



# New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

## New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

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NHIAC Product #: 2023-05765

**March 2023 Report**

05 MAY 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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⇒ 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					2023* Death Update As of 4/2023
	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022*	
<b>Total Overdose Deaths</b>	471	415	417	436	480	55
<b>Deaths Involving Opioids</b>	420	372	357	404	422	50
<b>Deaths Involving Cocaine</b>	65	79	58	36	56	7
<b>Deaths Involving Meth</b>	22	52	59	63	95	14
<b>Deaths Pending Toxicology</b>	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	77

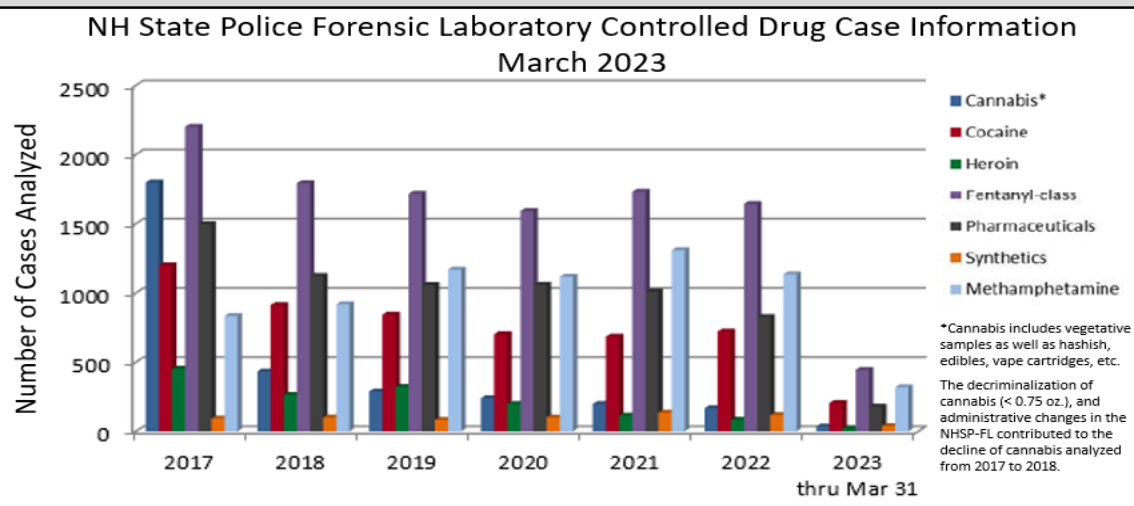
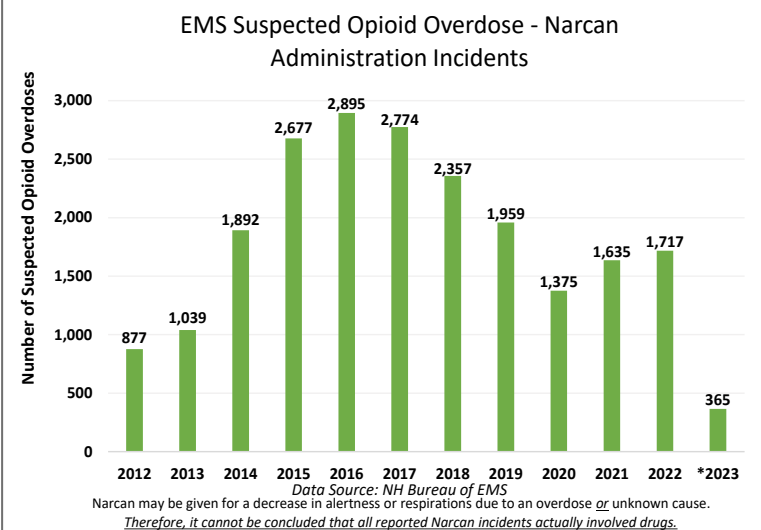
Previous versions of the Drug Environment Report can be found at: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov>

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 ~10% 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.

March 2023 Data Summary			
	EMS Narcan Administration Incidents	Treatment Admissions	Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits
Percent Change from January to February	↑ 17%	↑ 40%	↑ 7%
County w/ Highest Incidence	Sullivan	Hillsborough	Coos
Age Group w/ Highest Incidence	30-39	N/A	30-39

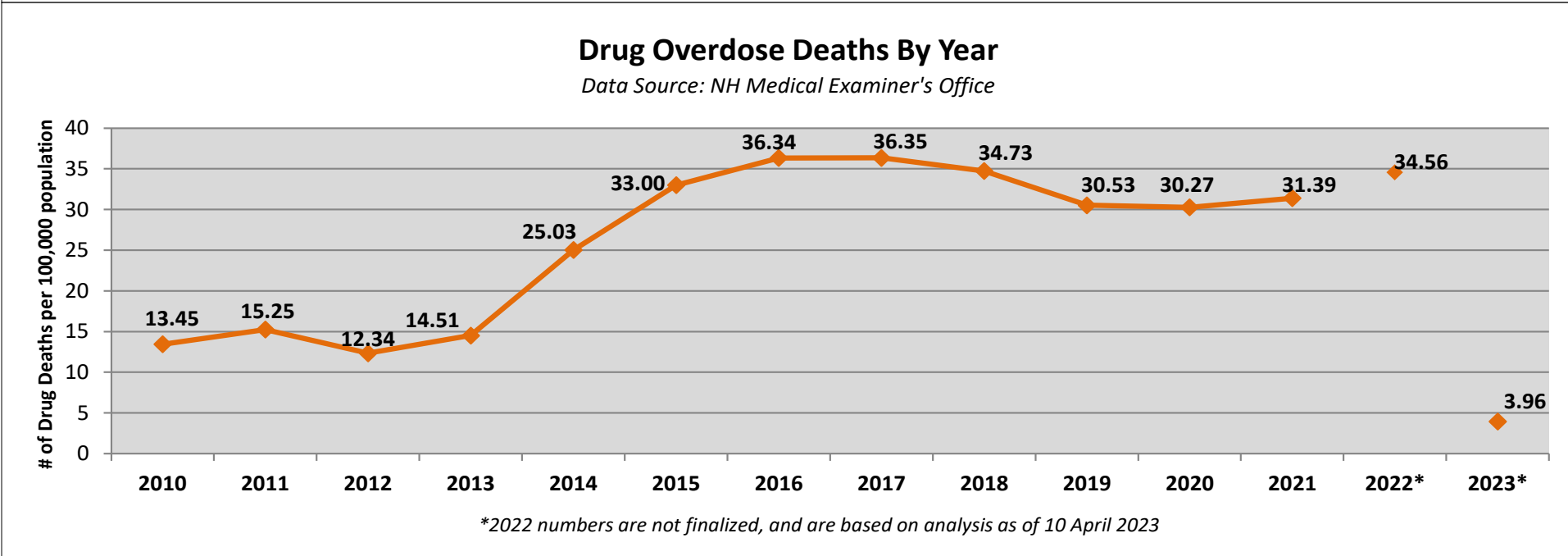
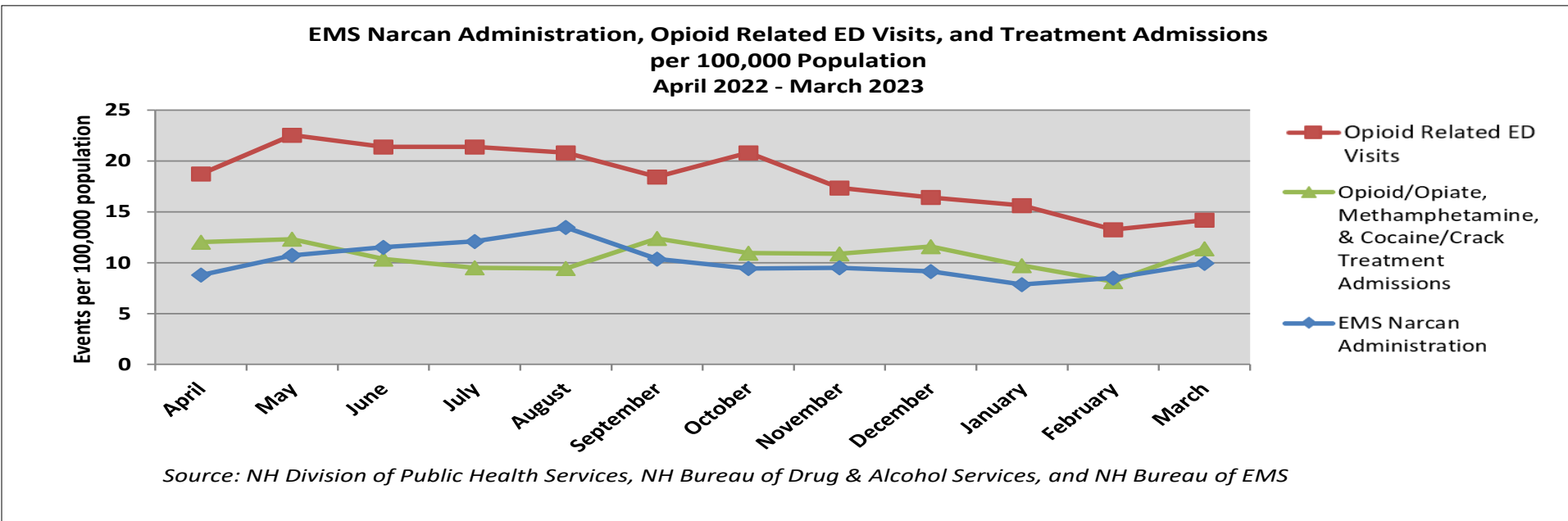


Year	Cannabis*	Cocaine	Heroin	Fentanyl-class	Pharmaceuticals	Synthetics	Methamphetamine
2017	1799	1201	453	2202	1499	93	834
2018	433	913	264	1794	1123	101	919
2019	289	843	322	1718	1058	83	1169
2020	240	702	199	1593	1060	101	1118
2021	199	685	114	1731	1011	136	1310
2022	167	722	84	1644	827	118	1136
2023 thru Mar 31	36	206	22	445	179	39	319
Mar 2023	15	84	8	177	68	21	125

