



New Hampshire Drug Monitoring Initiative

New Hampshire Information & Analysis Center

Phone: (603) 223.3859

NH.IAC@dos.nh.gov

Fax: (603) 271.0303



NHIAC Product #: 2016-2459

December 2015 Report

26 January 2016

Purpose: The NH Drug Monitoring Initiative (DMI) is a holistic strategy to provide awareness and combat drug distribution and abuse. In line with this approach the DMI will obtain data from various sources (to include, but not limited to, Public Health, Law Enforcement, and EMS) and provide monthly products for stakeholders as well as situational awareness releases as needed.

Drug Environment Report—UNCLASSIFIED

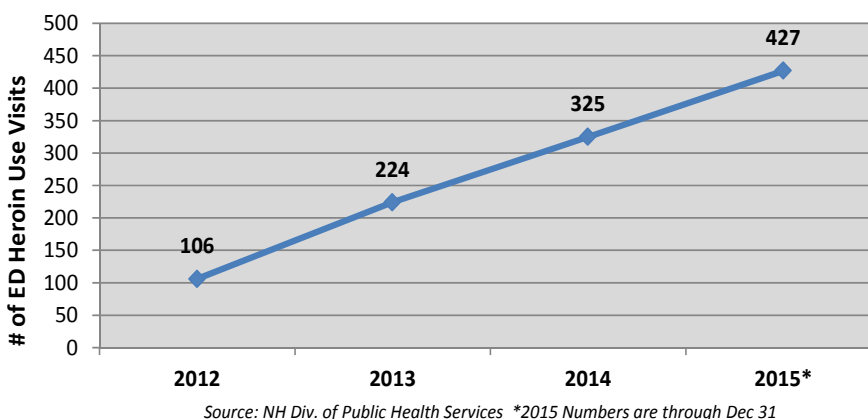
Heroin Related Emergency Department Visits*

Data Source: NH Division of Public Health Services

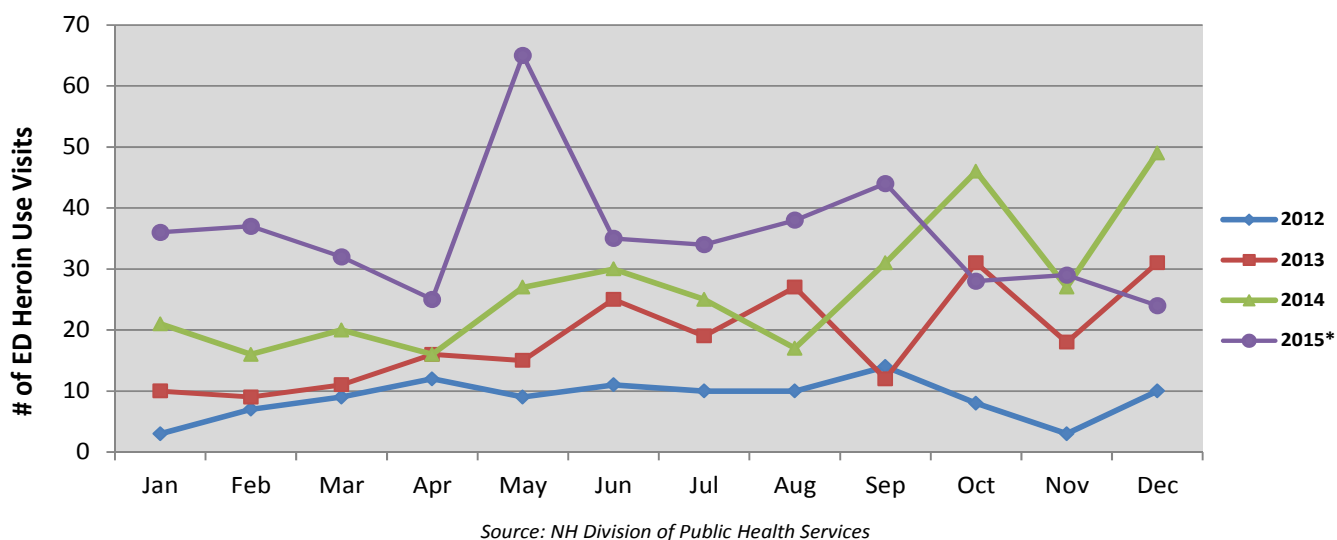
Annual & Monthly Trends:

The number of heroin related emergency department (ED) visits during 2015 is 31.4% greater than the number of heroin ED visits during 2014. There were 17.24% fewer heroin ED visits in December than in November. From 2012 through 2014, there was a spike in heroin ED visits in the month of December. This year was the first time since 2012 that the number of heroin ED visits dropped in the month of December.

Emergency Department Heroin Use Visits by Year- 2012-2015*



Emergency Department Heroin Use Visits by Month - 2012-2015



*The source of this data is New Hampshire's Automated Hospital Emergency Department Data system, which includes all emergency department encounters from 25 of 26 acute care hospitals in New Hampshire. The data is searched via chief complaint text and may represent various types of incidents including accidental poisonings, suicide, or other related types of events.

**The decrease in Heroin-related ER admissions in October through December may be due to hospitals changing their data sets and feeds following a new migration process, thereby impacting ER admission numbers for those months.

Heroin Related Emergency Department Visits (Continued)

Geographic and Demographic Trends: The following information identifies observable trends in heroin related Emergency Department visits on the basis of county of residence, age, and gender of patients.

