCenterforExcellence.org/governors-commission](https://NHCenterforExcellence.org/governors-commission)



# Expanding Our Response: The NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs Action Plan

## Our Goal

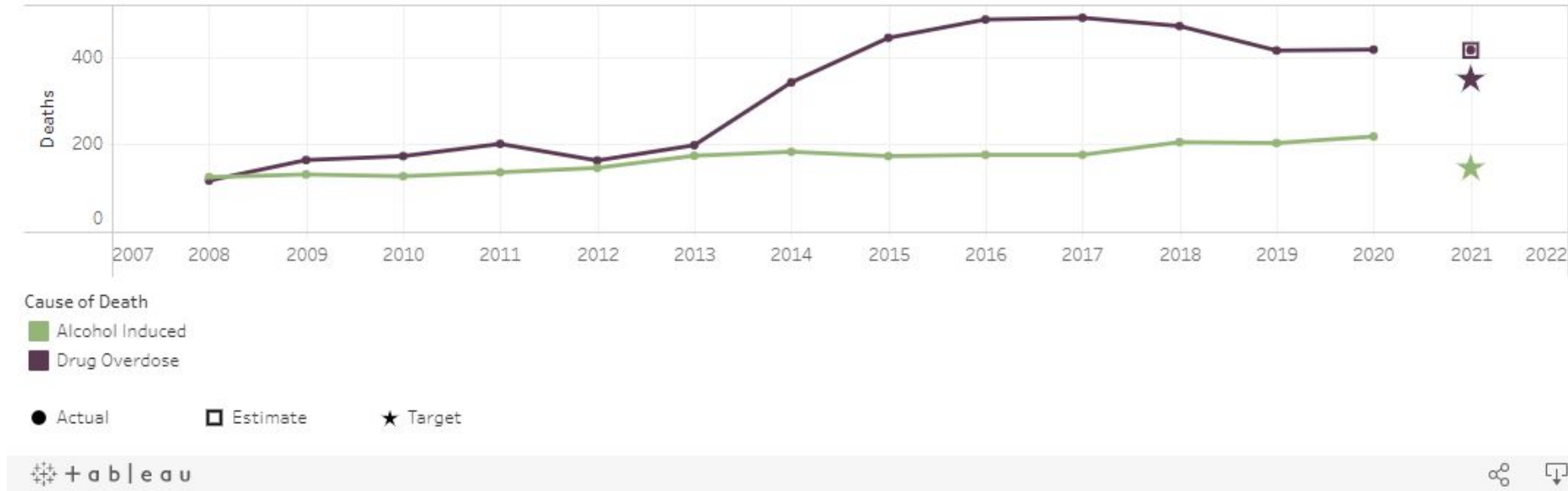
The Commission's goal is to reduce the misuse of alcohol and other drugs across the lifespan through the implementation of effective programs, practices and policies.

The following Action Plan dashboard tracks progress on the four objectives for accomplishing this goal over the period from January 2019 to December 2021. It is important to note that the COVID-19 pandemic impacted this work significantly and that NH providers rose to the challenge, providing services and supports virtually and in person throughout the pandemic.



# Objective One – Reduce Lives Lost to Alcohol and Drug Use

Drug Overdose and Alcohol-Induced Mortality in New Hampshire  
Historical Counts and Objectives for Reduced Mortality



Data source: [NH Office of Chief Medical Examiner](#), 2020 and 2021 Drug Death Data Report. Data for 2021 is an estimate due to pending toxicology reports. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. [Underlying Cause of Death on CDC WONDER Online Database](#), last accessed January 2022.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

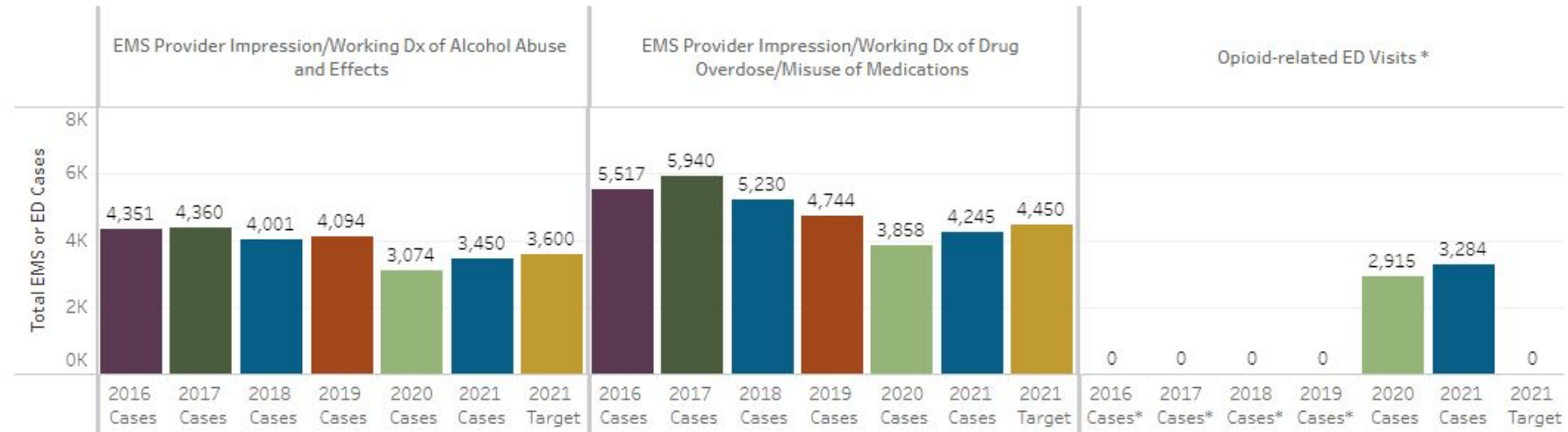
# Objective One - Outcomes

- ▶ It is important to note that while throughout the US overdose mortality increased dramatically during the pandemic, in NH there was no increase in overdose deaths and in fact there was a reduction of more than 10% over the three years of this Action Plan.
- ▶ Updated data for alcohol induced deaths has not been available since 2019. Current trends indicate that the number of deaths are leveling off. It is likely that increased alcohol use during the pandemic years will have an impact on related deaths for years to come.