**2022 Overdose Deaths (As of 4/10/2023 - 4 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
↑ 10%	↑ 5%	↑ 51%	↑ 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

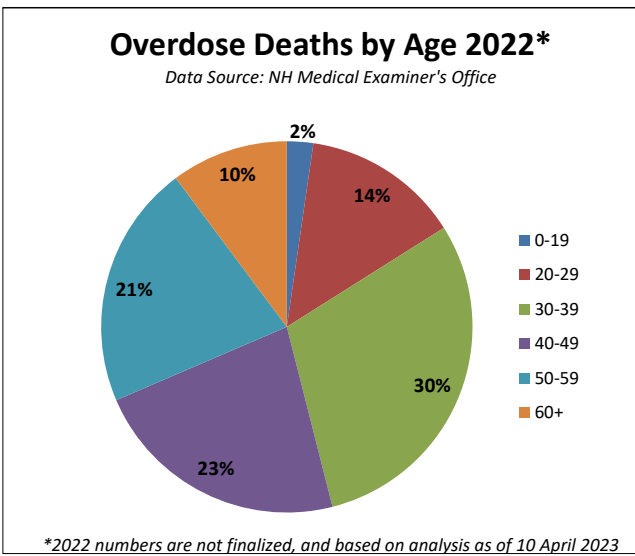
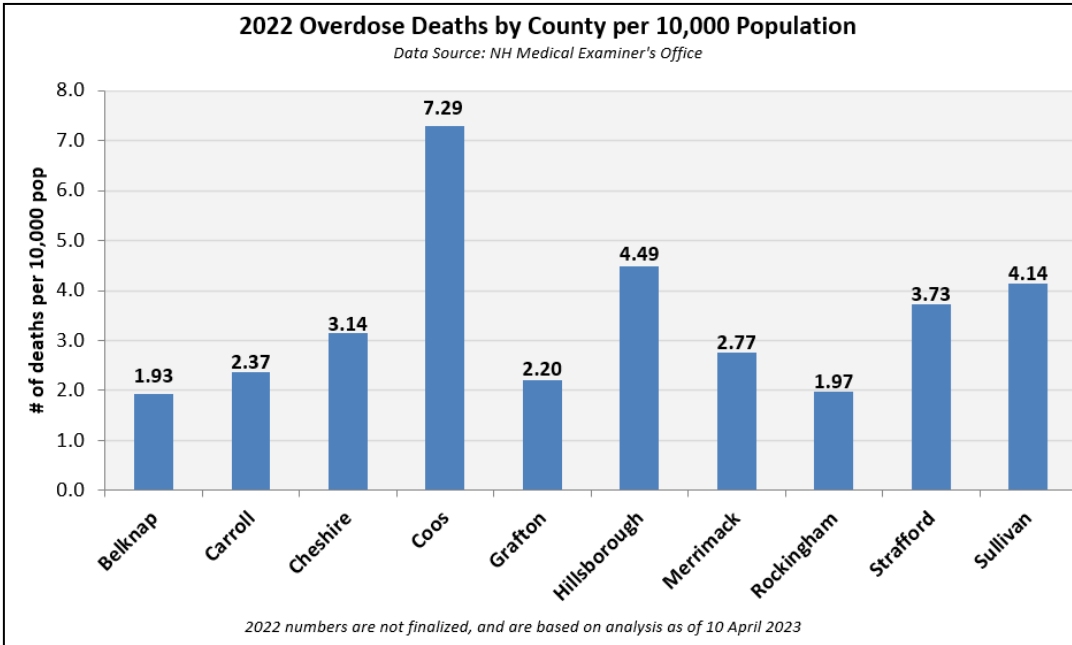
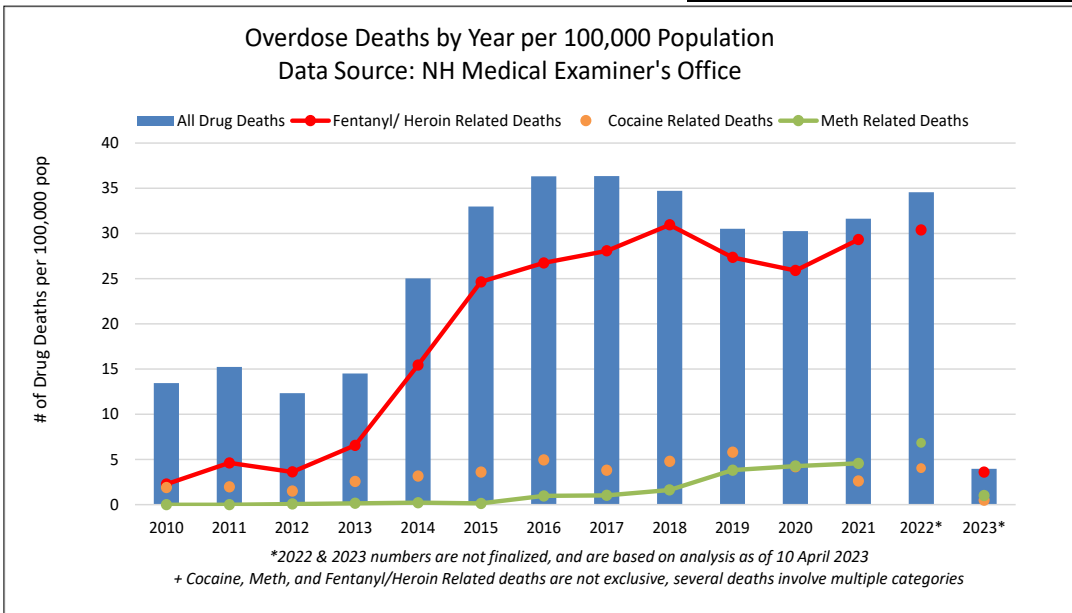
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data. 

**Trends:**

- For 2022, as of 10 April 2023, there are 480 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 4 cases pending toxicology. For 2023, as of 10 April 2023, there are 55 confirmed drug overdose deaths and 77 cases pending toxicology.
- 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 4.49 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\*\*\***

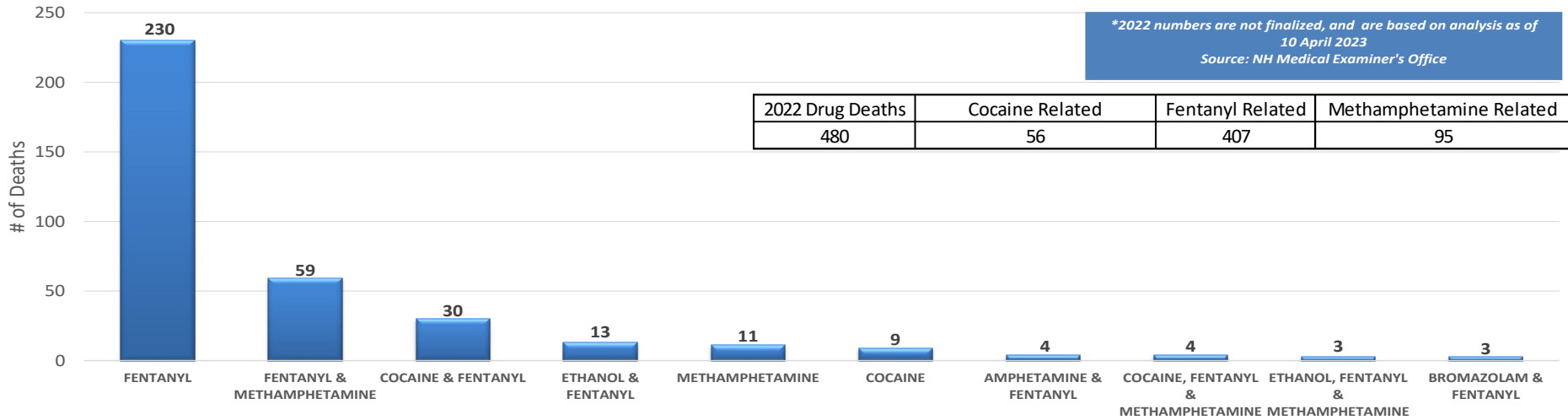
- Analysis is based on county where the drug (s) is suspected to have been used.



**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, ARIPIRAZOLE & FENTANYL	BROMAZELAM, FENTANYL, FLUBROMAZEPAM & XYLAZINE	COCAINE & HEROIN	COCAINE, FENTANYL & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	FENTANYL & FLUBROMAZOLAM	METHAMPHETAMINE & OXYCODONE
4-ANPP, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	4-ANPP, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	AMPHETAMINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	BROMAZOLAM, COCAINE & FENTANYL	COCAINE & METHAMPHETAMINE	COCAINE, FENTANYL, & METHYLENEDIPOXYMETHAMPHETAMINE	FENTANYL & GABAPENTIN	DIAZEPAM, ETHANOL & FENTANYL
COCAINE, ETHANOL & FENTANYL	ACETYL FENTANYL, AMPHETAMINE, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	AMPHETAMINE, ETHANOL, FENTANYL & METHAMPHETAMINE	BROMAZOLAM, CYCLOBENZAPRINE, FENTANYL, GABAPENTIN, METHADONE, METHAMPHETAMINE & OXYCODONE	COCAINE & MORPHINE	ETHANOL & PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL	FENTANYL & METHADONE	PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL
EPHEDRINE, FENTANYL, METHAMPHETAMINE & PHENYLPROPANOLAMINE	4-ANPP, FENTANYL & XYLAZINE	ETHANOL, FENTANYL & FLUOXETINE	ALPRAZOLAM, FENTANYL & MORPHINE	ALPRAZOLAM, COCAINE, OXYCODONE, PARA-FLUOROFENTANYL & TRAZADONE	ACETYL FENTANYL & FENTANYL	4-ANPP, AMPHETAMINE & FENTANYL	*Cells filled with gray indicate combinations noted twice