Top Counties for December:

1. Rockingham 2. Hillsborough

Largest % Decrease from Nov to Dec:

Grafton, Strafford, Out of State

County	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
Belknap	0	0	0	0%
Carroll	1	0	1	Incalculable
Cheshire	2	0	2	Incalculable
Coos	0	0	0	0%
Grafton	0	1	0	-100%
Hillsborough	7	11	7	-36%
Merrimack	1	4	3	-25%
Rockingham	12	10	10	0%
Strafford	5	2	0	-100%
Sullivan*	0	0	1	0%
Out of State	0	1	0	-100%
TOTAL	28	29	24	-17%

NOTE: County represents where the heroin use patient resides

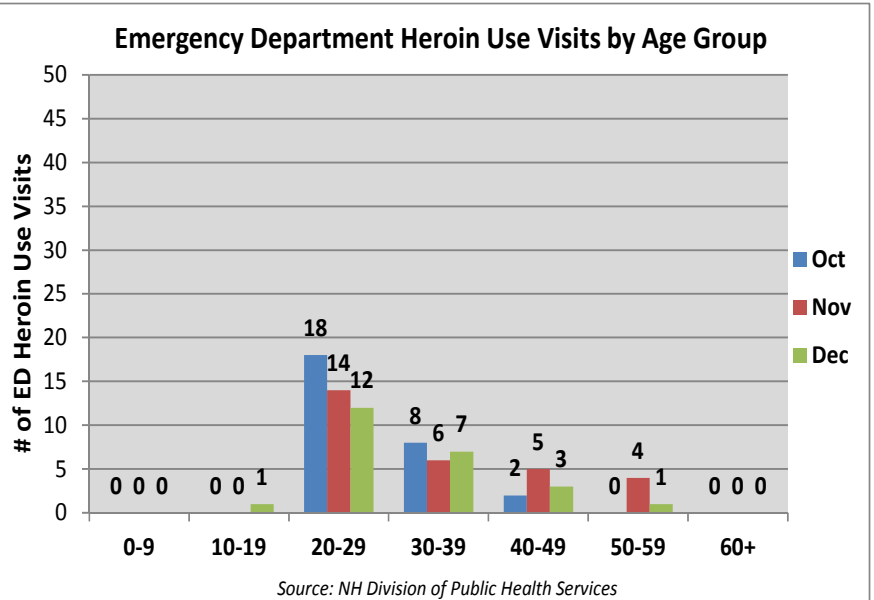
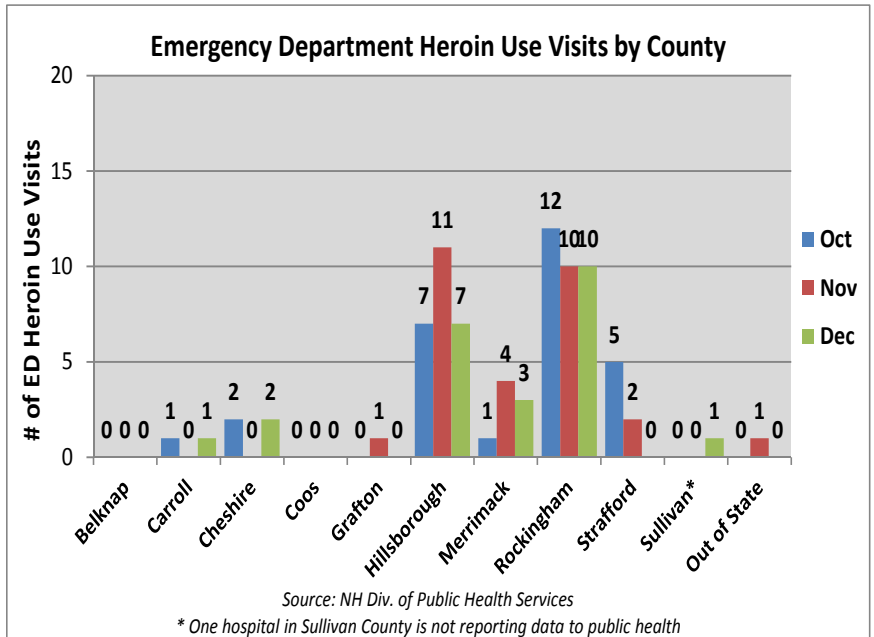
Top Age Group for December:

20-29 yoa

Largest % Increase from Nov to Dec:

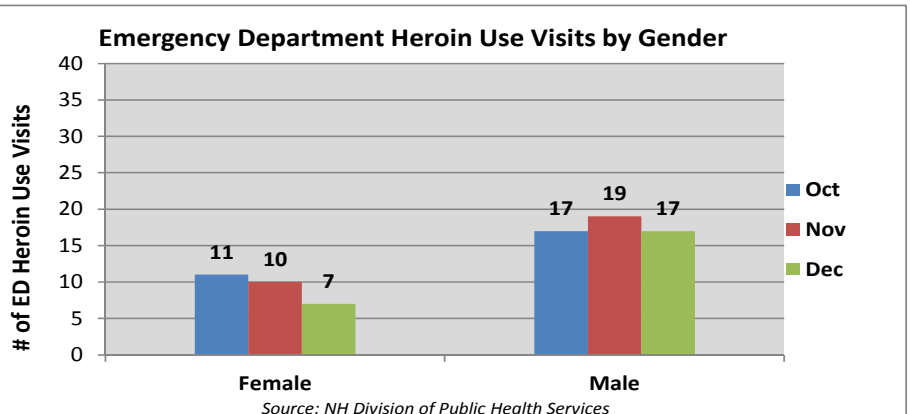
30-39 yoa

Age	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
0-9	0	0	0	0%
10-19	0	0	1	0%
20-29	18	14	12	-14%
30-39	8	6	7	17%
40-49	2	5	3	-40%
50-59	0	4	1	-75%
60+	0	0	0	0%
Totals	28	29	24	-17%