# Objective Two – Reduce Negative Health Consequences of Alcohol and Drug Use

**Emergency Cases Related to Drug and Alcohol Misuse and Overdose**  
Historical Counts and Objectives for Reduced Emergency Cases



*\*Important Note* – The data being reported for 2020 opioid-related ED visits has different collection criteria than previous years. Due to the new collection criteria, data from 2020 onwards is no longer comparable to data from prior years.

*Data sources:* For EMS Provider Impressions: **NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services**, Trauma and Emergency Medical Services Information System, as of December 2021. For Opioid ED Visits: **NH Drug Monitoring Initiative**, December 2021 data.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

## Objective 2 - Outcomes

- ▶ The data from 2017-2021 shows a general decreasing trend of EMS cases resulting from alcohol or drug overdose.
- ▶ \*Important Note – Beginning in 2020, the data being reported opioid-related ED visits has different collection criteria than previous years. Due to the new collection criteria, data from 2020 onwards is no longer comparable to data from prior years.
- ▶ Adding NH driving while impaired data metrics is being contemplated for the 2022 plan update.





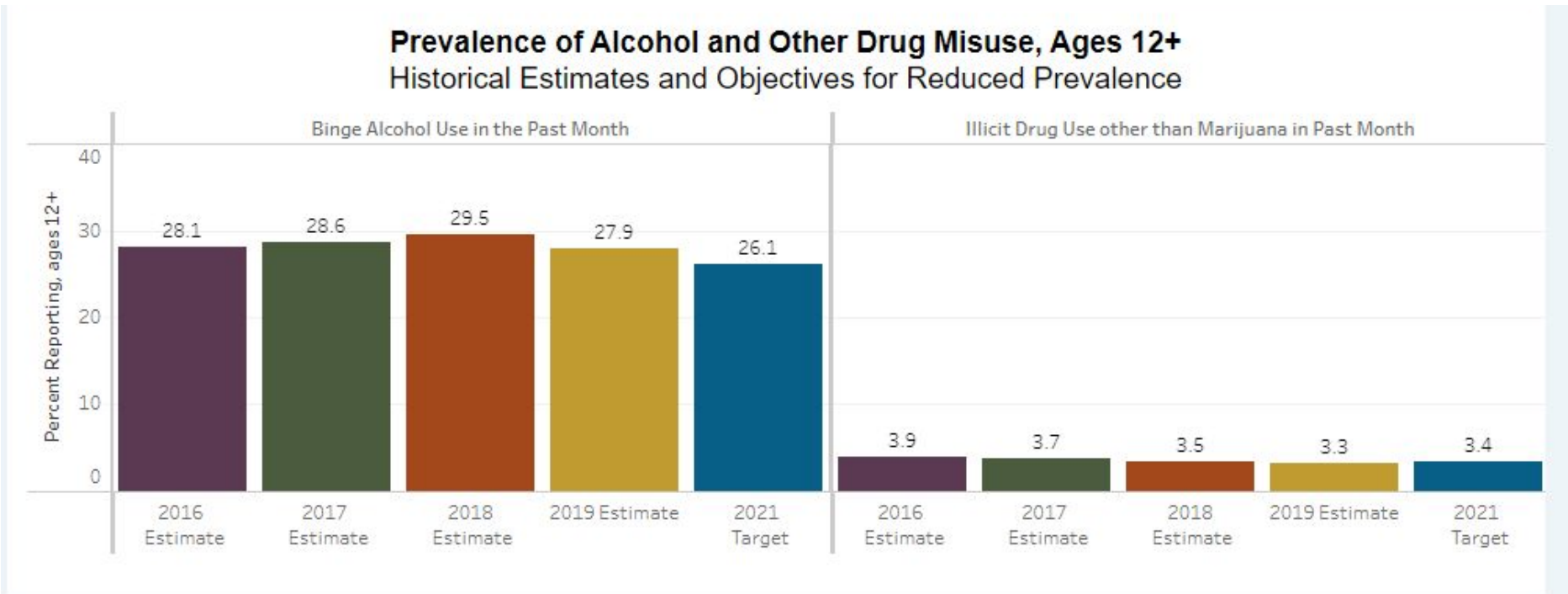
# Objective Three – Increase Access to Treatment Services

- ▶ Significant progress has been made to increase access to substance use services and supports in NH including:
- ▶ The Doorway system, providing access to screening, assessment, and referral to services is available throughout the state;
- ▶ Availability of telehealth has been expanded dramatically;
- ▶ The access to and utilization of Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) has increased dramatically throughout NH;
- ▶ Recovery Community Organizations have expanded Recovery Centers throughout NH;
- ▶ Recovery Friendly Workplace has continued and expanded; and
- ▶ Substance use treatment availability has expanded in multiple settings.
- ▶ The datasets to track the measures that were identified in the Action Plan (NSDUH) are no longer an accurate measure of NH progress in these areas.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](http://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

