

Heroin and synthetic opioids

How the opioid epidemic is changing in Dane County



OPIOIDS are natural or manufactured substances that reduce pain. There are many types of opioids, including prescription pain medications (such as oxycodone, hydrocodone, codeine, and others), heroin, and synthetic opioids (such as fentanyl and tramadol).

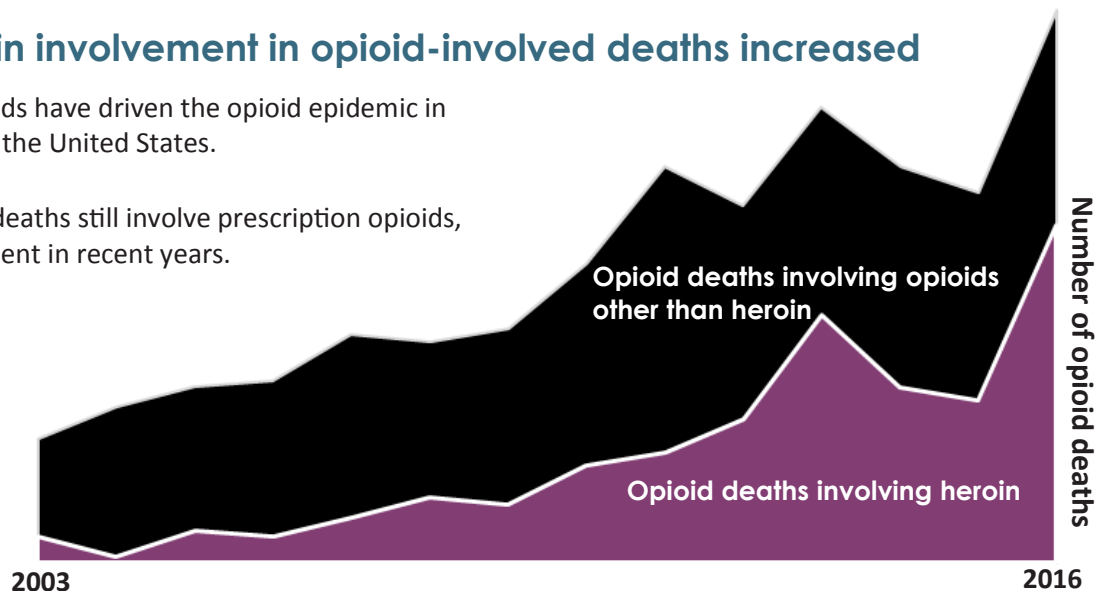
In recent years, heroin involvement in opioid-involved deaths increased

Since 2003, prescription opioids have driven the opioid epidemic in Dane County, Wisconsin, and the United States.

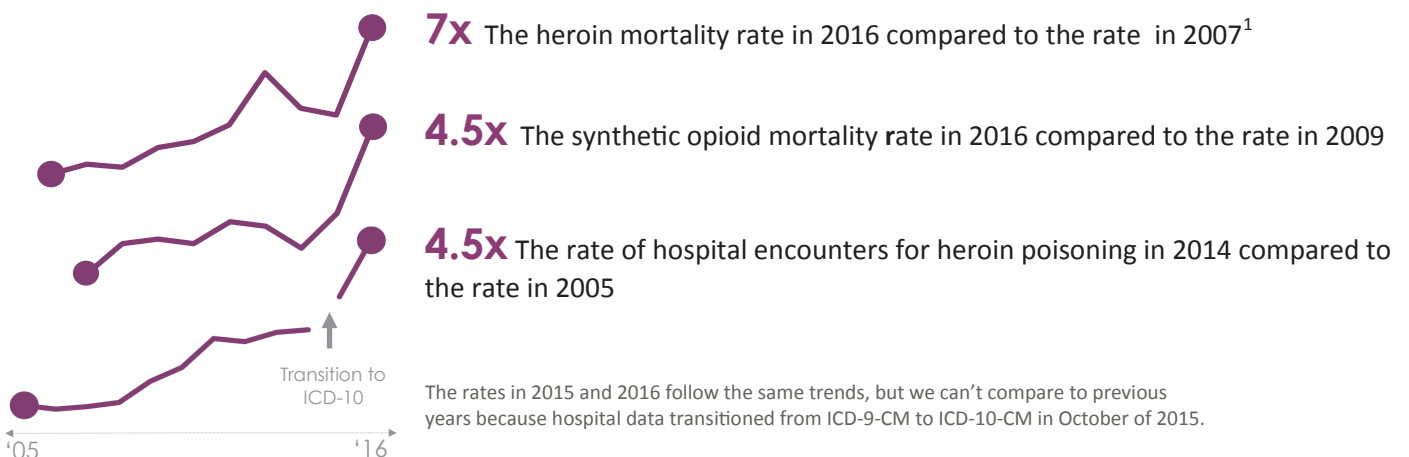
While the majority of opioid deaths still involve prescription opioids, we see more heroin involvement in recent years.