**Largest % Decrease from****November to December by Gender:**

Female

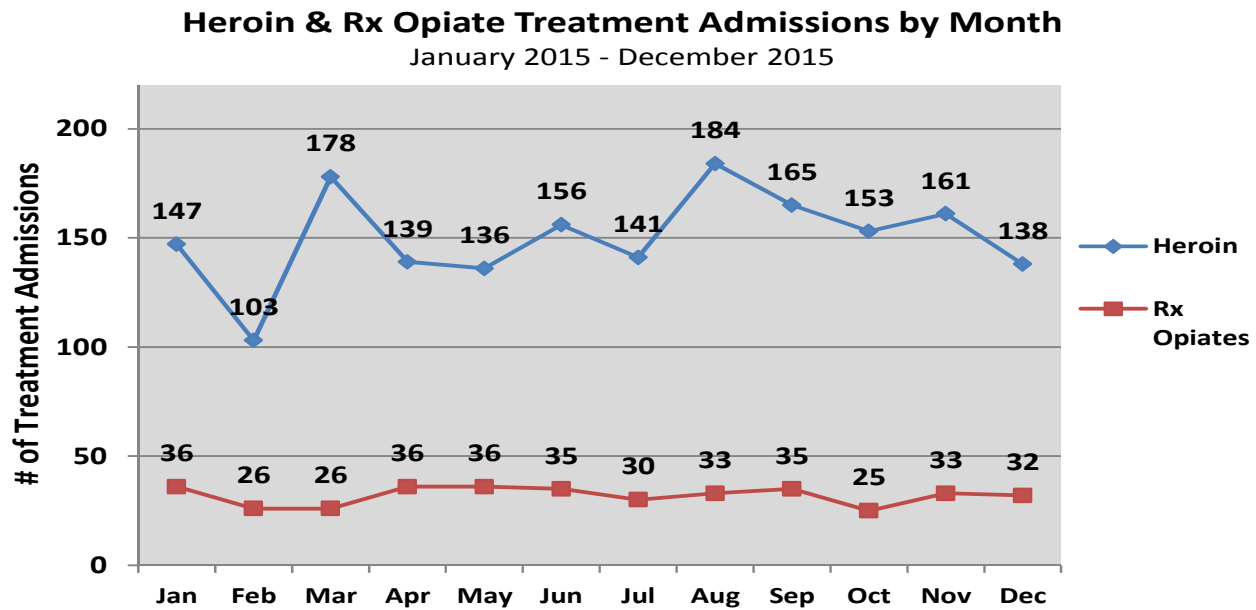
Gender	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
Female	11	10	7	-30%
Male	17	19	17	-11%
Totals	28	29	24	-17%



Heroin & Rx Opiate Treatment Admissions

Data Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Monthly Trends: As displayed in the charts below, the number of treatment admissions for heroin increased from October to November and then decreased from November to December. The number of admissions for prescription opiates decreased by 3% from November to December. When combining the number of heroin and prescription opiate treatment admissions, the overall number of admissions decreased by 12% from November to December.

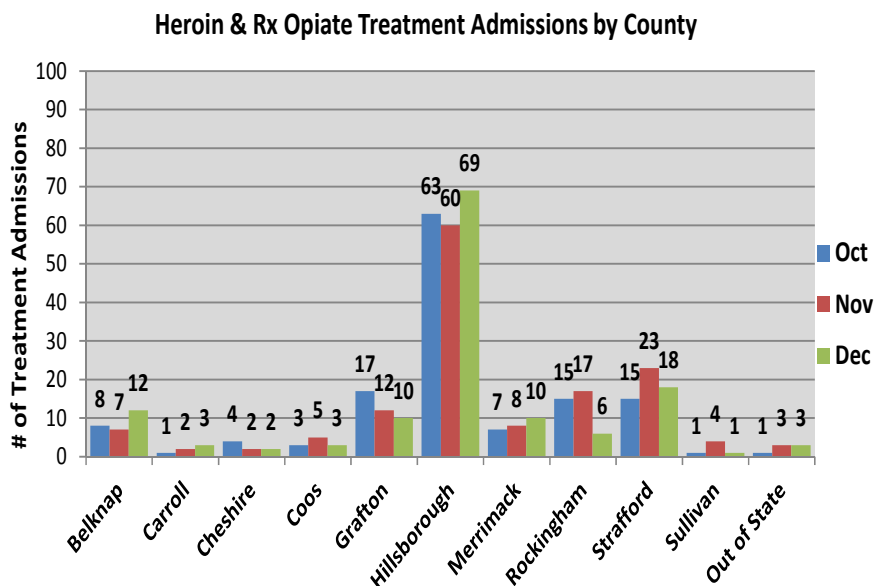


Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Geographic Trends: The county with the largest number of residents admitted to a treatment program for heroin or prescription opiates during the month of December was Hillsborough County. Belknap county experienced the largest percent increase in the number of residents admitted to treatment programs from November to December.

County	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
Belknap	8	7	12	71%
Carroll	1	2	3	50%
Cheshire	4	2	2	0%
Coos	3	5	3	-40%
Grafton	17	12	10	-17%
Hillsborough	63	60	69	15%
Merrimack	7	8	10	25%
Rockingham	15	17	6	-65%
Strafford	15	23	18	-22%
Sullivan	1	4	1	-75%
Out of State	1	3	3	0%
Not provided	43	51	33	-35%
Totals	178	194	170	-12%