# Objective Four - Reduce Alcohol and other Drug Misuse



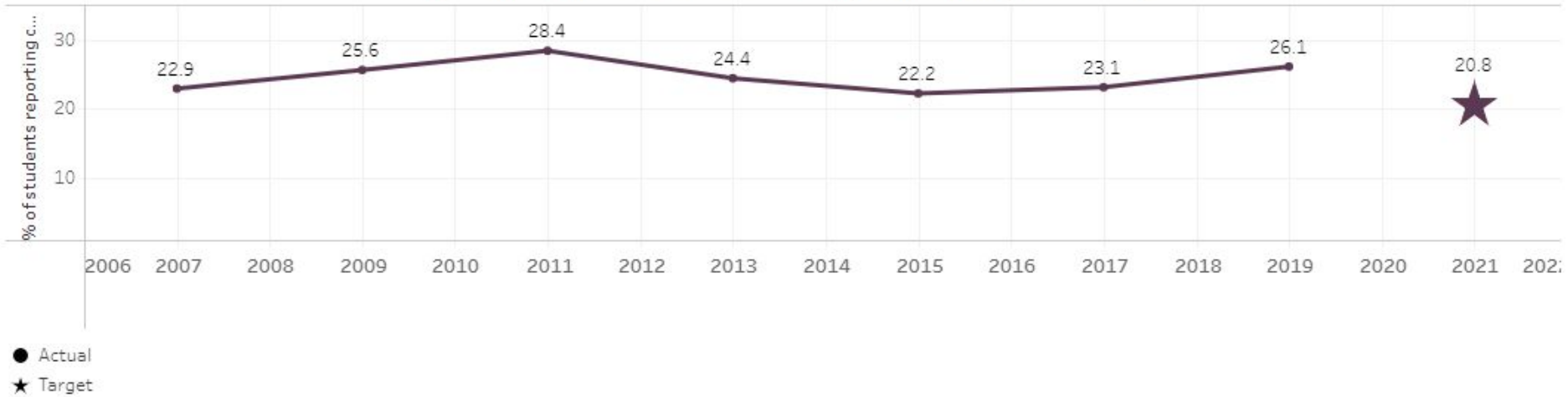
Data source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health, 2018-2019 State-Specific Tables of Model-Based Prevalence Estimates. Data for 2021 and 2020 not yet available.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

## Current Marijuana Use

High school students who used marijuana in the past 30 days

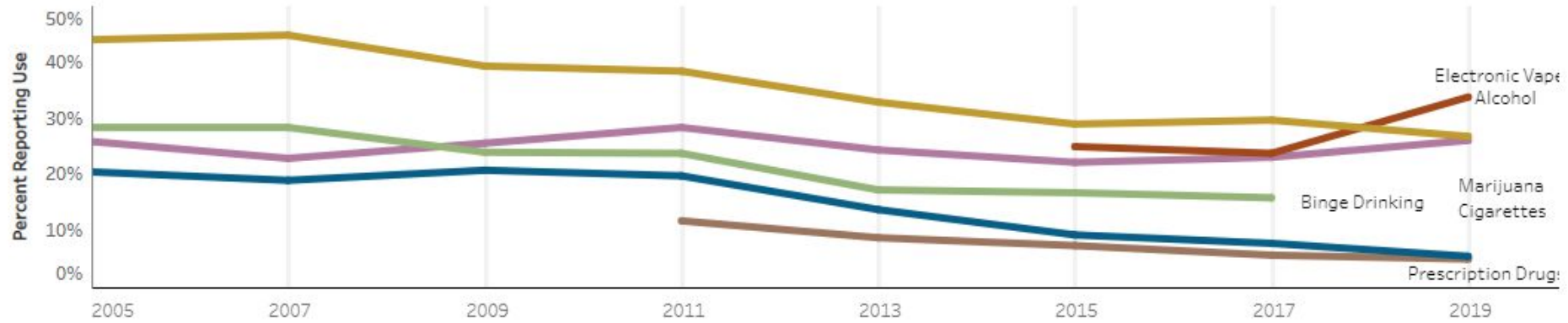


Data source: **NH Youth Risk Behavior Survey, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Youth Online**, last accessed January 2022. Data is collected in odd numbered years. NH data was collected in the fall of 2021, due to COVID-19, and those data will be available in 2022.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

### Past Month Substance Use Prevalence Trends High School Aged Youth



Data source: The 2019 **Youth Risk Behavior Survey (YRBS)** was completed by 13,710 students in 72 public high schools in NH during the spring of 2019. The school response rate was 89%, the students response rate was 84%, and the overall response rate was 75%. The results are representative of all students in grades 9-12.



To access the interactive Data Dashboard please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org).

# Objective Four - Outcomes

- ▶ NSDUH Data through 2019 show that, while binge alcohol use showed an increasing trend from 2016 to 2018, the percentage of individuals aged 12+ who reported binge drinking decreased slightly from 2018 to 2019.
- ▶ NSDUH 2020 and 2021 data on binge alcohol and illicit drug use are not available as of February 2022.
- ▶ NH High School YRBS data had showed a downward trend in binge drinking however the question was not asked in 2019 and 2021 data are not yet available.



# Objective Four - Outcomes continued

- ▶ Illicit drug use other than marijuana has shown a decreasing trend from 2016-2019. If the trend for illicit drug use continues at the current rate of change, the 2021 target reduction will be met.
- ▶ Since 2015, there has been an increasing trend for marijuana use among high school students.
- ▶ Due to data collection limitations resulting from COVID-19, NH YRBS data for 2021 was collected in the beginning rather than the end of the school year. These data will provide insight into pandemic behavior but may not be comparable to prior years.