From 2003 to 2005, 1 in 7 opioid deaths involved heroin.

From 2014 to 2016, 1 in 2 opioid deaths involved heroin.



Rates of heroin and synthetic opioid-involved deaths and hospital encounters continue to increase (encounters include inpatient stays and emergency department visits)



In 2016, more than half of all opioid-involved hospital encounters and deaths involved heroin

2 in 5 opioid-involved deaths involved synthetic opioids.

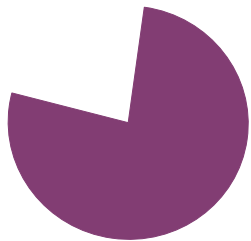
Note: heroin and synthetic opioid involved deaths are not mutually exclusive. For example, a heroin-involved death may also have synthetic opioid or prescription opioid involvement.



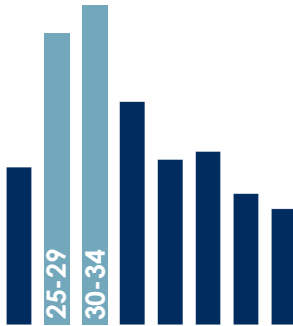
Some populations are impacted more by heroin and synthetic opioids than others

The disparities in synthetic opioid death rates are similar to the disparities for heroin death rates, though older adults also have higher synthetic opioid mortality rates compared to other age groups. Data for these figures are for 2012-2016

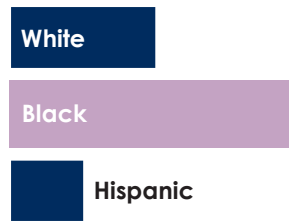
77% of heroin involved deaths in Dane County occurred among **men**



Young adults ages 25-34 experienced the highest rates of heroin overdose death in Dane County



Heroin mortality rates were nearly 2 times as high for **Black** Dane County residents compared to White residents



A note about racial disparities:

Higher death rates among Black Dane County residents cannot be explained by behavioral factors alone. National data show that drug use is similar for Black and White people.² Black individuals are more likely to face social and economic barriers that contribute to poor health outcomes, including opioid harm.

Help is available for individuals impacted by heroin or synthetic opioids

Treatment and support is available.

Dane County Funded Treatment

Adult residents of Dane County seeking County funded residential substance use treatment are welcome at the weekly walk-in assessment clinic.

Location: 2914 Industrial Dr., Madison
 Phone: (608) 223-3300
 Hours: Most Mondays, arrive by 9am

Support Groups

Alcoholics Anonymous (608) 222-8989

<http://mtg.area75.org/>

Narcotics Anonymous (608) 258-1747

<http://www.badgerlandna.org/>

SMART Recovery (608) 520-0458

<http://smartrecoverymadisonwi.org/>

Nar-Anon (for family/friends)

<http://www.nar-anon.org/find-a-meeting/>

New, clean syringes can reduce the risk of infectious diseases such as Hepatitis and HIV.

Naloxone/Narcan can reverse an opioid overdose.

Syringe Services

Sharing and reusing syringes can transmit disease. Syringe services provided without judgment can prevent transmission.

- New syringes & disposal of used syringes
- HIV and Hepatitis testing & Hepatitis A and B vaccines
- Other health referrals

Naloxone/Narcan

Medication to reverse an opioid overdose can be found at many pharmacies without a doctor's prescription.

Both Public Health & the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW) provide Syringe Services & Naloxone:

Public Health Madison & Dane County

Phone: (608) 266-4821
 Call for locations and hours

ARCW

Phone: (608) 252-6540
 Phone: (800) 486-6276
 Call for locations and hours

Citations

1. All data presented in this data brief can be found in the Wisconsin Department of Health Services' Wisconsin Interactive Statistics on Health (WISH) Opioid Module. Available at: <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/wish/opioid/index.htm>
2. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Results from the 2013 National Survey on Drug Use and Health: Summary of National Findings, NSDUH Series H-48, HHS Publication No. (SMA) 14-4863. Rockville, MD: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 2014.