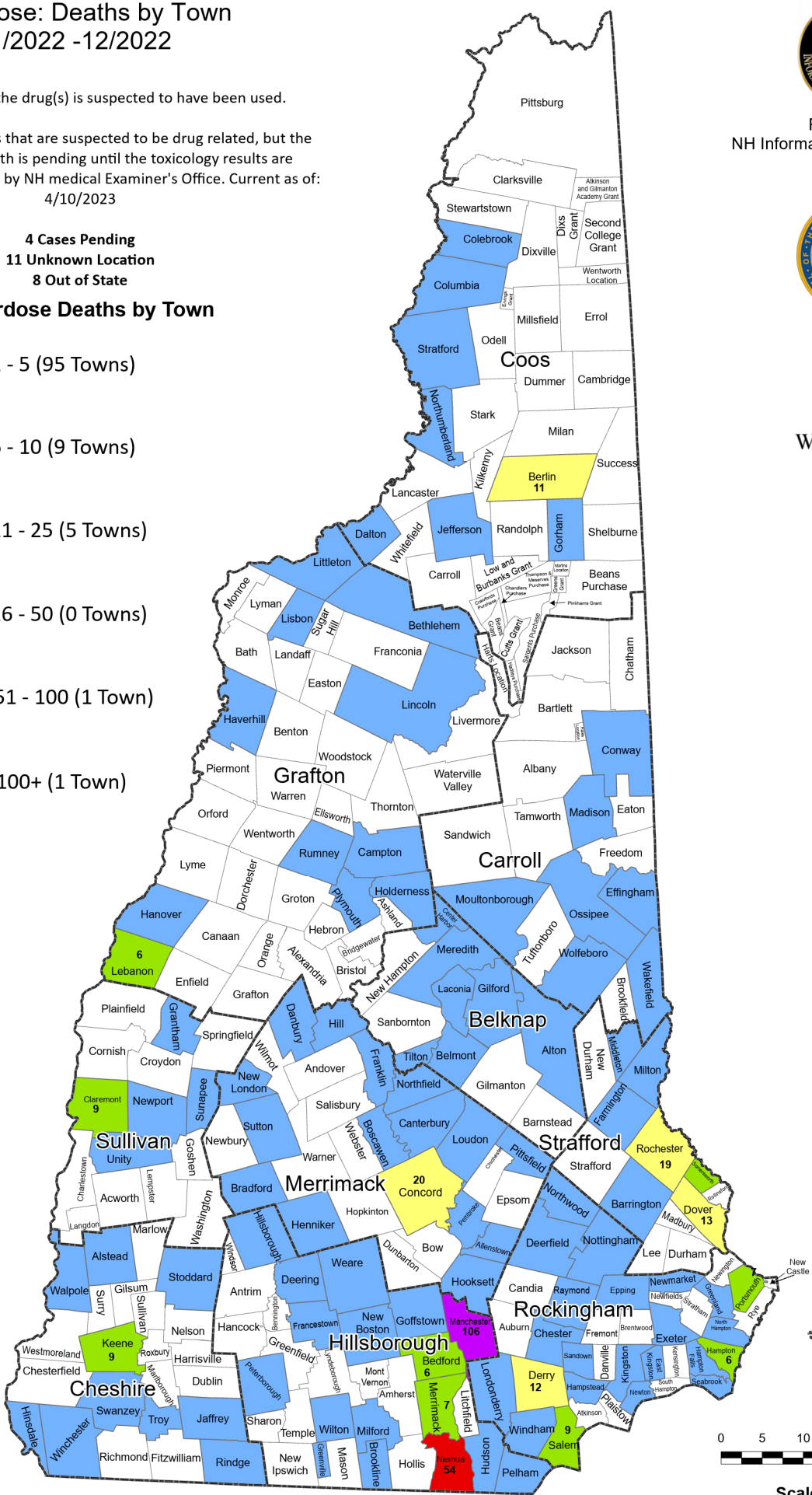
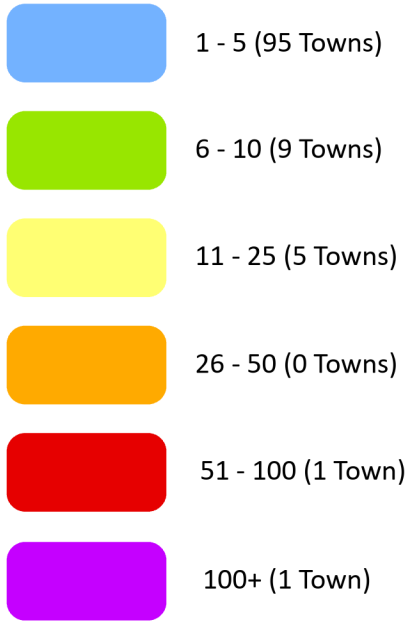
# Overdose: Deaths by Town 1/2022 - 12/2022

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

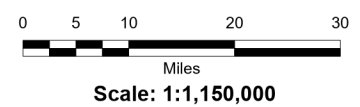
There are more deaths that are suspected to be drug related, but the official cause of death is pending until the toxicology results are received. Data provided by NH medical Examiner's Office. Current as of: 4/10/2023

4 Cases Pending  
11 Unknown Location  
8 Out of State

## Number of Overdose Deaths by Town



Prepared by:  
NH Information & Analysis Center



**EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents:**

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

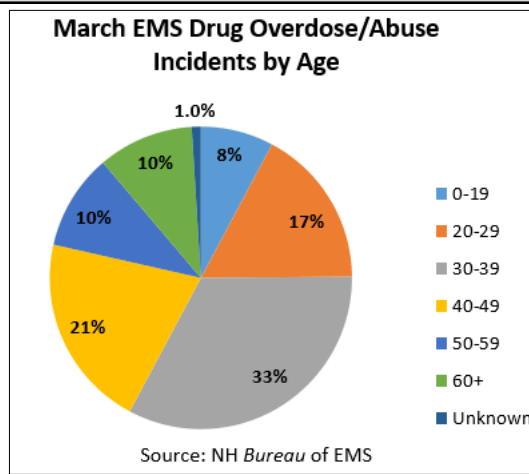
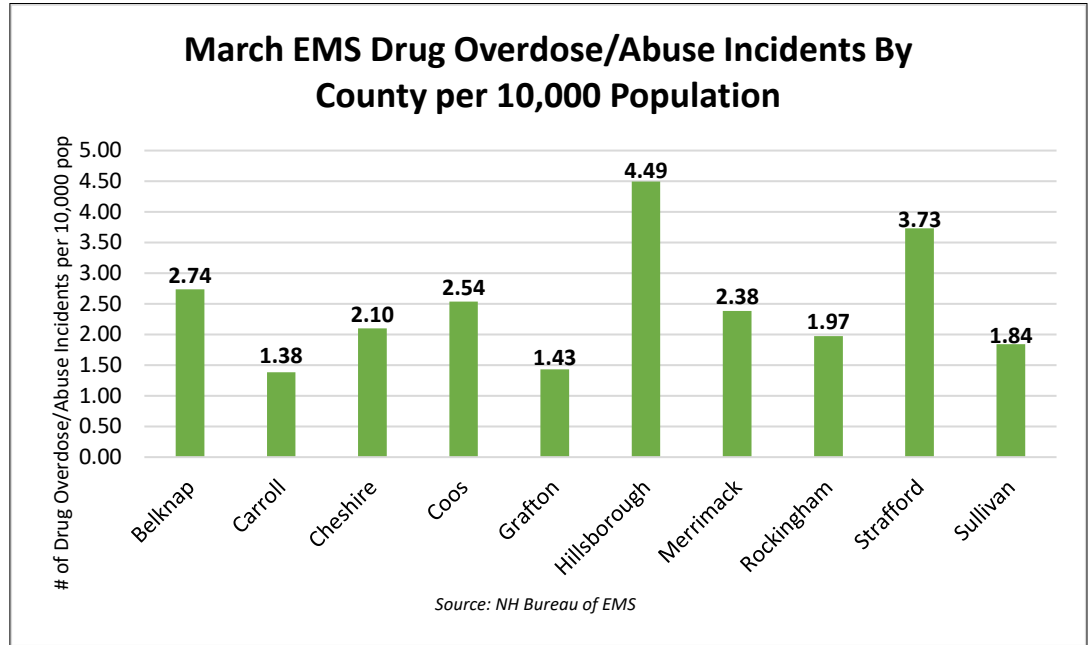
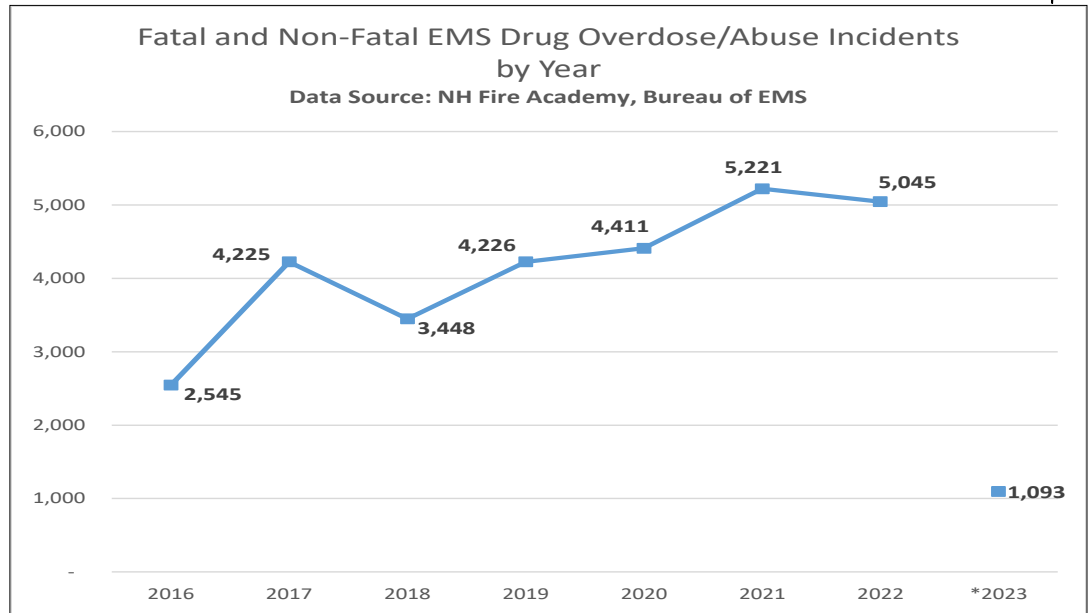
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**Analyst Notes:**

- EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents increased 21% from February to March.
- In March, Hillsborough County saw the highest Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents per capita with 4.49 incidents per 10,000 population. Strafford County was close second with 3.73 per 10,000 population.
- The age group with the largest number of Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents was 30-39, representing 33% of all Drug Overdose/Abuse incidents in March.
- More males than females experienced a Drug Overdose/Abuse incident in March.