# Additional Publicly Available NH Data related to Alcohol and other Drugs

- ▶ More data related to alcohol and other drugs services and impacts in NH is publicly available now than ever before.
- ▶ Available datasets include:
  - ▶ NH Department of Health and Human Services Data Portal  
<https://wisdom.dhhs.nh.gov/wisdom/>
  - ▶ NH Medicaid Quality Behavioral Health Care metrics  
[https://medicaidquality.nh.gov/topic-categories/behavioral\\_health\\_care](https://medicaidquality.nh.gov/topic-categories/behavioral_health_care)
  - ▶ NH Department of Safety Drug Monitoring Initiative - new data monthly  
<https://nhvieww.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MapSeries/index.html?appid=fc64bc08d7724f0d8a47c128832a98a2&folderid=8056bfb06d3a4d7da45a32253ddb47d4>
  - ▶ NH Department of Education Youth Risk Behavior Survey Results - new data every two years  
<https://www.education.nh.gov/who-we-are/division-of-educator-and-analytic-resources/bureau-of-education-statistics/youth-risk-behavior-survey>



# Financial Reporting State Fiscal Year 2021

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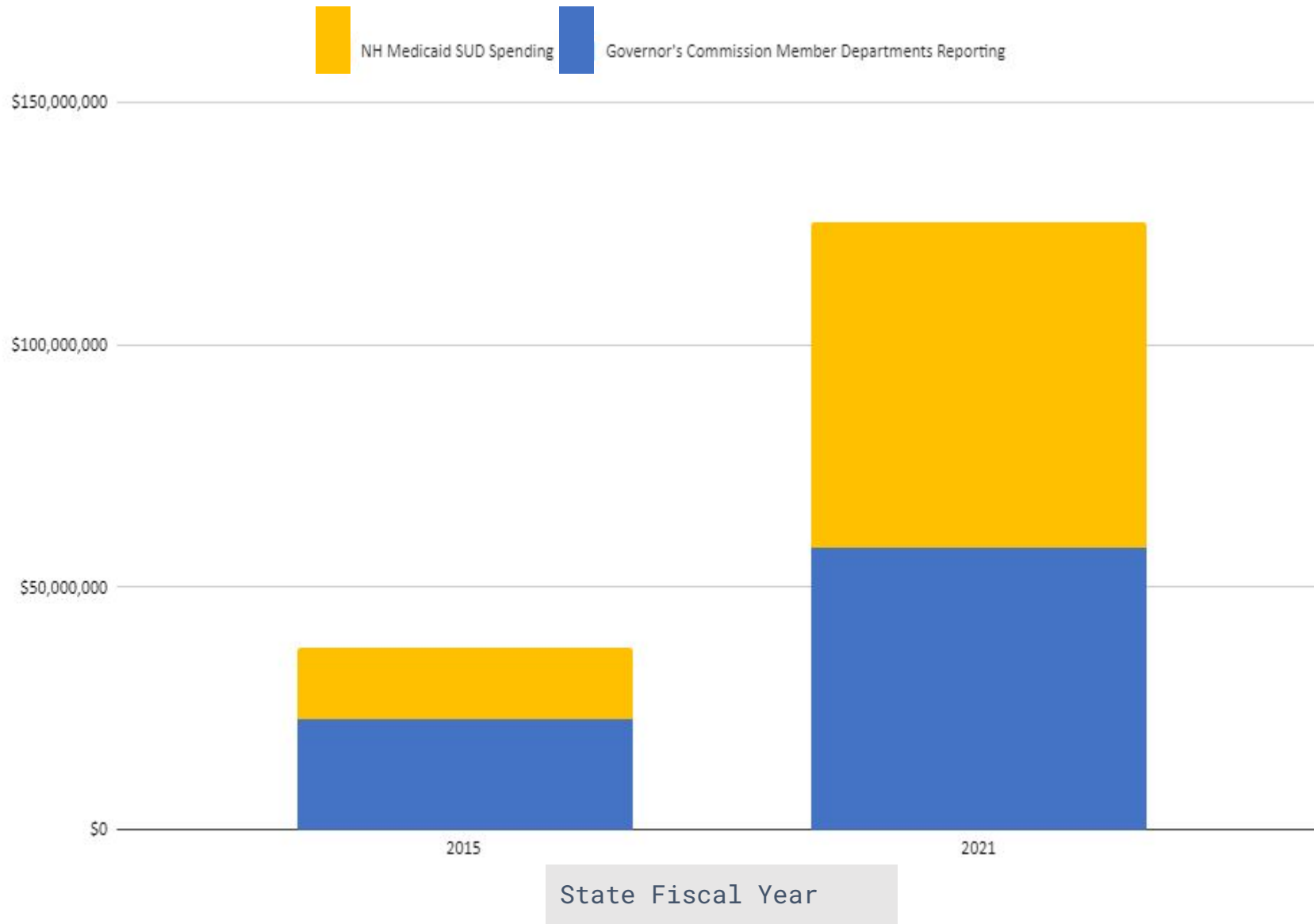
# Reported SFY 2021 Spending

NH alcohol and other drug related spending, reported December 2021.

