

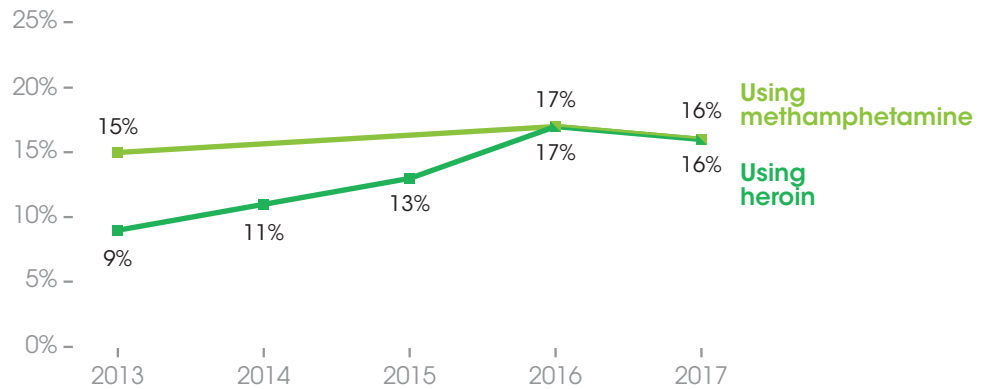


# Heroin and methamphetamine use among adults in Kentucky

According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, of the 64,000 drug overdoses in the United States in 2016, more than 15,000 were due to heroin use and nearly 8,000 were due to methamphetamine use.<sup>1</sup> In 2016, Kentucky had the fifth highest death rate due to drug overdoses in the nation.<sup>2</sup> Research indicates that methamphetamine use may be rising to problematic levels similar to heroin use.<sup>3</sup>

The 2017 **Kentucky Health Issues Poll (KHIP)** asked Kentucky adults whether they knew someone who had experienced problems due to use of heroin or methamphetamine. KHIP is sponsored by Interact for

### Percentage of Kentucky adults who know someone who has experienced problems as a result of ... \*



\*The methamphetamine question was not asked on KHIP in 2014 and 2015.  
SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released April 2018)



<sup>1</sup> National Institute on Drug Abuse. (2017, Sept. 15). Overdose Death Rates. <https://bit.ly/1RxOFVr>.

<sup>2</sup> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Drug Overdose Death Data. (2017). <https://bit.ly/1QRIAl5>.

<sup>3</sup> Warner, M., Trinidad, J.P., Bastian, B.A., Minino, A.M., & Hedegaard, H. (2016). Drug Most Frequently Involved in Drug Overdose Deaths: United States, 2010-2014. *National Vital Statistics Reports*. 65(10). <https://bit.ly/2hUQGPP>.

Health and the Foundation for a Healthy Kentucky.

### FEWER THAN 2 IN 10 KNOW SOMEONE WHO HAS USED HEROIN, METH

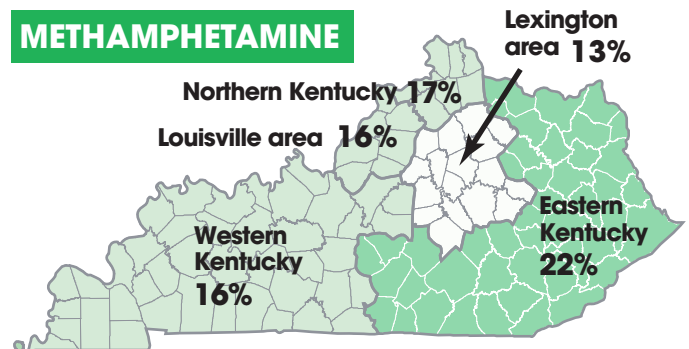
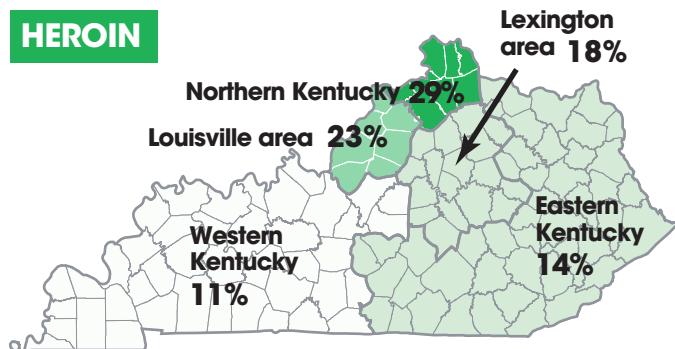
KHIP asked, "Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result

of using heroin?" Fewer than 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (16%) reported knowing someone who has experienced problems as a result of using heroin. This is the same as in 2016.

KHIP also asked, "Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result

**Continued on next page**

### Percentage of Kentucky adults by region who know someone who has experienced problems as a result of using ...



SOURCE: 2017 Kentucky Health Issues Poll (released April 2018)

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 Oct. 24-Dec. 2, 2017, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 1,692 adults from throughout Kentucky was interviewed by telephone. This included 861 landline interviews and 831 cell phone interviews with cell phone users. In 95 of 100 cases, the statewide estimates will be accurate to ±2.4%. There are other sources of variation inherent in public opinion studies, such as nonresponse, 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](http://www.healthy-ky.org) or [www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll](http://www.interactforhealth.org/kentucky-health-issues-poll).

of using methamphetamine?”

Fewer than 2 in 10 Kentucky adults (16%) reported knowing someone who has experienced problems as a result of using methamphetamine. This is unchanged from prior KHIP reports.

## **REPORTS OF SUBSTANCE USE VARY BY REGION**

Responses to these questions varied by region. The percentage of adults who know someone with problems due to heroin was highest in Northern Kentucky (29%) and lowest in Western Kentucky (11%). (See map on first page.) The percentage of adults who know someone with problems due to methamphetamine was highest in Eastern Kentucky (22%) and lowest in the Lexington area (13%). (See map on first page.)