NOTE: County represents where the patient resides



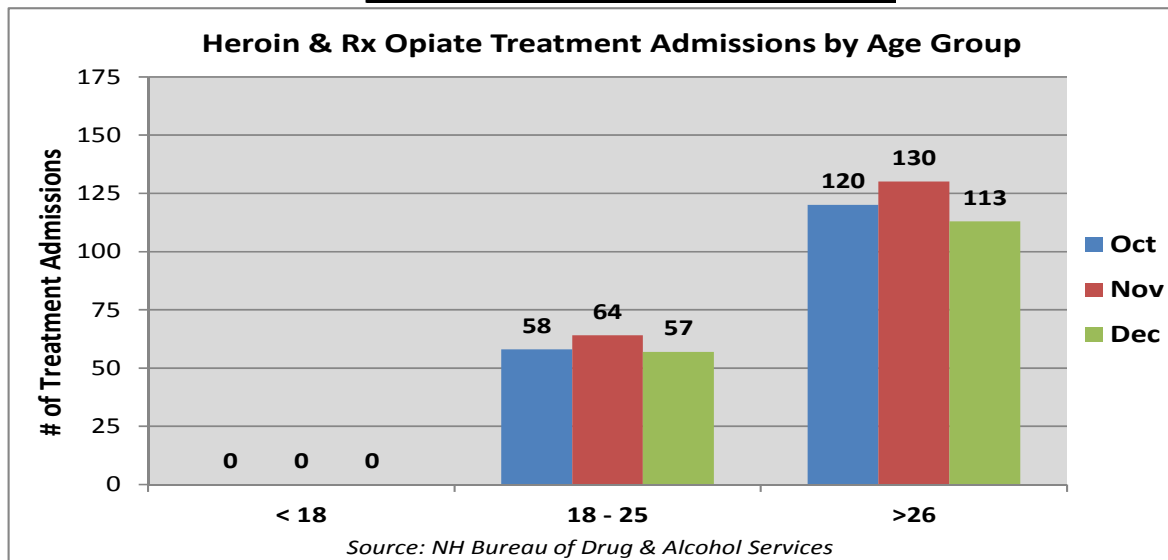
Source: NH Bureau of Drug & Alcohol Services

Heroin & Rx Opiate Treatment Admissions (Continued)

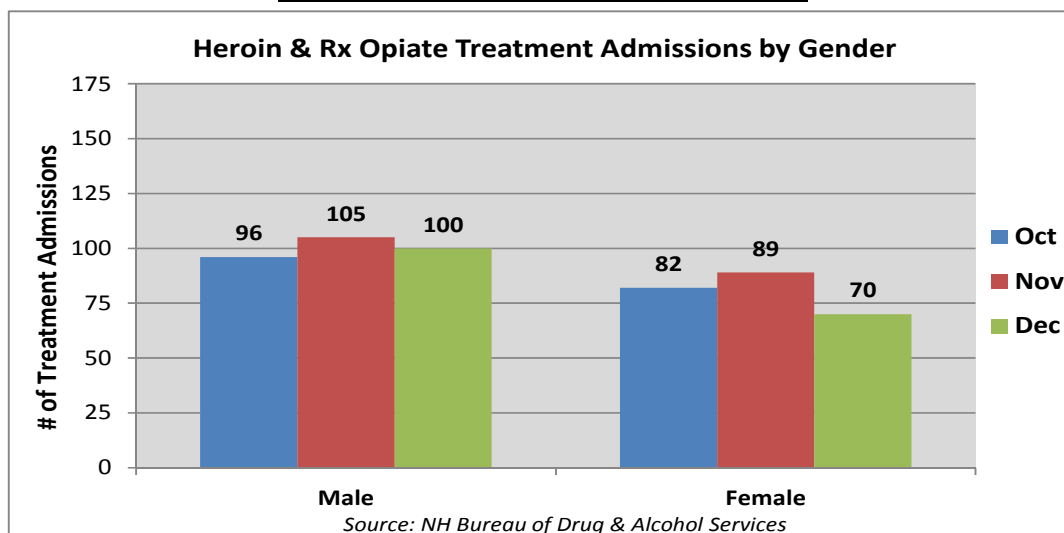
Demographic Trends: Treatment admissions for heroin and prescription opiates usage was broken down by age and gender as displayed in the charts below. Individuals 26 years of age or older exhibited the highest number of treatment admissions during the months of October, November and December.

- There were more males than females admitted to treatment programs during the months of October, November and December. The number of males admitted to treatment programs decreased by 4.8% from November to December and the number of females admitted to treatment programs decreased by 21.4% during the same time period.

Age Group	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
< 18	0	0	0	0%
18 - 25	58	64	57	-11%
>26	120	130	113	-13%
Totals	178	194	170	-12%



Gender	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
Male	96	105	100	-5%
Female	82	89	70	-21%
Totals	178	194	170	-12%



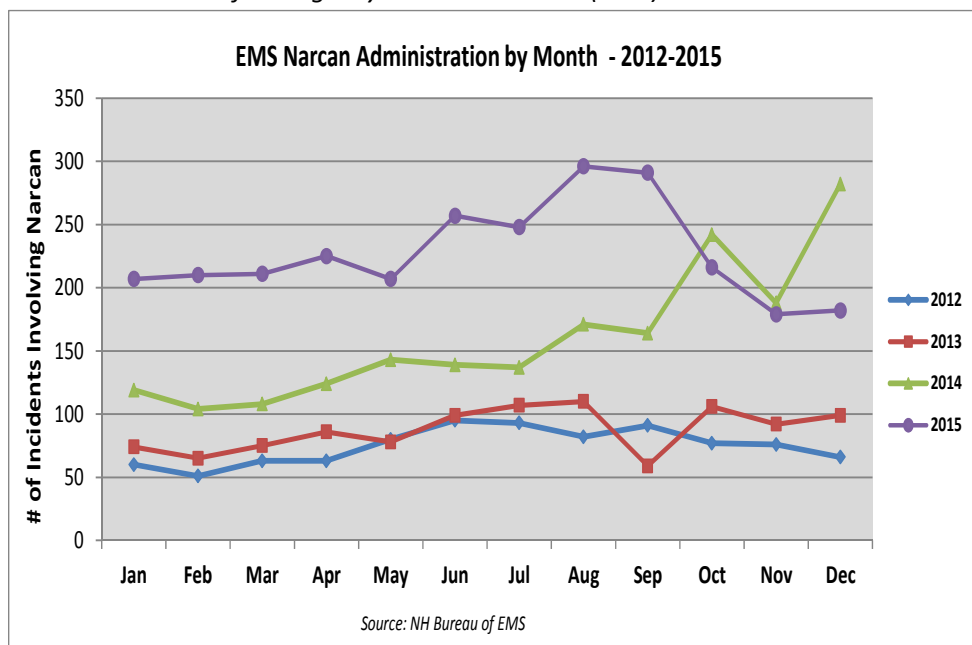
EMS Narcan Administration*

Data Source: NH Bureau of Emergency Medical Services (EMS)

Annual & Monthly Trends:

Incidents involving EMS Narcan administration increased by 4.6% from November to December. Overall, there was a 42% increase in Narcan administration from 2014 to 2015.