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

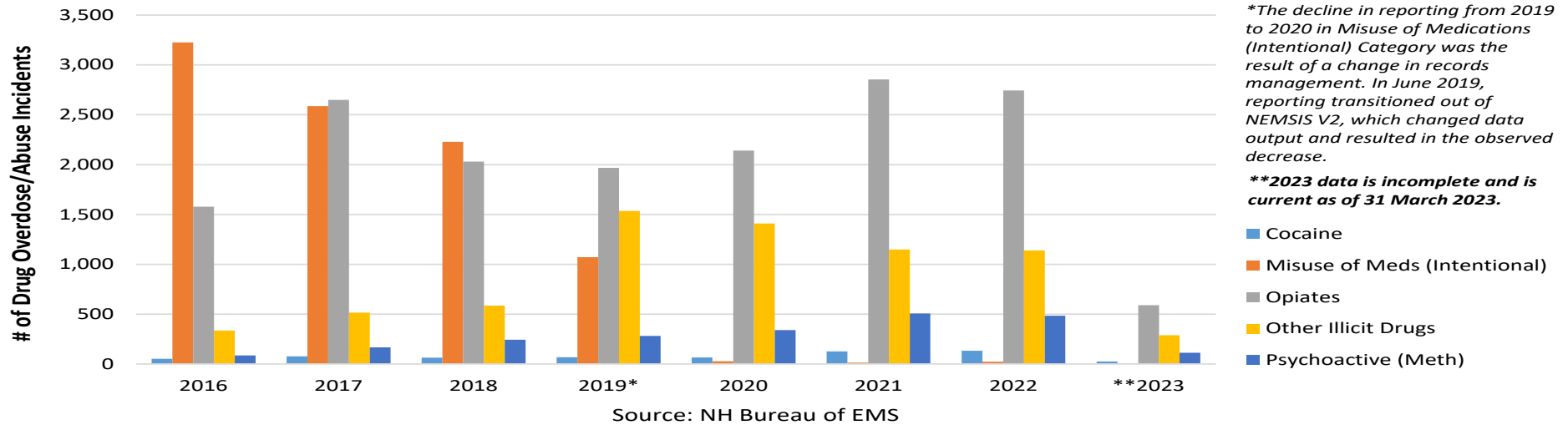
- Data represents cases where EMS providers indicated one or more diagnoses of medication abuse/overdose. **Incidents reflect both non-fatal and fatal drug overdose/abuse.**
- The continued decrease in the number of EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents by Year for 2019 and 2020 is attributable to a records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



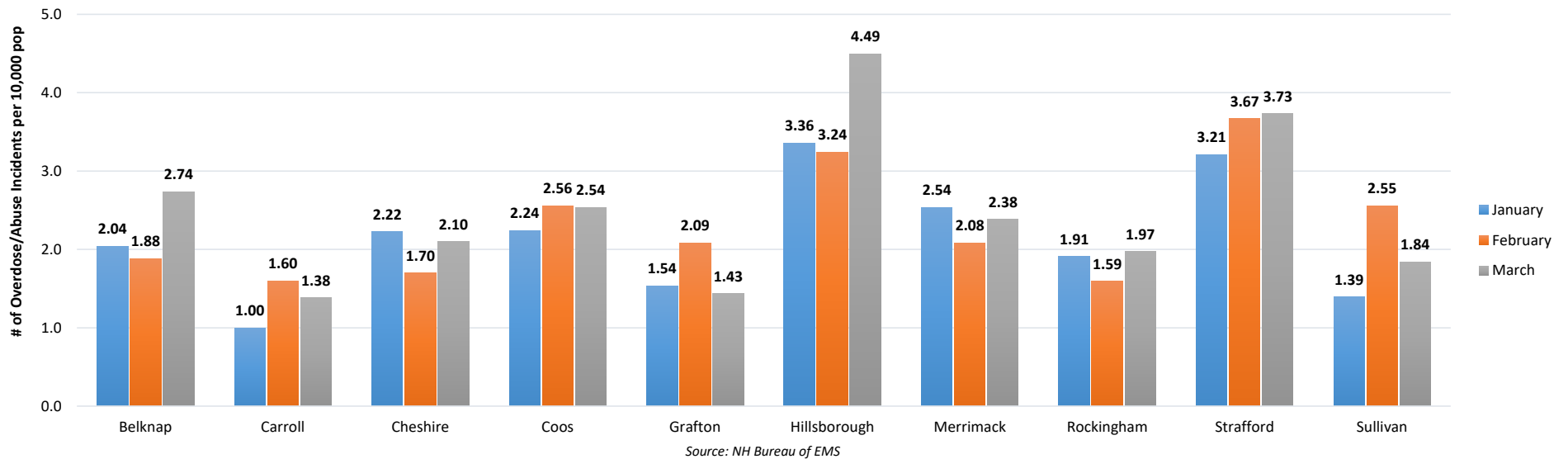
**EMS Drug Overdose/Abuse Incidents (Continued):**

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

## 4/2022 - 3/2023

\*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

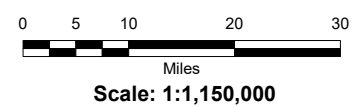
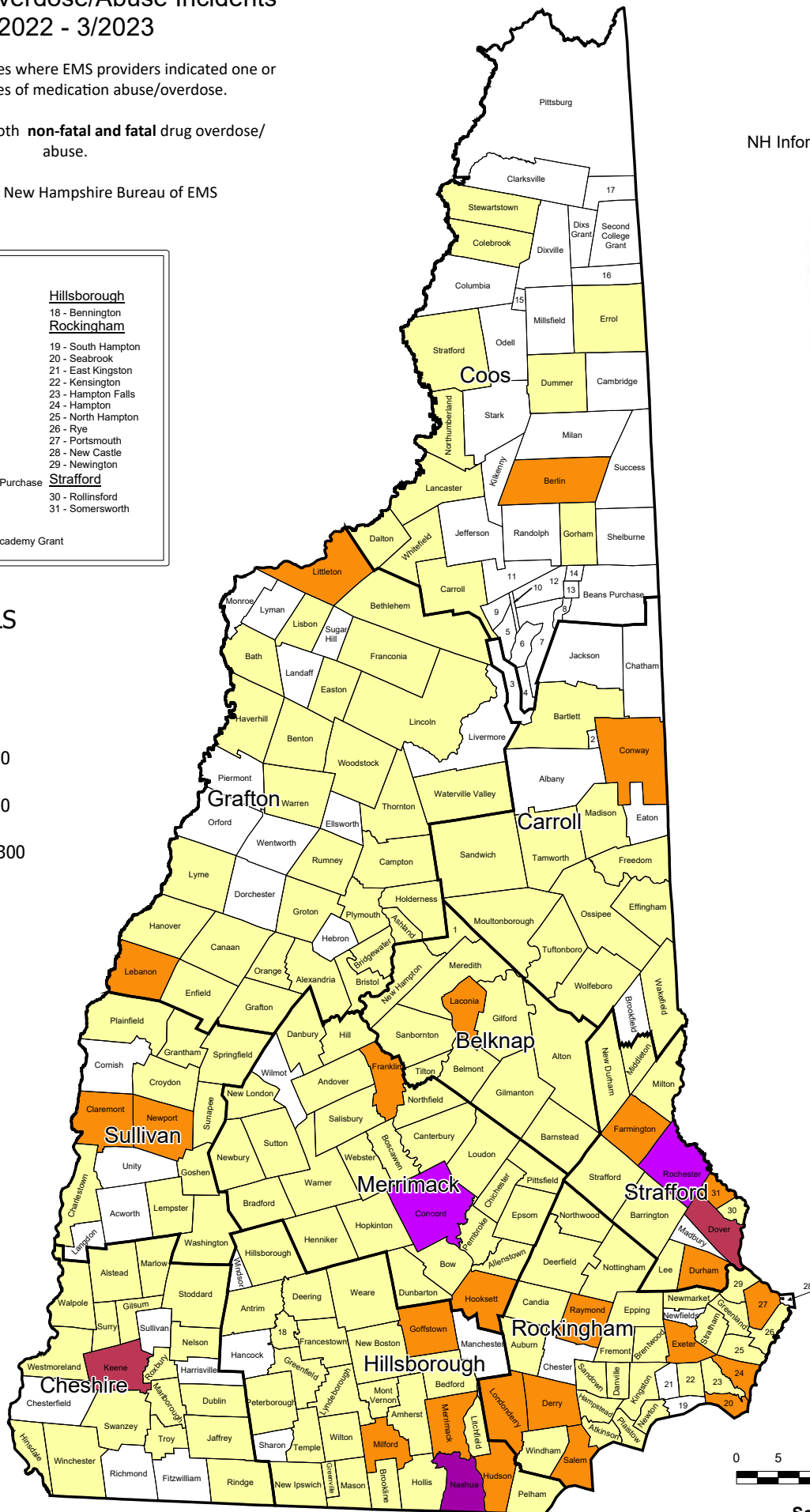
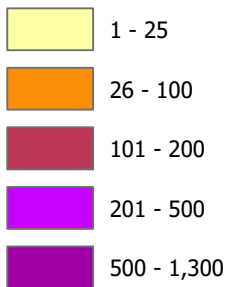


Prepared by:  
NH Information & Analysis Center



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<u>Belknap</u>	<u>Hillsborough</u>
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<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
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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)

