

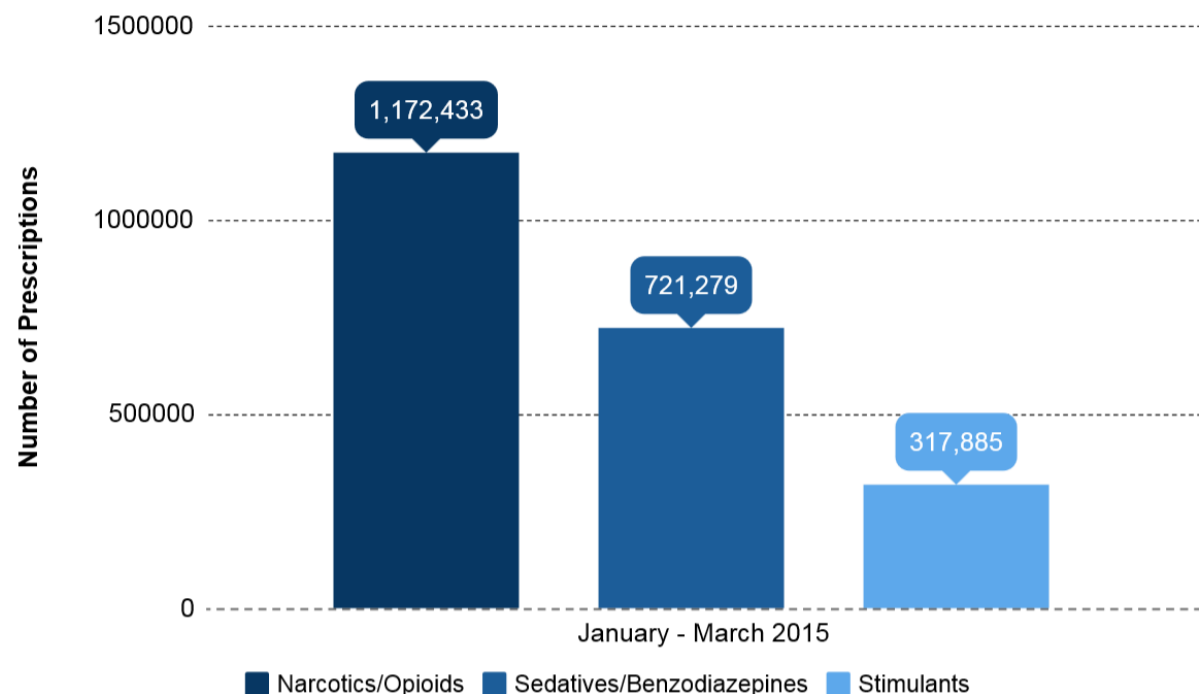
Misuse and Abuse of Opioids in Wisconsin



Wisconsin
Department of Health Services

Division of Mental Health and
Substance Abuse Services
P-01127 (10/2015)

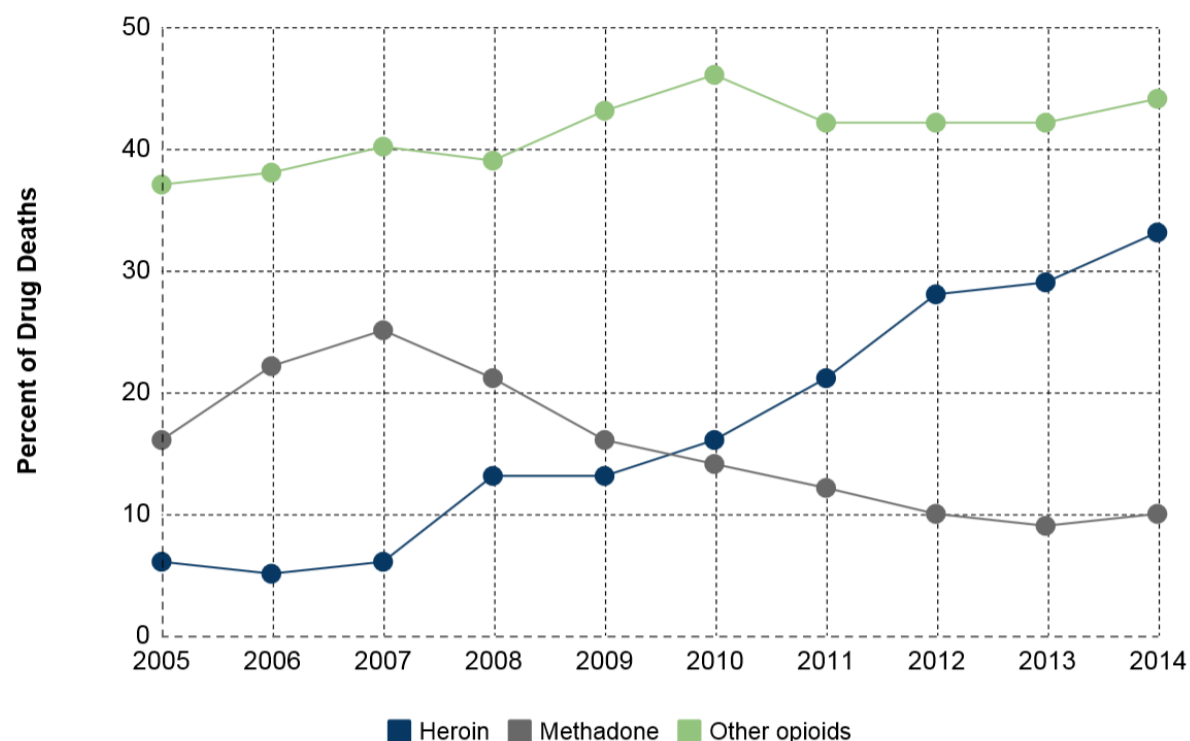
Top 15 Monitored Prescription Drug Prescriptions in Wisconsin January - March, 2015



From January - March, 2015 there were 2,638,851 monitored prescriptions dispensed in Wisconsin.