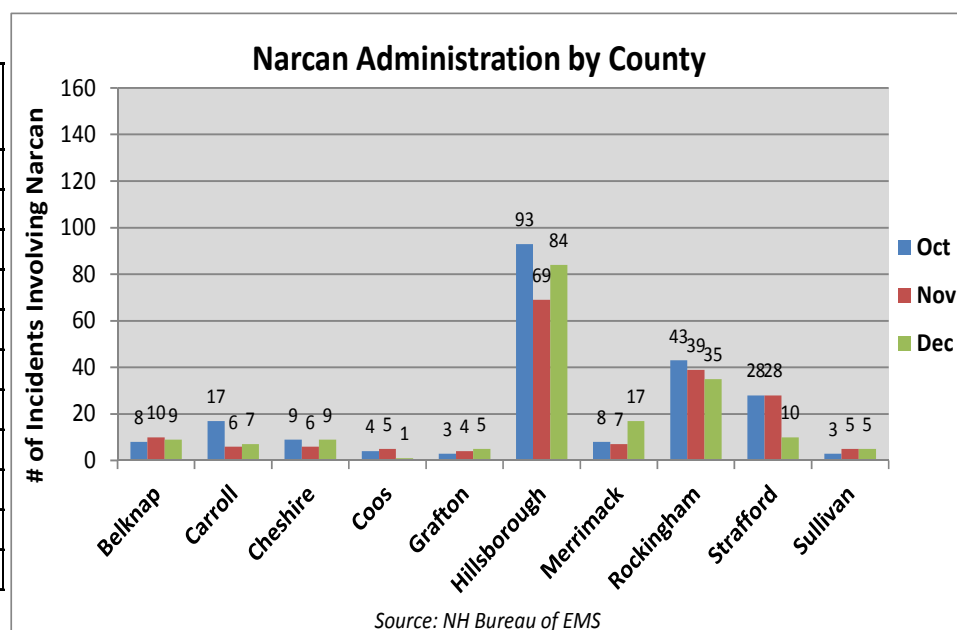
(Note: Narcan is administered in cases of cardiac arrest when the cause of the arrest cannot be determined. It therefore cannot be concluded that all of the reported Narcan cases involved drugs.)



Geographic Trends: The following chart displays the number of incidents involving Narcan administration by county for the months of October, November and December. The county with the largest number of Narcan administrations for all three months is Hillsborough County with 93, 69 and 84 incidents, respectively. The largest percent increase in the number of incidents involving Narcan between November and December was observed in Merrimack County at 143%.

See the following page for a map of EMS Narcan Administration Incidents by Town for the last 12 months, January 2015 through December 2015.

County	Oct	Nov	Dec	% Change
Belknap	8	10	9	-10%
Carroll	17	6	7	17%
Cheshire	9	6	9	50%
Coos	4	5	1	-80%
Grafton	3	4	5	25%
Hillsborough	93	69	84	22%
Merrimack	8	7	17	143%
Rockingham	43	39	35	-10%
Strafford	28	28	10	-64%
Sullivan	3	5	5	0%
Total	216	179	182	2%



*Narcan data in this report involves the number of incidents where Narcan was administered, NOT the number of doses of Narcan during a certain time period. Multiple doses may be administered during an incident.