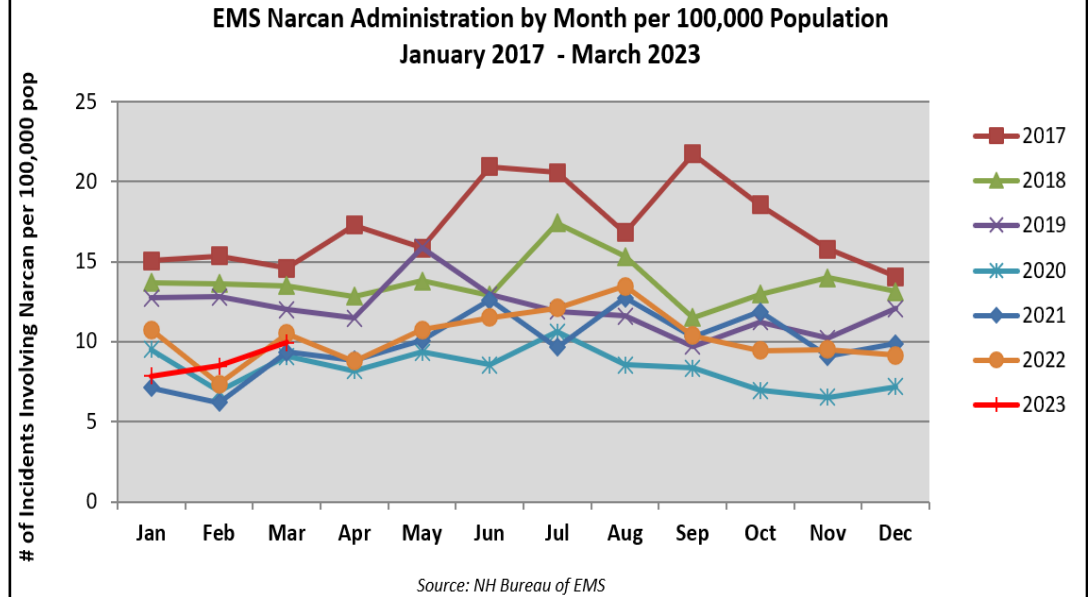
Right click on the paperclip and select "Open File" to view additional data.

**Trends:**

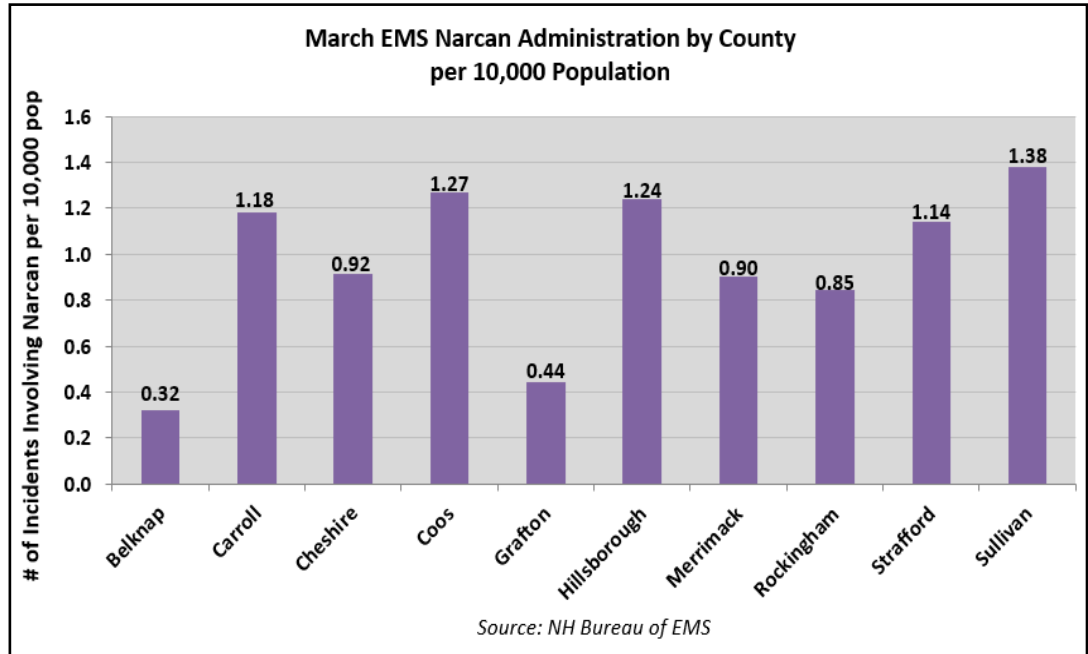
- EMS Narcan administration incidents increased by 17% from February to March.
- In March, Sullivan County had the highest EMS Narcan administration incidents per capita with 1.38 incidents per 10,000 population. In second, Coos and Hillsborough Counties were nearly tied with 1.27 and 1.24 incidents per 10,000 population, respectively.
- The age group with the largest number of EMS Narcan administration incidents was 30-39, representing 33% of all EMS Narcan administrations in March.

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

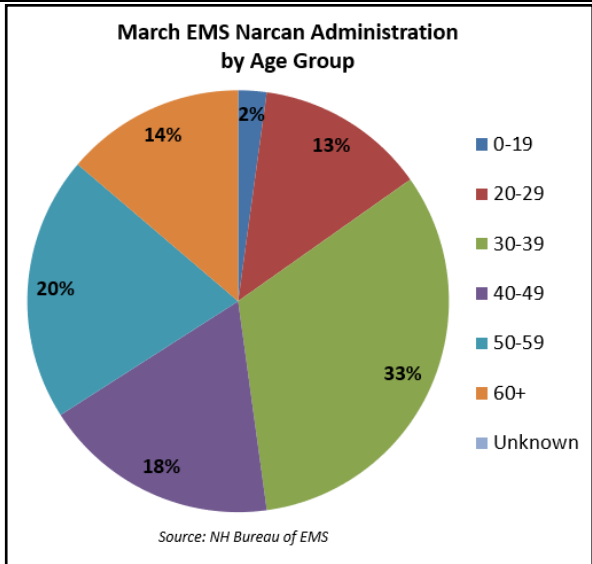
- Narcan data in this report involves the number of incidents where Narcan was administered, NOT the number of doses of Narcan during a certain time period. Multiple doses may be administered during an incident.
- Narcan may be given for a decrease in alertness or respirations due to an overdose *or*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



