

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Stress, and Drug Use

Experiences in Childhood:

- Children who are *sexually abused* are nearly five times more likely to inject drugs in adulthood as those who are not while children who witness violence are about three times more likely.¹
- *Neglect, emotional abuse, parental incarceration, and parental binge drinking* were associated with 25-55% increased odds of prescription pain reliever misuse.²

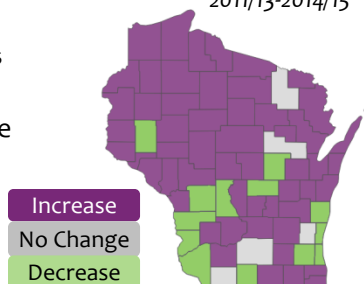
Stress in Adulthood:

- Parents report that opioids provide relief from emotional distress.³

Methamphetamine (Meth) Use

- Meth use has well-documented negative effects on families and communities. Communities with high usage see increased violence, domestic abuse, and social isolation. Communities also see a high economic burden due to increased health care costs and lost wages.⁴
- Nationally, in 2016, 69,000 12-17 year olds (<1%) and 14,464,000 adults over 18 (6%) had ever used meth.⁵
- Wisconsin meth arrests, charges, and seizures have tripled since 2011, with greatest increases occurring in rural areas (see map).⁶

Average change in meth cases between 2011/13-2014/15



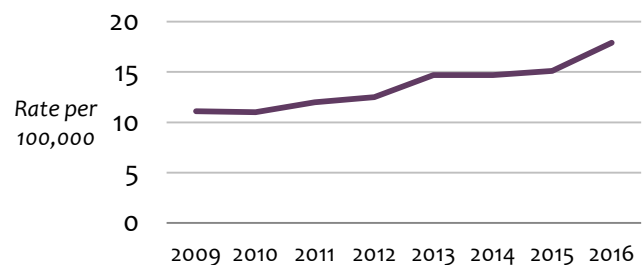
Opioid Use in the United States⁷ (2015)

- 60% of the 55,000 drug overdoses in the U.S. were opioid-related.
- 10.4 per 100,000 persons in the U.S. died of opioid-related drug overdoses. The death rate was higher in males, individuals between 25-34, and non-Hispanic White people.
- In 2015, 5% of Americans over 12 years old misused opioids, with highest misuse among 21-25 year olds at 9.4%. Opioid misuse dropped in 2016 with 4.4% of the total population using, and 7.6% of 21-25 year olds.⁸

Opioid Use in Wisconsin

- Rates and dosage of opioid prescriptions have decreased from 2014 to 2016. In 2016, Wisconsin's prescribing rate (62.2 prescriptions per 100 people) was lower than the national average (62.6/100 people) though rates of opioid prescriptions differ by county.⁹
- Opioid-related hospitalizations have increased over 75% from 0.9 per 1,000 (2005) to 1.6 per 1,000 (2014).¹⁰
- The rate of opioid-related deaths increased over 60% between 2009 and 2016 to 18 per 100,000 (below). This reflects an increase of over 100% from 2008-2016, doubling the number of opioid deaths from 396 to 827.¹¹
- The Wisconsin opioid death rate was highest among black people in 2012-2016.¹²

Wisconsin's opioid death rate¹³



Key Findings

- Wisconsin rates and dosage of opioid prescriptions have decreased from 2014 to 2016.
- Wisconsin opioid related hospitalizations and the number of opioid-related deaths are increasing.
- More Wisconsin children are removed from their home due to adult drug use, and more infants are being born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome and other drug-related health issues.
- Use of methamphetamines has increased in Wisconsin.

Drug Use Among Children and Youth in the United States

- Opioids are the leading cause of teenage drug deaths.¹⁴
- Drug overdoses from all drugs among adolescents 15-19 decreased from 2007-2014, but increased in 2015.¹⁵
- Prescriptions for opioids decreased in 2014-2016 from 2.6 prescriptions per 100 people to 2/100 for youth under 14, as well as for 15-19 year olds, from 12.8 to 11.6/100.¹⁶
- Meth use decreased from 9% to 3% of youth from 1999 to 2015. Wisconsin data indicates that the state follows this national trend, with youth meth use dropping by 50%. In Milwaukee, however, meth use doubled to 6.6% from 2005-2013.¹⁷

Impact on Drug Misuse on Children and Families

- In 2016, 9% of U.S. children lived with someone with an alcohol or drug problem. Those children typically had co-occurring ACEs (91%).¹⁸
- Children of caregivers who use and/or make meth are at risk for physical and sexual abuse, neglect, fires and explosions, medical problems, and exposure to hazardous lifestyles.¹⁹
- Children of mothers who had a substance use disorders have higher levels of externalizing problems, depression, and school difficulties.²⁰
- Babies born dependent on addictive drugs may lower the parent's confidence and satisfaction resulting in challenges with bonding and attachment.²¹

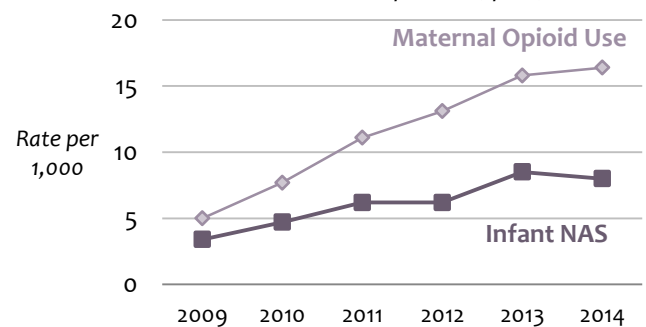
Impact of Opioids on Infants

- Between 2009 and 2014, Wisconsin maternal opioid use has tripled resulting in an increase in babies born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (NAS).²⁵
- Babies born to mothers using opioids have a 50% risk of being born with NAS, and an increased likelihood of other negative outcomes, including premature birth, poor fetal growth, or death.²⁶
- Opioid treatment programs increase positive outcomes for pregnant women and their children.²⁷

Wisconsin Out-of-Home Care

- The number of children removed from their homes increased steadily from 2012 to 2017, reaching a ten year high in October 2017 with 7,826 children in placements on October 1. The growth in out-of-home care placements has been almost entirely in non-Milwaukee counties.²²
- Over the past seven years, the number of children removed from their home and placed in an out-of-home care setting due to parent/caregiver drug abuse has more than doubled from 479 in 2009 to 1,252 in 2016. It is likely that this data under-represents the actual number.^{23,24}

Wisconsin's rate of maternal opioid use and reports of infant NAS attributed to opioid use, per 1,000 live births²⁸



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