EMS/Narcan Administration By Town

1/1/2015 - 12/31/2015

Data source: New Hampshire Bureau of EMS



Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

INDEX

Belknap

1 - Center Harbor

Carroll

2 - Hales Location

3 - Harts Location

Coos

4 - Hadleys Purchase

5 - Beans Grant

6 - Cutts Grant

7 - Sargents Purchase

8 - Pinkhams Grant

9 - Crawfords Purchase

10 - Chandlers Purchase

11 - Low & Burbanks Grant

12 - Thompson & Meserves Purchase

13 - Greens Grant

14 - Martins Location

15 - Ervings Grant

16 - Wentworth Location

17 - Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant

Hillsborough

18 - Bennington

Rockingham

19 - South Hampton

20 - Seabrook

21 - East Kingston

22 - Kensington

23 - Hampton Falls

24 - Hampton

25 - North Hampton

26 - Rye

27 - Portsmouth

28 - New Castle

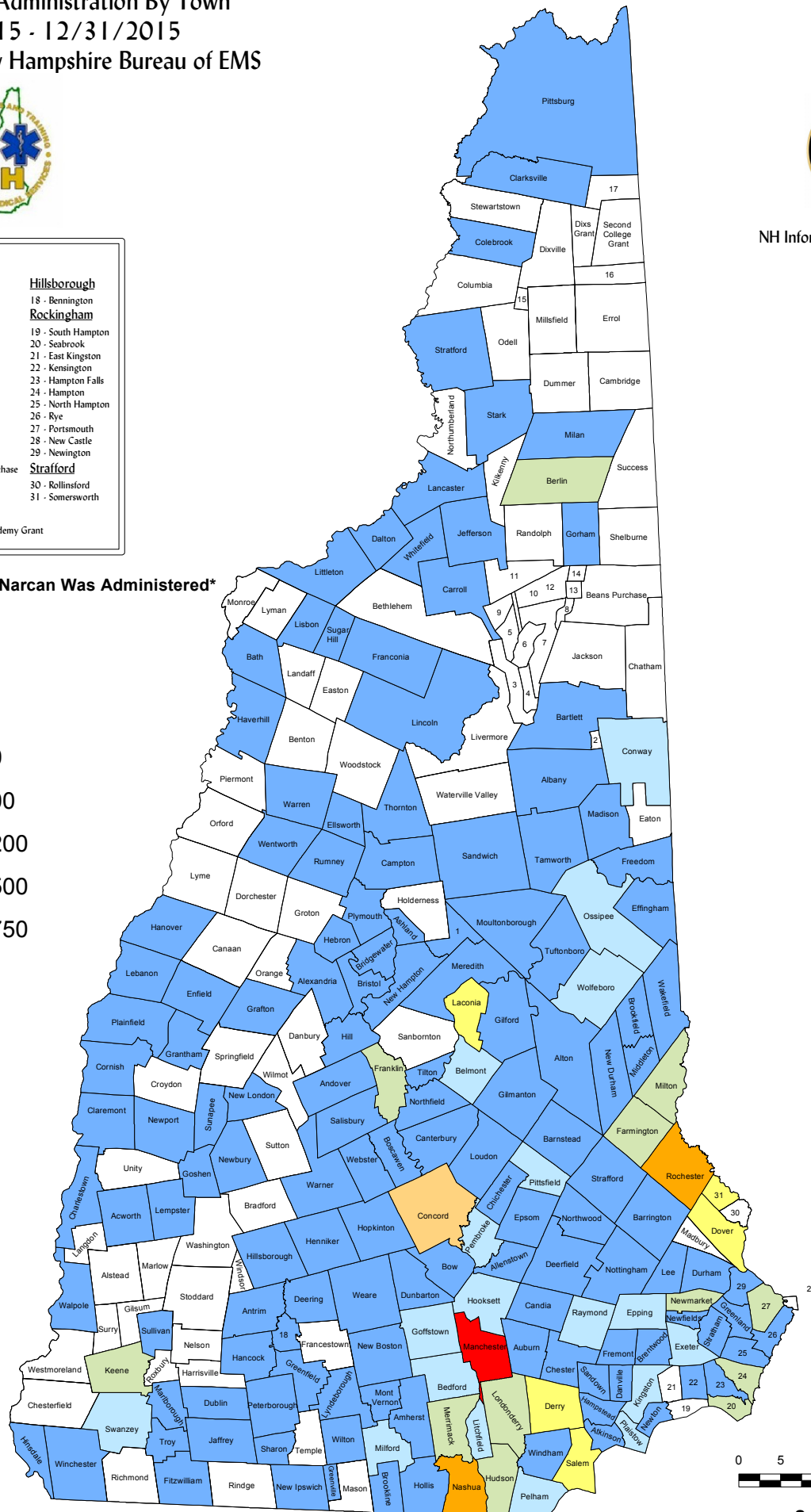
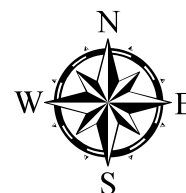
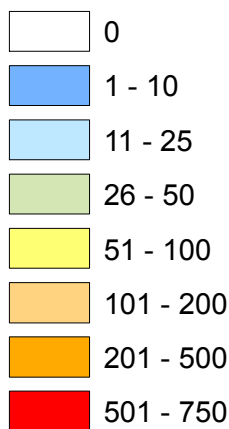
29 - Newington

Strafford

30 - Rollinsford

31 - Somersworth

Incidents Where Narcan Was Administered



0 5 10 20 30

Miles

Scale: 1:1,150,000

Drug Overdose Deaths

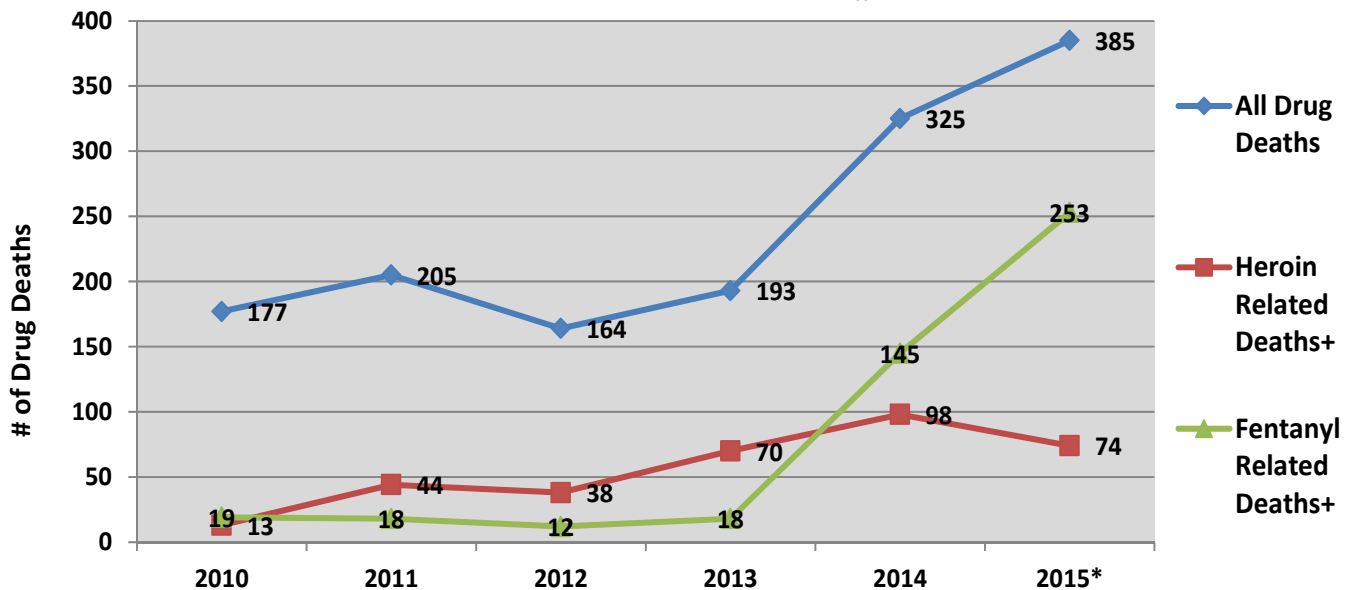
Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

Annual Trends: The chart below displays overdose deaths annually from 2010 through 2015. 2015 totals are based on analysis completed as of 8 January 2016. **Several cases are still pending analysis and therefore these numbers are subject to change.** The total number of drug related deaths is represented as well as deaths related to Heroin and/or Fentanyl.+ **Please see page 8 for a map of 2015 overdose deaths by town where the individual is believed to have used the drug(s).**

+Heroin and Fentanyl Related deaths are not mutually exclusive, several deaths involved both drugs.