Source: NH Bureau of EMS



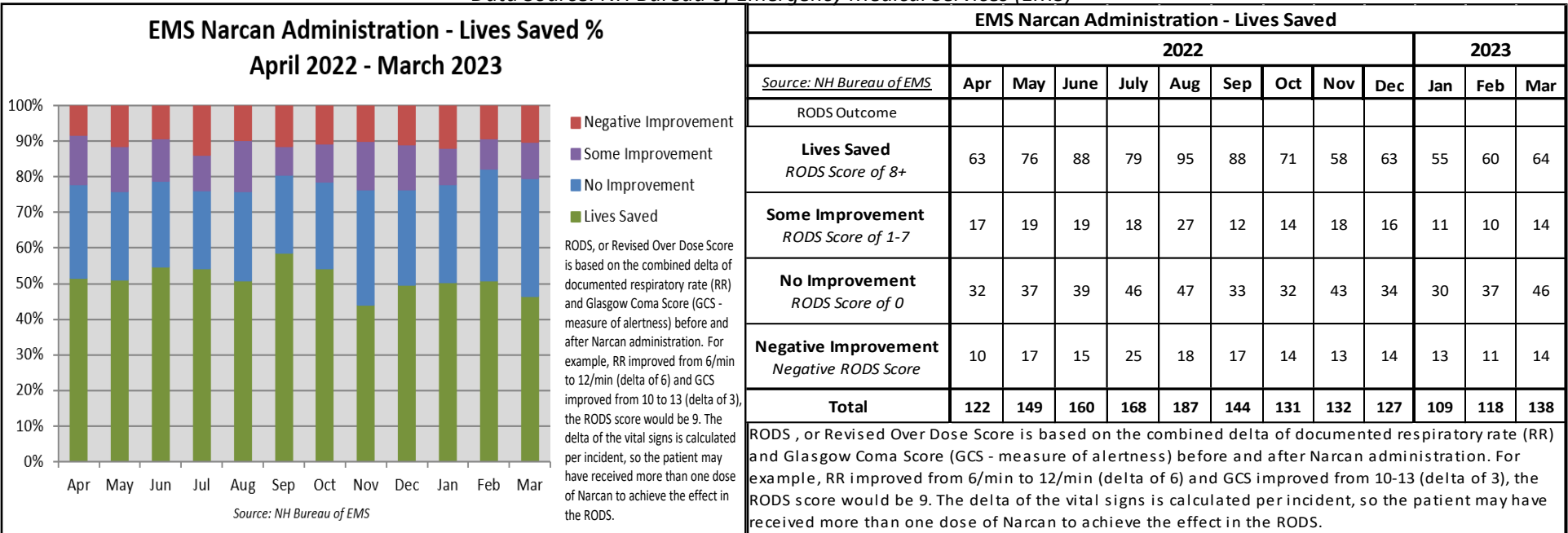
Source: NH Bureau of EMS



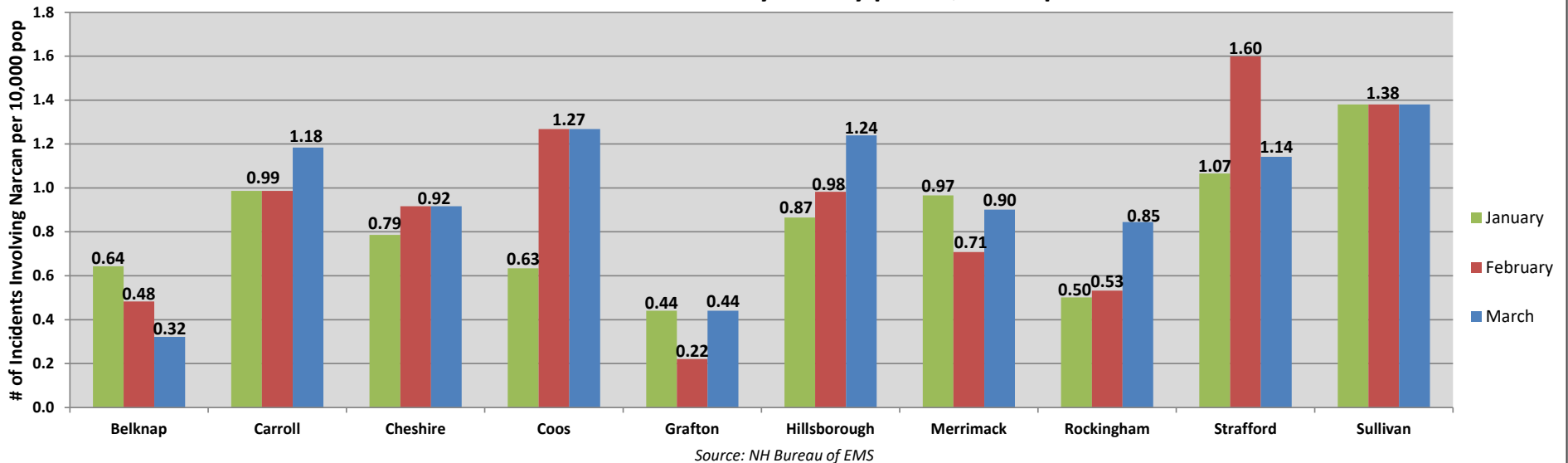
Source: NH Bureau of EMS

**EMS Narcan Administration Incidents (Continued):**

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



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



EMS/Narcan Administration by Town

4/2022 - 3/2023

Data Source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



Prepared by:  
NH Information & Analysis Center

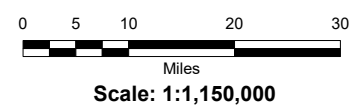
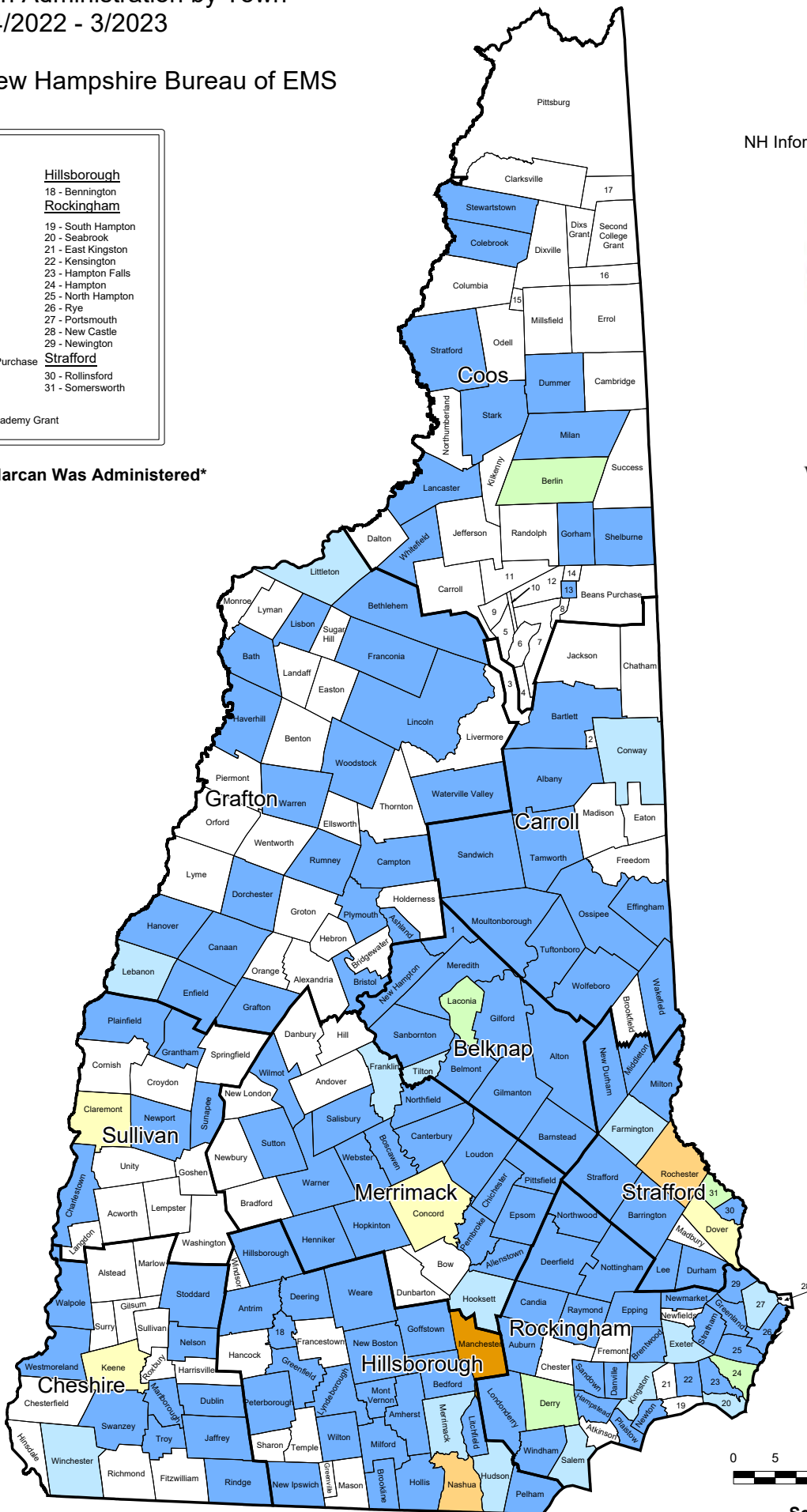
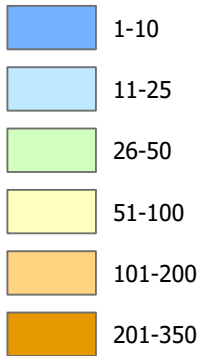


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\*Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered\*

Range

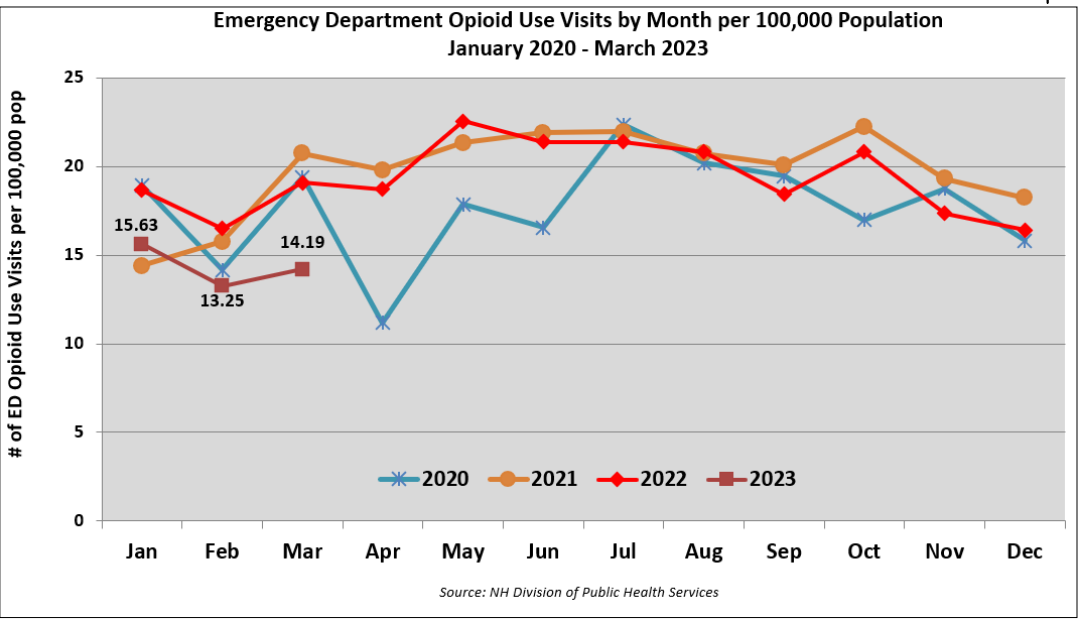


### Opium Related Emergency Department Visits:

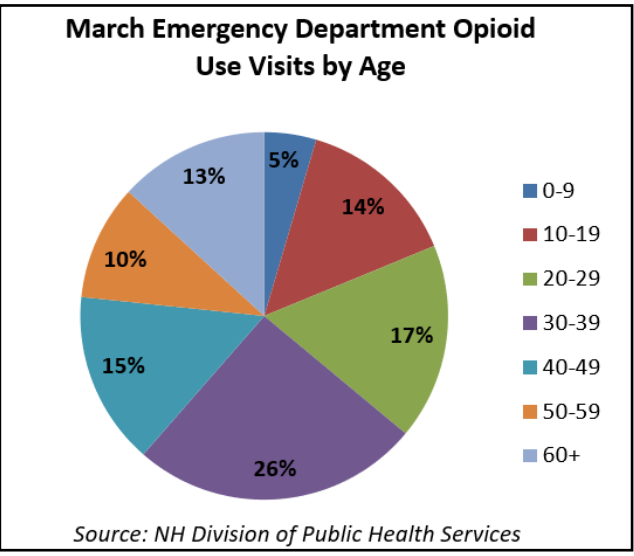
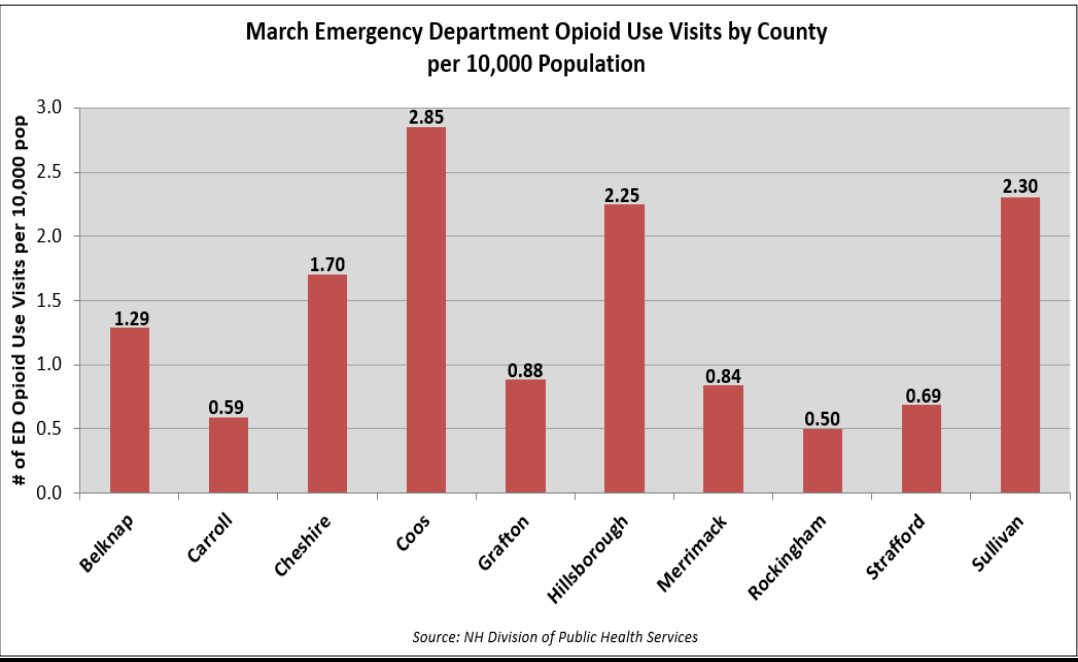
Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