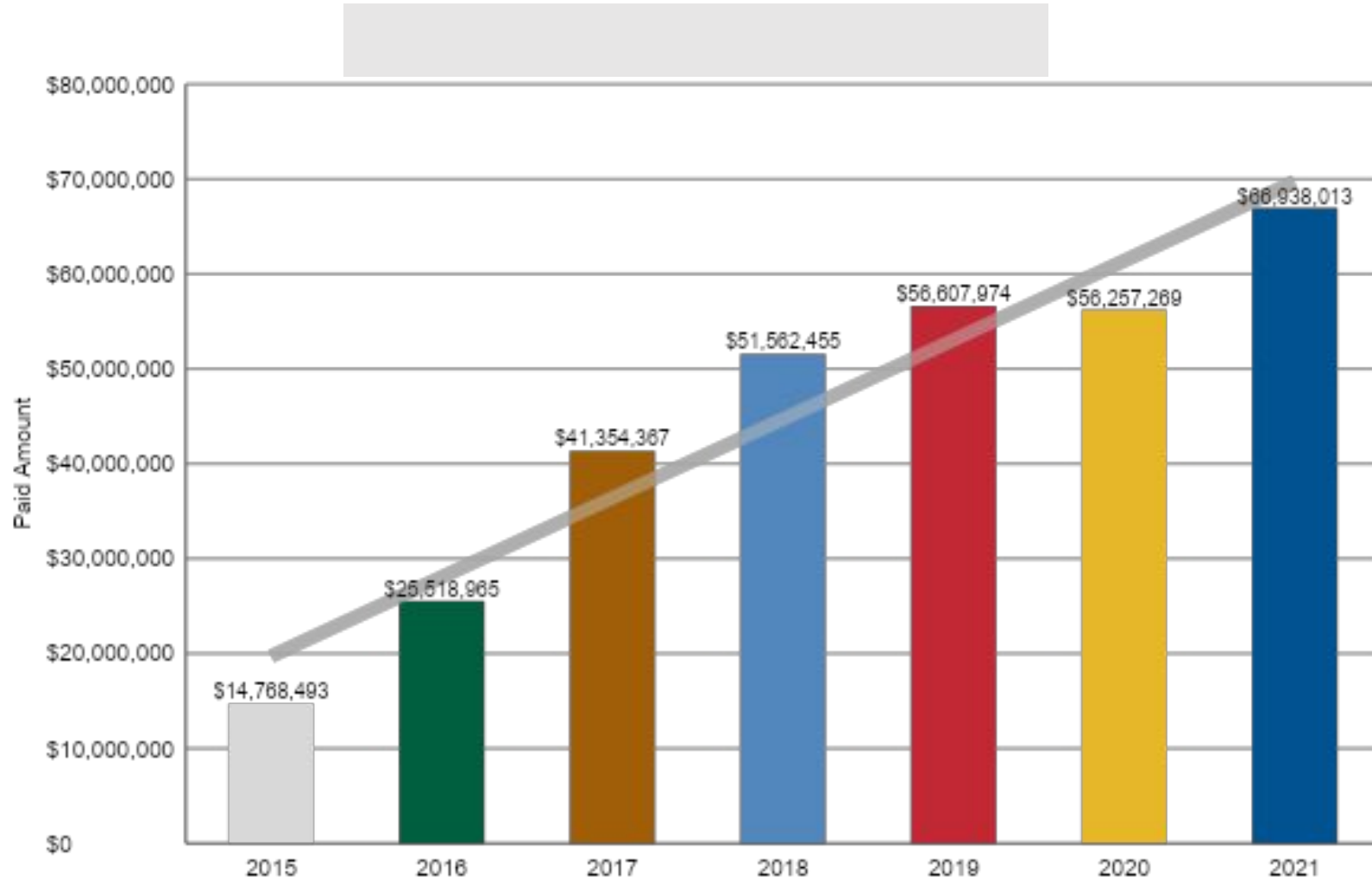
Administrative Office of the Courts	\$3,748,761
Department of Corrections	\$2,429,357
Department of Education	\$927,370
Department of Health and Human Services	\$106,653,159
Department of Justice	\$2,634,438
Department of Safety	\$8,344,907
Liquor Commission	\$200,000
National Guard	\$163,405
<b>Total SFY 2021 Spending</b>	<b>\$125,101,397</b>