Overdose Deaths By Year

Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office

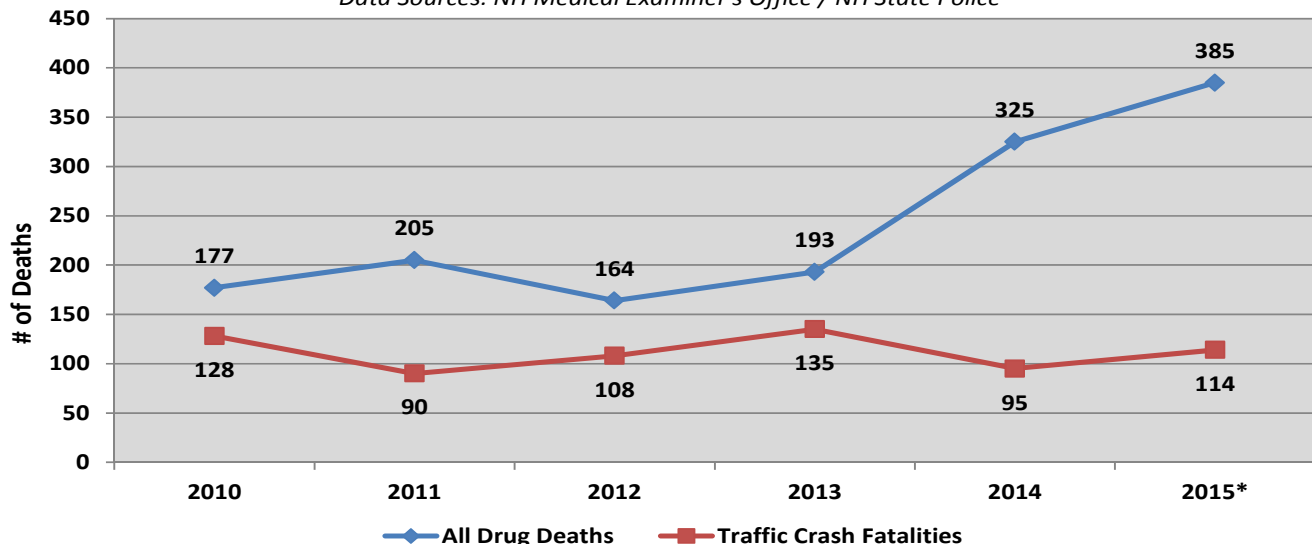


*2015 Numbers are based on analysis completed as of 8 January 2016- cases still pending

+ Heroin & Fentanyl Related deaths are not mutually exclusive, several deaths involved both drugs

Drug Deaths vs. Traffic Deaths by Year

Data Sources: NH Medical Examiner's Office / NH State Police



*2015 Drug Death numbers are based on analysis completed as of 8 Jan 2016 - many cases are still pending analysis; 2015 Traffic Death numbers were reported on 26 Jan 2016 - the 2015 total is still pending until 1/31/16

Overdose Deaths by Town* - 2015+ (Data Source: NH Medical Examiner's Office)

*Location where the drug(s) is suspected to have been used.

+2015 data was reported on January 8, 2016.
There are many more deaths that are suspected to be drug related, but the official cause of death is pending until the toxicology results are received.



