

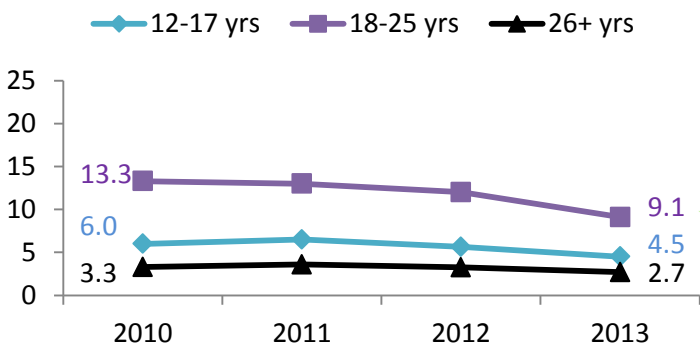
# Opioid Misuse, Abuse & Dependence in Vermont

## Data Brief, July 2015

Vermont has many data sources on opioid misuse, abuse and dependence. This data brief covers population prevalence, substance abuse treatment, emergency department visits, and drug-related fatalities involving opioids. There are two main types of opioids that can be misused or abused: prescription opioids (e.g. oxycodone or hydrocodone) and heroin.

A recent report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration found that almost 80% of new heroin users in a given year previously misused prescription pain relievers. The general pattern for Vermont mirrors a national trend: a slow decrease in prescription drug misuse, expanded access to treatment for those dependent on opioids, and an increase in disease and death associated with heroin use.

**Percent of Vermonters reporting prescription pain reliever misuse in the past year, by age**



Source: National Survey on Drug Use and Health

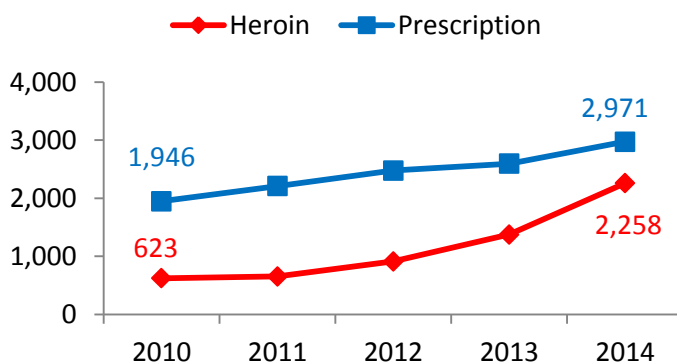
### Misuse is going down

The percentage of Vermonters reporting prescription pain reliever misuse is decreasing significantly in Vermont. The decrease is particularly dramatic for Vermonters 18 to 25 years old. Heroin use in the past year remains well below 1% in Vermont.

### Treatment is going up

The number of Vermonters receiving treatment for opioid abuse and dependence in the Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment System has increased significantly in Vermont in the past five years. The increase is particularly sharp for those seeking treatment for heroin use. Vermont has greatly expanded access to care through the Care Alliance – a coordinated treatment effort that began in 2013.

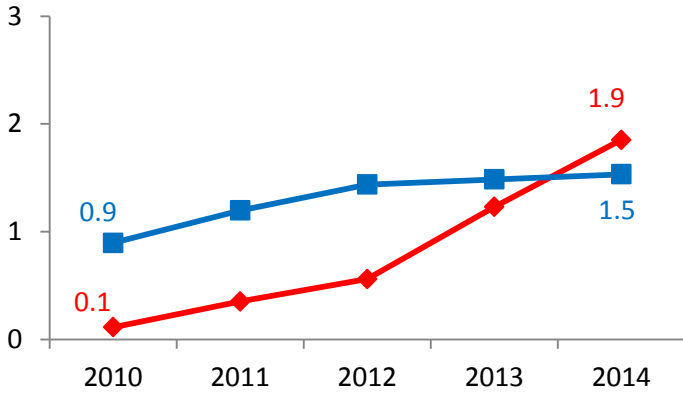
**Number of people treated in the Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment System for opioids**



Source: Vermont Substance Abuse Treatment Information System

**Rate of emergency department visits related to opioids per 10,000 Vermonters by type of opioid**

Heroin Prescription



Source: Vermont Early Aberration Reporting System

**Emergency department visits are going up for heroin, flat for prescription opioids**

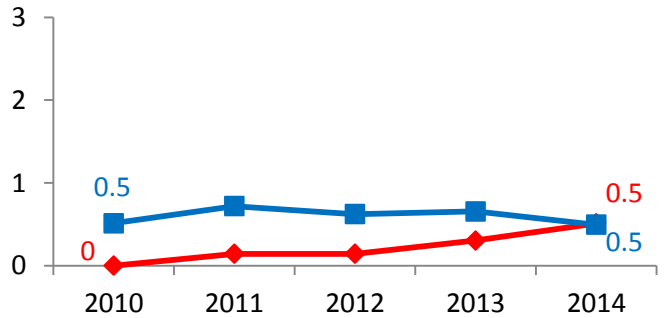
There has been a sharp increase in heroin-related visits to Emergency Departments in the past three years, while prescription drug-related visits have not increased since 2012.

**Fatalities involving heroin are increasing, flat for prescription opioids**

Drug-related fatalities involving heroin has increased significantly in the past five years, while fatalities involving prescription opioids that did not include heroin have remained stable.

**Rate of accidental drug-related fatalities involving opioids per 10,000 Vermonters by type of opioid**

Heroin Prescription



Source: Vermont Office of the Chief Medical Examiner

**Contact Information**

For questions, please contact Shayla Livingston at [Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us](mailto:Shayla.Livingston@state.vt.us)

For drug-related fatalities data and opioid exposed infant data:

<http://healthvermont.gov/research/index.aspx#subabepi>

For naloxone use data: <http://healthvermont.gov/adap/treatment/naloxone/index.aspx>

For prevalence of drug:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/clearinghouse/publications.aspx#NSDUH>

For data on treatment of opioid dependence:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/clearinghouse/publications.aspx#top>