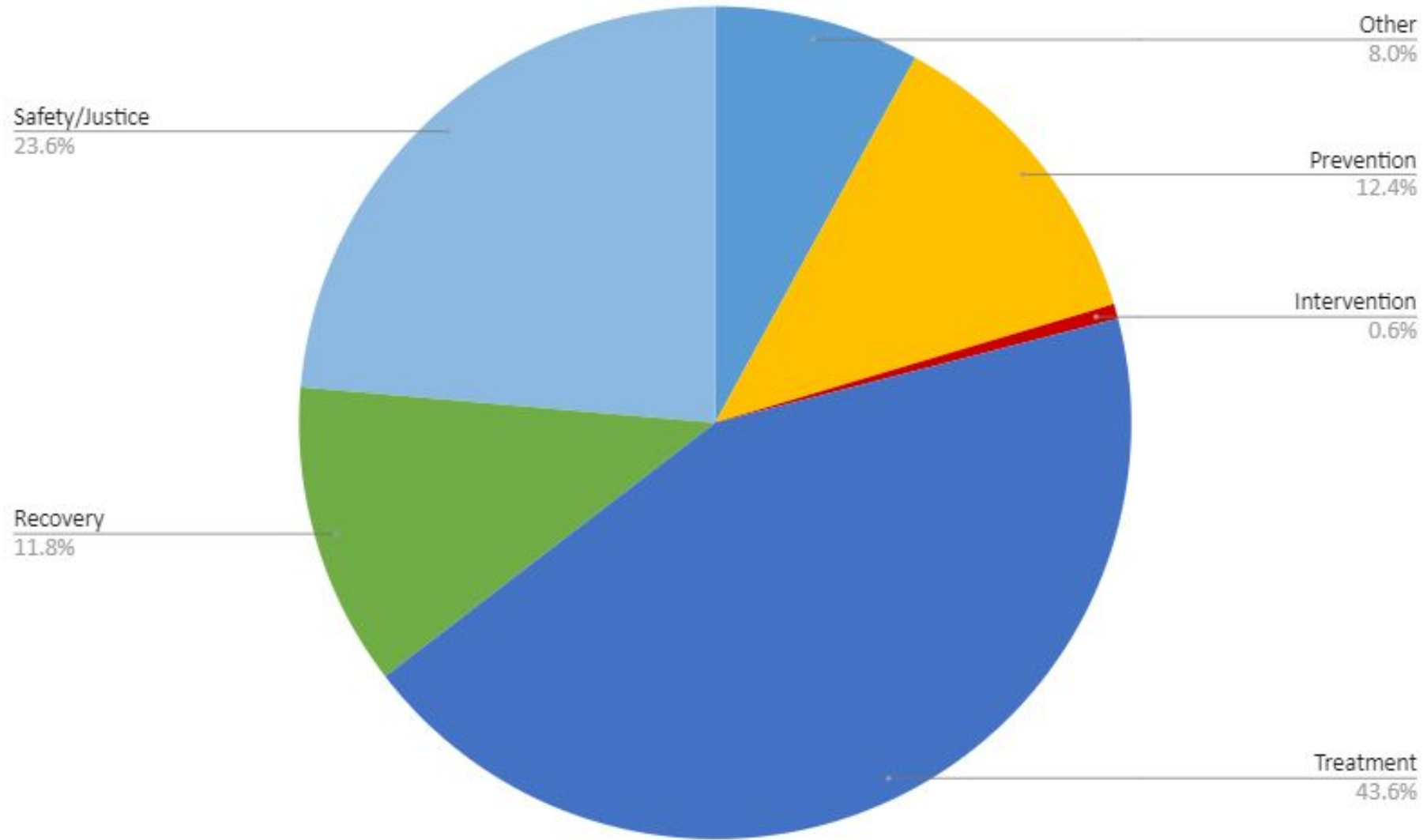
# Increase in Spending Over Time



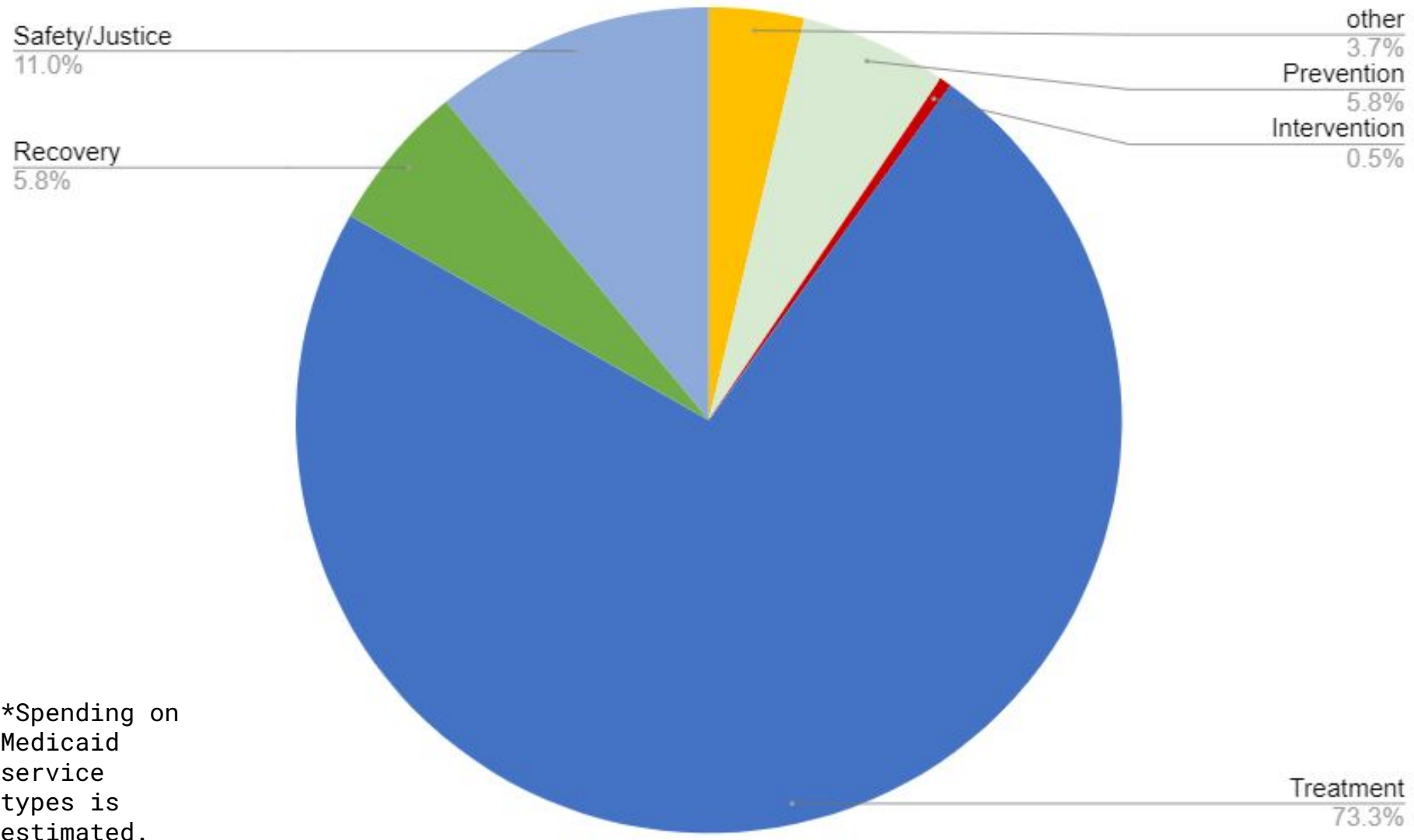
# NH Medicaid Paid Amount by State Fiscal Year



