

Released: MAY 2017

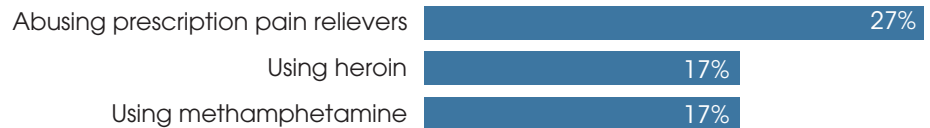
Heroin, methamphetamine use and prescription drug abuse in Kentucky

In 2015, 1,219 people died from drug overdoses in Kentucky. This is nearly five times as many as in 2000 when 246 people died from drug overdoses. Most of these deaths were from opioid use: either the misuse of prescription pain medications or the use of heroin.¹

The 2016 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)**, sponsored by Interact for Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky, asked Kentucky adults about the impact of drug use on their family and friends. KHIP asked about the abuse of prescription pain medication, heroin use and methamphetamine use.

¹ Akers, D., Rock, P., Slavova, S., & Bunn, T. (2016). *Drug Overdose Deaths in Kentucky, 2000-2015*. Retrieved from <http://bit.ly/2pLsOhV> on March 20, 2017.

"Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of ..." (Graph shows those who said "yes.")



3 in 10 know someone with problems due to abuse of pain drugs

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?" Nearly 3 in 10 Kentucky adults (27%) said yes. This percentage has varied since KHIP first asked the question in 2011. (See graph on next page.)

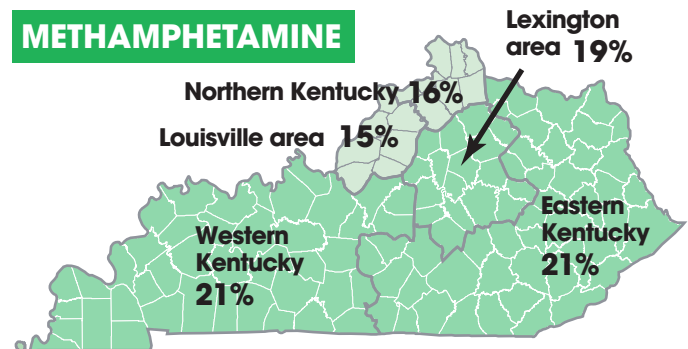
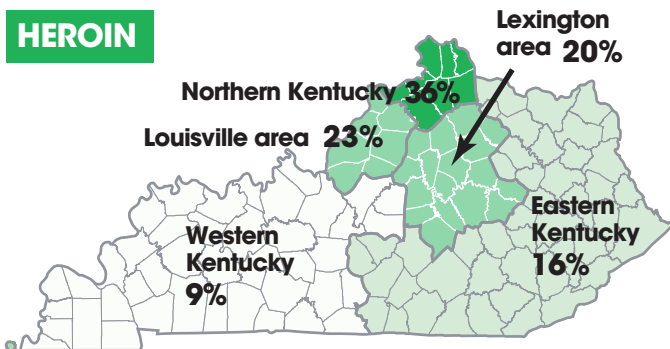
Adults in rural counties (30%) were more likely to say yes than adults in urban (22%) or suburban counties (26%).

Nearly 2 in 10 know someone with problems due to heroin

KHIP also asked, "Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using heroin?" Nearly 2 in 10 adults (17%) said yes.

Continued on next page

Percentage of adults by region reporting that they had family members or friends who had experienced problems as a result of using ...



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 Sept. 11-Oct. 19, 2016, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,580 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 827 landline interviews and 753 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to $\pm 2.5\%$. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as non-response, 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/kentucky-health-issues-poll.

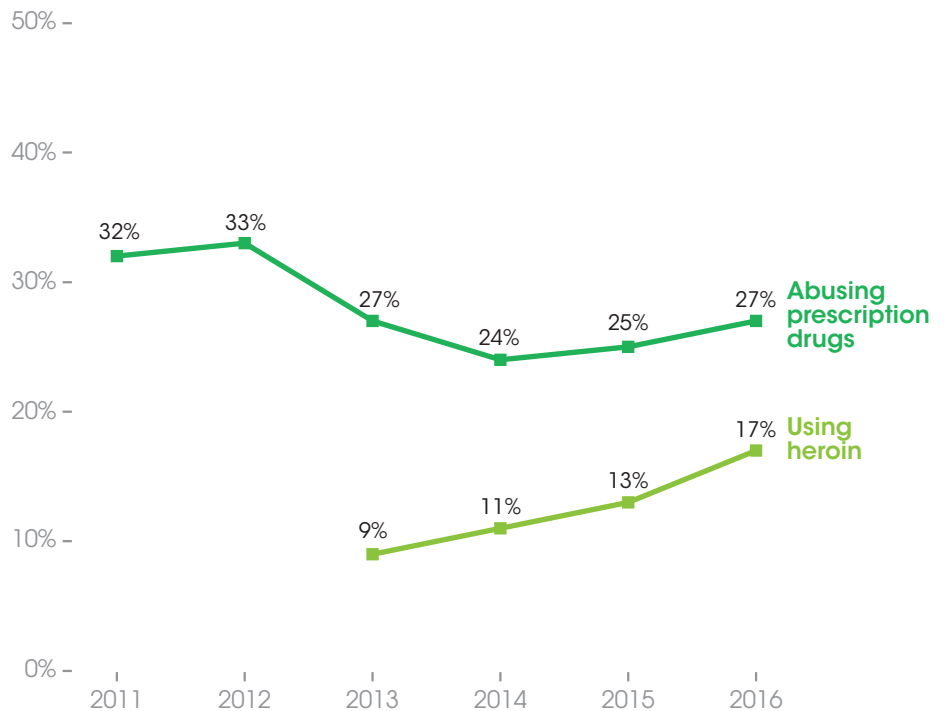
This percentage has steadily increased since KHIP started asking this question in 2013. Responses were about the same in urban (16%), suburban (18%) and rural (17%) counties.

Nearly 4 in 10 adults in Northern Kentucky (36%) said they had a family member or friend with problems due to heroin. (See graph on first page.) This is higher than the percentage of adults who said yes in Louisville (23%), Lexington (20%) and Eastern Kentucky (16%). Fewer than 1 in 10 adults in Western Kentucky (9%) said they had a family member or friend with problems due to heroin.

Nearly 2 in 10 know someone with problems due to methamphetamine

KHIP asked, "Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of using methamphetamine?" Nearly 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (17%) said yes. This is a slight increase from 2013 (15%). Adults in rural counties (20%) were more likely to say yes than adults in urban (15%) or suburban (10%) counties. There was little variation by region. (See graph on first page.)

Percentage of adults reporting that they had family members or friends who had experienced problems as a result of ...



Percentage of adults by region reporting that they had family members or friends who had experienced problems as a result of abusing ...