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

- Trends:**
- Opioid related ED visits increased by 7% from February to March.
  - In March, residents from Coos County had the most opioid related ED visits per capita with 2.85 visits per 10,000 population. Sullivan County was second with 2.3 visits per 10,000 population.
  - In March, the age group with the largest number of opioid related ED visits was 30-39 year olds with 26%.

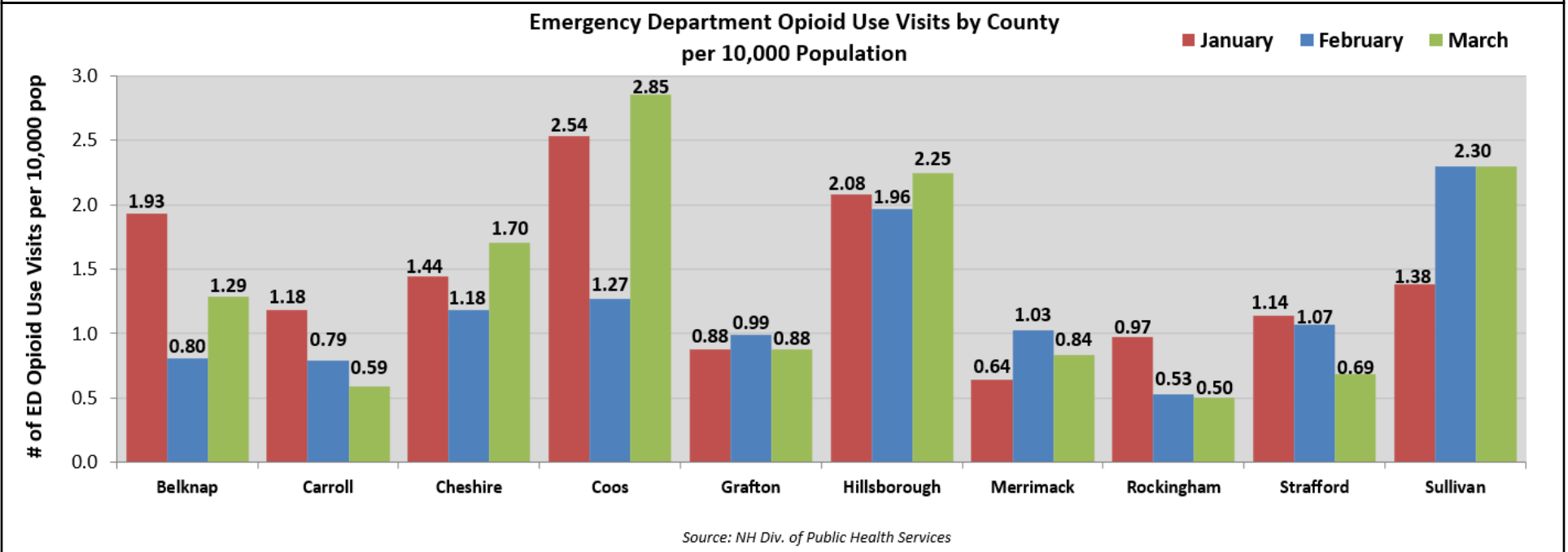
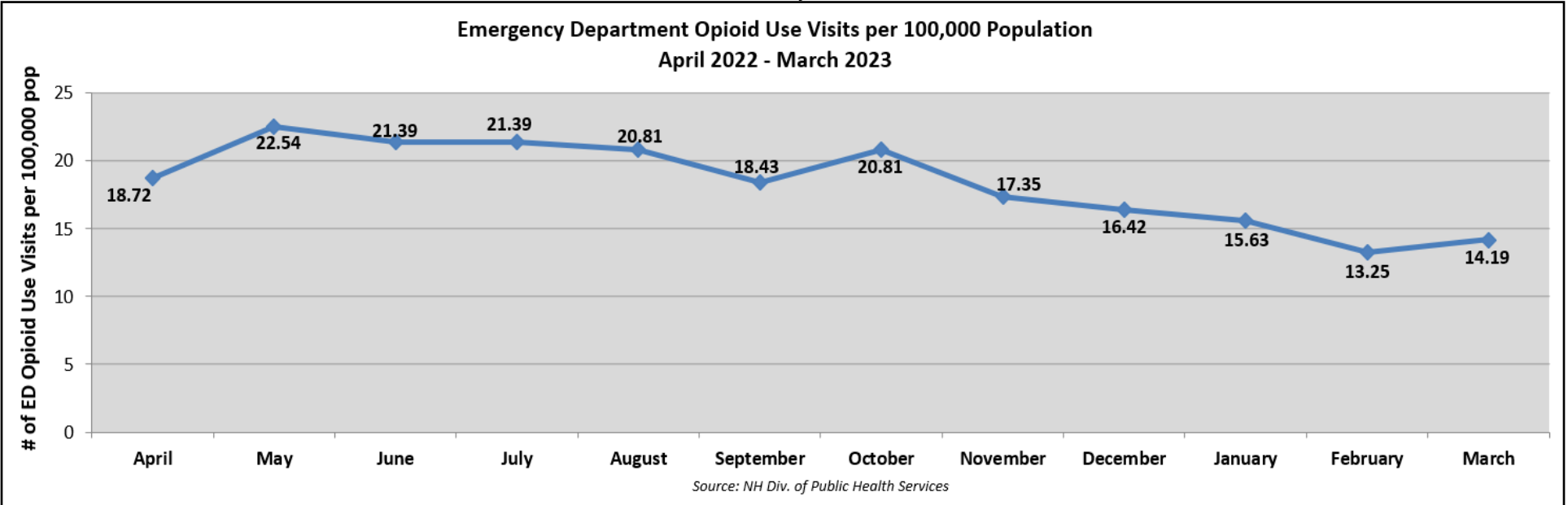


- \*\*\* IMPORTANT DATA NOTES \*\*\***
- **Data Note (March 2023):** Four hospitals are temporarily not reporting data to the relevant system and thus are not included in this month's data set.
  - The data being reported starting January 2020 has different collection criteria than previous months/years. 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.