# Investment across the Continuum SFY 2021 without Medicaid Spending

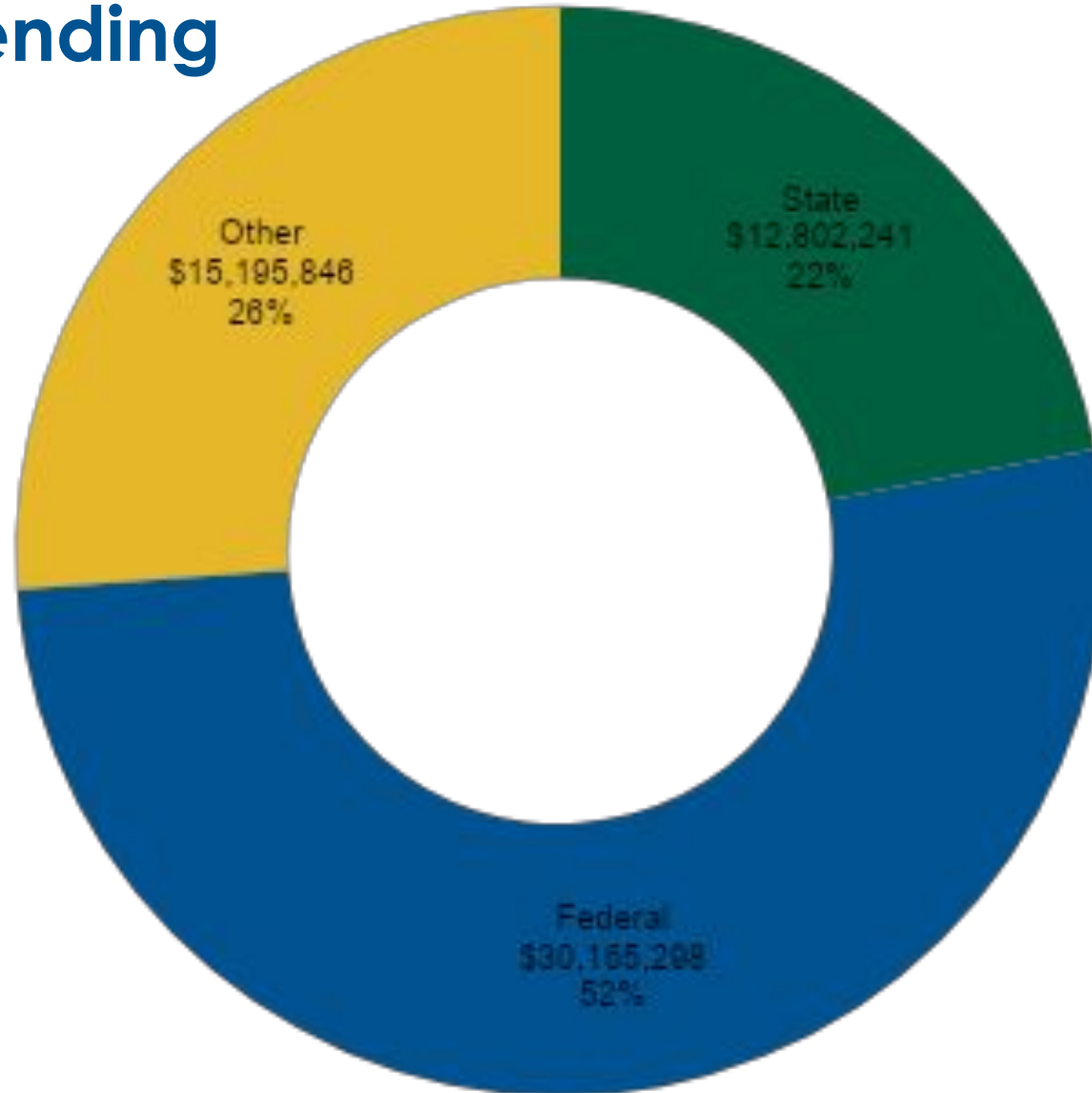


# Investment across the Continuum\* SFY 2021 including Medicaid Spending



\*Spending on Medicaid service types is estimated.

# Source of Funds SFY 2021 without Medicaid Spending



**Other** includes source unidentified, and mixed state and federal funds.

# Financial Reporting Outcomes

- ▶ Overall NH Medicaid and state departments spending on alcohol and other drug related programs and services has increased over time.
- ▶ NH Medicaid spending on alcohol and other drug services increased more than 4X from \$14,768,493 in SFY 2015 (pre Medicaid expansion) to \$66,938,013 in SFY 2021.
- ▶ At least half of NH's alcohol and other drug related spending in SFY 2021 was federal.