Prepared by:
NH Information & Analysis Center

INDEX

Belknap

1 - Center Harbor

Carroll

2 - Hales Location

3 - Harts Location

Coos

4 - Hadleys Purchase

5 - Beans Grant

6 - Cutts Grant

7 - Sargents Purchase

8 - Pinkhams Grant

9 - Crawford's Purchase

10 - Chandlers Purchase

11 - Low & Burbanks Grant

12 - Thompson & Meserves Purchase

13 - Greens Grant

14 - Martins Location

15 - Erving's Grant

16 - Wentworth Location

17 - Atkinson & Gilmanton Academy Grant

Hillsborough

18 - Bennington

Rockingham

20 - Seabrook

21 - East Kingston

22 - Kensington

23 - Hampton Falls

24 - Hampton

25 - North Hampton

26 - Rye

27 - Portsmouth

28 - New Castle

29 - Newington

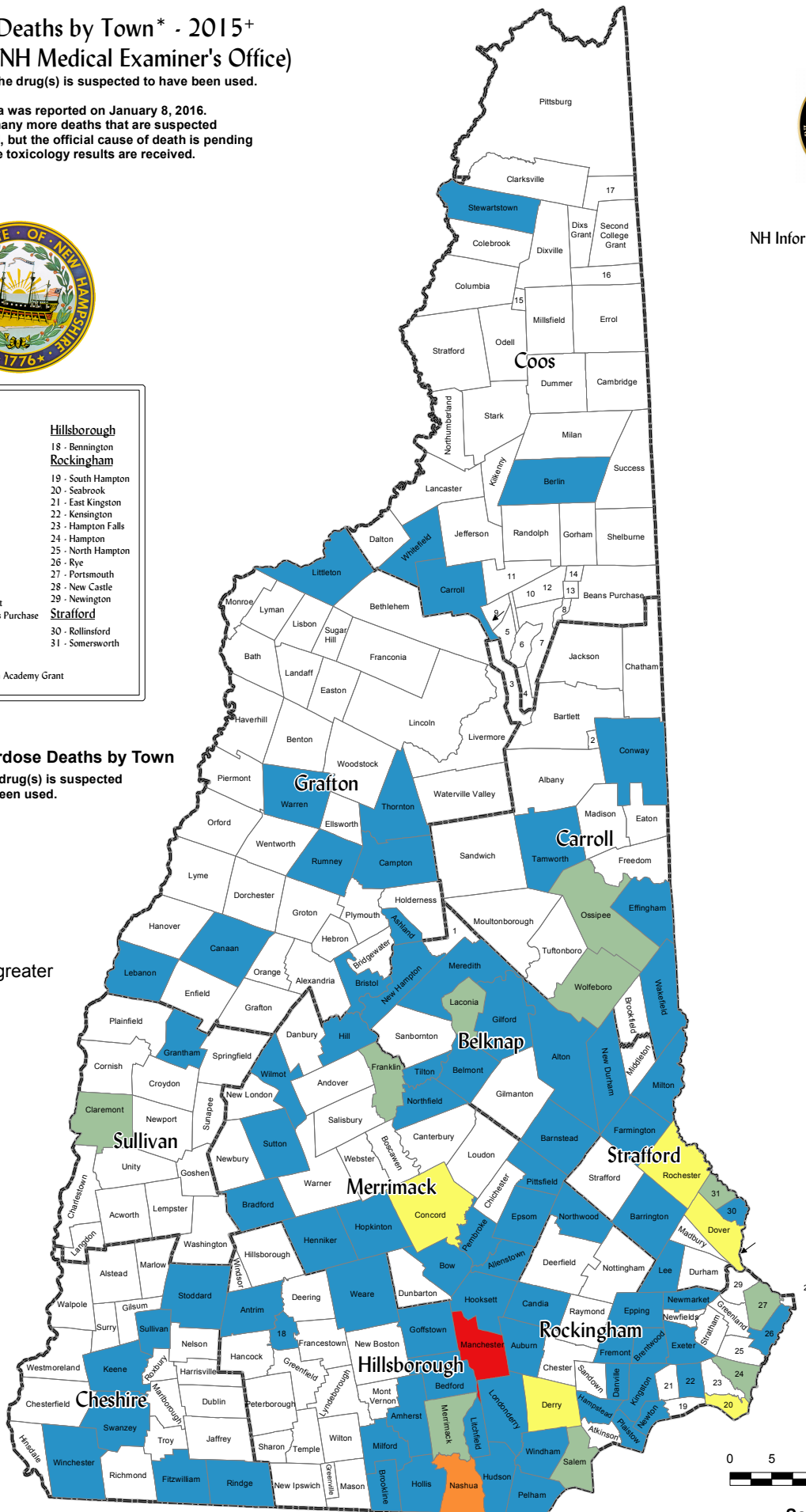
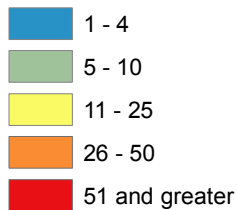
Strafford

30 - Rollinsford

31 - Somersworth

Number of Overdose Deaths by Town

*Location where the drug(s) is suspected to have been used.



0 5 10 20 30

Miles

Scale: 1:1,150,000

Situational Awareness:**Hassan Signs Fast-Tracker Opioid Bills Into Law**

According to nhpr.org, just two weeks into the new legislative session, Governor Maggie Hassan signed into law two bills aimed at tackling New Hampshire's opioid epidemic. One bill would create a commission to study the overdose reversal drug Narcan. The commission is looking at whether New Hampshire should create a database that tracks who is using Narcan. The second bill covers a number of issues including increasing the penalties for fentanyl use, increasing insurance coverage for substance abuse and adding \$100,000 towards the state's pre-prescription drug monitoring system. The third fast-tracked bill, which sought to put more substance abuse education into classrooms, was put on hold.

In the News...**New Hampshire Overdose Deaths to Top 400 in 2015**

According to seacoastonline.com, overdose deaths linked to heroin and opioid abuse will surpass 400 once final tallies are conducted for 2015. According to New Hampshire Attorney General Joseph Foster, that is more than double the number of people who died of overdoses two years ago. In 2013, there were 192 total overdoses in New Hampshire. Last year, 326 people died from overdoses on opioids alone. Foster stated, "Opiate abuse—and heroin and fentanyl abuse—is really our greatest law enforcement problem and our greatest public health problem." Foster told lawmakers that his drug task force is involved in some kind of buy operation every day and the nature of the drugs make it a much more dangerous endeavor than before. Because fentanyl is so potent, Foster said his investigators have started carrying the anti-overdose drug Narcan in case they accidentally come into contact with it during an operation.

Rite Aid to Stock Narcan

According to seacoastonline.com, the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services and Rite Aid have endorsed a standing order for the drug store chain to stock the opiate antidote Narcan. Governor Maggie Hassan's office announced, "With the standing order in place, any individual will be able to purchase Narcan from a Rite Aid pharmacist in New Hampshire." Governor Hassan's office went on to say, "Rite Aid is the first pharmacy chain to sign a standing order in New Hampshire." CVS stores in Massachusetts have been stocking the drug since September. Governor Hassan would like other pharmacies in the state to follow Rite Aid's example in an effort to increase access to the life-saving emergency treatment. The "kits" available at Rite Aid will include two doses of Narcan, two atomizers and instructions. The standing order allows Rite Aid pharmacists to dispense Narcan to a person at risk of experiencing an opioid-related overdose or to a family member, friend or other person in a position to assist a person at risk of overdose. Pharmacists will provide training on how to administer Narcan to any individual who purchases a kit.