**Opioid Related Emergency Department Visits (Continued):**

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services



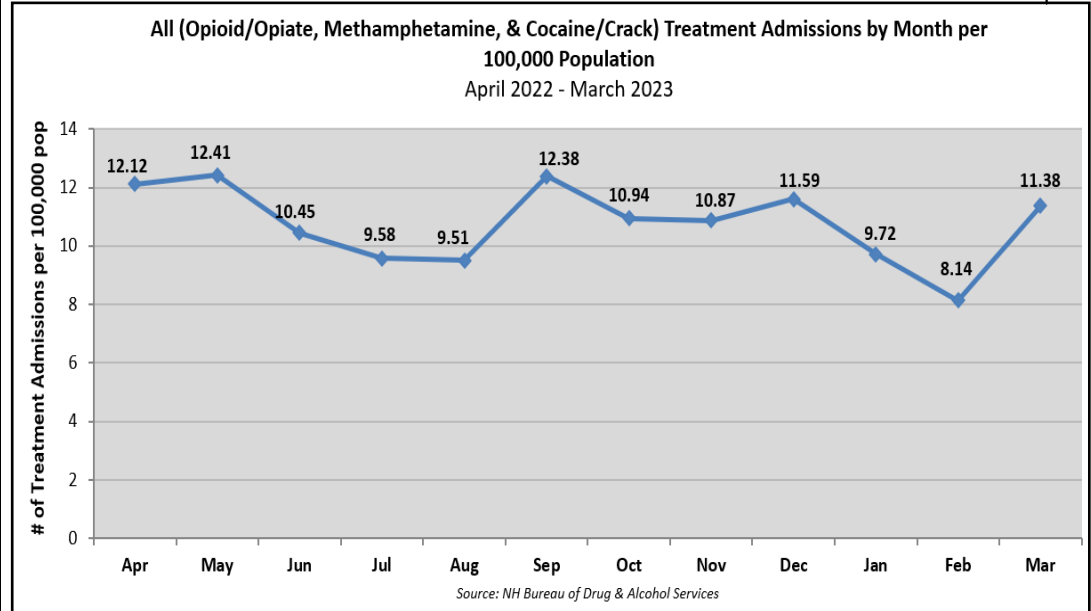
**Treatment Admissions:**

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

**Trends:**

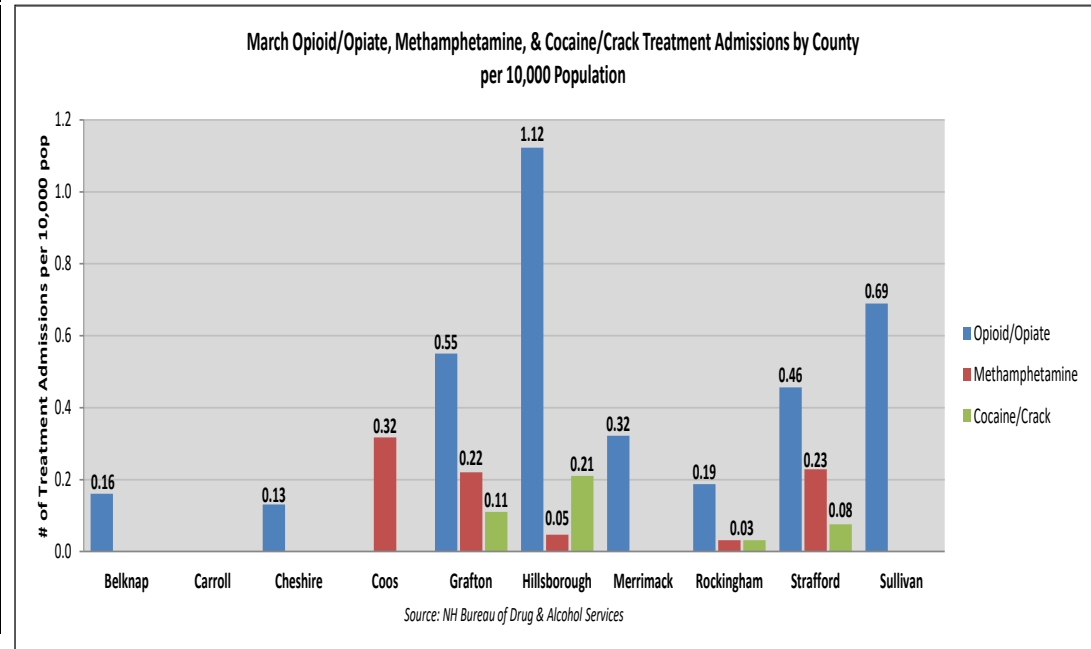
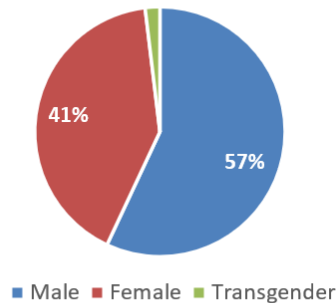
- Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased by 40% from February to March.
- In March, residents from Hillsborough County had the highest admission per capita rate for opioid/opiate treatment, with 1.12 admissions per 10,000 population.
- More males were admitted to state funded treatment facilities in March for Opioid/Opiate, Methamphetamine, & Cocaine/Crack use, than females or transgenders.
- Methamphetamine treatment admissions increased by 44% from February to March.
- Cocaine/Crack treatment admissions increased by 122% from February to March.
- Heroin/Fentanyl treatment admissions increased by 20% from February to March.



**\*\*\*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

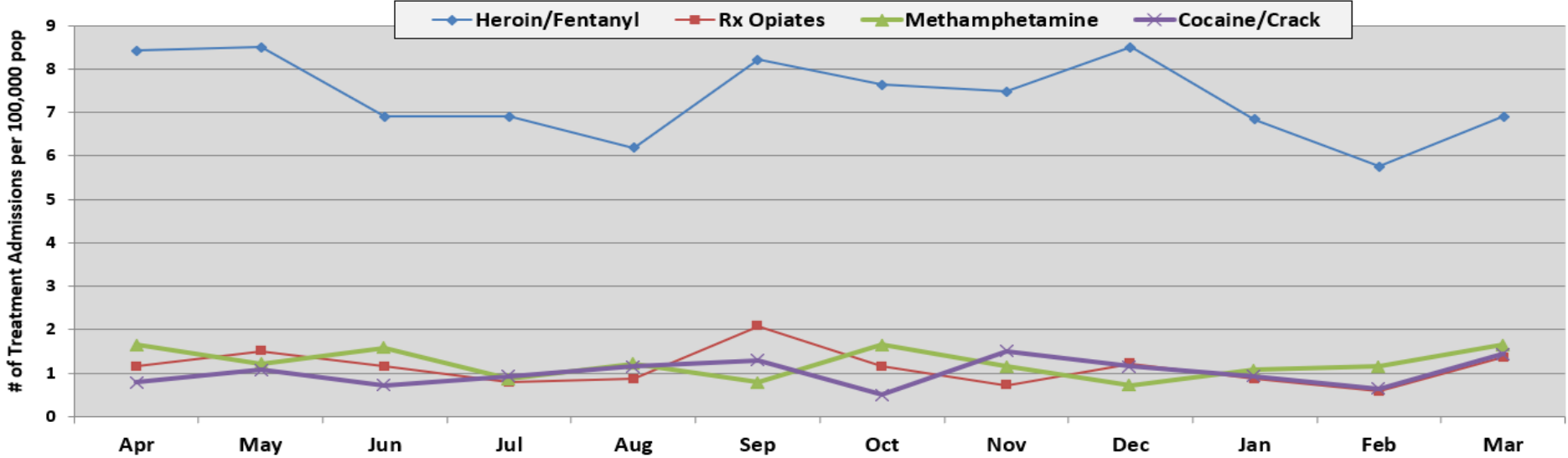


**Treatment Admissions (Continued):**

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

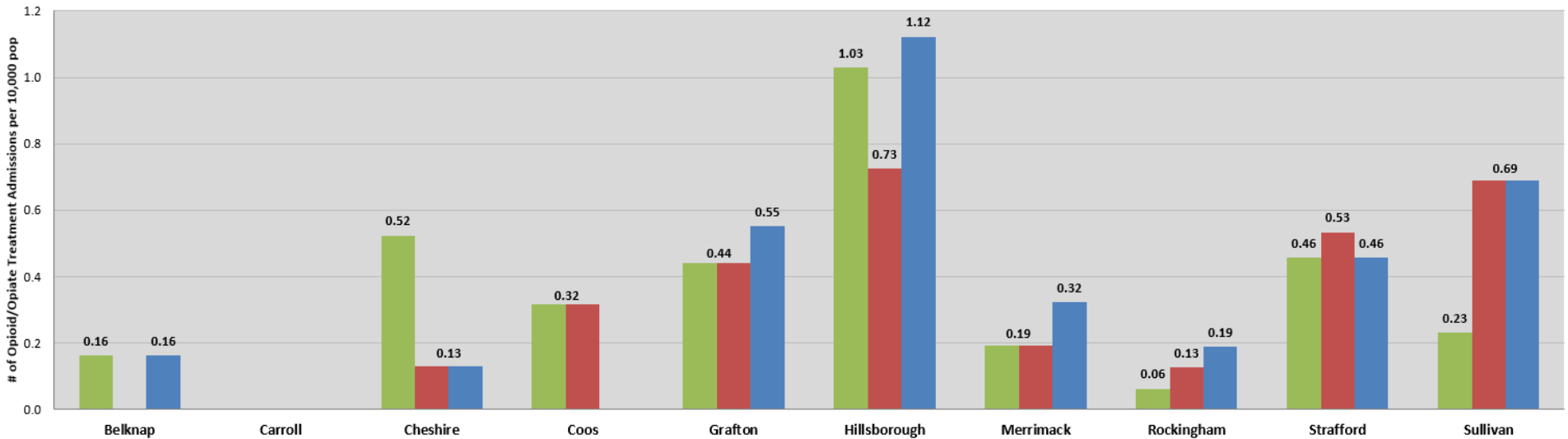
April 2022 - March 2023



Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

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

January February March



Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services



## Situational Awareness/Press Reporting:

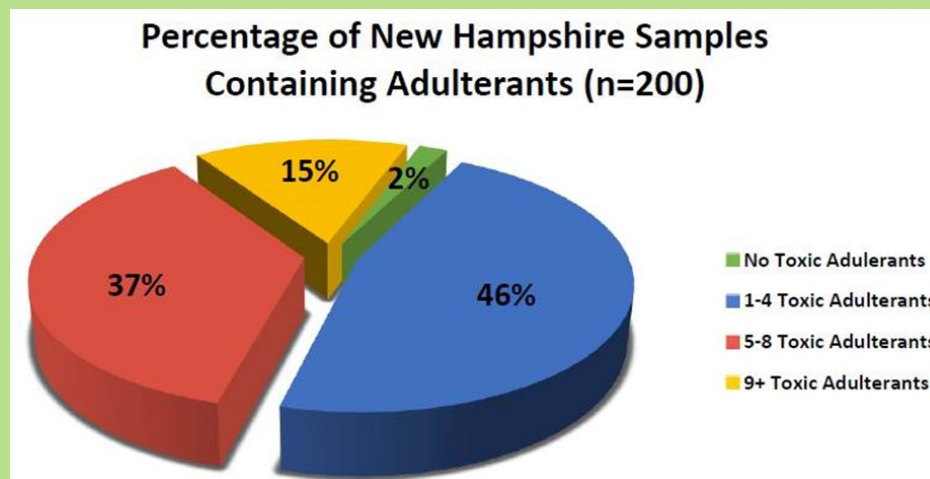
**A Case Study of the Opioid Crisis in New England**

Orono, ME— In this study, a mathematical model of the opioid epidemic was constructed incorporating novel features important to better understanding opioid abuse dynamics. These features include demographic differences in population susceptibility, general transmission expressions, and combined consideration of pharmaceutical opioid and heroin abuse. It was found that the mechanisms most influential to the overall number of abusers in Maine are those involved in illicit pharmaceutical opioid abuse transmission. Consequently, preventative strategies that controlled illicit transmission were more effective over alternative approaches, such as treatment. These results are presented with the hope of helping to inform public policy as to the most effective means of intervention.

Source: <https://link.springer.com> (23 April 2023)

Concord, NH—The New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory has worked with The Center for Forensic Science Research & Education on a project that looked at a number of samples submitted from across the country to identify the primary adulterants found in fentanyl, cocaine or methamphetamine samples. Of the samples submitted in 2020, results indicated that nearly all of the submitted samples contained anywhere from one to over nine toxic adulterants. Just 2% of the samples contained no toxic adulterants. The top three adulterants identified for NH samples in this study were phenacetin, caffeine and lidocaine, which also closely aligns with the top three adulterants found in this nationwide study. The New Hampshire State Police Forensic Laboratory has indicated these are still the top three adulterants they are encountering, along with xylazine.

Source: NHSP Forensic Lab (21 April 2023)



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