Of the top 15 monitored prescription drugs, 53% were narcotic analgesics containing opioids (such as Vicodin®, OxyContin®, or codeine), 32% were sedatives or benzodiazepines (such as Xanax®), and 14% were stimulants (such as Ritalin®).

Heroin, Methadone, and Other Opioid-Related Deaths, Wisconsin, 2005-2014



The proportion of drug deaths where heroin is mentioned has drastically increased from 5% in 2006 to 33% in 2014.

Some opioid deaths involve both heroin and prescription opioids (more than one drug may be mentioned in the death record).

In Summary

Many prescription medications have the potential for abuse. However, prescription opioids are particularly dangerous due to their highly addictive nature. Opioid refers to any drug - natural or synthetic - with morphine-like effects including illegal drugs such as heroin, as well as prescription painkillers. In Wisconsin, the upward trend of drug deaths where heroin is mentioned may reflect increasing substitution of heroin for prescription drugs among opioid users due to heroin's lower cost and increasing availability. With the large quantity of opioids being prescribed and the potential for abuse and addiction, it is important to use them as directed and only when needed. To help reduce the risk of misuse, monitor pill quantities and medication levels and store prescription medications in a secure place, such as a locked cabinet. Properly dispose of any unused or expired medications. For more information please visit www.doseofrealitywi.gov.

Fast Facts



In Wisconsin:

In 2013, 15% of high school students reported using prescription drugs without a prescription in their lifetime.

19.5% of suicides in Wisconsin involve intentional poisoning (3rd largest cause) and 53.2% of these suicides involve prescription drugs, primarily opioids.

From 2011 to 2012 there was a 19.4% increase in arrests for the sale of synthetic narcotics and a 14.4% increase in arrests for possession of synthetic narcotics.

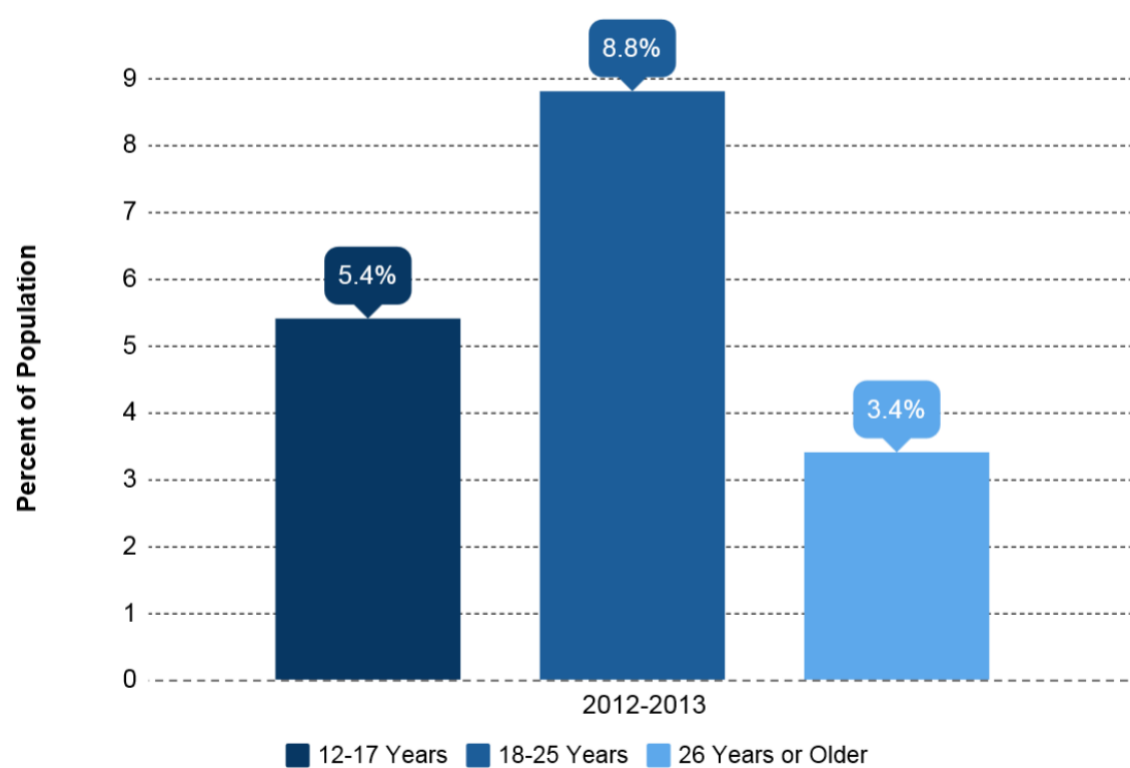


In the United States:

From 2007-2014, 57% of 12th graders who used narcotics other than heroin were given them for free from a friend or relative.

In 2011, the CDC reported overdose deaths involving opioid painkillers exceeded deaths involving heroin and cocaine combined.

Past Year Nonmedical Use of Pain Relievers, Wisconsin, 2012-2013



In Wisconsin, 18-25 year olds report the highest past year nonmedical use of painrelievers.