# Strategies Updates

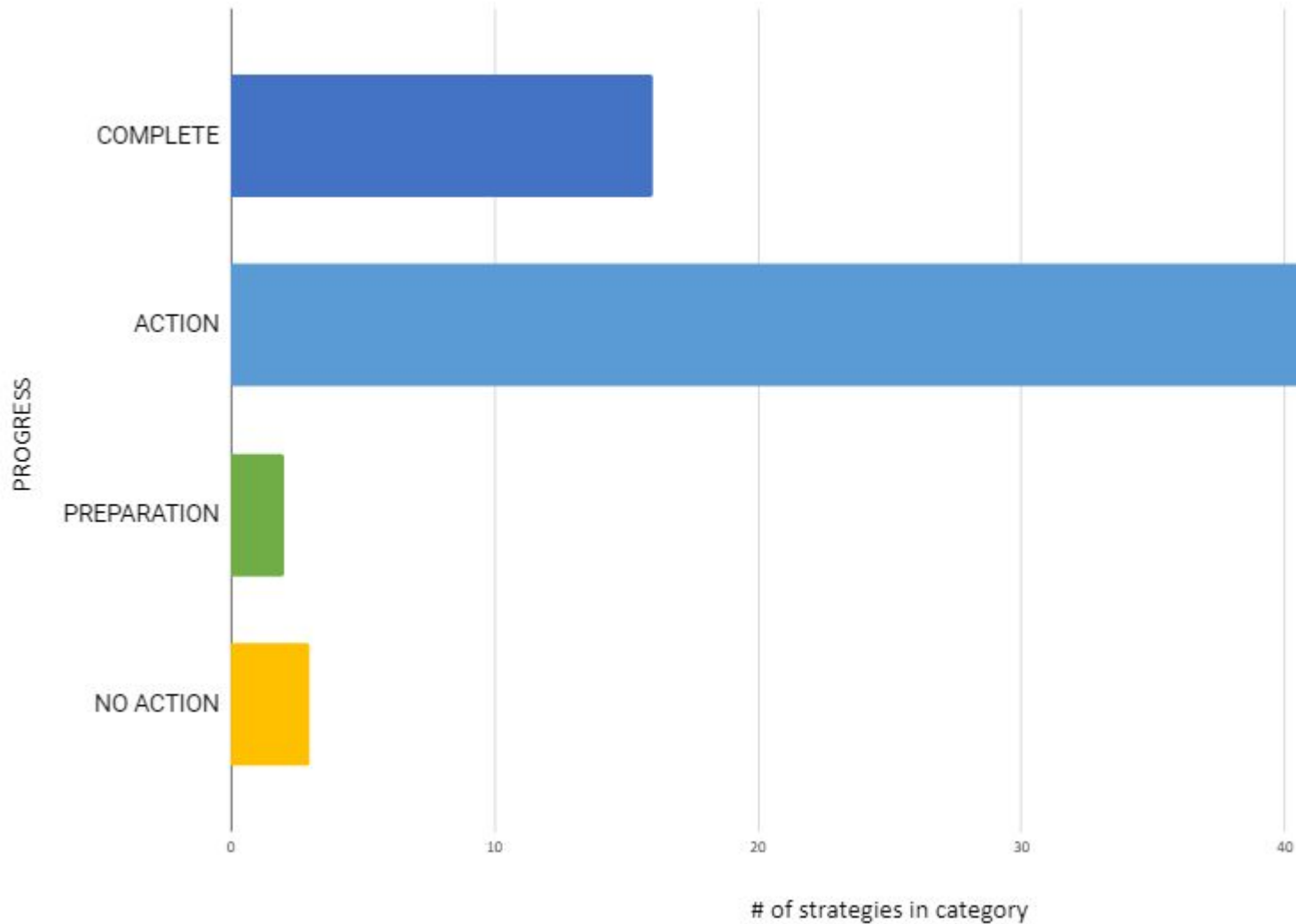
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# Strategies Update: Three Years of Progress

More than 90% of strategies recommended in the Action Plan were put into Action or Completed.



To access the Action Plan for the full list of strategies please visit [nhcenterforexcellence.org/search-center-resources](https://nhcenterforexcellence.org/search-center-resources)

# Examples of Progress

- ▶ Regional Public Health Networks have developed and expanded systems that promote effective **prescription drug storage and disposal** including working with local law enforcement and the National Guard Counter Drug Unit;
- ▶ The **Doorway** system, providing access to screening, assessment, and referral to services is available throughout the state;
- ▶ Availability of **telehealth** has been expanded dramatically;
- ▶ **Syringe services program** availability has expanded;
- ▶ The access to and utilization of **Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT)** has increased dramatically throughout NH;



# Examples continued

- ▶ Recovery Community Organizations have expanded **Recovery Centers** throughout NH;
- ▶ **Recovery Friendly Workplace** has continued and expanded;
- ▶ Recovery houses are being certified through NHCORR utilizing national standards;
- ▶ **Adverse childhood experiences** are being addressed utilizing evidence based screening tools and programs provided through Home Visiting programs, Recovery Centers, and Family Resource Centers;
- ▶ Citizens returning to the community from Correctional facilities are being connected to Medicaid; and
- ▶ Medicaid **provider reimbursement** rates were increased in January 2021.



# Summary of Action Plan Progress 2019-2021

- ▶ The Commission made progress toward its objectives throughout the past three years.
- ▶ **The number of lives lost to drug and alcohol use has been reduced.**
- ▶ **The incidences of negative health consequences of alcohol and other drug use have been decreased.**
- ▶ **Illicit drug use other than marijuana and binge drinking has shown a decreasing trend** (2021 data not yet available).
- ▶ NH state agencies are currently investing more than **\$125 million** in strategies and programs to address alcohol and other drugs.
- ▶ More than **90% of strategies** recommended in the Action Plan were put into Action or Completed.



Prepared by the Center for Excellence on Addiction/JSI through funding by the NH Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs through a contract with the NH Department of Health and Human Services.

For more information on the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and other Drugs, Reports, Data Dashboard, Task Forces, meeting schedule, and membership please visit:

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