



Heroin use, prescription drug misuse still climbing in Ohio

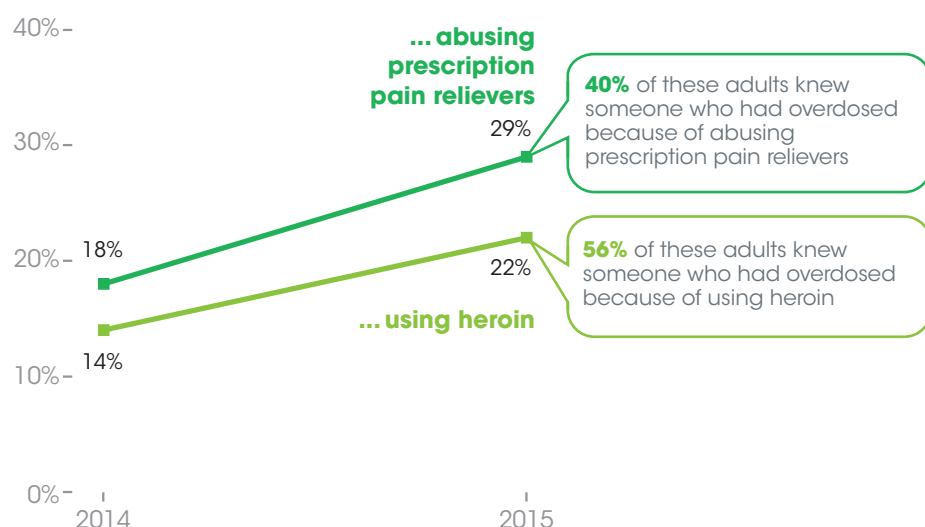
According to the Ohio Department of Health, nearly 2,500 Ohioans died from an unintentional drug overdose in 2014. This is a steep rise from 2003, when only 650 adults died from an overdose. Unintentional drug overdose became the leading cause of injury death in Ohio in 2007 and has continued to climb since then. In 2014, more than 80% of these drug overdose deaths were from opioid use—either the misuse of prescribed opioids or the use of heroin.¹

3 in 10 know someone who has misused pain drug, more than in 2014

The 2015 **Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP)** asked Ohio adults, “Thinking about your friends and family, have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of abusing prescription pain relievers?” In 2015, 3 in 10 Ohio adults (29%) said yes. This is a steep rise since 2014 when only 2 in 10 Ohio adults (18%) said yes.

¹ Ohio Department of Health. (September 2015). 2014 Ohio Drug Overdose Preliminary Data: General Findings. Retrieved Oct. 22, 2015, from www.healthy.ohio.gov/vipp/data/rxdata.aspx.

Have any of your family members or friends experienced problems as a result of ...



2 in 10 know someone who has used heroin

OHIP also asked Ohio adults if they had any family members or friends who had experienced problems as a result of using heroin. In 2015, more than 2 in 10 Ohio adults (22%) said yes. Only 14% of adults said yes in 2014.

Many know someone who overdosed

OHIP asked adults who knew someone who had problems due to these drugs if they had any

friends or family members who had overdosed. Four in 10 of these Ohio adults (40%) knew someone who had overdosed due to a pain drug. For heroin, that percentage was nearly 6 in 10 (56%).

Problem spans race, sex, region; steep rises since last year

Reported problems with these drugs varied little by sex, race or region. The percentage of adults who knew someone who had

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These findings unless otherwise noted are from Interact for Health’s Ohio Health Issues Poll (OHIP) conducted July 15-28, 2015, by the Institute for Policy Research at the University of Cincinnati. A random sample of 811 adults throughout Ohio was interviewed by telephone. This included 448 landline telephone interviews and 363 cell phone interviews. In 95 of 100 cases, statewide estimates will be accurate to ±3.4%. 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 OHIP, please visit www.interactforhealth.org/ohio-health-issues-poll. If you have questions about the data in this document, please contact Jennifer Chubinski, Director of Community Research, at 513-458-6608 or jchubinski@interactforhealth.org.

problems with prescription drugs rose in all regions since 2014. It also rose in all age groups except younger adults. The percentage of adults who knew someone who had problems with heroin rose the most among adults ages 46 to 64 or older than 65.

Problems more likely among those with less education

Reported problems with these drugs did vary by education. Misuse of pain drugs and heroin use were both reported most frequently among adults with less than a high school education. However, the percentage of college graduates reporting both also rose dramatically since 2014.