

Opioid, methamphetamine use and prescription drug misuse in Kentucky

By now many people are aware of the opioid epidemic that has affected most of the United States. Understanding substance use treatment resources and whether individuals are accessing those resources helps in understanding the scope of the problem.

According to the latest National Survey on Drug Use and Health, in 2017 an estimated 20.7 million people in the United States ages 12 or older – 1 in 13, or 7.6% – needed substance use treatment.¹ Kentucky's drug overdose deaths climbed to 1,566 in 2017, an increase of 10.3% over 2016.² In 2017 Kentucky had the fifth highest death rate due to drug overdoses in the nation (37.2 deaths per 100,000 residents).

The 2018 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**, sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, asked Kentucky adults about the impact of substance use on their family and friends.

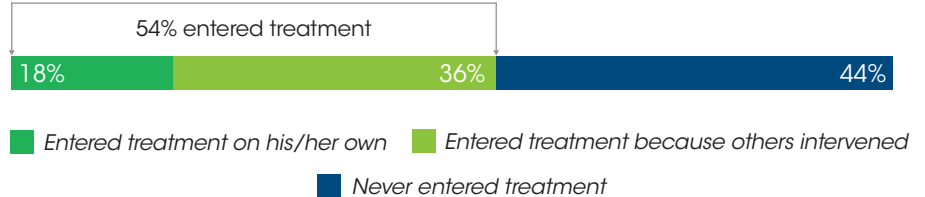
¹ Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). (2017). *2017 NSDUH Annual Report*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2zM5uHc>.

² Kentucky Injury Prevention and Research Center. (2018). *Drug overdose deaths among Kentucky residents, 1999-2017*. Retrieved from <https://bit.ly/2t7ha3Q>.

In the past 12 months, has a family member or friend experienced problems as a result of using drugs? (Percentages do not add to 100% because the response 'don't know' is not included.)



Which of the following applies to that family member or friend ...?



SOURCE: 2018 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released February 2019)



About half of adults who had drug problems entered treatment

KHIP asked, "In the past 12 months, has a family member or friend experienced problems as a result of using drugs?" Three in 10 Kentucky adults (31%) said yes. KHIP then asked these adults whether that person had entered treatment. Overall, more than half of these adults (54%) said the person had entered a treatment program. About 2 in 10 reported that the person entered treatment on their own (18%). Nearly 4 in 10

reported that the person entered treatment only because others intervened (36%). More than 4 in 10 reported that the person never entered treatment (44%).

KHIP asked adults whose friend or family member had never entered treatment to name the most important reason why they hadn't. Respondents could provide any answer. The most frequent response, which was given by more than 3 in 10 of these adults (35%), was that the friend or family member didn't want to quit using

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These findings, unless otherwise noted, are from the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, funded by the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky and Interact for Health. The Kentucky Health Issues Poll was conducted Aug. 26-Oct. 21, 2018, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,569 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 697 landline interviews and 872 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.5%. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as nonresponse, question wording or context effects that can introduce error or bias. For more information about the Kentucky Health Issues Poll, please visit www.healthy-ky.org or www.interactforhealth.org/about-khip/.

drugs. Two in 10 of these adults (17%) said that the friend or family member did not believe they had a problem. About 1 in 10 of these adults (9%) said that their friend or family member had died. Other answers included “they went to prison,” “can’t afford it,” “other people are a negative influence” and “no treatment available nearby.”

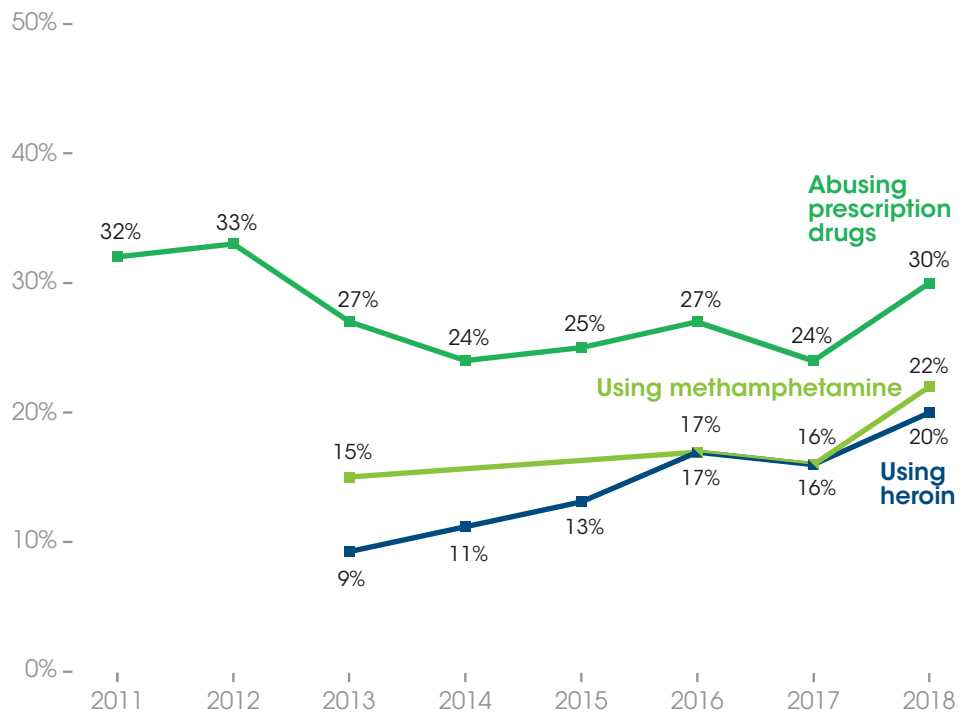
2 in 10 know someone with problems from heroin, methamphetamine

KHIP also asked Kentucky adults if they knew someone with problems due to specific drug use. Three in 10 Kentucky adults (30%) reported that a family member or friend had experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Percocet, Vicodin or codeine.³ The percentage of Kentucky adults reporting prescription pain reliever abuse has remained relatively stable since KHIP first asked this question in 2011.

Two in 10 Kentucky adults (20%) reported that a family member or

³ KHIP asked, “Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers such as OxyContin, Vicodin, Percocet or codeine?”

Percentage of Kentucky adults who know someone who has experienced problems as a result of ...



* The methamphetamine question was not asked on KHIP in 2014 and 2015.
SOURCE: 2018 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released February 2019)



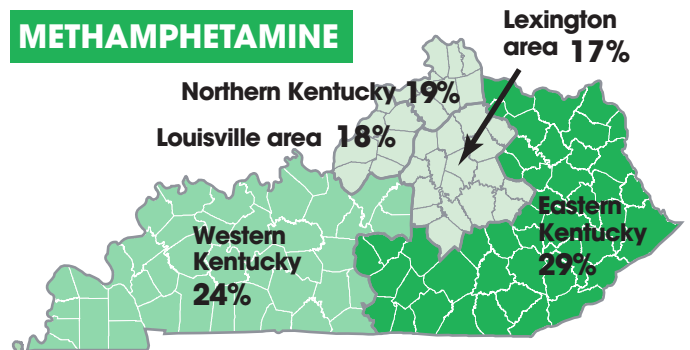
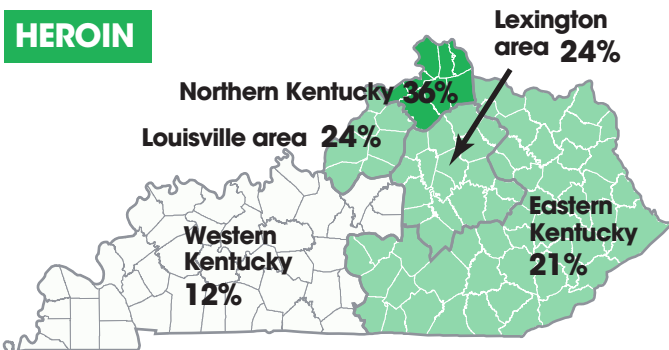
friend had experienced problems as a result of heroin use. This percentage has steadily risen since this question was first asked in 2013.

experienced problems as a result of methamphetamine use. This percentage has risen since the question was first asked in 2013.

Responses to questions about the use of heroin and methamphetamine varied by region.

About 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (22%) reported that a family member or friend had

Percentage of Kentucky adults by region who know someone who has experienced problems as a result of using ...



SOURCE: 2018 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released February 2019)

